



Call for Applications for admission to the Winter School

in "HERO-IG"

Academic Year 2026-2027

Code: 6835

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Overview

Application deadline (to register for selection):	15/10/2026
Selection date:	Qualifications-based selection
Ranking list publication date:	27/10/2026 Ranking lists are available by logging into the website www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline with your username and password
Enrolment period:	27/10/2026 to 10/11/2026
Available places:	minimum 40 maximum 45
Fees:	Selection procedure participation fee €10.00 (non-refundable fee for administrative services). Total fee €800,00 (eight hundred) to be paid in a single instalment upon enrolment. N. 35 reduced fee is reserved for UNIBO and PARIS8 students enrolled in a PhD or Master's program at the time of enrollment in the Winter School and are in possession of the relevant documentation proving such registration. The reduced fee includes payment of the fixed fee of € 17.04, which includes stamp duty, insurance, and regional tax.
Administrative office:	Bologna
Place of teaching:	Bologna, Paris and CEUB Bertinoro (FC)
For administrative information	Please contact arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it
For scientific and teaching information	Dir. Mariagrazia Benassi mariagrazia.benassi@unibo.it Prof. Raffaella Nori raffaella.nori@unibo.it Prof. Salvatore Anzalone sanzalone@univ-paris8.fr



Annexes	Operational instructions available in the ANNEXES section of the Programme data sheet
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As of 1 January 2012, the rules governing validity and use of certificates within the Italian Public Administration have changed. Public offices can no longer accept and request certificates containing information that the Public Administration already knows. Only self-certifications will be accepted. These provisions do not apply to certificates containing information that the Italian Public Administration has not acquired yet (e.g. Declaration of Value – certificate of equivalence – for foreign qualifications).



Article 1 – General information

1. Pursuant to Decree no. 270 of 22 October 2004 of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, for academic year 2026-2027, Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, Administrative office of Bologna, will run a Winter School “HERO-IG”.
2. The Winter School has been set up on the proposal of the University of Bologna, Dipartimento di Psicologia "Renzo Canestrari" - PSI and in cooperation with Università Paris 8, DocCreativity, Almacube and Develop-Players.
3. The Winter School, which will last for 15 working days, will be taught in English. It awards 6 University educational credits (CFU/ECTS) and has as its learning outcome: The HERO-IG module is a PhD-level professionalising course designed to train a new generation of researchers and professionals for the applied gaming sector, with a specific focus on games applied to education and health. The programme integrates theoretical foundations and hands-on laboratory practice, combining technological expertise (XR, AI, robotics, game development) with entrepreneurial, ethical and societal dimensions, so that candidates are able to translate research prototypes into validated, market-ready products and services for the Cultural and Creative Sectors and Industries (CCSI). Participants will have the opportunity to master Unity3D, VR/AR, AI-driven design, codesign prototype for special needs populations and analyze human-computer interaction. They will learn to design applied games for education and healthcare, strengthening cross-disciplinary collaboration.
4. The Winter School is a restricted-access postgraduate course.
The selection procedure will not take place unless a minimum number of applicants is reached.
If the minimum number of enrolments is not reached, or the minimum feasible budget is not met, the course cannot be activated and the procedure to refund the enrolment fee (excluding stamp duty) will be initiated.
The selection procedure participation fee (€10.00) will not be refunded, not even in the case that the selection procedure cannot take place.
5. The certificate of successful completion of the Winter School and the awarding of 6 CFUs are conditional on:
 - paying the tuition fees in full or reduced;
 - reaching the minimum attendance percentage of 70%;
 - passing the final examination.
6. Transfer from a Winter School to another or to any other programme offered by the University is not permitted.

Article 2 – Admission requirements

1. All applicants must hold the following qualifications and meet the following admission requirements by the enrolment end date **15/10/2026**:
 - Bachelor and/or two-year Master degrees awarded pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04 (or first-cycle and/or second-cycle degrees awarded under the degree programme systems in force prior to Ministerial Decree DM 509/99) or Doctoral degree in the following disciplinary areas/degree programme classes: Informatics, Engineering, Arts, Communication, Literature, Psychology, Education. Professionals in game sector and digital health sectors;



- Bachelor and/or two-year Master degrees awarded abroad in the above-said disciplinary areas and valid for admission to the Programme.
 - UNIBO and PARIS8 students enrolled in a PhD or Master's program at the time of enrollment in the Winter School and are in possession of the relevant documentation proving such registration.
 - English Level B2 or higher.
2. Applicants who, at the time of registering for selection, do not hold the necessary qualifications and meet the applicable requirements yet, can participate in the selection on a conditional basis. If they are selected, they will be able to enrol subject to sending proof of the relevant qualifications and requirements to arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it. Successful applicants who fail to obtain the necessary qualifications and meet the applicable requirements before the enrolment end date will not be able to enrol.
3. Participation is open to auditors, up to 20% of enrolled students. Those who wish to attend as auditors must directly inform the Programme Secretariat and will be notified of the acceptance of their request, as well as of the deadline and methods for registration and payment of the attendance fee. The attendance fee for auditors is € 600,00 (six hundred) (to be paid in a single instalment upon registration). Auditors are not required to attend and will not take the final examination or be awarded any University educational credits. The Secretariat will issue a certificate of attendance stating the number of hours completed by each auditor.
4. The Programme does not entitle to exemption from tuition fees (Italian Legislative Decree 68/2012, Article 9, paragraph 8). However, as per the Guidelines and subject to passing the selection, the enrolment of two students with a certified legal disability of 66% or more or with a certification under Italian Law 104/92 will be permitted in excess of the maximum number. Such student(s) will be fully exempted from paying tuition fees, net of any fixed costs and of the selection procedure participation fee.
- In order to apply for a reserved place, a self-certification (stating NAME- SURNAME-TAX CODE-DATE OF BIRTH- PLACE OF BIRTH-ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE) and the legal disability certificate issued by INPS must be submitted to the Secretariat edu.corsipostlaurea@unibo.it and to arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it, together with an identity document, upon entering the enrolment data on Studenti Online.
- The benefit will only be awarded to students who submit all the appropriate documentation subject to availability of reserved places.

Article 3 – Registering for selection and submitting the documentation

1. Applicants must register for selection before 11:59 p.m. on 15/11/2026 by logging into the website www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline.
2. To register for selection and pay the €10.00 fee, see the operational instructions available in the ANNEXES section of the Programme data sheet.
Failure to pay the selection procedure participation fee (€10.00) will result in the rejection of the application.
3. The documentation to be submitted for selection purposes is specified in the instructions. **The following documents must also be submitted:**
 - a) Curriculum Vitae;
 - b) In the case of a candidate from University of Bologna or University Paris 8, a self-declaration or an official certificate confirming enrollment as a student at both the University of Bologna (UNIBO) and Paris 8 University.



- c) Qualifications assessment form, using the format attached to the call for applications;
- d) Cover letter

Attention: Please document this requirement using the qualifications assessment form attached to this call for applications.

Only for candidates who have obtained their qualification abroad, any other documentation deemed useful for assessing the eligibility of the qualification possessed (Diploma Supplement, Declaration of Value, etc.), together with the translated and legalised qualification (the translation is not necessary for qualifications in English, French or Spanish).

Article 4 – Other information concerning admission and delivery of the documentation

1. The University of Bologna accepts no responsibility for the loss of misdirected communications as a result of the applicant providing a wrong address or failing to notify or delaying notification of changes to the address given in their online application, or for any issues however attributable to third parties, unexpected events or force majeure.
2. All applicants are admitted to the entrance exam on a conditional basis – the University of Bologna will subsequently proceed to reject any applicants who do not meet the admission requirements laid down in this Call for Applications.
3. In the event of false declarations in the documentation submitted by an applicant, which are relevant for enrolment purposes, without prejudice to the penalties laid down in Article 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445 of 28 December 2000, such applicant will no longer be able to enrol and will not be entitled to a refund of the fees paid. Those who make false declarations will be liable for damages.

Article 5 – Selection procedure and ranking list

1. Admission to the Winter School is subject to passing the selection procedure qualifications-based selection. The maximum score awarded by the Examination Committee is 100 points (Curriculum Vitae: max 50 points; Cover letter: max 50 points). The minimum score of 55 must be achieved to pass the selection.
2. The Examination Committee will be appointed by the Winter School Director. The selection procedure supervisor is the Winter School Director.
3. Admission to the Programme is granted to eligible applicants, within the limits of available places, based on the ranking list prepared in accordance with the total score awarded. If the grade is the same, the younger applicant will rank higher.

Article 6 – Enrolment fee and methods of payment

1. Students attending the Programme are required to pay a fee of € 800,00 (eight hundred) or a reduced fee of € 17,04 in a single instalment upon enrolment.
2. Payments must be made with the methods available on Studenti Online www.studenti.unibo.it.



3. Enrolment costs may be borne by third parties (Public Bodies, Foundations, Businesses, etc.). In that case, the applicant must promptly request the *letter of intent template* from arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it and ensure it is submitted by the start date of enrolment.
After receiving payment, the University will issue a receipt exempt from VAT pursuant to Articles 1 and 4 of Presidential Decree 633/1972 as amended.

Article 7 – Enrolment

1. Applicants must enrol mandatorily before 10/11/2026 by logging into the website www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline.
2. Online enrolment methods are explained in the operational instructions. Enrolment is conditional upon paying the first instalment of enrolment fees.
3. With regard to paragraph 3 of this Article, non-EU citizens must submit **proof of legal residence in Italy**.
4. Applicants who no longer wish to enrol after passing the selection procedure must immediately inform the arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it

Article 8 – Withdrawal from studies

1. Students who, after paying the enrolment fee, decide to withdraw from the Winter School are not entitled to a refund of the fees paid.
The withdrawal from studies is a formal and irreversible act through which you decide to end your university career. The notification of withdrawal must be sent to arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it from the student's University email address.

Article 9 – Information and contacts

1. For *scientific and teaching information* (teaching programme, calendar, exams, information on internship or project work, etc.), please contact the Programme Secretariat (Fondazione Alma Mater – Viale Quirico Filopanti, 7 – 40126 Bologna – edu.corsipostlaurea@unibo.it).
2. For *administrative information*, please contact arin.studentialtaformazione@unibo.it.
3. The procedure supervisor is the Head of the Unit “Higher Education, Permanent Training and Training Co-Designed with External Bodies” of the Innovation Division, Ms Alessandra Marchi.

Article 10 – Processing of personal data

1. The personal data provided by the applicants will be processed by the University of Bologna in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

Provision of the personal data indicated in this Call for Applications and in the attached forms is mandatory for the purpose of participating in the procedure and to carry out related operations.

The University may also process the personal data of the applicants for the purpose of compiling statistics or sending them to the MUR or to facilitate analysis and improvement of teaching activities and services, research activities and activities related to the right to higher education. The personal data provided through



Studenti Online may also be processed by the University for its own institutional purposes, as indicated for example in Article 4 of Rector's Decree 271/2009. Pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679:

1. The Controller is Alma Mater Studiorum – Università di Bologna, with registered office at Via Zamboni no. 33, 40126 Bologna;
2. The Processor is the Head of the Innovation Division (Antonella Munna, Via Zamboni no. 33, 40126 Bologna).

A complete and up-to-date list of the persons in charge of data processing can be obtained by sending an email to privacy@unibo.it or contacting the above-said Processor. Personal data processing procedures are detailed in the privacy policy published on the University website (<https://www.unibo.it/it/ateneo/privacy-e-note-legali/privacy/>).

Digitally signed

Bologna, 5/8/2026

The Head
(Antonella Munna)