



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	CULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL HERITAGE
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Donatella Restani (donatella.restani@unibo.it)
CURRICULA	1. Cultural and environmental heritage: memory, protection, rights 2. Science and Technologies for Cultural Heritage
PhD POSITIONS	6
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Curriculum	Positions linked to research topics
1	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Cultural Heritage with funds made available by the project ERC Synergy Grants "Last Neanderthals", CUP: J67G23000440006, Grant Agreement: 101118565, PI: prof. Stefano Benazzi	1	Taxonomic classification of fragmentary bone remains from the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic periods in India using integrated approaches combining zooarchaeology and palaeoproteomics
2	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Cultural Heritage with funds made available by the project ERC Synergy Grants "Last Neanderthals", CUP: J67G23000440006, Grant Agreement: 101118565, PI: prof. Stefano Benazzi	1	Methodological development of palaeoproteomics for the taxonomic identification of Palaeolithic bone remains
3	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Cultural Heritage with funds made available by the project ERC Synergy Grants "Last Neanderthals", CUP: J67G23000440006, Grant Agreement: 101118565, PI: prof. Stefano Benazzi	1	Dental tissues as biological archives: histology and integrated approaches to the study of biological and environmental dynamics in the Pleistocene
4	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Cultural Heritage with funds made available by the project FIS 3 "Produzione e circolazione della ceramica nella regione iblea tra la tarda antichità e l'alto medioevo", CUP: J53C25002530001, code FIS-	1	Production and circulation of pottery in the Hyblaean region between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages

		2024-03706, PI: prof. Salvatore Cosentino   		
5	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of Chemistry with funds made available by the project FIS3 STRONG, Code FIS-2024-02209 - CUP J53C25002470001   	2	High- Resolution Radiocarbon Approaches to Late Pleistocene Chronology
6	PhD Position without a scholarship		2	Bioeconomy and carbon dioxide removal (CDR) for industrial defossilization and decarbonization: technologies, scenarios and local implementation pathways

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in “Cultural and Environmental Heritage” 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 26/06/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 20/07/2026 – 9.30 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Department of Cultural Heritage, Via degli Ariani 1, Ravenna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 22/07/2026

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.**

During the oral examination, applicants will 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	The European format for the Curriculum Vitae 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	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: - it must include a cover page (see form in Attachment 1 to the present PhD programme table) indicating the Curriculum and the eventual topic specific position in which the applicant is interested and that is associated to the research proposal (<u>research proposals lacking this indication will receive an evaluation of zero points</u>); - it cannot exceed 20,000 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 include: the state of the art; description of the proposal; expected results; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; references. 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	Abstract of the second cycle degree thesis . Graduands 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 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).
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, book chapters), abstracts and posters presented during national and international conferences, etc.
Other documents	- Postgraduate vocational training programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - Specialisation programmes thesis (in full text) - Teaching activities carried out at university level - Research activities 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 - Curricular and non-curricular training internships - 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	First (Bachelor's) and second cycle (Master's) degrees final mark/s and Weighted Average Mark (WAM). Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	15 points max
	Publications	5 points max

	Reference letters and other supporting documents	5 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	15 points max
	Structure of the proposal	5 points max
	Proposal feasibility	5 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	5 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	20 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 positions. **During the oral examination, the applicant's English 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".

Attachment 1 – First page of the research proposal

Name:

Surname:

Date of birth:

Title research proposal:

Curriculum of the PhD programme and positions linked to research topic (select only one topic)

CURRICULUM

1. Cultural and environmental heritage: memory, protection, rights
2. Science and Technologies for Cultural Heritage

RESEARCH TOPICS

- ☐ Taxonomic classification of fragmentary bone remains from the Middle and Upper Palaeolithic periods in India using integrated approaches combining zooarchaeology and palaeoproteomics
- ☐ Methodological development of palaeoproteomics for the taxonomic identification of Palaeolithic bone remains
- ☐ Dental tissues as biological archives: histology and integrated approaches to the study of biological and environmental dynamics in the Pleistocene
- ☐ Production and circulation of pottery in the Hyblaeen region between Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages
- ☐ High- Resolution Radiocarbon Approaches to Late Pleistocene Chronology
- ☐ Bioeconomy and carbon dioxide removal (CDR) for industrial defossilization and decarbonization: technologies, scenarios and local implementation pathways