



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

Section "Available Positions and Scholarships" modified on 29/05/2026

PROGRAMME'S NAME	EARTH, LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Barbara Cavalazzi (barbara.cavalazzi@unibo.it)
CURRICULA	1. Geology 2. Biology
PhD POSITIONS	11
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Curriculum	Positions linked to research topics
1	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	GEO	Production and migration of geologic hydrogen in Alpine metamorphic settings
2	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	BIO	Genetic and epigenetic variability of human longevity across populations and ecological contexts
3	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	GEO	Geomicrobiology of sulfur-rich karst environments
4	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	BIO	The neurobiological bases of the Cambrian explosion
5	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by the project EXTRAUE_2023_FEUDA_R_01 PI Prof. Feuda) and by Telethon Foundation (GJC25P070 - PI: Dott. Pietro Cacialli)	BIO	A multidisciplinary study to understand the obscure function of the TTT complex during embryonic development in vertebrates
6	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by the ERC project EcoMemo HEU_2022_ECOMEMO_CANARI_A_01, GA: 101115960; CUP: J33C22004830006	BIO	Mechanisms of drought memory in soil microbial communities: from isotopic tracers to network dynamics

7	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by the project HEU_2023_COLUMN_BIGEA, CUP: J33C24003040006, GA 101177706	BIO	Digitization of scientific anthropological collections: for research on human evolution, conservation, and historical valorisation
8	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by the project EXTRAUE_2023_FEUDA_R_01 (funded by HFSP, RGP009/2023, Prof. Roberto Feuda)	BIO	The evolution of the sensory system in mosquitos
9	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences	BIO	Molecular responses of plants to single and combined stresses: an integrated approach based on complementary analytical platforms
10	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds made available by an agreement with Harbour Energy Norge AS - prof. Chiarella	GEO	Characterisation of fault-controlled deposits
11	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences	BIO	Intermediate disturbance hypothesis and wildlife conservation

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in “Earth, Life and Environmental Sciences” 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 evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 06/07/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 13/07/2026 – 9.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Sala del Consiglio, Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences, Via Zamboni 67, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 20/07/2026

The results of the qualifications 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 PhD 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
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)
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 detailed in the Call for Applications (Art. 3.2).
Personal Statement	The statement shall include the reasons prompting the applicant to attend the PhD Programme and those relevant experiences 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	- Postgraduate vocational programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme - Specialisation thesis abstract (max 5,000 characters) - Teaching activity carried out at academic 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 activity - Curricular and non-curricular training internships - Documents attesting the applicant's foreign languages proficiency - Periods of study abroad, 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 evaluation

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

Second cycle degree (Master's) final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	25 points max
Publications	5 points max
Personal statement	10 points max
Reference letter/s and other evaluable documents	10 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	10 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	40 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”.