



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	SOCIOLOGY AND SOCIAL RESEARCH
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2026 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Pierluigi Musarò (pierluigi.musaro@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	5
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	Partially funded by the University of Bologna general budget and co-funded by the Department of Sociology and Business Law using funds from the project <i>"Sociology of Health and Graphic Medicine: Visual Narratives and Risk Communication in Breast Cancer,"</i> co-financed by the Fondazione Cassa dei Risparmi di Forlì, with Prof. Veronica Moretti as the scientific coordinator	Sociology of Health and Graphic Medicine: Visual Narratives and Risk Communication in Breast Cancer
4	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Sociology and Business Law using funds from the project <i>"Using Liberal Tools for Illiberal Missions (ULTIM),"</i> CUP J53C25002500001, project code FIS-2024-01632, under the FIS 3 Advanced Grant call (D. D. No. 1802 of 21/11/2024), with Prof. Paulus Albertus Blokker as the scientific coordinator   	A case-study on the European Court of Human Rights, the rule of law, and the radical-conservative right, analysing the role of Conservative Civil Society Organisations in ECtHR cases and judgments that regard the rule of law and democratic governance
5	PhD Scholarship	Funded by the Department of Sociology and Business Law using funds from the project <i>"Using Liberal Tools for Illiberal Missions (ULTIM),"</i> CUP J53C25002500001, project code FIS-2024-01632, under the FIS 3 Advanced Grant call (D. D.	A case-study on rights litigation at the Court of Justice of the European Union, with a specific focus on

	No. 1802 of 21/11/2024), with Prof. Paulus Albertus Blokker as the scientific coordinator	involvement of Conservative Civil Society Organisations
	  	

The yearly gross amount of the scholarships awarded for the PhD Programme in “Sociology and social research” 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 08/07/2026
Oral examination	Date: starting from 20/07/2026 – 09.00 a.m. CEST Place: in presence, Aula Ardigò, Palazzo Hercolani, Strada Maggiore 45, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 21/07/2026

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 the 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)
Research proposal	The multi-annual research proposal must meet the following requirements: - 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; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; expected results; 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.
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 training programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - 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 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)	2 points max
	Publications and other evaluable documents (thesis abstract, language proficiency certificates)	6 points max
	Postgraduate vocational training programmes	1 point max
	Periods of study abroad	1 point max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	20 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	20 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 includes the presentation and discussion of the research proposal and 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 language proficiency shall be assessed.

The oral examination is carried out in Italian or in English.

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