



2026



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

FROM 1088 TO THE FUTURE  
UNIVERSITY BODIES AND DEPARTMENTS  
MULTICAMPUS UNIVERSITY  
STUDENTS  
TEACHING  
RESEARCH  
STAFF  
SOCIETY

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## FROM 1088 TO THE FUTURE

1088

### THE BIRTH OF THE UNIVERSITY

The Studium in Bologna is the first home of free teaching, independent from ecclesiastic schools. The Irnerio school of law marks the birth of Western universities.

XII CENTURY

### FREEDOM OF RESEARCH

Federico I Barbarossa recognises the University as a *libera societas* of masters and students. The empire undertakes to protect scholars travelling for the purposes of study. For the first time, the absolute freedom of research is ratified.

XIII CENTURY

### ONE CITY, MANY NATIONS

The University bears witness to its nature as an international community with students from far and wide: over 2,000 students from all across Italy and Europe. The University maintains its autonomy against all outside interference.

XIV-XV CENTURY

### BROADENING THE HORIZONS OF KNOWLEDGE

In the 14<sup>th</sup> Century, so-called “artists” - scholars of Medicine, Philosophy, Arithmetic, Astronomy, Logic, Rhetoric, and Grammar - begin to collaborate with the schools of jurists. Bologna becomes an obligatory destination for all the eminent intellectuals of the time.

XVI-XVIII CENTURY

### FROM BOLOGNA TO THE WORLD

Medicine and philosophy, natural sciences and mathematics, engineering and economics are the major subjects of a university that has become an undisputed international authority in all fields of knowledge.

1888

## THE MOTHER OF ALL UNIVERSITIES

In 1888, the University celebrates its eighth centenary, a grand event held in Bologna attended by representatives of all the world's universities, honouring the Alma Mater Studiorum as the mother of all universities. The Bologna festival becomes an international day of study.

XX CENTURY

## NEW CHALLENGES

The University continues to play an undisputed central role among many other places of learning and research institutions. It continues to cooperate with all major institutions in the world, within an increasingly dynamic and complex global framework.

1988

## AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT

Celebrating the Alma Mater's ninth centenary, the Rectors of 500 European universities meet in Bologna to sign the Magna Charta Universitatum to confirm the essential values and autonomy of universities.

1999

## 1999 BOLOGNA PROCESS

preliminary declaration regarding the creation of a common European Higher Education Area is signed in Bologna by the Foreign Ministers of 29 countries.

2016

## THE UNIVERSITY LOOKS TO THE FUTURE

With a view to meeting the challenges imposed by modern society and directing all our institutional activities towards the pursuit of sustainable development, the University planning and reporting processes now take full account of the 17 sustainable development goals proposed in the 2030 Agenda adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

2019

## 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

The event held to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the signing the Declaration of Bologna is attended by 200 Rectors and over 1,000 professors, students and researchers from over 70 countries, along with representatives from various ministries and international organisations.



UNIVERSITY  
BODIES  
AND  
DEPARTMENTS

# UNIVERSITY BODIES

## UNIVERSITY BODIES

**Rector**, supported by **6 Vice-Rectors**: Deputy Rector, Vice Rectors for Teaching, Human Resources, International Relations, Research, and Digital Transformation. The Rector is also supported by delegates for some particularly relevant cross-cutting issues such as: Financial Statement and Planning, Public Communication, Construction, Equity Inclusion and Diversity, Public Engagement, Cultural Heritage, Relations with Health Service, Relation with Businesses and Industrial Research, Imola Branch, Sustainability, Sustainable Teaching, Students, Trade Union Relations.

**Academic Senate**: composed of 35 members (Rector, 10 Heads of Department, 5 representatives for each Scientific-Disciplinary Area, 1 Campus President, 2 professional staff representatives, 6 student representatives).

**Board of Governors**: composed of 10 members (Rector, 5 internal

members, 2 external members, 2 student representatives).

**Board of Auditors**: composed of 3 statutory members and 2 substitute members.

Committees with mixed composition.

**University Evaluation Unit**: composed of members between 5 and 7, including 1 student representative.

**University Quality Committee. Director General.**

## AUXILIARY BODIES

**Student Council**: composed of 33 members

**Sponsors' Committee**, which is composed of 9 members: the Rector, who chairs the committee, and the other members representing the bodies and institutions working to promote and develop scientific and learning activities and the transfer of knowledge in the various fields and regions in which the University operates.

**Student Ombudsman.**

**Guarantee committee for equal opportunities, employee well-being and non-discrimination at work (CUG).**

**Confidential Counsellor.**

# 31 DEPARTMENTS

## MEDICINE

- Biomedical and Neuromotor Sciences
- Medical and Surgical Sciences
- Veterinary Medical Sciences
- Life Quality Studies

## SCIENCE

- Chemistry "Giacomo Ciamician"
- Industrial Chemistry "Toso Montanari"
- Pharmacy and Biotechnology
- Physics and Astronomy "Augusto Righi"
- Mathematics
- Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences

## SOCIAL STUDIES

- Management
- Economics
- Legal Studies
- Political and Social Sciences
- Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati"
- Sociology and Business Law

## TECHNOLOGY

- Architecture
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Civil, Chemical, Environmental and Materials
- Engineering
- Electrical, Electronic and Information
- Engineering "Guglielmo Marconi"
- Industrial Engineering
- Agricultural and Food Sciences

## HUMANITIES

- The Arts
- Classical Philology and Italian Studies
- Philosophy
- Modern Languages, Literatures and Culture
- Psychology "Renzo Canestrari"
- Education Studies "Giovanni Maria Bertin"
- History and Cultures
- Cultural Heritage
- Interpreting and Translation



MULTICAMPUS  
UNIVERSITY

## CESENA CAMPUS

### The main vocations

- Agrifood
- Architecture
- Ict and Bioengineering
- Psychology

### Departments and Local Organizational Units (U.O.S.)

- Architecture (Department and U.O.S.)
- U.O.S. Computer Science and Engineering
- U.O.S. Electrical, Electronic and Information
- Engineering “Guglielmo Marconi”
- U.O.S. Psychology “Renzo Canestrari”
- U.O.S. Agricultural and Food Sciences
- U.O.S. Veterinary Medical Sciences

## FORLÌ CAMPUS

### The main vocations

- Economics and Social Sciences
- Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering
- Translation and Interpreting

### Departments and Local Organizational Units (U.O.S.)

- Business Science - Forlì campus
- Interpreting and Translation
- U.O.S. Industrial Engineering
- U.O.S. Economics
- U.O.S. Sociology and Business Law
- U.O.S. Political and Social Sciences

## RAVENNA CAMPUS

### The main vocations

- Environments and Sea Rights
- Cultural Heritage

### Departments and Local Organizational Units (U.O.S.)

- Cultural Heritage
- U.O.S. Industrial Chemistry “Toso Montanari” (Faenza)
- U.O.S. History, Culture, Civilisation
- U.O.S. Biological, Geological and Environmental Sciences
- U.O.S. Law
- U.O.S. Chemistry “Giacomo Ciamician”
- U.O.S. Civil, Chemical, Environmental and
- Materials Engineering

## RIMINI CAMPUS

### The main vocations

- Sustainable Development and well being
- Services for individuals, businesses and communities
- Tourism and Fashion

### Departments and Local Organizational Units (U.O.S.)

- Business Science - Rimini campus
- Life Quality Studies
- U.O.S. Industrial Chemistry “Toso Montanari”
- U.O.S. Economics
- U.O.S. Statistical Sciences “Paolo Fortunati”
- U.O.S. Chimica “Giacomo Ciamician”
- U.O.S. for the Arts
- U.O.S. Education Studies “Giovanni Maria Bertin”

# STUDENTS

A.Y. 2024/2025



STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
UNDERGRADUATE AND  
POSTGRADUATE DEGREE  
PROGRAMMES

**97,235**



OF WHICH INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS

**11,302**

STUDENTS ENROLLED  
IN DEGREE PROGRAMMES:  
89,427

79,125  
ITALIAN  
STUDENTS



10,302  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN  
DEGREE PROGRAMMES BY GENDER

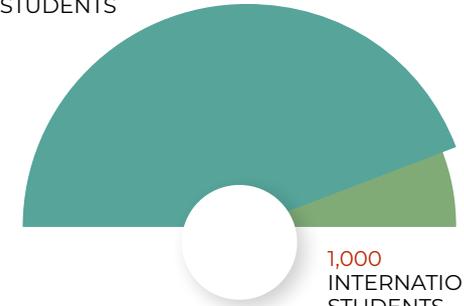
57%  
WOMEN



43%  
MEN

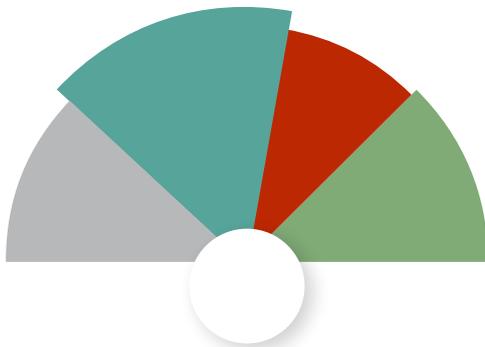
ENROLMENTS IN  
POSTGRADUATE  
PROGRAMMES: 7,808

6,808  
ITALIAN  
STUDENTS

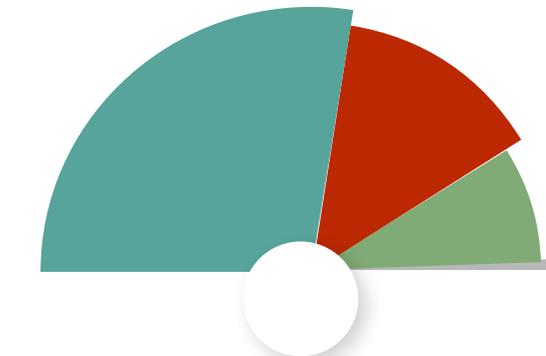


1,000  
INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENTS

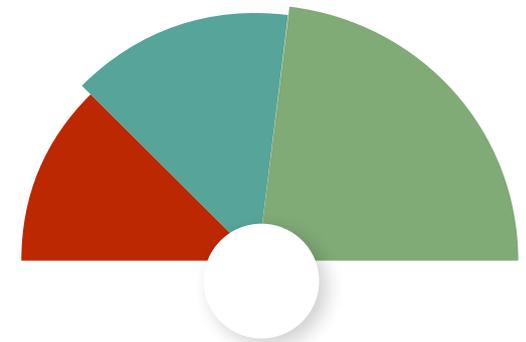
ENROLMENTS BY CAMPUS:  
20,987



ENROLMENTS  
BY DEGREE PROGRAMME



POSTGRADUATE TRAINING



● CESENA: 5,091

● FORLÌ: 6,936

● RAVENNA: 4,172

● RIMINI: 4,788

● FIRST CYCLE: 49,418  
(55.3%)

● SECOND CYCLE:  
23,918 (26.7%)

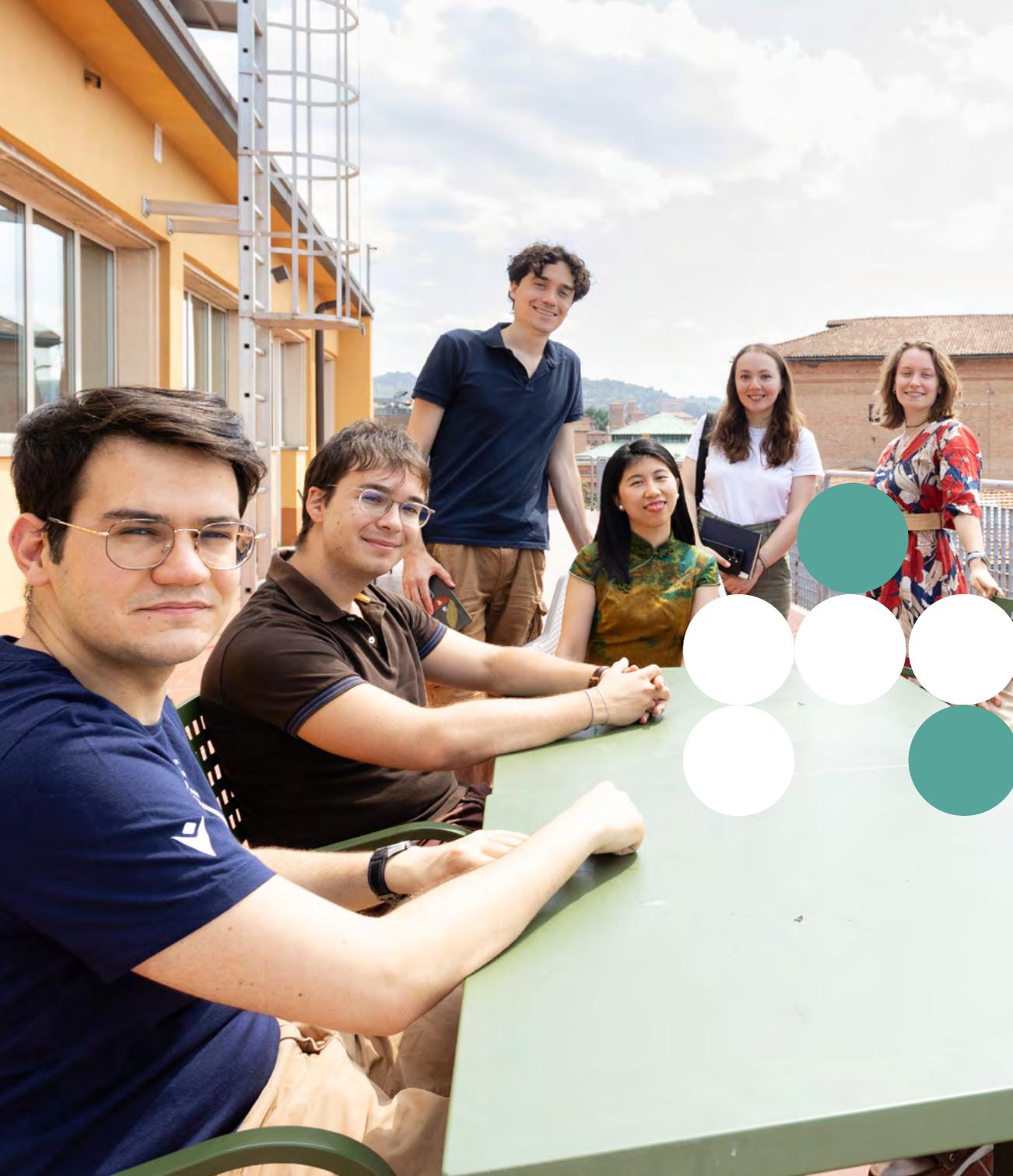
● SINGLE CYCLE:  
15,542 (17.4%)

● PREVIOUS SYSTEM:  
549 (0.6%)

● PHD PROGRAMMES: 51

● SPECIALIZATION SCHOOLS: 59

● MASTERS: 92



## INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY



FROM BOLOGNA TO EUROPE  
(ERASMUS+)

**3,753**



FROM EUROPE TO BOLOGNA  
(ERASMUS+)

**3,484**



EUROPEAN STUDENTS  
(ERASMUS+ COUNTRIES)  
ENROLLED IN DEGREE PROGRAMMES

**3,434**



INTERNATIONAL, NON-EUROPEAN STUDENTS  
ENROLLED IN DEGREE PROGRAMMES

**6,868**

	North America	Latin America	Balkans, Near East, Russian Federation	Africa, Middle East	Asia	Oceania
Active agreements	35	100	27	64	112	16
Students enrolled at the University of Bologna	113	553	1,132	2,352	2,704	14
Exchange students:						
incoming	307	213	55	56	157	61
outgoing	118	149	14	41	100	35
Double, multiple or joint degree programmes	3	3	0	1	6	1



# TEACHING

A.Y. 2025/2026



DEGREE PROGRAMMES

**260**

OF WHICH **115**

INTERNATIONAL:

**60** TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

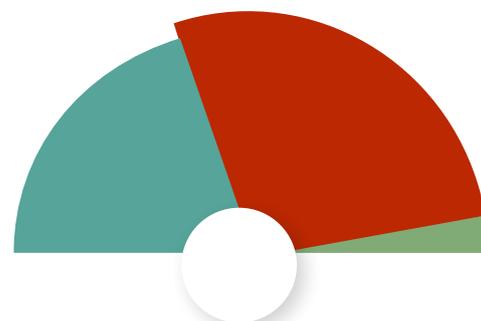
**32** TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

DOUBLE/MULTIPLE DEGREES

**23** DOUBLE/MULTIPLE DEGREES

NOT TAUGHT IN ENGLISH

## PROGRAMME CATALOGUE BY CYCLE



● FIRST CYCLE: 39.6%

● SECOND CYCLE: 54.6%

● SINGLE CYCLE: 5.8%

## PROGRAMME CATALOGUE BY CAMPUS

CAMPUS	L.	L.M.	L.M.C.U	TOTALE
BOLOGNA	71	103	9	183
CESENA	9	9	1	19
FORLÌ	8	13	1	22
RAVENNA	7	8	3	18
RIMINI	8	9	1	18
TOTAL	103	142	15	260

# RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION 2024/2025

All students pay according to their own ISEE (Equivalent Economic Situation Indicator).

**Up to € 27.000,00 of ISEE**, total exemption is provided; beyond this threshold, the contribution is calculated progressively, with special benefits for those with low ISEE.

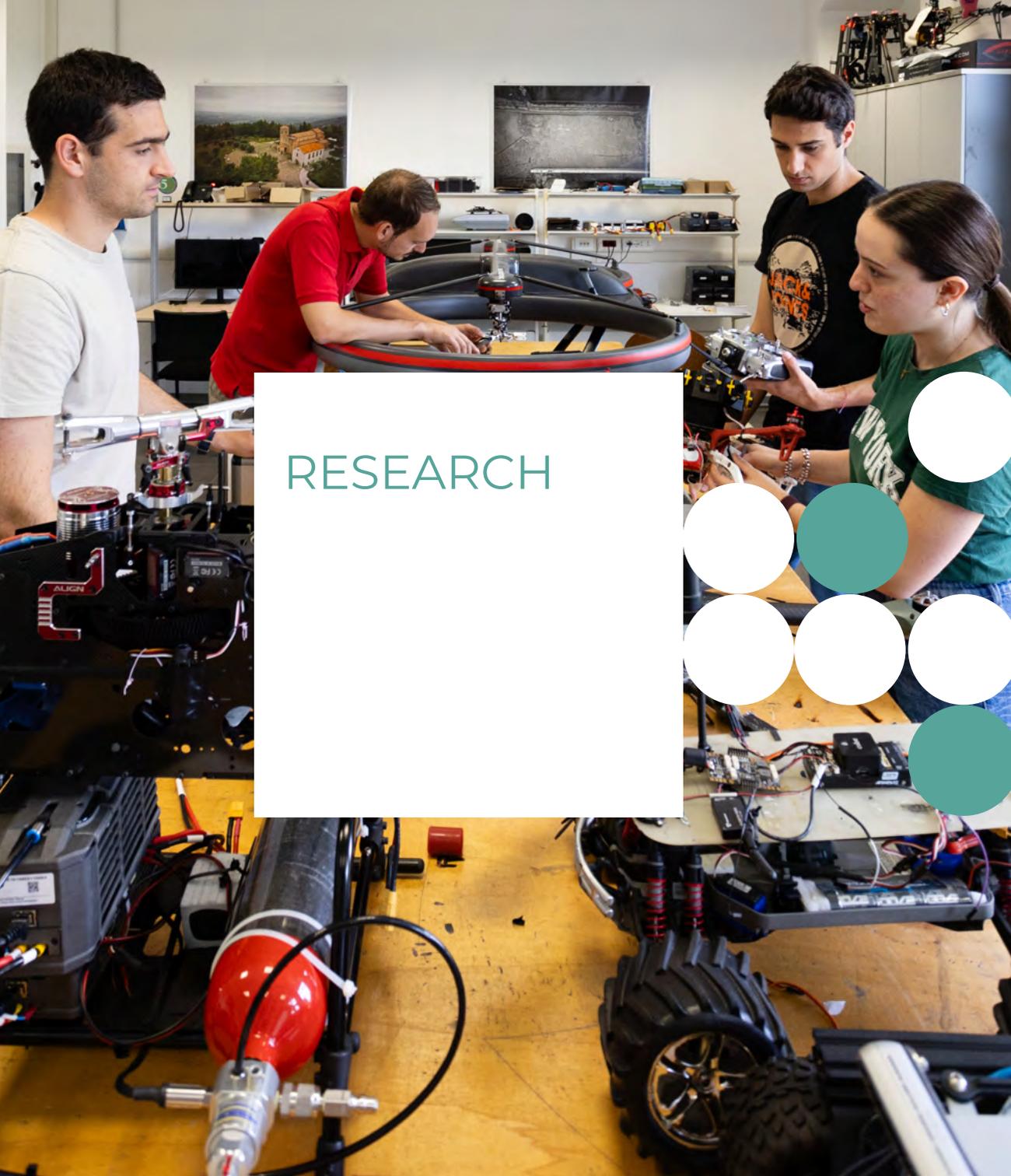
There is the possibility of obtaining a discounted contribution- fixed - without the burden of presenting documentation on the economic condition of the family for those coming from non-EU countries, particularly poor or non-OCSE member countries.

In the academic year 2024/2025, support measures for the right to education introduced in the previous year have been consolidated, such as:

- financial contributions for rental expenses for students living away from home;
- financial contributions for healthcare expenses for students living away from home;
- partial exemptions for those enrolling in their second year beyond the regular duration of study and are only in debt for their final exam.

Furthermore, financial support for students with disabilities or learning disorders has continued through the provision of financial contributions for the purchase of aids and support tools to facilitate their academic progress.

- ER.GO. (REGIONAL AUTHORITY FOR THE RIGHT TO HIGHER EDUCATION) STUDY GRANTS: **15,597**
- STUDY GRANTS FOR PART-TIME COLLABORATIONS WITHIN UNIVERSITY SERVICES: **1,417**
- ER.GO STUDENT ACCOMMODATION SPACES: **2,390**
- TUTORING GRANTS: **522**
- SUPPORT MEASURES FOR STUDENTS IN NEED: **327**
- SUPPORT MEASURES FOR STUDENTS IN NEED (scholarships, exemptions, benefits, and study support services) in collaboration with ER.GO.: **47**
- TOTAL EXEMPTIONS FROM STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS (both with ER.GO scholarships and those resulting from the new framework of the student contribution system): **25,206**
- PARTIAL EXEMPTIONS FROM STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS (contribution calculated based on economic conditions): **21,000**
- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR PARTIAL REIMBURSEMENT OF OUT-OF-TOWN RENTAL EXPENSES: **600**
- PARTIAL EXEMPTIONS for graduating students with only a final exam debt: **251**
- CONTRIBUTION FOR THE HEALTHCARE EXPENSES OF OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS: **417**
- CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE PURCHASE OF AIDS AND SUPPORT TOOLS TO FACILITATE ACADEMIC PROGRESS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES OR LEARNING DISORDERS: **284**



## RESEARCH

## SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION

Over the past ten years, the University has published an average of 14,800 research outputs per year. In the most recent three-year period, approximately 70% of journal articles are available in open access through the Institutional Research Archive (Archivio Istituzionale della Ricerca), while about 45% involve co-authors with international affiliations.

Based on the analysis of the Essential Science Indicators by Clarivate Analytics, referring to articles published between 2015 and 2025 in journals indexed in the Web of Science Core Collection, the University ranks as highly cited in almost all surveyed disciplinary areas. A total of 1,118 articles qualify as top papers, meaning they fall within the top 1% of the most cited publications worldwide (highly cited papers) and/or have received an exceptionally high number of citations in the last two months (hot papers).

According to Scopus data (Elsevier, January 2026), more than 9,900 publications (40% of the total) recorded in the Institutional Research Archive and relating to the years 2022–2024 have been published in indexed journals that rank within the top 10% worldwide.

# OUTSTANDING MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH



Agri-food,  
bioeconomics,  
natural resources,  
agriculture  
and the environment



Climate, energy  
and mobility



Culture, creativity  
and inclusive  
societies



Digital, industry  
and space



Health



Public safety

## COMPETITIVE PROGRAMMES

### EUROPEAN PROGRAMMES (1/1/2021-31/12/2025)

#### >165 mln € HORIZON EUROPE (2021-2027)

- 308 projects signed: 118 coordinated, 26 of which are ERC
- 2.700 partner involved, more than 750 of which are private

#### >22 mln € OTHER EUROPEAN FUNDING

- INTERREG (2021–2027): >3 million euros; 12 projects funded, 1 of which as coordinator
- LIFE (2021–2027): >5 million euros; 14 projects funded, 3 of which as coordinator
- Other European calls for proposals: >14 million euros; 112 projects funded, 36 of which as coordinator

#### >3,5 mln € JOINT INITIATIVES

(JPI, ERANET, PRIMA, Co-founded European Partnerships)



## DEPARTMENTS OF EXCELLENCE

Since January 2023, 11 Departments are involved in the initiative financed by the MUR (Italian Ministry for University and Research) with 88.3 million euros, envisaging, in addition to the ministerial funding, investments for a further 42 million euros. Investments are planned as follows:

> 16.4 million euros for highly qualified educational activities, among which the activation of more than 80 PhD scholarships and numerous interventions to support 2nd and 3rd cycle teaching.

> 17.6 million euros for infrastructure, which will concern building and energy efficiency interventions, the acquisition of research equipment and bibliographic resources.

> 95.6 million euros for recruitment, resulting in 70 researchers and professors, 27 units of permanent technical-administrative staff for the development of the Departments involved and contracts for fixed-term research support staff.

## NATIONAL PROGRAMMES (1/1/2021-31/12/2025)

>41 mln €:

PRIN 2022 : 558 projects funded, 201 of which coordinated.

>15 mln €:

PRIN 2022 PNRR: 161 projects funded, 65 of which coordinated.

>9.5 mln €:

PRIN 2020: 62 projects funded, 22 of which coordinated.

>41 mln € FIS (Fondo Italiano per la Scienza)

>1 mln € FISA – Fondo Italiano per le Scienze Applicate

>4 mln € Giovani Ricercatori PNRR

>9 mln € Other National Fundind (PON, bilateral agreement MAECI, FISIR, Rita Levi Montalcini Program, FARE, PROBEN, Piano Operativo Salute, ASI Call for Space activities)

## REGIONAL AND LOCAL PROGRAMS (1/1/2021-31/12/2025)

>10 mln €:PR-FESR Emilia Romagna (2021-2027): 59 projects funded, 16 of which coordinated

>10 mln €: PR-FESR+ (2021-2027) for 160 PhD positions

>12 mln €: funding from Foundations and other regional and local projects: 285 projects funded.

## PNRR

- Innovation ecosystems, 1 approved project, with funding of 28.2 million euros
- Research infrastructures, 11 proposals presented, of which 8 approved, with funding of 12.4 million euros
- “National Champions”, 5 projects approved, with funding of 61.4 million euros
- Extended partnerships, 13 proposals submitted and approved, with funding amounting to 115.8 million euros
- Complementary National Plan - PNC - MUR, 1 proposal presented and approved, with funding of 24.7 million euros.

## RESEARCH PROMOTED BY THE UNIVERSITY

The University of Bologna supports independent research and is committed to safeguarding and enhancing its scientific diversity, in its disciplinary specificities as well as in its interdisciplinary potential, by increasing and strengthening the resources dedicated to research.

In 2025, the University promoted the allocation of internal funding to support excavation activities and field-based archaeological research. Initiatives launched in previous years also continued, aimed at the maintenance, enhancement, and sharing of research equipment, as well as the promotion of research projects and science communication activities designed to increase the resilience of the territory and of citizens to climate change, with particular attention to issues related to catastrophic events.

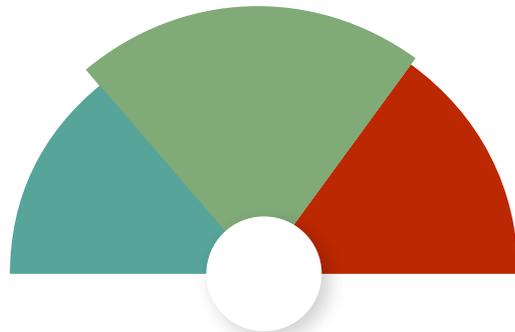


# STAFF

Data updated to 31/12/2025

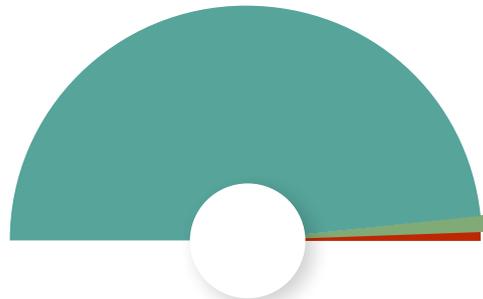


TEACHING STAFF: 3,423



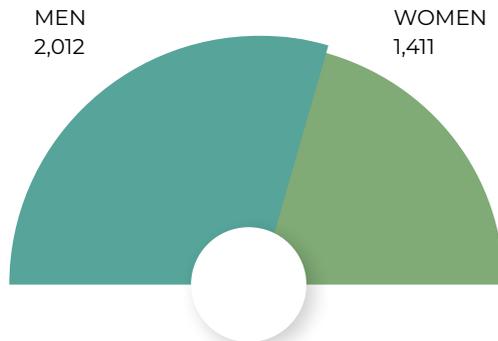
- FULL PROFESSORS: 1,008
- ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS: 1,615
- RESEARCHERS: 800

PROFESSIONAL STAFF: 3,458

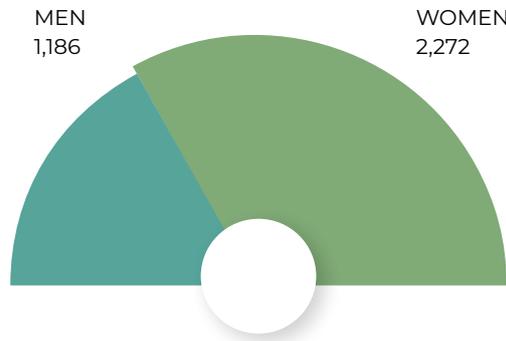


- STAFF CATEGORIES: 3,364
- FOREIGN LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS: 76
- MANAGERS: 18

TEACHING STAFF BY GENDER



PROFESSIONAL STAFF BY GENDER



## GUARANTEE COMMITTEE FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING AND NON-DISCRIMINATION AT WORK (CUG)

The CUG works actively on the development of an equal opportunities culture, the promotion of occupational well-being and measures against discrimination in the workplace.

The Committee utilizes the university services dedicated to promoting organizational well-being and works in collaboration with the University's Confidence Advisor, the Delegate for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, the Delegate for Occupational Well-being, the Evaluation Unit, and the Head of the Prevention and Protection Service, as well as all other figures within the University responsible for addressing the issues entrusted to the CUG.

The Committee approved the Positive Action Plan for 2026, which includes measures for training, awareness-raising, and communication, promoting the protection and guarantee of equal opportunities, promoting occupational well-being, and reconciling life and work schedules. The CUG collaborates in the implementation and periodic verification of the implementation status of the University's Gender Equality Plan (GEP) 2025-2027.



SOCIETY

# INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

## 35 ACTIVE FRAMEWORK

**AGREEMENTS** with major companies in the main sectors (energy, ICT, transportation, chemistry, finance, automation, fashion, and agri-food).

**4 COLLABORATION PROTOCOLS** with major ICT and automotive companies.

## 8 ACTIVE FRAMEWORK

**AGREEMENTS** with some of the main business associations

## 5 JOINT RESEARCH LABORATORIES

with industries in which university and company researchers, PhD and other students collaborate daily, with a mutual benefit deriving from the sharing of skills and approaches.

**1 COMPETENCE CENTER** in the context of the National Industry Plan 4.0. BI-REX (Big Data Innovation & Research Excellence). This is a public-private partnership of 23 companies, 29 service provider, and 13 universities and research bodies, the creation of which was led by the University of Bologna, and which represents a strategic partner for the University for many innovation and training initiatives targeted in particular at small and medium enterprises.

**POSTGRADUATE TRAINING** for company personnel.

2 Schools were established through the execution of specific agreements, which provide for the activation of a series of Advanced Training Courses co-designed with the signatory companies. In addition, 1 Framework Agreement and 1 Training Agreement were signed, along with 16 agreements for the delivery of courses on specific topics.

**PLACEMENT SERVICES.** In 2025, approximately 10,700 registered Italian and international companies posted more than 2,800 job opportunities on the online job board and reviewed 37,000 CVs of Alma Mater graduates. The University organizes various initiatives to foster interaction between graduates and the world of work, such as Career Days, Recruiting Days, sector-specific Job Corners, company visits and in-company activities, as well as recruiting and employer branding initiatives with individual companies. In 2025, these initiatives, implemented within a Multicampus framework, involved a total of approximately 280 companies and organizations.

## 56 BETWEEN SPINOFFS AND

**STARTUPS ACCREDITED** before 31/12/2024, generating an overall value of production around 29 million euros, with an overall turnover of around 26 million euros (financial statements as at 31/12/2024, 52 companies surveyed), and generating employment for 344 resources, including 196 direct hires and 148 collaborators.

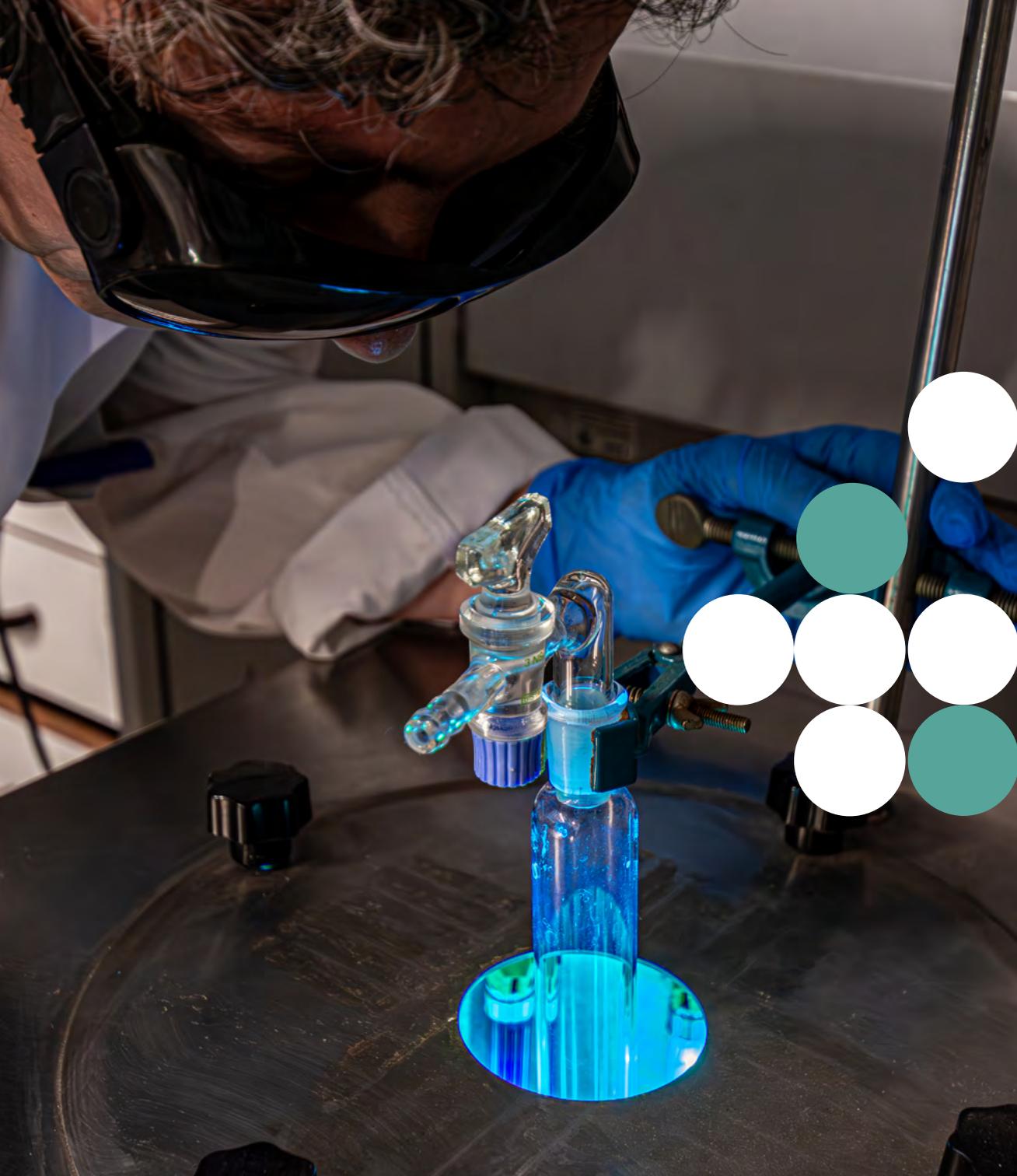
In detail:

**41 spin-off companies**, including 15 with Behold Srl (university holding company) participation, and 6 with Almacube Srl (university incubator) participation.

**11 student start-ups** engaged in the production and/or delivery of innovative products and services developed as a result of the knowledge acquired during their university studies.

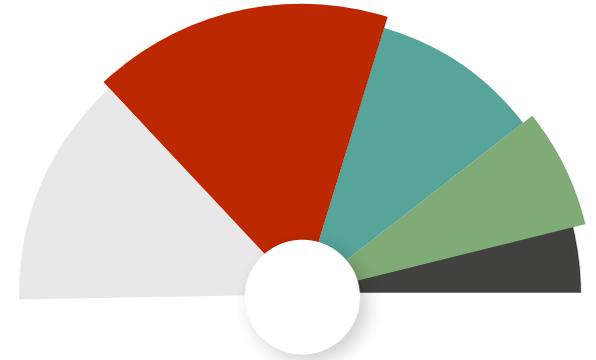
## BUSINESS INCUBATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Almacube S.r.l., the University incubator, certified by the Italian Ministry of Economic Development (MISE) in 2019, managed 6 incubated companies in 2024. Behold S.r.l., a service holding company established in 2021 and wholly owned by the University of Bologna, operates exclusively in the interest of the latter by carrying out the activities necessary for the management of equity holdings in accredited spin-off companies and by supporting the University in pre-incubation and incubation activities, as well as in the activation of networks and relationships for business acceleration. As of 31 December 2024, it held equity stakes in 15 spin-off companies. Across the campuses, support for business development and incubation activities is provided through Cesenalab in Cesena and Innovation Square in Rimini. At the Forlì Campus, the Basement Club is active, a project aimed at all university students focused on the development of transversal skills and the promotion of an entrepreneurial mindset.



## PATENTS AND LICENCES

In 2024, 42 new patent applications were filed, and there were 69 extensions abroad for patents already filed in previous years (PCT, national phases, and regionalizations). As of 31/12/2024, patents in the portfolio amounted to 280, totaling approximately 900 patents/software/plant varieties. Around 20% of patent/software families and 90% of active plant variety families are subject to valorization.



- INDUSTRY, DIGITAL AND SECURITY: 27.8%
- HEALTH: 32.4%
- BIOECONOMICS, AGRICULTURE AND THE ENVIRONMENT: 20.3%
- VEGETABLE VARIETIES: 12.5%
- CLIMATE, ENERGY AND MOBILITY: 7.1%

# GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT, COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The University of Bologna participates in and promotes, in collaboration with local and national public bodies, international organizations, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private enterprises, development cooperation projects—particularly in the Global South—as well as initiatives to raise awareness within the academic community and among the general public on development cooperation and global citizenship education.

The University also funds the Field Work and Unibo Global South Calls. The Field Work Call enables students to enhance their education through direct experience in development cooperation, in collaboration with the Coordination of NGOs and International Solidarity Associations of Emilia-Romagna (Coonger). During the academic years 2023/2024, 2024/2025, and 2025/2026, 50 students participated in international mobility programs hosted by Coonger NGOs as part of development projects in Africa, Latin America, and Asia.

The Unibo Global South Call supports international development cooperation initiatives promoted by the University's departments and implemented with local partners in countries identified by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as recipients of Official Development Assistance. These projects promote the integration of education, research, innovation, and social impact, and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The University is currently involved in:

- 13 Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education projects, including 4 coordinated by the University, aimed at supporting the strengthening of higher education institutions in the Global South;
- 1 Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Vocational Education and Training (VET) project aimed at improving vocational training on sustainable building reconstruction following extreme catastrophic events such as wars or natural disasters in Ukraine and Georgia;
- 2 training and technical assistance initiatives, coordinated by the University and funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (AICS), implemented in Armenia and Iraq in the fields of cultural heritage and archaeology;
- 8 projects funded by the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation under Civil Society Organization programmes;
- 4 NGO-led projects funded by the Emilia-Romagna Region for decentralized cooperation and implemented during 2025;
- 3 “Intra-Africa Mobility Scheme” projects funded by the European Commission, in which the University acts as a technical partner, aimed at strengthening student and staff mobility across the continent and promoting internationalization and scientific cooperation among African universities;
- 10 Unibo Global South projects implemented in Brazil, Ethiopia, the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Jamaica, Lebanon, Morocco, Mozambique, and Tanzania.

UNIBO4REFUGEES AND UNI-CORE (UNIVERSITY CORRIDORS FOR REFUGEES – ETHIOPIA – UNIBO)

The University of Bologna is opening its doors to refugee students: through orientation and selection activities, they can begin or complete their educational path and build their future. Thanks to the Unibo4Refugees project, asylum-seeking students have the opportunity to enroll, tuition-free, in individual courses and Italian language programs at the University of Bologna; once granted international protection, they can enroll in full degree programs, accessing all the benefits available to European (EU) students.

The University of Bologna also participates in the University Corridors for Refugees – UNICORE7.0 project, promoted by 33 Italian universities with the support of UNHCR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Caritas Italiana, Diaconia Valdese, Gandhi Charity, Centro Astalli, Banca Etica, and other partners. The project aims to increase opportunities for refugees from Ethiopia, India, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe to pursue higher education in Italy.



## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public engagement at the University of Bologna takes the form of initiatives designed with society to enhance knowledge, research, and university activities. These initiatives often start from local needs and challenges, rely on partnerships with civil society, public institutions, and private enterprises, and involve the academic community to develop shared solutions fostering social, cultural, and economic change. Projects may also involve students.

Engagement covers a wide range of areas, including the ecological transition, mental health, social services, new forms of citizenship, urban spaces, the 2030 Agenda, and inclusion. Some projects involve youth and science communication. In this context, the University organizes LABO 2030 annually, engaging high school students on the 2030 Agenda through University research.

Science communication is further promoted through multiple channels and participatory events, such as the annual **Researchers' Night** across all Multicampus cities. Updates are shared via **UniboMagazine**, the University's online platform covering institutional news, projects, impacts, cultural initiatives, and research insights.

**Uniboper**, the University's Instagram channel, shares the University's research, cultural heritage, and public engagement with society in accessible language, making these resources a shared asset for all.

## UNIVERSITY LIBRARY SYSTEM (SBA)

The Library System is the coordinated set of the 24 libraries and facilities that provide bibliographic and documentary services to the University to support education as well as teaching, research, professional and cultural activities.

It has a total inventory of 3.3 million volumes in the online catalogue and 4,000 journal subscriptions, with over 4,000 workstations for study and research. It offers services such as the inter-library loan of books and articles (also through agreements with other universities and bodies), guidance and support in conducting bibliographic research, information literacy training, and open access support.

As well as the standard library services, it also provides access to 300 databases, 74,000 online periodicals, and 920,000 e-books.

Through the services and infrastructure of the University's Digital Library, the University Library System supports scientific journals and monographs in diamond open access, ensures the preservation and enhancement of theses (both undergraduate and doctoral), research data, and digital cultural heritage. It also promotes an Open Access culture for the dissemination of scientific research results, in compliance with institutional policies as well as national and international guidelines.

Among the libraries is the **BIBLIOTECA UNIVERSITARIA DI BOLOGNA (BUB)** which serves as the central library of the University. BUB is responsible for the preservation, accessibility, enhancement, and development of ancient printed and manuscript collections. It also supports academic study

through an extensive modern collection housed in an automated storage system. Additionally, it serves as the legal deposit library for publications within the metropolitan area of Bologna and hosts the International Center for Humanistic Studies "Umberto Eco."

BUB actively promotes public engagement through guided tours of its historic halls, temporary exhibitions, and outreach initiatives aimed at strengthening dialogue and relationships with civil society. Furthermore, it publicly and freely disseminates digital reproductions of individual works or entire collections—including Greek and Latin papyri, Greek and Arabic manuscripts, Aldrovandi collections, early printed books, catalogs, and photographs—through online platforms and social media, ensuring open access to these valuable resources.

## UNIVERSITY MUSEUM NETWORK (SMA)

It comprises 16 museums and collections dedicated to various disciplines. The University Museum System (SMA) is strongly committed to educational activities for students of all school levels and to the preservation of cultural heritage through conservation, restoration, and cataloguing interventions, ensuring that the collections are accessible and valorized for research and study purposes.

SMA also promotes public engagement and the dissemination of scientific culture, in collaboration with national and international public and private institutions. To maintain an open and continuous dialogue with its audience, SMA employs digital communication tools, enabling a new approach to museum heritage.

## FONDAZIONE FEDERICO ZERI

This centre for research and specialist training in the field of art history, established to protect and disseminate the works and legacy of Federico Zeri, conserves and promotes his extraordinary bequest: an Art Library (46,000 volumes and 37,000 auction-house catalogues) and a Photographic Library (290,000 photographs). The addition of new photographic collections to the original collections has significantly increased the assets, which today comprise 460,000 photographs of monuments and works of art. The University's goals include the cataloguing and digitalisation of the photographic library: currently the online database contains more than 210,000 images, a number which continues to grow. It can be accessed free of charge and is considered the most important repository of Italian art conserved on the web. There has also been an intensive focus on advanced training with seminars and courses on art history and the cataloguing of photographic archives, which represent a significant opportunity for learning and updating skills in the field. The Zeri Foundation promotes research by hosting scholarships and doctoral programs. Finally, it engages in public outreach activities through a program of conferences and seminars open to the public, as well as a series of publications on topics related to art history, collecting, and connoisseurship.

[www.unibo.it](http://www.unibo.it)

