

PHD PROGRAMME TABLE 38TH CYCLE

Section "Available Positions and Scholarships" integrated on 20/05/2022

Section "Available Positions and Scholarships" integrated on 13/06/2022

PROGRAMME'S NAME	PHILOSOPHY, SCIENCE, COGNITION AND SEMIOTICS (PSCS)
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2022 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
MANDATORY STAY ABROAD	6 months
COORDINATOR	Prof. Claudio Paolucci (c.paolucci@unibo.it)
CURRICULA	1. Philosophy and Science Studies 2. Semiotics 3. Cognitive Science
RESEARCH TOPICS	Detailed list at the bottom of the present document
PhD POSITIONS	8
ADMISSION PROCEDURE	Qualifications and research proposal evaluation Oral examination

Available Positions and Scholarships

Pos. n.	Financial Support	Description	Positions linked to a specific research topic
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	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
4	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
5	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	
6	PhD Scholarship	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget under the Progetti di Sviluppo Strategico dei Dipartimenti (PSSD) initiative	For an archaeology of social violence. A study on the 'denial' of the child
7	PhD Scholarship	Funded by Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (ISTC CNR)	Formal and cognitive foundations of knowledge graph applications in the Humanities
8	Research Grant	Provided by the Department of Philosophy and Communication Studies with funds made available by ISTC-CNR. The research grant will have a duration of 36 months and gross percipient amount of €61,867	Knowledge Graphs and Patterns for the Science of Science

Admission Exams

	DATE AND TIME	RESULTS
Qualifications and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from 20/06/2022**

Oral examination	Date: starting from 28/06/2022 – 9.00 a.m. CEST* Place: In presence, Sala Rossa (third floor), Department of Philosophy and Communication Studies, via Azzo Gardino 23, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from 10/07/2022**
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* In case that the oral examination cannot be completed in one day due to the large number of applicants, the oral examination detailed schedule shall be made available on the webpage [Studenti Online](#) together with the results of the qualifications and research proposal evaluation.

** The **results of the admission exams** will be available on the webpage [Studenti Online](#) (select “summary of the 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.**

Required and Supporting Documents to be attached to the application

All the documents listed below **shall be drawn up in English or in Italian**. In case of documents originally issued in any other language (e.g. identity document, qualifications), an official English translation is required.

Only qualifications obtained **during the last 5 calendar years** shall be taken into consideration, except for the University Degree. 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	Multi-annual research proposal, with special emphasis on the activities to be completed during the first-year course . The proposal must meet the following requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it must mention on the cover page the Curriculum the applicant is interested to and the proposal is about; - 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; expected results; articulation of the proposal and implementation times; outline of the criteria to be used to assess the findings obtained; references.
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS	
Thesis abstract	Abstract of the second cycle degree thesis . Graduands applicants may submit the draft of the thesis. 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.
Reference letter/s	No more than 3 reference letters signed by Italian and 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).
Personal statement	This must include the reasons prompting the applicant to attend the PhD Programme and those relevant experiences and research interests , that make the applicant suitable for the specific PhD Programme (3,000 characters maximum, including spaces).
Publications	Lists of publications (i.e. monographs, articles on scientific journals)
Other documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postgraduate vocational training programmes and/or specialisation programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - Teaching and tutorship activity carried out at academic level - Research activity of any kind - whether basic, applied, translational, etc. - carried out in any capacity, including when covered by research grants, and as a staff member of research projects - Documents attesting the applicant's foreign languages proficiency

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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.)
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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	First (Bachelor's) and Second cycle (Master's) degrees final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	10 points max
	Publications and other evaluable documents	10 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	10 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	30 points max
General knowledge of issues encompassed by the PhD Programme	10 points max

Oral examination aims to assess the suitability of the applicant for scientific research as well as the general knowledge of issues encompassed by the PhD Programme (see the list of [research topics](#) at the bottom of the present document).

During the oral examination, the applicants' English language proficiency shall be assessed.

The oral examination is carried out in Italian or English.

* Possible further evaluation criteria will be available on the [University website](#), selecting the relevant PhD Programme > "More information", at the bottom of the page in the section "Notices".

Research Topics

Curriculum 1: Philosophy and Science Studies

The curriculum in Philosophy and Science Studies deals with:

- aesthetics, regarding the structures of human experience and the question of sensitivity, the expressive practices of taste and the knowledge of different traditions of the Arts;
- moral philosophy, which include knowledge and skills relating to human action in its ethical-social, normative, political, anthropological and communicative dimensions;
- philosophy of law, in its deontological, historical-doctrinal and political dimensions;
- theoretical philosophy, which concern the activity of thought in its genesis, the structuring of concepts and the different forms of experience, in particular the theory of knowledge, phenomenology, metaphysics, ontology, hermeneutics and religion;
- logic and philosophy of science, which address the forms of scientific knowledge, logic and natural languages, the representation of knowledge and computation, the methodological and foundational issues specific to the individual sciences;
- historical-philosophical studies, which include the forms and development of philosophical thought from antiquity to the present day, also extending to political philosophy, philosophy of history, Italian philosophy and the cultural expressions of philosophical doctrines;
- social studies of science and sociology, inherent in the dynamics of production, dissemination and use of expert knowledge, technological artifacts and socio-technical infrastructures;
- studies of the history of science and techniques, which aim - in a diachronic and synchronic sense - at the historical-critical reconstruction of the development of sciences, techniques and scientific institutions, also understood in their social, communicative and gender implications;
- philosophy of language and mind, which address language as an eminently theoretical object of investigation, also including the most recent trends in cognitive semiotics and analytical philosophy.

Curriculum 2: Semiotics

The educational goals of the curriculum in semiotics are to develop theoretical and practical competencies in semiotics both from a theoretical-philosophical perspective, and in terms of their practical-methodological application.

In particular, from a theoretical perspective, we shall examine relevant themes related to the development of philosophical and linguistic theories of signs and semiosis, key elements in the history of semiotics, as well as comparisons between different sign systems: linguistic, visual, multimodal, etc.

On the application plane, necessary methodological tools will be provided to carry out in depth analyses of different types of textual objects: verbal, visual, behavioral, musical, audiovisual, etc.

To this end the principal theoretical and methodological currents characterising the semiotic tradition, from structuralism to interpretational semiotics, will be examined in depth.

Curriculum 3: Cognitive Science

The main research topics of the curriculum on Cognitive science are:

- Attention
- Objects and action, affordances
- Role of the body in cognition, sense of body
- Language grounding in the perception, action and emotion systems
- Emotions and sensorimotor system
- Numerical cognition and its relationship with embodied cognition
- Social cognition

Students are required to learn to perform experiments in the lab - they will have to learn to plan them, to execute them and to analyze the data. They will be required to learn to realize classical behavioral experiments, in which reaction times and errors are recorded. In addition, they will be invited to learn to use at least one of the three instruments that we possess - eye tracking, motion tracking or TMS.

In order to discuss with students the experiments they are conducting, from their planning to the data analysis, we will organize a lab meeting to be held every month. Students and professors will discuss together research projects, and students will have the opportunity to learn how to present a study. We will also organize periodical meetings to discuss some scientific papers. Students will be invited to present to the others an overview of the main topics and open issues in their area.

Compared to other doctoral curricula in cognitive science, our curriculum is characterized by a higher attention paid to psychology (especially cognitive psychology and communication psychology).