



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	PSYCHOLOGY
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Mariagrazia Benassi (mariagrazia.benassi@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	2
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to research topics
1	<i>PhD Scholarship</i>	Funded by the Dept. of Psychology "Renzo Canestrari"	Quality of citizen participation in decision-making processes: psychosocial antecedents and implications for citizen–institution relationships
2	<i>PhD Scholarship</i>	Funded by Fondazione Fornino - Valmori E.T.S.	Plasticity of social cognition in neurodevelopmental disorders: functional mechanisms and psychophysiological correlates

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in "Psychology" 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 and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 07/07/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 14/07/2026 – 10.00 a.m. CEST Place: In presence, Aula 6, Department of Psychology, Viale Berti Pichat 5, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams. Applicants unable to be present in person for serious reasons can request to be interviewed via Teams by writing an email to the members of the Admission Board (subject line: "Request of online interview"). Applicants	Available from 19/07/2026

	are required to specify exactly the reasons why they cannot be in presence. The Board will evaluate the request and, if approved, will send the Teams link for the interview. The contact e-mail of each member of the Admission Board is to be found on the University website, selecting the relevant PhD Programme > “More information”, tab “Admission Board”.	
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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	No specific CV format is required. The Curriculum Vitae must be written in English.
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, drawn up in English. The proposal must meet the following requirements: - it must mention on the cover page the topic-specific PhD position (cfr. table “Available Positions and Scholarships”) the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about, and the number of words used to write the research proposal; - it must include: the state of the art; Aims; Hypothesis; Methodology / structure of the study(s) (sample, independent and dependent variables, analysis plan; Theoretical and practical implications); Temporal plan of activities - 3,000 words max, references excluded. 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	
Reference letter/s	No more than 2 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) and written in English .
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 (3000 characters maximum, including spaces). The personal statement must be written in English.
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals)

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 degree final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Reference letter/s	2 points max
	Personal statement	1 point max
	Publications	4 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	13 points max
	Structure of the proposal	10 points max
	Proposal feasibility	10 points max

2. Oral examination

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

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation	35 points max
General knowledge of PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	5 points max

Oral examination consists in the presentation and discussion of the applicant's research proposal. It 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.

The oral examination is carried out in English.

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