



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

AREA
FORMAZIONE E DOTTORATO

PHD PROGRAMME TABLE

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

PROGRAMME'S NAME	ARTS, HISTORY, SOCIETY
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian
COORDINATOR	Prof. Marco Cucco (m.cucco@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	9
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to a specific research topic
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	
5	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
6	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
7	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
8	PhD Scholarship	funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of the Arts	
9	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of the Arts with funds made available by the project UPRAISE DIGITAL Virtual Worlds Innovation Masters: Shaping Future Digital Skills Europe	Virtual Worlds and AI for Training and Upskilling: Design, Implementation and Evaluation

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Arts, History, Society" 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 06/07/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 13/07/2026 – 10.00 a.m. CEST	Available from 17/07/2026

	Place: In presence, Palazzo Marescotti, Department of the Arts, Via Barberia 4, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	
--	---	--

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 the PhD position linked to a specific research topic.

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
University 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	The three-year research project proposed by applicants for the ordinary “open-theme” scholarships must concern topics that are referable to the general research topics on which the PhD programme in Arts, History, Society is based (see the PhD programme website). The specific theme of the project within those general topics is freely chosen by the applicants; however, it is advisable to consult the list of the research areas active in the various disciplinary fields within the Department of the Arts that promotes this PhD, checking in detail what research they are carrying out and on what specific topics, in order to better identify the themes that could be more closely matched among the scholars with whom the PhD student will then be confronted during the three-year research period. In addition to ordinary scholarships for “open-theme” research projects, the call for applications contemplates scholarships for “restricted” research projects, i.e. those linked to specific funding requiring work on predetermined themes. Candidates wishing to apply for such “restricted” theme grants must therefore propose a personal project that clearly falls within one of the specific “restricted” themes set out in the call. The specific “restricted” themes are described at the following webpage: Admission. The project proposal must in general: - state on the title page the name of the applicant, the provisional title of the project, a maximum of 5 keywords and the general research topic and/or the restricted theme for which the applicant is submitting (it is also possible to indicate more than one topic if the proposed theme concern more than one discipline); - be articulated in: 1) a description of the project (including indications on: operating methods and particular methodologies or technologies of investigation, type of sources, need for travel and on-site visits, possible difficulties – logistical, technical, economic, access to sources, etc. – and possible solutions imagined to overcome them; 2) state of the art (how the presented project fits in with previous studies, also indicating whether the applicant already has experience on the subject or whether it is a totally new research path); 3) expected results (what innovations are envisaged with respect to the current state of the art and what are the applicant’s skills and strengths that make him/her particularly suited to conducting such research); 4) distribution of the work over the three years (particularly detailing the starting action and the activities in the 1st year),

	considering that a 6-month research stay abroad as a visiting PhD is mandatory during the three-year course; 5) initial bibliography; - have a maximum length of 15,000 characters, including spaces (excluding title page, bibliography and any illustrative apparatus or tables). 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	
Thesis abstract (of the second-cycle degree only)	Abstract of the second cycle degree thesis or, for undergraduates, of the thesis about to be discussed (max 5,000 characters, including spaces, excluding title, table of contents, bibliography and any illustrative apparatus). This document will not be subject to a specific assessment, but will help to give an image of the research aptitude already demonstrated by the applicant (the abstract may be followed by the entire thesis).
Reference letters	No more than 2 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).
Publications	List of any publications already produced (monographs, journal articles, contributions in collective volumes, etc.); to the list, the candidate can add up to two publications in pdf format for information purposes only, which will not in any case be subject to specific assessment.
Other documents	Other skills and experience relevant to the disciplines characterising the PhD course may be declared and/or documented; for example: - artistic practices exercised in the various disciplines; - specialisation or advanced training courses attended; - other qualifications attesting to the candidate's skills (scholarships won, prizes awarded, work experiences, etc.). Of all these experiences and skills, although they are probably already listed within the curriculum in summary form, it is advisable to produce a separate statement in order to ensure greater visibility and to offer a possible insight into their nature.

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 and academic qualifications at first and second level, assessed on the basis of their relevance to the disciplines characterising the PhD course and the marks obtained (for those who are undergraduates at the deadline of this call, the weighted average of exam marks will be taken into account)	5 points max
	Other qualifications (CV, publications, reference letters, further experiences)	5 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	25 points max
	Description and structure of the proposal, Proposal feasibility	15 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency / Italian language proficiency (for candidates sitting the exam in English)	10 points max
Research proposal presentation, general knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	40 points max

The oral examination is carried out in Italian or in English. The oral examination includes the discussion of the research proposal and aims to assess the suitability of the applicant for scientific research as well as her/his general knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions. At the end of the interview, the applicant's English language proficiency (or Italian language proficiency, for candidates sitting the exam in English) shall be assessed, through the oral translation of a short text.

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