



PHD PROGRAMME TABLE

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

PROGRAMME'S NAME	LEGAL STUDIES
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English, French, Spanish <i>Non-Italian native speakers should have at least CEFR B1 Italian language proficiency</i>
COORDINATOR	Prof. Marco Cavina (marco.cavina6@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	13
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description
1	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
2	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
3	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
4	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
5	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
6	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
7	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
8	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
9	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
10	Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget
11	Scholarship	Partially funded by the University of Bologna general budget, co-funded by the Department of Legal Studies and by MUR in the framework of the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative
12	Scholarship	Funded by MUR in the framework of the "Dipartimenti di Eccellenza" initiative
13	Without scholarship	

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Legal studies" 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
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Qualifications and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 14/07/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 23/07/2026 – 09.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, AULA 1 SPISA, via Belmeloro 10, 40126, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 30/07/2026

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 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it must mention on the cover page the Academic Discipline (SSD) the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about; - 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; outlining of the criteria meant to be used to assess the research results; 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 . Graduating 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.
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).
Reference letter/s	No more than 1 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)
Publications	- Full text publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full text minor publications (conference papers, etc.) - Full text abstracts and posters presented during national and international conferences, etc.
Other documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate vocational training programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - Specialisation thesis abstract - 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 - Curricular or non-curricular professional 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)

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 (Master's) degree final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max distributed as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 points to 110 e lode - 9 points to 110 - 8 points to 109 - 7 points to 108 - 6 points to 107 - 5 points to 106 - 4 points to 105 - 3 points to 104 - 2 points to 103 - 1 points to 102 - 100 - 0 points for marks under 100 For graduands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 10 points for WAM 30 with at least 10 30 with honour - 9 points for WAM 30 - 8 points for WAM 29,62 - 7 points for WAM 29,45 - 6 points for WAM 29,11 - 5 points for WAM 28,90 - 4 points for WAM 28,63 - 3 points for WAM 28,36 - 2 points for WAM 28,09 - 1 point for WAM between 27,81 and 27,77 - 0 points for WAM under 27,77
	Publications and other evaluable documents	4 points max
	Curriculum Vitae and personal statement	1 point max
	Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal
	Structure of the proposal	10 points max
	Proposal feasibility	5 points max

2. Oral examination *

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

Foreign language proficiency	5 points max
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Research proposal presentation	20 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	25 points max

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

* Based on the research proposal submitted by the applicant and on the analysis of a legal text administered by the Admission Board, the oral examination will assess the suitability of the applicant in respect of the pursuing of 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 Admission Board shall assess the applicant's proficiency in one of the following languages: English, French, German or Spanish. Oral examination will be carried out in Italian. For non-Italian native speaker applicants, the oral examination shall be held, at the applicant's choice, in English, French, German or Spanish.

The oral examination is conducted in Italian.

For candidates who are not native Italian speakers, the oral examination may be taken in one of the following languages of their choice: English, French, German, or Spanish. For these candidates, proficiency in the Italian language will be assessed during the oral examination.