



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	MOLECULAR AND CELL BIOLOGY
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Anna Maria Porcelli (annamaria.porcelli@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	12
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to research topics
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	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of Pharmacy and Biotechnology	
7	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Dept. of Pharmacy and Biotechnology with funds made available by the project AIRC - IG 2024 ID 30376 Title "Dissecting the interplay of RNA polymerase II backtracking, topoisomerase I and R-loop in genome dynamics of tumor cells" – Ref. Prof. Capranico	
8	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Pharmacy and Biotechnology with funds made available by the project "Multi-omics investigation of extracellular vesicles from human iPSC-derived brain organoids containing microglia to understand gender-specific Alzheimer's Disease physiopathology (3DOMICS4AD)", PI Dr. Francesca Massenzio, funded by "Procedura competitiva per lo sviluppo delle attività di ricerca fondamentale, a valere	Integrated multi-omics investigation of human iPSC-derived brain organoids containing microglia and their extracellular vesicles, to understand gender-specific Alzheimer's disease physiopathology

		sul Fondo Italiano per la Scienza 2022 – 2023 (FIS 2 Call)", Code FIS-2023-01620, CUP J53C25001810001	
		  	
9	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Dept. of Pharmacy and Biotechnology	Activation of the IGF2 receptor as a potential therapeutic strategy in Angelman syndrome: analysis of molecular alterations in neurons derived from patient iPSCs
10	PhD Scholarship	Funded by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology	Tumor metastasis and microenvironment: models and mechanism
11	PhD Scholarship	Funded by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology	Tumor metastasis and microenvironment: models and mechanism
12	PhD Scholarship	Funded by The Wistar Institute of Anatomy and Biology	Tumor metastasis and microenvironment: models and mechanism

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in Molecular and Cell Biology is €16,982.64.

Positions funded by The Wistar Institute require that the research activity be carried out mainly at the funding body's headquarters in the USA. For these positions only, there is a maximum total research budget of €29,236.79 for reimbursement of mission expenses.

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 03/07/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 07/07/2026 – 10.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Aula Farbiomot, Dept. of Pharmacy and Biotechnology, Via Selmi 3, Bologna. 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 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)
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)
Curriculum Vitae	The Curriculum Vitae must be drawn up exclusively using the Curriculum Vitae form, which is downloadable as a .docx file from the University website (select the PhD Programme → “More information”, then check “Notices” at the bottom of the page). Applicants not using the attached form shall be excluded from the qualifications evaluation. The section “Preferred Principal Investigators (mandatory)” must be completed, indicating your preference for three supervisors for the 42nd cycle PhD programme. Further details regarding each supervisor’s research areas can be found on the Faculty Members page.
Research proposal	The research proposal must be drawn up exclusively using the Research Proposal form, which is downloadable as a .docx file from the University website (select the PhD Programme → “More information”, then check “Notices” at the bottom of the page). Research proposals that do not comply with this requirement shall not be evaluated. The three-year research project must be proposed by the candidate within the scope of the PhD programme’s research areas, as detailed on the Faculty Members page. Please note that the project submitted will not constitute the research topic that the candidate, if admitted, will undertake during the PhD programme. This project will be agreed with the Supervisor and must be approved by the Academic Board, in accordance with the main research topics of the programme and the research topics linked to the available PhD positions (see “Available Positions and Scholarships” table, column “Positions linked to research topics”). The assessment of the project is aimed at ascertaining the candidate’s ability to organise research work effectively, their understanding and appropriate application of experimental methodologies, as well as the project’s consistency with the main research topics of the PhD programme in Molecular and Cell Biology, rather than the absolute originality of the scientific idea. 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.

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 final mark	10 points max (in brackets the points awarded to applicants holding a non-Italian degree, calculated according to the percentage with respect to the maximum score) - 10 points - 110 e lode (maximum score with honour) - 8 points - from 109 to 110 included (98-100% with respect to the maximum score) - 6 points - from 105 to 108 included (95-97% with respect to the maximum score) - 4 points from 101 to 104 included (90-94% with respect to the maximum score) - 3 points from 95 to 100 included (89-90% with respect to the maximum score) - 1 point for scores below 95
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		(less than 88% with respect to the maximum score)
	(for graduands only) Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	8 points max (in brackets the points awarded to applicants holding a non-Italian degree, calculated according to the percentage with respect to the maximum score) - 8 points - from 29 to 30 included (98-100% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 6 points da 27 a 28 included (95-97% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 4 points da 25 a 26 included (90-94% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 3 points da 23 a 24 included (89-90% with respect to the maximum WAM score) - 1 point for WAM below 23 (less than 88% with respect to the maximum WAM score)
	Publications	6 points max - 3 points for each publication on an internationally renowned scientific journal - up to 1 point for each minor publication, poster or other evaluable publication
	Other qualifications (CV, research activities, period of study abroad for no less than 1 continuative month)	4 points max (up to 1 point per month)
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	7 points max
	Description and structure of the proposal	7 points max
	Consistency of the proposal with the main research topics encompassed by the PhD programme	12 points max
	Proposal feasibility	4 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	5 points max
Research proposal presentation	30 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of programme's organization as described on the PhD programme's website	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 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".