



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM | AREA
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA | FORMAZIONE E DOTTORATO

SECOND CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE PREPARATION ABROAD OF THE THESIS

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY "AUGUSTO RIGHI" (DIFA)

A.A. 2024/2025

DEADLINE: 20/05/2025 at 4pm

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

For A.Y. 2024/2025 the secondo call for applications has been announced for the award of scholarships for the preparation abroad of the master's degree thesis in **Physics** (code 9245), **Fisica del Sistema Terra** (code 8626), **Science of Climate** (code 5895), **Astrophysics and Cosmology** (code 5828), **Astrofisica e Cosmologia** (code 8018).

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 second year for the A.Y. 2024/2025,
- have obtained at least 40 credits (CFU),
- have an exam average greater than or equal to 27/30.

ART. 3 - EVALUATION CRITERIA AND EXAMINATION COMMISSION

The examination commission will be composed of: Prof. Samuele Sanna, Prof. Cristian Vignali, Prof. Maria Elina Belardinelli, Prof. Federico Porcù (substitute).

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

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The Commission defines the following general evaluation criteria:

- Curriculum of studies in the LM: number of credits acquired and average grades obtained;
- Any other relevant qualifications as shown in the CV (courses, schools, ...);
- Usefulness of collaboration with foreign researchers and structures, in relation to the topic of the thesis and its innovativeness; appropriateness of the indicated location in relation to the realization of the preparation and thesis project.

The Commission sets the maximum score for each type of qualification:

- Credits acquired: *up to 40 points*;
- Average grade reported: *up to 20 points*;
- Any other qualifications deemed relevant: *up to 10 points*;
- Usefulness of collaboration with foreign researchers and structures: *up to 30 points*.

ART. 4 - SCHOLARSHIPS

The total amount of the funds tendered is € 6907,50 (gross amount including IRAP at 8.5% and other tax charges payable by the University).

The amount of the single scholarship will be between a minimum of € 1,000.00 (one thousand/00) and a maximum of € 3,100.00 (three thousand one hundred/00), net of charges borne by the University (IRAP as of 8, 5% and other charges if due) and may vary depending on the destination (EU or NON-EU countries) and the length of the stay abroad.

The grants awarded will be defined at the sole discretion of the Commission and will be calculated based on the duration of the stay abroad, according to the following parameter: € 400.00 per month (gross amount received net of IRAP at 8.5%).

The Commission also reserves the right to finance a shorter period than the one proposed, without prejudice to the minimum period of 3 (three) months provided for in article 5 of this notice.

ART. 5 – START OF ACTIVITY AND LENGTH OF STAY

The mobility must have a minimum duration of 3 (three) and a maximum of 6 (six) months and must take place **between 15/06/2025 and 31/12/2025**.

Students who choose to stay abroad for 6 months must start their mobility by 30/06/2025.

PLEASE NOTE:

- Students cannot start their mobility before the formal approval and publication of the final ranking list of this call;



- this mobility cannot overlap (not even partially) with other international mobility programmes (e.g. Erasmus+): see article 11 of this call;
- if students have already carried out the preparation of their thesis and the relative credits have already been recognized/registered in the students' career, they cannot take part in this call;
- when setting the departure and return dates, it is specified that candidates are individually responsible for checking the graduation deadlines of their degree programme (including the deadlines for acquiring the ECTS);
- candidates are individually responsible for checking with the hosting institution the conditions to carry out the master thesis preparation (e.g. potential registration modalities/fees as external students/trainees).

ART. 6 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications must be submitted **by May 20th, 2025 at 4:00 pm** only on the web platform “Studenti online” (SOL).

In order to submit their applications, candidates must:

- Access “Studenti Online” <https://studenti.unibo.it/>,
- Click on “Calls” (bandi),
- Select the call: “SECONDO BANDO BORSE DI STUDIO PER LA PREPARAZIONE ALL’ESTERO DELLA TESI DI LAUREA MAGISTRALE – DIFA - A.A. 2024/2025”
- Enter the requested data and upload the documents necessary for participation.

Students are required to upload the following documents, properly signed and completed:

1. **Annex A:** application form completed in full, dated and signed by both the candidate and the UNIOBO supervisor, downloadable from the page where the Call is published;
2. **Curriculum vitae**, dated and signed by the candidate, in .pdf format;
3. **Detailed description of the activity you intend to carry out**, with indication of the destination and duration of the stay. The project must specify areas and methodologies of scientific study of the topic of the degree thesis. The description of the thesis project must be written in Italian or English, signed by the student and countersigned by the UNIBO supervisor. The project description must include the following elements: a) project title; b) expected duration (from... to...); c) an abstract in English; d) the objectives of the project; e) envisaged work methodology; f) the reasons for choosing the topic and location; g) brief description of the host structure or research group;
4. **Declaration of the UNIBO supervisor** regarding the institutional connections and/or contacts undertaken abroad in relation to the project presented, including the name of the thesis



supervisor at the host structure abroad; the supervising professor must specify why the duration of the stay (from... to...) is consistent with the research activities to be carried out.

ART. 7 - FINAL RANKING

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

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 institutional address name.surname@studio.unibo.it, together with the attachments necessary for the acceptance of the grant.

Likewise, if present, eligible candidates who did not win the scholarship will be notified by e-mail to the institutional address (name.surname@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 AFORM Settore Servizi Didattici "Scienze Cittadella" (scienzecittadella.international@unibo.it) all the documentation useful for the acceptance of the scholarship, completed in full and signed, by the deadline indicated by e-mail.

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 of the AFORM - Training and Doctoral Area Manager who approves the final merit ranking.

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ART. 10 – INSURANCE COVERAGE

The Provision of the Director of AFORM - Training and Doctorate Area, 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.

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ART. 13 - FULFILLMENTS SUBSEQUENT TO THE ASSIGNMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP AND CONCLUSION OF ACTIVITIES

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

In particular, 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.

AT THE END OF THE 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.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It should be noted that scholarship holders and eligible non-winners are individually responsible for verifying the deadlines for credits acquisition and thesis defense, planning their return from the stay abroad in line with the indications of this article and the article 5.

Winners and eligible non-awardees must NOT activate any internship agreement, even if their study plan indicates thesis preparation internship abroad.

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

CONTACTS

For any communications or requests for clarification, it is possible to contact AFORM Settore Servizi Didattici "Scienze Cittadella" scienzecittadella.international@unibo.it.

To be assisted or guided in completing the application online, students can contact the Studenti Online Help Desk by phone at: <https://www.unibo.it/it/servizi-e-opportunita/servizi-online/servizi-online-per-studenti-1/guida-servizi-online-studenti/studenti-online>.

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