PHD PROGRAMME TABLE
Call for applications for the admission to the PhD programmes (42nd cycle) - A.Y. 2026/2027
First round

PROGRAMME'S NAME	PSYCHOLOGY
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Mariagrazia Benassi (mariagrazia.benassi@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	8
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to research topics
1	*PhD Scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
2	*PhD Scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
3	*PhD Scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
4	*PhD Scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget under the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative	
5	*PhD Scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget under the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative	
6	*PhD Scholarship*	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Psychology with funds made available by the project MUR FARE (R20CMJ9NHP - CUP J33C22003590001 - PI: Prof. Elisabetta Crocetti)	IDENTITIES through pandemic: Managing identities during the COVID-19 outbreak. A longitudinal study on long-term implications for adolescents' psychosocial development
7	*PhD Scholarship*	Funded by the Department of Psychology with funds made available by the project Robotool (CUP I53C24002000003 - PI: Prof. Federico Fraboni)	Research project RoboTool: A Toolkit for Designing Human-Centered Collaborative Robotic Assembly Systems. Work and Organizational Psychology Approaches to foster Interaction Quality in Human–Robot Collaborative Assembly

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| 8 | *PhD Scholarship* | Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget | |

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Psychology" is €18,341.04.

All winners of PhD positions must fulfil the study and research obligations decided by the Academic Board, as well as the obligations set out in the relevant regulations, in the call for applications, in the funding schemes and in any agreements relating to specific positions.

Admission Exams

	DATE AND TIME	RESULTS
Qualifications and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from **21/04/2026**
Oral examination	**Date**: starting from **29/04/2026 – 9.00 a.m. CEST** **Place**: In presence, Aula Magna (up to 3pm) then Aula 2, Department of Psychology, Via Filippo Re 10, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams. **Applicants unable to be present in person for serious reasons can request to be interviewed via Teams by writing an email to the members of the Admission Board (subject line: "Request of online interview"). Applicants are required to specify exactly the reasons why they cannot be in presence. The Board will evaluate the request and, if approved, will send the Teams link for the interview.** The contact e-mail of each member of the Admission Board is to be found on the [University website](), selecting the relevant PhD Programme > "More information", tab "Admission Board".	Available from **04/05/2026**

The results of the qualifications and research proposal evaluation, as well as the oral examination detailed schedule, shall be available on the webpage [Studenti Online]() (select "requests in progress" > "see detail" and open the .pdf file at the bottom of the page). **No personal written communication will be sent to applicants concerning the examinations results**.

During the oral examination, applicants may express their interest in one or more positions linked to specific research topics.

Required and Supporting Documents to be attached to the application

Only documents **in Italian or English** will be considered valid and will be assessed by the Admission Board. Identity documents and diplomas/degree certificates issued in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation. The translation must be carried out by an authorized body or by the awarding university.
Only qualifications obtained in the last 5 years will be taken into account, with the exception of university degrees. The Admission Board will assess the relevance of the supporting documents to the PhD programme.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS	
Identity document	Valid identity document with photo (i.e. identity card, passport)
Curriculum Vitae	No specific CV format is required. **The Curriculum Vitae must be written in English**.
Degrees	Documents attesting the awarding of the first and second cycle degrees, the exams taken and the marks obtained (see Art. 3 of the Call for Applications)
Research proposal	Multi-annual research proposal, **drawn up in English**. The proposal must meet the following requirements: - it must **mention on the cover page the topic-specific PhD position** (cfr. table "Available Positions and Scholarships", and detailed in the section "Research Fields") the applicant is

	interested to and the proposal is about, and the number of words used to write the research proposal; - **it must include**: the state of the art; Aims; Hypothesis; Methodology / structure of the study(s) (sample, independent and dependent variables, analysis plan; Theoretical and practical implications); Temporal plan of activities - **3,000 words max**, references excluded. In accordance with the [University's policy on the ethical and responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in teaching and research activities](#), candidates must explicitly state whether they have used Generative Artificial Intelligence systems in the production of the research proposal attached to their application form, specifying which tools were used and for which parts of the document. During the oral examination, the Admission Board will assess the candidate's full mastery of the content included in the document and their ability to justify the methodological and scientific choices made in the project.
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
Reference letter/s	**No more than 2 reference letters** signed by Italian or international academics and professionals in the research field, which do not form part of the Admission Board, attesting the suitability of the applicant and his/her interest in the scientific research. Letters shall be uploaded following the procedure detailed in the Call for Applications (Art. 3.2) and **written in English**.
Personal statement	The statement should include **the reasons why the applicant wishes to join the PhD programme and the relevant experience and research interests** that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD programme (3000 characters maximum, including spaces). **The personal statement must be written in English**.
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals)

Evaluation criteria*

Scores will be expressed in points out of 100, as follows.

1. Qualifications and research proposal evaluation

Minimum score for admission to the oral examination: 30 points, Maximum score: 50 points

Qualifications evaluation	University degree final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Reference letter/s	2 points max
	Personal statement	1 point max
	Publications	4 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	13 points max
	Structure of the proposal	10 points max
	Proposal feasibility	10 points max

2. Oral examination

Minimum score for eligibility: 30 points, Maximum score 50 points

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation	35 points max
General knowledge of PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	5 points max

Oral examination consists in the presentation and discussion of the applicant's research proposal. It aims to assess the suitability of the applicant for scientific research as well as the general knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions.

The oral examination is carried out in English.

* Possible further evaluation criteria will be available on the [University website](#), selecting the relevant PhD Programme > "More information".

Research Fields

Pos. n° 6 with research topic: "IDENTITIES through pandemic: Managing identities during the COVID-19 outbreak. A longitudinal study on long-term implications for adolescents' psychosocial development" – Supervisor: Prof.ssa Elisabetta Crocetti

The selected candidate will conduct research within the scope of the project "Managing identities during the COVID-19 outbreak: A longitudinal study on long-term implications for adolescents' psychosocial development" ("IDENTITIES through pandemic"; project number R20CMJ9NHP; CUP J33C22003590001).

Answering the fascinating question "Who am I?" is the adolescents' most important developmental task. In contemporary societies characterized by increasing cultural and ethnic diversity, identity formation can be particularly challenging for both adolescents with (e.g., first- and second-generation immigrants) and without a migrant background. Furthermore, the COVID-19 outbreak had a profound impact on adolescents' lives, undermining their identity exploration, social interactions, and adjustment.

The project "IDENTITIES through pandemic" adopts a cross-fertilization approach and draws from developmental contextualism, transactional, and resilience theories to comprehensively understand adolescents' pathways during and after the COVID-19 outbreak. Funded by MUR, this project builds upon and expands the project IDENTITIES, funded by the European Research Council (https://site.unibo.it/identities/en).

Targeting both adolescents with and without a migrant background, the project "IDENTITIES through pandemic" aims to examine:

1) How does the evolution of the pandemic (considering both objective indicators and subjective perceptions) influence adolescents' interactions in their ecological contexts (e.g., family, peers, school, and leisure contexts), identities (personal, social, and human), and well-being (physical, psychological, and social)
2) How experiences in multiple ecological contexts, identity processes, and well-being explain different responses to the pandemic threat
3) How navigating through the pandemic (being more or less hit by it) moderates the theoretical model, according to which positive intergroup experiences in multiple ecological contexts can be a resource for developing adolescents' identities and, doing so, for enhancing their well-being
4) How adolescents' developmental pathways during the pandemic predict psychosocial outcomes in the subsequent years when they become late adolescents and face the transition to emerging adulthood.

To achieve these aims, a longitudinal (with annual, monthly, and daily assessments and a long-term follow-up), multi-method (with quantitative and qualitative data collected through questionnaires, actigraphs, and interviews), and multi-informant (with data collected from adolescents, parents, teachers, school principals, municipal administrators, archives, and non-invasive medical devices) research is being conducted.

Pos. n° 7 with research topic "Research project RoboTool: A Toolkit for Designing Human-Centered Collaborative Robotic Assembly Systems. Work and Organizational Psychology Approaches to foster Interaction Quality in Human–Robot Collaborative Assembly" - PI: Prof. Federico Fraboni

Candidates are sought to investigate human–robot collaborative assembly systems through the lens of Work and Organizational Psychology and ergonomics. The research will examine how work design, task allocation, and human–robot interaction strategies influence operators' cognitive workload, stress, situation awareness, and perceived usability. The project will contribute to the development and validation of human-centered design guidelines and a supporting toolkit for collaborative workstations, using experimental studies, questionnaires, interviews, and psychophysiological measures. Special attention will be given to implications for job quality, work sustainability, and worker well-being in advanced manufacturing contexts. The PhD position is embedded within the research project RoboTool – "A Toolkit for Designing Human-Centered Collaborative Robotic Assembly Systems", focused on the development and validation of human-centered guidelines and tools for collaborative industrial workstations