

COLLABORATIVE DOCTORAL PARTNERSHIP (CDP)

CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

IN

ONE Ph.D. POSITION

Topic:

“Exploring the Innovation, Sustainability, and Competitiveness Nexus in the Food Industry”

Application deadline:

July 1st, 2025 - 11.59 pm (CEST)

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026

The Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna (hereinafter referred to as University of Bologna)- Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC) are inviting applications for **one PhD position through the Collaborative Doctoral Partnerships (CDP) scheme** – Topic: **“Exploring the Innovation, Sustainability and Competitiveness Nexus in the Food Industry”**. This topic contributes to the overarching scope of this agreement on the thematic field **“Development of methods to monitor progress, design trasformations and identify solutions to achieve SDGs”**, with a focus, in particular, on SDG 2,8,9 and 12 (Agreement n. 36084).

Art. 1 - PhD PROGRAMME

The candidate will be enrolled in the XLI cycle of the Ph.D. Programme in **“Agricultural, Environmental and Food Science and Technology”**.

The University of Bologna will award a Ph.D. Degree at the end of the three-year Programme after successfully completing all Ph.D. requirements, including the successful defense of the Thesis as provided by the **University Regulations on Doctoral Programs** available on the University website at the page [PhD Programmes](#).

Art. 2 - Ph.D. RESEARCH TOPIC - PROJECT OBJECTIVES AND DESCRIPTION

The Ph.D. research activities will focus on: **“Exploring the Innovation, Sustainability and Competitiveness Nexus in the Food Industry”**, addressing therefore the objective of the agreement to **“Develop methods to monitor progress, design trasformations and identify solutions to achieve SDGs”**. The topic is coherent with the research lines included in the Ph.D. Programme in Agricultural, Environmental and Food Science and Technology and with the JRC mission.

Short Description of the project and main objectives:

This CDP PhD project will be aimed at the analysis of the nexus between **innovation, sustainability and competitiveness in the food industry looking both at the European and international level**. The CDP PhD project will have a total duration of 3 years. The PhD candidate will follow the doctorate program at DISTAL for 12 months and will spend a period of 24 months at JRC.

RESPONSABILE DEL PROCEDIMENTO: ROSSELLA TABARONI

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The specific research activities will be deeply linked also to the project funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs “Strategic Assistance for the Food is Never Waste Alliance” which is aimed to identify innovative strategies and tools to reduce food losses and waste in selected food environments and food supply chains to promote competitiveness and sustainability.

Art. 3 - JOB LOCATIONS

European Commission – Joint Research Centre

Unit D.3 Land resources and supply chain assessments, Via Enrico Fermi, 2749 - 21027 Ispra (VA) – Italy

University of Bologna

Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences - DISTAL

Viale Giuseppe Fanin, 40-50, 40127 Bologna (BO)

Art. 4 - PROFILE OF THE PHD CANDIDATE

- Master’s degree (MSc) or equivalent within a relevant scientific area of the Ph.D. Programme in “Agricultural, Environmental and Food Science and Technology” (Agricultural Economics and Policy, Economics, Statistics and similar research areas)
- Knowledge/experience in Food System Management, Impact Assessment Methods, Economic Modelling.
- Languages: excellent working knowledge (written and oral) of English. Knowledge of Italian language is preferential.

Art. 5 - DURATION OF THE DOCTORAL PROGRAMME, RESEARCH CONTRACT AND SALARY

The PhD candidate will spend 24 months at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra (Varese), Italy and 12 months at the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences - DISTAL of the University of Bologna.

The starting date of the Ph.D. Programme is provided for November 1st, 2025, the Programme will end on October 31st, 2028; the defense of the thesis will be held before October 31st, 2029.

At the University of Bologna, the position is funded by a scholarship according to the University of Bologna regulations, while at the Joint Research Centre in Ispra the candidate will sign a contract as a Grantholder Cat. 20 for a maximum duration of 24 months in accordance with Grantholder rules and the applicable Vademecum ([GH Rules](#)).

Art. 6 - WHO CAN APPLY

- Italian and foreign citizen’s holder of *laurea Specialistica/Magistrale/laurea Vecchio Ordinamento* conferred by an Italian University by the 31st of October 2025 may apply.
- Italian and foreign citizen’s holder of *master’s degree* conferred by a foreign University by the 31st of October 2025 may apply for the selection, enclosing the official transcripts of the academic degree, accompanied by an Italian or English translation, also made by the applicant’s and under their own responsibility.

Applicants with degrees (EQF Level 7 or II cycle Degree) conferred by a foreign University are conditionally admitted to the selection and will be excluded from it, if the academic title does not comply with the requirements for access to the Ph.D. level, as stated in this announcement.

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They must attest the authenticity and the comparability of the qualification awarded (e. g. Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value - Dichiarazione di Valore in loco - of the second-cycle degree issued by the Italian Diplomatic authorities located in the country in which the qualification was awarded, recognition of foreign qualifications carried out by agencies like the ones of ENIC-NARIC network).

Candidates should, prior to the start of the employment contract with the JRC:

- have the nationality of a Member State of the EU or a country associated to the Research Framework Programme ([AC](#)) or being resident in a EU Member State since at least five years.
- be enrolled in a Ph.D. Programme with the HEI.

The selected candidate will have no more than 6 months from the request for confirmation of interest in the position, to produce proof of enrolment in the doctoral study program.

For candidates with third-countries nationality (i.e. who are neither from Member States of the EU nor from countries associated with the Research Framework Programs - Horizon 2020), the recruitment is subject to a security clearance and to the issuance of a residence and work permit in Italy for the period of the stay at JRC.

Art. 7 - HOW TO APPLY

Applicants must send their expression of interest via email aform.udottricerca@unibo.it, with the following Ref. [*Name_Surname_expression of interest JRC-CDP_PhD Programme in Agricultural, Environmental and Food Science and Technology*]. **Deadline** to submit the application, including all documents required for the selection (listed below): **July 1st, 2025 - 11.59 pm (CEST)**.

Documents required for the selection:

- **Identity Document** with photo;
- **CV, publications**, other qualifications
- For candidates with degrees awarded in **Italy**: (**bachelor's and master's** degrees or combined-cycle degree), a **self-certification** dated and signed attesting the completion and awarding of the degree, containing a list of exams taken and the corresponding grade, the title of the thesis and grade.

For candidates with degrees awarded **abroad**: (**bachelor's and master's** degrees or combined cycle degree) documents attesting the completion and awarding of second-cycle degrees. The documents must include name of the awarding institution, type of degree, name of the degree programme, date in which the degree has been awarded, final mark, academic transcript of records, including the full list of the exams taken and the related marks. Please also indicate the related CFU or ECTS (if provided by the education system in which the degree has been awarded).

The JRC reserves the right to request additional documents in order to ensure the compliance with all requirements and specific rules applicable to JRC sites. The selected candidate must also be recognized as medically fit to carry out the work activities foreseen. To this end, the candidate must undergo, in advance and independently, the medical checks specified by the JRC.

Art. 8 - SELECTION PROCEDURE

Candidates will be selected on the basis of their qualifications, CV, as well by means of an interview (in English) for the assessment of their aptitude to carry out research as well as the assessment of their **RESPONSABILE DEL PROCEDIMENTO: ROSSELLA TABARONI**

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knowledge on the specific field of the research project to which the CDP position is referred, according to the following procedure:

- pre-selection by University of Bologna (evaluation on qualification documents and interview);
- final selection by JRC in agreement with the University of Bologna Admission Board.

The pre-selection is carried out by a specialized Admission Board appointed by the University of Bologna and chosen among professors and researchers with experience on the topics subject of the Call, guaranteeing an adequate gender representation.

At the end of the pre-selection process, the resulting ranking list consisting of a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 5 candidates, will be sent to the JRC host Unit F.2 (together with the candidates' applications), for the final selection; the JRC Grantholders Human Resources Unit will organize an evaluation panel with the pre-selected candidates.

At the end of the selection procedure, the JRC will contact each pre-selected candidate to inform about the outcome of their application, the successful candidate will then be contacted by the University of Bologna for the enrolment procedure.

All relevant information and name of successful candidate will be published on the **University of Bologna [website](#)**.

Art. 9 - INTERVIEW

The interview will be held in English Language remotely by videocall **on July 16th, 2025 at 9:30 am** (CEST). The Board will send the selected candidates the link to participate in the interviews to the email address indicated in their application.

The Interview is aimed at evaluating the candidate's scientific background, knowledge, and skills in relation to the research topic of the CDP Call.

Candidates must ensure to have a webcam at their disposal in order to allow the Admission Board to identify and have a full view of the candidate during the interview.

The candidates are required to identify themselves before the interview by showing a valid identification document.

Failure to show up, failure to connect, unavailability of the candidate on the day or time set, or failure to provide a valid identification document, are grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure.

Where technical problems of connection arise during the videoconference interview, if the problem concerns one or more Board members, the interview shall be postponed by default to another date, if the problem concerns the candidate, the Board may, on grounds of good reason, postpone to another date, respecting the principles of non-discrimination and equal treatment between candidates.

Art. 10 - ENROLMENT

The successful candidate will be contacted by the Ph.D. Office of the University of Bologna for the enrolment procedure.

PhD candidates must pay the enrolment charges for each academic year, including insurance premium (of € 1,04), stamp duty (of € 16,00) and the regional tax (of € 140,00) for the right to higher education.

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The current amount of the enrolment charges is €157.04. Such amount could vary, due to the decision of the competent bodies.

The amount of tuition fees is established by the Board of Governors of the University of Bologna. In the academic year 2025/2026, no tuition fees are envisaged for attending PhD programmes.

The enrolment charges cannot be reimbursed under any circumstances.

Art. 11 - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY ON RESEARCH RESULTS AND PUBLICATIONS

Intellectual and industrial property rights to any findings of the Ph.D. student are governed in accordance with current legislation (Copyright Law - Legislative Decree 633/1941 - and Industrial Property Code - Legislative Decree 30/2005), to the **Regulations for the management of industrial and intellectual property rights with reference to research activities carried out by university personnel** and, if necessary, according to what is established in individual agreements with universities, companies or entities involved.

Ph.D. Students are required to sign appropriate confidentiality undertakings in relation to information, data and documents of a confidential nature of which they may become aware in the course of their work at and/or on behalf of the University.

The Ph.D. Student is, in any case, guaranteed the opportunity to carry out the normal publication activities envisaged by the programme, which must be scheduled in a manner compatible with the protection of any results.

Art. 12 - PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

Personal data pertaining to this procedure are collected and processed for the University's institutional purposes in accordance with Articles 13 and 14 of EU Regulation 2016/679 - General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

For more details, follow the University of Bologna [webpage](#) of the **Data Protection**.

Art. 13 - PUBLICITY

The Call is published - in its entirety, on the University of Bologna [website](#). It is also advertised on the Ministry of Education's website and on the European website Euraxess.

Art. 14 - THE PROCEDURE MANAGER

For all purposes pertaining to this call, the Unit in charge is the Educational Services Area - "Unit Ph.D. Office" – Via Irnerio, 49 - 40126 Bologna.

Information and clarifications on application submission can be addressed to e-mail **aform.udottricerca@unibo.it**.

The procedure manager is Ms. Francesca Cottone.

Art. 15 - FINAL PROVISIONS

Competition documents are public, to which access is permitted in the manner established by Law No. 241 of August 7, 1990.

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For anything not expressly provided for in this announcement, please refer to **University Regulations on Doctoral Programs** available at the page [PhD Programmes](#) and to the statutory, regulatory and ministerial provisions cited in the decree announcing the Call for Applications.

The University reserves the right to exclude at any time candidates who participate in the exams provided for in this call, for failure to comply with the provisions given therein or the deadlines specified therein, or for failure to meet the requirements.

RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

Dott.ssa Rossella Tabaroni – AFORM – Education and PhD Administrative Division (e-mail: aform.udottricerca@unibo.it; PEC: scriviunibo@pec.unibo.it).

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