



PHD PROGRAMME TABLE

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

PROGRAMME'S NAME	ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN CULTURE
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Matteo Cassani Simonetti (matteo.cassani@unibo.it)
PHD POSITIONS	1
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	
1	<i>PhD Scholarship</i>	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of Architecture	Place based rural development: what is the role of adaptive planning in guiding just transformation?

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Architecture and Design Cultures" is €16,982.64.

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 30/06/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 09/07/2026 – 9.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Aula ex-Biblioteca, Department of Architecture, Via del Risorgimento 2, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 20/07/2026

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.

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
Degrees	Documents attesting the awarding of the first and second cycle degrees, the exams taken and the marks obtained (see Art. 3.2 of the Call for Applications)
Research proposal	<p>Multi-annual research proposal, with special emphasis on the activities to be completed during the first-year course. The proposal must meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it cannot exceed 15,000 characters, including spaces and formula possibly used. This figure does not include: the title of proposal, the outline, references and images (such as graphs, diagrams, tables, etc. - if present); - it must be consistent with the PhD programme's main research topics and/or with the research topics linked to the available PhD positions; - it must include: the state of the art; description of the proposal; expected results; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; references. <p>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.</p>
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
Thesis abstract	Abstract of the second cycle degree thesis . Graduated applicants may submit an abstract of the thesis to be defended. Abstracts cannot exceed 5,000 characters, including spaces and formula possibly used. The above figure does not include: the title of the thesis, the outline, references, and images such as graphs, diagrams, tables etc.
Reference letter/s	No more than 3 reference letters signed by Italian and 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 on Studenti Online , detailed in the Call for Applications (Art. 3.2).
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 (3,000 characters maximum, including spaces).
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals), minor publications (conference papers, etc.), abstracts and posters presented during national and international conferences, etc.
Other documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate vocational training programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - Teaching and tutoring activity carried out at university level - Research activity of any kind - whether basic, applied, translational, etc. - carried out in any capacity, including when covered by research grants, and as a staff member of research projects - Work activities - Documents attesting the knowledge of foreign languages - Study periods completed by applicants outside their countries of origin (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility programmes) - Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, prizes, etc.)

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	Second cycle degree (Master's) final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Publications and other qualifications attesting the applicant's training and skills	5 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value, ground-breaking nature and structure of the proposal	20 points max
	Consistency with the main research topics of the PhD programme and/or to the topic linked to the available PhD position	10 points max
	Proposal feasibility	5 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation	25 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	15 points max

Oral examination 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 position. During the oral examination, the applicants' English language proficiency shall be assessed. **The oral examination is carried out in Italian or English.**

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

Research Fields

Pos. 1 with a scholarship funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of Architecture, with research topic "Place based rural development: what is the role of adaptive planning in guiding just transformation?"

The candidate will investigate the current and prospective transformation pathways of inner and rural communities. The research will aim to develop strategic insights and recommendations to support informed and adaptive planning decisions in the context of ongoing socio-economic and territorial change