ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA | AREA
FORMAZIONE E DOTTORATO

A.Y. 2025/26

SECOND CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE PREPARATION ABROAD OF THE THESIS

MASTER'S DEGREES in:
Biodiversità ed Evoluzione (code 5824), Geologia e Territorio e Geologia per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile – Geology for Sustainable Development (codes 9073 and 6050), Scienze e Gestione della Natura – Sciences and Management of Nature (code 9257), Analisi e Gestione dell'Ambiente e Scienze e Tecnologie per la Sostenibilità Ambientale – Science and Technologies for Environmental Sustainability (codes 5900 e 6055), Biologia Marina (code 8857), Didattica e Comunicazione delle Scienze Naturali (code 5704*).*

DEADLINE: 05 June 2026 by 12 (noon)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

This is an unofficial short translation of the original call for applications in Italian and it is made only for helping international students to take part in the selection.
For all legal purposes, only the Italian version of the call is valid and prevailing regarding the exact interpretation of the rules contained within, also in case of potential disputes.

ART. 1 – SUBJECT

A call for applications has been announced for the award of scholarships for the preparation abroad of the master's degree thesis in *Biodiversità ed Evoluzione (code 5824), Geologia e Territorio e Geologia per lo Sviluppo Sostenibile – Geology for Sustainable Development (codes 9073 and 6050), Scienze e Gestione della Natura – Sciences and Management of Nature (code 9257), Analisi e Gestione dell'Ambiente e Scienze e Tecnologie per la Sostenibilità Ambientale – Science and Technologies for Environmental Sustainability (codes 5900 e 6055), Biologia Marina (code 8857), Didattica e Comunicazione delle Scienze Naturali (code 5704*).

Thesis projects on topics with an international content and/or setting will be taken into consideration, for which the search for material and information abroad proves to be of significant academic relevance.

ART. 2 – ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The call is reserved for **graduating students of the master's degrees referred to in Art. 1**; candidates must:

- be regularly enrolled in the A.Y. 2025/2026.
- have obtained at least 50 credits (CFU).
- have an exam average greater than or equal to 27/30.

Admission requirements must be met on the expiry date of this call.

ART. 3 – EVALUATION CRITERIA AND EXAMINATION COMMISSION

The examination commission will be composed of: Prof.ssa Silvia Franzellitti, Prof.ssa Annalisa Tassoni, Dott. Matteo Roverato.

The maximum score attributable to each candidate is set at 100 points; eligibility is achieved with a minimum score of 60 points.

The Commission defines the following evaluation criteria and related attributable scores:
1. Student career (up to 70 points)
2. Presented thesis project (up to 30 points)
    a) Description of the project with indication of the activities to be carried out.
    b) Letter from the host structure (consistency of the study project with the training activities of the foreign institution).
    c) Letter of motivation (submitted as a file separate from the project) certifying the added value of the experience that the candidate could acquire at the foreign institution and signed by the professor supervising the thesis.
    d) Level of linguistic competence possessed and certified.

ART. 4 - SCHOLARSHIPS

The funds put out for tender amount to € 15.555,00 (amount net of IRAP at 8.5% paid by the institution).
The scholarships are intended as a lump sum contribution to support the stay abroad.
The amount of the scholarships may vary from a minimum threshold per two-month period of €1,100.00 to a maximum of €1,400.00 (net of charges borne by the Institution and the scholarship holder), depending on the destination of the stay at 'abroad.
See the article 4 of the call.

ART. 5 – START OF ACTIVITY AND LENGTH OF STAY

The stay must have a **minimum duration of 2 (two) and a maximum of 4 (four) months. Departures cannot take place before July 1, 2026 and must be concluded by February 20, 2027.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- The thesis preparation activity cannot already be completed or in progress before the approval of the final ranking of the call.
- The stay abroad cannot overlap (even partially) with the period abroad financed by international mobility programs (e.g. Erasmus +): see article 11 of the call.
- If the thesis preparation activity present in the candidate's study plan has already been carried out and recognized at the end of other activities, the candidate cannot participate in this announcement.
- The academic activities (expressed in CFU) of the study plan that the candidate has carried out during Erasmus+ (or other programmes) and which have already been recognized cannot be recognized again at the end of the thesis preparation covered by this call.
- It is the responsibility of the candidates to check the graduation deadlines of their study course (including the deadlines for acquiring CFU) and plan a stay abroad consistent with the indications of the articles 5 and 13 (fulfilments administrative) of the notice.

ART. 6 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be submitted by 5 June 2026 h 12:00 ONLY on the web platform "Studenti online" (SOL).

To submit their applications, candidates must:

- Access "Studenti Online" https://studenti.unibo.it/.
- Click on "Calls" (bandi).
- Select the call: "SECONDO BANDO PER BORSE DI STUDIO PER LA PREPARAZIONE ALL'ESTERO DELLA TESI DI LAUREA MAGISTRALE – DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE BIOLOGICHE, GEOLOGICHE E AMBIENTALI (BIGEA) – A.A. 2025/26"

To participate in the call, it is necessary to submit, under penalty of exclusion, the following documentation:

- **ALLEGATO A/ANNEX A**: application form completed in full, dated and signed by the candidate and available at: https://bandi.unibo.it/s/aform9/2bandotesiesterobigea2526

- **Curriculum vitae**, dated and signed by the candidate, in .pdf format.

- **Detailed project of the thesis preparation activity that you intend to carry out.**

  The description of the project, indicating the destination and duration of the stay, must be drawn up in Italian or English and must include, under penalty of exclusion, all of the following elements:
  a) **Description of the project** with indication of the activities to be carried out.
  b) **Letter from the host structure** explaining the consistency of the thesis project with the training and research activity of the foreign institution.
  c) **Letter of motivation from the candidate** (**presented as a separate file**, **separate from the project**) certifying the added value of the experience that the candidate could acquire at the host institution; the motivation letter must be signed by the thesis supervisor.
  d) **Level of linguistic competence** possessed and certified.

- **Declaration of the UNIBO supervisor** regarding the institutional connections and/or contacts already existing and undertaken abroad in relation to the thesis preparation project.

ART. 7 - FINAL RANKING

The final merit ranking will be proposed by the examination board and approved by the Director of AFORM - Training and Doctoral Area and it will be viewable by candidates within the "Online Students" (SOL) application.

ART. 8 – ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Eligible candidates but not recipients of the scholarship will still be authorized to carry out the activity abroad at the destination and for the period indicated in the application form.

The authorization will guarantee the insurance coverage and will allow for the acquisition of CFU/ECTS related to the preparation of the degree thesis abroad, provided that all the administrative requirements set out in this call and on the AlmaRM platform are met.

ART. 9 – NOTIFICATION TO THE WINNERS AND METHODS OF ACCEPTANCE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

Winners will be notified of the amount assigned by e-mail to the address institutional (nome.cognome@studio.unibo.it), together with the attachments necessary for the acceptance of the grant. This will take place after the publication of the ranking and after the issuance of the relevant provision of the Head of AFORM - Education and PhD programme Division.

Likewise, if present, eligible candidates but not recipients of a scholarship will be notified by e-mail to the institutional address (nome.cognome@studio.unibo.it), together with the attachments useful to confirm the willingness to leave and the data necessary to carry out administrative formalities.

The winners must send the "SCIENCE CITTADELLA" Educational Services Sector to AFORM - at the address scienzecittadella.international@unibo.it – by the deadline indicated by e-mail - all the documentation useful for the acceptance of the scholarship, completed in full and signed.

Winning and eligible non-assignee students will simultaneously receive the "Guide for successful and eligible students", relating to the administrative formalities to be carried out through the AlmaRM platform (https://almarm.unibo.it/almarm/welcomeStudenti.htm), which are mandatory in order to recognize credits deriving from the preparation of the thesis.

It should be noted that the time for disbursement of the scholarship cannot in any case be less than 60 days following the date of the Provision issued by the Head of AFORM - Education and PhD programme Division and which approves the final merit ranking.

ART. 10 – INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Provision of the Head of AFORM - Education and PhD programme Division, which approves the final merit ranking, constitutes a formal authorization to guarantee UNIBO insurance coverage for the winners and suitable non-assignees.

It should be noted that the University insurance policy is not intended as a substitute for any additional insurance/coverage that may be necessary for the stay in the chosen host country. In particular, in the event of mobility in non-EU countries, it is also suggested to activate an additional travel-type health coverage, the activation of which is entirely the responsibility of the person concerned.

Any changes in the start / end dates of the mobility period (already indicated at the time of acceptance of the scholarship) must always be motivated and communicated in writing by email to scienzecittadella.international@unibo.it and to the UNIBO supervisor, well in advance of the scheduled departure date.

ART. 11 – INCOMPATIBILITY

It is not possible to finance the same mobility period (same departure/return dates, same destination) by accumulating two scholarships financed with funds from the University of Bologna and/or with EU funds (for example, Erasmus + and scholarship for thesis abroad).

ART. 12 – CONDITIONS PRECEDENT, POSTPONEMENTS AND WAIVERS

In the event of renunciation following formal acceptance of the scholarship, the scholarship holder must promptly notify in writing by means of his/her institutional email to scienzecittadella.international@unibo.it

The renouncing fellow will be required to return any sums already received.

If, after acceptance of the scholarship and prior to departure, for serious and unforeseeable reasons (for example: maternity, serious and documented illness, etc.), the student is unable to carry out the mobility regularly, he will retain the right to the same and can benefit from it once the impediment has been concluded; the eligible student but not the scholarship recipient will retain the right to insurance coverage.

The student recipient of a scholarship, who has not stayed abroad in the manner and within the foreseen period, without serious and justified reasons and without the prior agreement of the University of Bologna and the host structure, will not be able to enjoy any conditions suspension and will have to return any sums already received.

ART. 13

FULFILLMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

All administrative formalities related to the stay abroad are carried out on the **AlmaRM application**, for detailed information see the instructions for the winners which can be consulted on the home page of each scholar within the application.

For the purposes of the recognition of credits (CFU) acquired during the period abroad, grant holder/suitable undergraduates are required to:

- **BEFORE DEPARTURE**

• fill in and submit the Learning Agreement at least two weeks before the expected start date of the period abroad.

Before submitting the Learning Agreement on the AlmaRM application, students are invited to contact the International Mobility Office – Sciences mobility.sciences@unibo.it

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Those who obtain a scholarship for thesis preparation abroad (including eligible non-awardees who decide to leave) if their study plan includes the "thesis preparation internship abroad" training activity must NOT activate any internship agreement.

- **AT THE END OF STAY**

• Upload a final report countersigned by the UNIBO thesis supervisor in the Report section the final.

• Upload a declaration (on headed paper, dated and signed) certifying the work done abroad made by a representative of the host organization in the appropriate TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS section.

• Complete and submit the application for recognition.

It is specified that scholarship holders and eligible non-winners are individually responsible for verifying the graduation deadlines and for the acquisition of credits, planning their return from abroad in accordance with the indications of this article, of article 5 of the call and of the graduation deadlines set by their degree (see the study course website).

CONTACTS

For any communications or requests for clarification, it is possible to write to AFORM Education and PhD programme Division - Office "SCIENZE CITTADELLA" at scienzecittadella.international@unibo.it