PHD PROGRAMME TABLE 40TH CYCLE

Section "Available Positions and Scholarships" integrated on 03/06/2024
Section "Available Positions and Scholarships" integrated on 13/06/2024

PROGRAMME'S NAME	SURGICAL SCIENCES AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES
DURATION	3 years
PROGRAMME START DATE	01/11/2024 (DD/MM/YYYY)
LANGUAGES	Italian, English
COORDINATOR	Prof. Bianca Maria Piraccini (biancamaria.piraccini@unibo.it)
PhD POSITIONS	15
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	New technique to diagnose and monitor autoimmune bullous diseases with skin involvement
2	*PhD scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	Innovative diagnostic strategies in rare dermato-endocrine diseases
3	*PhD scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	Neurofibromatosis type 1: from potentially prognostic serological markers to a genetic definition of the mosaic form
4	*PhD scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	Innovations in surgical training on otolaringology
5	*PhD scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	Human infections caused by emerging and re-emerging vector-borne viruses: full genome characterization of arboviruses strains by Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) technologies and development of new broad-range molecular methods for diagnostics and epidemiological surveillance of arboviruses
6	*PhD scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget	Analysis of biliary and fecal microbiota in benign and malignant bilio-pancreatic diseases
7	*PhD scholarship*	Totally funded by the University of Bologna general budget under the "Departments of Excellence" initiative	Analysis of the cost-effectiveness and the perioperative outcomes of a novel robotic platform in colorectal surgery: a single-centre case-matched comparison with laparoscopic surgery

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1

8	*PhD scholarship*	Funded by the University of Bologna general budget and by the Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences	Biomarkers and Artificial Intelligence: applications in the management of Vitreoretinal diseases
9	*PhD scholarship*	Funded by the Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences	A standard Carbon Dioxide and saline solution flushing protocol to reduce air embolization during thoracic endovascular aneurysm repair
10	*PhD position without scholarship*		Mucosal, cross- sectional and biochemical evaluation in the monitoring of inflammatory bowel diseases
11	*PhD position without scholarship*		MicroDisc: Analysis of the microbiome and inflammatory mechanisms
12	*PhD position without scholarship*		Analysis of the postoperative and long-term oncologic outcomes of robotic colorectal surgery using a modular system: a non-inferiority trial
13	*PhD scholarship*	Funded by Radmedica Bologna s.r.l.	Development of a training dataset for an Artificial Intelligence algorithm aimed at automating 3D cephalometric analysis based on DICOM volumetric data
14	*PhD scholarship*	Funded by Alifax s.r.l.	Analysis of different matrices in molecular biology systems
15	*PhD scholarship*	Funded by DiaSorin Italia S.p.A.	Development of an immunodiagnostic assay for the detection of antibodies related to protection against CMV infection, for the assessment of immunological reconstitution of transplant patients. The assay must be automatable and characterised by defining a normality range

The number of positions and scholarships may be incremented in case additional funding becomes available, notwithstanding the terms of the application process in the Call. Any amendment, update or integration of the Programme Table will be published on the University website, even after the Call for applications has expired. Any further PhD positions shall be integrated in the PhD Programme Table within ten days before the oral examination.

All PhD positions winners shall fulfill the learning and research obligations decided by the Academic Board and the obligations foreseen in the relevant regulations, funding schemes and eventual agreements, and in the Call for Applications.

Admission Exams

	DATE AND TIME	RESULTS
Qualifications and research proposal evaluation	Applicants' participation is not required	Available from **27/06/2024**
Oral examination	**Date**: starting from **02/07/2024** – 9.00 a.m. CEST **Place**: In presence Aula Giada Dermatologia, Via Massarenti 1, Bologna. Remotely, using Microsoft Teams	Available from **05/07/2024**

The results of the qualifications and research proposal evaluation shall 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) together with the oral examination detailed schedule. **No personal written communication will be sent to applicants concerning the examinations results**.

During the oral examination, applicants may express their interest in one or more positions linked to specific research topics.

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 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: - it must **mention on the cover page the main research topic** 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; outlining of the criteria meant to be used to assess the research results; references. The research proposal that successful applicants shall carry out during their PhD career may possibly differ from the one proposed at the application stage. This shall be defined together with the supervisor and approved by the Academic Board.
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 1 reference letters** signed by Italian or 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	The statement shall 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) and minor publications (conference papers, etc.)
Other documents	- Postgraduate vocational training programmes relevant to the PhD Programme main research topics - Specialisation thesis - Teaching activities 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 - Work activity - Curricular or non-curricular professional internships - 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.)

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) degree final mark. Graduands shall be evaluated according to the Weighted Average Mark (WAM)	**10 points max**, distributed as follows: University degrees final marks: <100: 4 points 100-107: 6 points 108-110 e lode: 10 points Weighted Average Mark (WAM) – for graduands only <25: 2 points 25-26: 4 points 27-28: 6 points 29-30: 10 points
	Publications and other evaluable documents	**10 points max**, distributed as follows: Publications (only publications in PubMed or relevant to the research proposal main research topic will be taken into consideration) >15: 8 points 10-15: 6 points 5-9: 4 points <5: 2 points Other documents: 2 points max
Research proposal evaluation	Scientific value and ground-breaking nature of the proposal	20 points max
	Structure of the proposal	5 points max
	Proposal feasibility	5 points max

2. Oral examination

Minimum score for eligibility: 30 points, Maximum score 50 points

English language proficiency	10 points max
Research proposal presentation	20 points max
General knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions	20 points max

Oral examination aims to assess the suitability of the applicant for scientific research as well as the general knowledge of the PhD programme's main research topics and of the research topics linked to the available PhD positions.

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

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

* Possible further evaluation criteria will be available on the [University website](#), selecting the relevant PhD Programme > "More information".