

EARTH, LIFE AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Section “PhD positions and scholarships” integrated on 05/06/2018

Coordinator	Prof. Giulio Viola Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences – BiGeA Via Zamboni 67 Bologna giulio.viola3@unibo.it
Starting date of the PhD Programme	01/11/2018
Duration	3 calendar years
Language of the PhD Programme	Italian and English
Mandatory stay abroad	Yes (at least 3 months)
Curricula and	Research topics
1. Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Stratigraphy and structural geology – Geosphere-biosphere interactions – Geochemistry, magmatism and metamorphism – Marine geology - Environmental geology – Geological hazards and natural resources – Engineering geology, hydrogeology and geomorphology
2. Biology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Molecular and cellular biodiversity – Animal biodiversity and evolution – Plant biodiversity and evolution – Human biodiversity and evolution – Population biology and ecology – Environmental monitoring – Marine biology
PhD positions and scholarships	
<p>Positions with scholarship linked to specific research projects (art. 9 of the Call for applications) Each position shall be linked to a specific research project within the framework of one of the two PhD Programme Curricula. For this reason, an offer for a given research position will be made starting from the highest ranked candidate for each project, taking into account the Curriculum specified by the applicant in the section “Statements” of the online application form and, additionally, on the basis of the chosen research project indicated in the Motivation Letter. The ranking of applicants who have expressed interest for a given research project shall be valid only for that project. Should the chosen candidate not accept, the offer will be made to the second on the list and so on until the position is filled.</p>	10
Research projects	<p>Curriculum 1 “Geology”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Integrated application of hydrogeological, isotopical and botanical tools to track plumes of chlorinated solvents in shallow aquifers”. The scholarship is fully funded by the University of Bologna general budget. - “Trends in body size and climate change: lessons from the past”. The scholarship is financed by the 5x1000 Campaign (2015). - “Investigating climatic and lithologic controls on landslide sediment supply to river systems”. The scholarship is funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds from an agreement with the Provincia Autonoma di Bolzano. - “Evaluating far-field deformation in collisional settings: progressive tectonic inversion of the Kura sedimentary basin (Georgia and Azerbaijan) within the context of the Arabia-Europe collision”. The scholarship financed by the University of Bologna general budget and co-financed by the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences.

- “Integrated study of the tectonic brittle evolution of the Mid Norwegian margin in selected key areas between Smøla and Bømlo”. The scholarship is totally funded by the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds from an agreement with NGU - Geological Survey of Norway.

Curriculum 2 “Biology”

- “Germ line specification in animals: comparative transcriptomics and proteomics in Evo-Devo perspective”. The scholarship is fully funded by the University of Bologna general budget.
- “Dynamics of plant and cryptogam communities in high elevation landscapes under a global change scenario”. The scholarship is fully funded by the University of Bologna general budget.
- “Relationships between airborne allergens and Environmental Factors”. The scholarship is funded by the University of Bologna general budget and co-financed by the Department of Biological, Geological, and Environmental Sciences with funds from the POR FESR and “Made in Italy” Programmes.
- “Environmental-DNA in risk assessment and decision making processes of harmful species management in the agri-food sector, hydraulic safety and biodiversity conservation” - scholarship financed by Regione Emilia-Romagna within the program “Alte Competenze per la ricerca, il trasferimento tecnologico e l'imprenditorialità”.
- “Development of biomimetic surfaces for the eco-compatible design of port seawalls and other maritime infrastructures” - scholarship financed by Regione Emilia-Romagna within the program “Alte Competenze per la ricerca, il trasferimento tecnologico e l'imprenditorialità”.

Admission requirements

Please, see art. 2 of the Call for applications

Mandatory documents to be attached to the application

Please, see art. 3 of the Call for applications

Further qualifications that may be attached to the application, if in possession of the applicant (only qualifications attested by documents drawn up in Italian, English, French, German and Spanish shall be considered as valid and assessed by the Admission Board)

- Abstract of the second cycle master’s degree thesis. Undergraduate applicants may submit the draft of the thesis approved by their supervisor (please, note that abstract cannot exceed 5.000 characters, including spaces and formula possibly used. The above figure does not include: the title of thesis, the outline, and images such as graphs, diagrams, tables etc. - where present);
- No more than 2 reference letters signed by Italian and international academics and professionals in the research field, which do not belong to the Admission Board, attesting the suitability of the applicant and his/her interest for the scientific research.
Please, note that the above letters cannot be uploaded by the applicants. When filling the online application form on <http://studenti.unibo.it>, applicants will be only allowed to provide the email addresses of their chosen referees. The latter shall receive an email from the University of Bologna providing them with the instructions for uploading their recommendation letters. Only letters in pdf format submitted before the deadline of the Call shall be accepted.
- Motivational letter. This has to include the personal and professional motivations prompting the applicant to apply to the PhD Programme and the relevant experience and skills, that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD Programme (3000 characters maximum, including spaces).
- List of publications (monographs, articles published on scientific journals).
- List of other minor publications (conference papers, volume chapters, etc.).
- List of abstracts and posters presented at national and international conferences, etc.
- Professional Master courses completed in Italy (1st or 2nd level) relevant to the PhD Programme.
- Postgraduate vocational training programmes/specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme.
- Summary of the thesis defended within the framework of Specialization Schools. The summary cannot exceed 5000 characters.
- Teaching activity carried out at university level.
- Research activity of any kind - whether basic, applied, etc. - carried out in any capacity, including when covered by research grants, and as a staff member of research projects.
- Work experience
- Vocational internships
- Curricular and non-curricular training and guidance internships
- Study periods completed outside the applicant’s home country (e.g. Erasmus programme or other similar mobility

- programmes).
- Other qualifications attesting the suitability of the applicants (scholarships, prizes, etc).

Admission exams (art. 4 of the call for applications)

Examination type	Schedule (please, note that applicants shall not receive any communication concerning the exams schedule)		Examination results publication (please, note that applicants shall not receive any communication concerning the publication of results)
Evaluation of the qualifications	Non-presential.		The results of the evaluation of qualifications shall be made available online starting from 07/06/2018 at the page http://studenti.unibo.it (please, select “summary of the requests in progress” - “see detail” and open the pdf file “risultati valutazione titoli”)
Oral examination	Date	25/06/2018 In case that the oral examination cannot be completed in one day due to the large number of applicants, the oral exam schedule shall be made available at the webpage http://studenti.unibo.it together with the results of the evaluation of qualifications	The results of the oral examination shall be available on the webpage http://studenti.unibo.it starting from 28/06/2018 (please, select “summary of the requests in progress” - “see detail” and open the pdf file “risultati prova orale”)
	Place	Bologna - Via Selmi 3 Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche e Ambientali Sala Lauree - secondo piano	
	Time	10 a.m.	
Pursuant to art. 4 of the call for applications, applicants regularly residing abroad can ask to take the exam remotely by using videoconferencing facilities (e.g. Skype). Please, for further details refer to the relevant provision laid down in the Call for applications.			

Evaluation criteria

Points will be allocated to applications out of a total of 100 on the basis of the following weighting:

1. Qualifications

- Minimum for admission to the oral exam: 30 points
- Maximum: 50 points

Only qualifications relating to the last 5 years shall be taken into consideration, with the exception of the University Degree (Diploma di laurea). Please, note that qualifications must be relevant to the PhD Programme.

Points shall be allocated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Graduation final mark. Undergraduates shall be evaluated on the basis of the Weighted Average Mark (WAM): max 30 points
- Publications: max 5 points
- Motivation letter: max 10 points
- Reference letter and other qualifications: max 5 points

2. Oral examination

- Minimum for inclusion in the final ranking list: 30 points
- Maximum: 50 points

The oral examination is intended to assess the suitability of the applicant to pursue scientific research as well as his/her general knowledge of research themes pertaining to the Curricula covered by the PhD Programme.

During the oral examination, the applicant’s knowledge of the following foreign language shall be assessed: English.

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

Points relating to the oral examination shall be allocated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Knowledge of foreign languages: max 10 points
- General knowledge of issues connected to the PhD programme: max 40 points

Possible evaluation sub-criteria shall be made available on <http://studenti.unibo.it> (select: “summary of the requests in progress” - “see detail” and open the pdf file named “sub-criteri di valutazione”).

Final ranking list and enrolment (arts.6 and 7 of the call for applications)

Only after the publication of the results relating to the oral exam, the final ranking list shall be available at the page <http://studenti.unibo.it>. In the section “Summary of the requests in progress”, the status of the application submitted shall be “Final ranking list available”. A click on “See detail”, will open the webpage where the pdf file “Graduatoria” can be downloaded (at the bottom of the page).

Please, note that written communication about the final results and the deadlines for the enrolment shall not be sent to the applicants.
The enrolment of successful applicants must be completed by the deadline laid down at the bottom of the Final ranking list.