



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

AREA  
INNOVAZIONE



UNIMORE  
UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI  
MODENA E REGGIO EMILIA



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA



Università  
degli Studi  
di Ferrara

## Call for application for Postgraduate Program

"Tech Forward"

Academic Year 2025-2026

Code: the Master Office provides.

For any inconsistencies, the Italian version shall prevail.

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## Summary of Useful Information

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| <b>Deadline Notice (Application for Selection):</b> | January, 2026, 28th, 11.00 a.m.   |
| <b>Date Selection:</b>                              | February, 2026, between 2nd, 3rd, 4th, from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. at Almalabor, Via Ugo Foscolo 7, Bologna  |
| <b>Date Ranking Publication:</b>                    | February, 2026, 10th<br>rankings can be accessed at <a href="http://www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline">www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline</a> by entering the user name and password |
| <b>Registration period:</b>                         | February, 2026, 10th - 18th   |
| <b>Places available:</b>                            | minimum 24 - maximum 30   |
| <b>Costs:</b>                                       | selection fee: 30.00 euros (non-refundable administrative service fee)<br>total contribution 17.04 euros to be paid in a single installment at the time of registration                             |
| <b>Administrative headquarters:</b>                 | Bologna   |





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| <b>Venue:</b>                                      | Almalabor, 7 Ugo Foscolo Street, Bologna<br>The program includes: a week-long mobility at IdeaSquare CERN in Geneva; a mobility trip to Bertinoro or other venue at the University network: 3 days between May 19th – 23rd, 2026, with full-time involvement; and a visit to the laboratory of the University proposing the technology. |
| <b>For administrative information</b>              | Contact the Master Office <a href="mailto:master@unibo.it">master@unibo.it</a>  |
| <b>For scientific and educational information.</b> | Matteo Vignoli, <a href="mailto:oper.space@unibo.it">oper.space@unibo.it</a>  |
| <b>Attachments</b>                                 | Operational instructions can be found in the ATTACHMENTS section of the Course tab.   |

As of January 1, 2012, regulations came into effect regarding the validity and use of certificates in the Public Administration, prohibiting the Public Administration from accepting and requesting certificates containing information already in the possession of the Italian Public Administration; therefore, only self-certifications will be accepted. These provisions do not apply to certificates containing information not in the possession of the Italian Public Administration (e.g., declaration of value for titles acquired abroad)



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## Article 1 - General Information

1. The Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna (hereafter University of Bologna), administrative seat of Bologna, pursuant to Decree No. 270 of October 22, 2004, of the Ministry of Education, University and Research, activates, for the academic year 2025-2026, the University Course of Postgraduate program in Tech Forward.
2. The course is activated at the proposal of the Department of Business Sciences of the University of Bologna, in collaboration with the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the University of Ferrara and the University of Parma, and in cooperation with the Alma Mater Foundation.
3. On **January the 13th from h12:00 to h13:00**, there will be an **online meeting** to present the course, at the following [link](https://short.do/zsfyuA) (<https://short.do/zsfyuA>) and on **January the 23rd from h12:00 to h13:00**, there will be a **second online meeting** to present the course, at the following [link](https://short.do/hmKDOK) (<https://short.do/hmKDOK>) with the participation of the scientific director, Prof. Matteo Vignoli, and teaching tutors.
4. The course lasting 16 weeks, is delivered in English, awards up to 20 university educational credits (CFUs). consistent with the teaching regulations of the Universities, may be recognized as part for frontal teaching and part for other activities, against the assessment of the Course Council of the participant who requests it and in any case on the basis of the regulations of each University, upon presentation of the certificate of achievement of CFUs.
5. Tech Forward is a program aimed at master's students from all the partner universities, who through an innovative approach, will work on identifying potential or new fields of application of technologies developed within the universities. The goal of Tech Forward is to stimulate an entrepreneurial approach in both students and researchers, while ensuring the exploitation of innovative technologies developed by the universities' research teams and their application to solve societal needs. Tech Forward includes initiatives to promote collaboration between national and international organizations and institutions, strengthening the strategic relationship with CERN Geneva. This includes seminars and networking activities to increase the visibility and international dimension of the educational offerings.
6. The program is a restricted-access postgraduate course, aimed at master's students and single-cycle master's students enrolled in the fourth and fifth years.  
Failure to reach the number of registrants in the selection process does not allow the selection process to take place.  
Failure to reach the minimum number of matriculated students, does not allow the activation of the course. In such a case, the Master's Office initiates procedures for the refund of the registration fee (excluding the tax related to stamp duty).  
There is never a refund of the fee selection (30.00 euros), even if the selection process is not carried out.
7. The program has a minimum of 24 to a maximum of 30 applicants, 15 dedicated to students from the University of Bologna, 5 dedicated to students from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, 5 dedicated to students from the University of Ferrara, and 5 dedicated to students from the University of Parma, assigned according to the final rankings drawn up by university of origin. In the event that the total number of eligible candidates for each university does not reach the demand, the remaining places will be given to candidates eligible from other universities according to the total ranking score.



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8. The expected student commitment is about 500 hours (20 CFUs), spread over 16 weeks, including about 150 hours of face-to-face activities, 50 hours of project-based coaching, and the remainder of group and individual activities.
9. To take the course and acquire the relevant CFUs, the student must be in good standing with the matriculation payment, have achieved the minimum percentage of compulsory attendance (70 percent of classroom activities), and have passed the final exam with at least 18 points out of 30 or by achieving proficiency (any exams or midterm tests will not be individually minuted but will still be taken into account by the Selection Committee as evaluation elements in the final exam).
10. Transfer from a Postgraduate programme to another or to any other programme offered by the University is not permitted.

## Article 2 Grants available to cover mobility

1. The following scholarships are available for the Tech Forward initiative:
  - up to 30 scholarships to help cover mobility costs of 1.066,00 euros gross each student.
2. Of the 30 available scholarships, 15 are dedicated to students from the University of Bologna, 5 are dedicated to students from the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, 5 are dedicated to students from the University of Ferrara, and 5 are dedicated to students from the University of Parma.  
In the event that the total number of eligible candidates from each university does not reach the demand, the remaining scholarships will be distributed among the eligible candidates from the other universities according to the total ranking score as per item 7 Article 1.
3. The mobilities include:
  - a week-long mobility at IdeaSquare CERN in Geneva to introduce students to the world of elementary research and its link with social innovation;
  - visits to the laboratories of the regional universities selected as partners, to interact with the entire technology development team, see and touch the state of the art of the technology they are studying and discuss with the researchers the fields of application identified by the student teams;
  - a Deep Dive mobility with all the researchers from the universities involved in the technologies in Bertinoro (FC0) or other venue at the University network;

The above-mentioned sums will be disbursed on condition that it is possible to carry out the planned trips, taking into account the national and international provisions in force regarding health restrictions.

4. Mobility costs are understood to include, but are not limited to, food, lodging, travel, transportation, and insurance health. The grant may be disbursed in a lump sum even after the date of departure for the mobility period. If the grantee does not participate in one or more of the planned mobility periods without substantiated reasons, he or she will be required to repay the amounts already received for the periods not taken. In addition, he/she will not be able to reapply in case a subsequent selection notice is published.
5. In the event that, subsequent to the awarding of the scholarship, circumstances arise that prevent its use (e.g., maternity leave, serious and documented illness), the person concerned must notify such circumstances,



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providing appropriate documentation, and may reapply in the event that a subsequent selection notice of this scope is issued.

### Article 3 - Admission Requirements

1. The course is reserved for candidates who, at the **registration deadline on February the 18th**, possess the following qualifications and entry requirements:
  - Enrolled in a master's degree program at the University of Bologna, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the University of Ferrara or the University of Parma.
  - Enrolled in a single-cycle master's degree, currently in the fourth and fifth years at the University of Bologna, the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, the University of Ferrara or the University of Parma.
  - Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in English, a prerequisite for admission.
  - Applicants must demonstrate that they are authorized to travel internationally by providing a copy of the necessary documents according to the individual applicant's status (e.g., passport/visa/residency/student permit).
2. A candidate who at the time of registration for the selection is not yet in possession of the required titles and requirements is admitted to the selections with reservations and, if successful, may matriculate only after sending to the Master's Office ([master@unibo.it](mailto:master@unibo.it)) evidence of the achievement of the necessary titles and requirements. Candidates who, despite having passed the selections, achieve the qualifications and admission requirements after the deadline for matriculation may not proceed with matriculation.

### Article 4 - Technologies made available

1. The program gives selected students the opportunity to work in multidisciplinary, cross-university teams on innovative technologies proposed by the research teams of partner universities in order to identify new application areas. The goal, in fact, is to propose innovative solutions and areas of development related to the technologies made available. Teams of up to 5 students will work closely with the founding research teams of the technology.
2. The goal of the program is to develop the entrepreneurial mindset of students with a Tech to Market approach consisting of the following steps:
  - *DISCOVER* Understanding the technology and identifying opportunities. This first phase is aimed at a thorough understanding of the assigned technology, defining the capabilities of the technology, hypothesizing various potential applications in different fields, and verifying the initial feasibility of the most promising applications with the project's tech partner and experts in the application area.
  - *DESIGN* Idea development and testing. This phase aims to validate conceptual solutions with users and experts in application markets, developing multiple prototypes and testing them with interested users to verify their application value and expected experience, testing and overcoming the most critical feasibility issues together with the tech partner.
  - *DEVELOP* Prototyping of the solution. This last phase is aimed at developing the Proof of Concept, a functional prototype of the solution, designing the details of the solution and validating it with stakeholders. This phase also includes planning the implementation strategy, including economic sustainability considerations.



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3. The student, following the selection process, will be placed on a team. Each team will be assigned, at the discretion of the committee, an innovative technology on which the group of students is asked to work during the course of the program.

#### Article 5 - Registration for selection and documents to be produced

1. Submission of the application for the selective process must be made online by **January, 2026, 28th, 11.00 a.m.** by logging on to the [www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline](http://www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline)
2. The procedures for registering for the selection and paying the fee of 30,00 euros are given in the operating instructions found in the ATTACHMENTS section of the Course sheet.  
Failure to pay the fee selection (30.00 euros) will result in exclusion from the competition.
3. The documents required for selection are outlined in the operating instructions **to which the specific documents listed below are added:**  
(a) Curriculum Vitae, in English only (indicating the qualification obtained and the relevant grade or weighted average marks obtained in the examinations taken during the course of study);  
(b) Motivational and self-presentation video, in English only, lasting up to 2 minutes, including:
  - What is your motivation for applying to the program?
  - What does innovation mean to you?
  - What do you want to do in the future?

(No special equipment is needed to make the video: a simple smartphone with a video camera is sufficient.)

(c) Cover letter explaining the candidate's expectations regarding the programme (maximum 500 characters)

4. Once your application is received, you will be assigned an ID that can be viewed on your personal page on Online Students. Further information can be requested by emailing . [oper.space@unibo.it](mailto:oper.space@unibo.it)

#### Article 6 - Other information regarding admission to the competition and delivery of documents

1. The University of Bologna assumes no responsibility for the loss of communications due to an inaccurate indication of the address given by the candidate or failure or delay in communicating a change of address indicated in the online application, nor for any postal errors or in any case attributable to the acts of third parties, fortuitous events or force majeure.
2. All candidates are admitted to the examination with reservations: the University of Bologna will subsequently exclude candidates who have not been found to possess the admission qualifications required by this notice.
3. In the event that, from the documentation submitted by the candidate, false or mendacious statements are found to be relevant for the purpose of matriculation, without prejudice to the criminal penalties set forth in Article 76 of Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000, the same candidate, forfeits the right to matriculation and is



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not entitled to any refund for fees paid. Any false or mendacious statements will result in exposure to action for damages by counter interests.

### Article 7 - Selection and ranking procedures

1. The committee for the evaluation of the candidates will be composed of: prof. Matteo Vignoli (scientific director of the Advanced Training Course), Alessandro Cacace (didactic tutor of the course), Sonja Vukasinovic (didactic tutor of the course), Elena Colombo (didactic tutor of the course), Valentina Iadarola (ARIN official, UniBo). In case of absence of one of the members, any substitutes will be appointed by the chairperson at the committee meeting.
2. Admission to the program is subject to passing the two-stage selection procedure (qualifications and self-presentation video in English, group interview in English). The maximum score that can be awarded by the Examination Committee is 100. A minimum score of 60 must be achieved to pass the selection.
3. The selection process involves 2 stages:
  - a) written test, evaluation of the papers submitted by candidates at submission stage: evaluation of candidates' curriculum vitae, video presentation and qualifications, for which up to 50 points are available (minimum score 30/50);
  - b) group interview, for which up to 50 points are available (minimum score 30/50). Among other things, the purpose of the group interview is to evaluate the candidate in interaction with his/her peers.
4. An initial assessment will be made of candidates' resumes, presentation videos, written motivation statements and qualifications. Candidates deemed suitable will be invited to participate in a **group assessment** activity, which will be held on February, 2026, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, between 10.00 a.m. and 6.00 p.m. Applicants will be notified by e-mail of the exact time and date of the group interview.
5. Evaluation of the curricula, video presentation, written motivation and qualifications and group evaluation are aimed at assessing the candidates' characteristics and motivation in relation to the specifics of the program, as well as English proficiency.
6. The program is interdisciplinary. Therefore, the goal will be to foster disciplinary heterogeneity among students. Verification of the fulfillment of admission requirements for the program will take place in conjunction with the selection process.
7. In the event that a sufficient number of candidates are not deemed suitable by the Selection Committee, the available positions will not be filled.
8. The Selection Committee is appointed by the Course Director. The person in charge of the selection process is identified as the Course Director.
9. Applicants should come to the interview group with a valid identification document.
10. Candidates with disabilities (ex Legge 104) or civil disabilities, candidates with DSA, and other candidates who need to avail themselves of adaptations due to difficulties that may interfere with the admission test, may make a request in the manner specified in the form that welcomes this notice.



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11. Eligible candidates who, in relation to the number of available places, have been placed in a useful position in the ranking list compiled on the basis of the total score reported are admitted to the course.
12. In case of ex-aequo precedes the one who got the highest score in the group interview in case of further tie, the candidate with the youngest age precedes.
13. **The ranking list will be published by February, 2026, 10th at [www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline](http://www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline).**  
Admitted applicants will be notified by an email sent to the institutional account (such as @studio.unibo.it or other university email address) provided in the application.
14. Applicants should **notify** sending an email to [oper.space@unibo.it](mailto:oper.space@unibo.it), both participation and withdrawal from the program by **February, 13th 1 p.m.** to ensure the possible sliding of the ranking list.
15. Any **reserves** will be contacted by **02/13/2026**.
16. Applicants are therefore urged to check the e-mail folder spam/junk of their e-mail inbox.

#### Article 8 - Course registration fee and method of payment

1. The required student fee is 17,04 euros, payable in a single installment upon matriculation.
2. Payments must be made through the methods available in Students Online [www.studenti.unibo.it](http://www.studenti.unibo.it). Upon receipt of payment, the University will issue an accounting note excluded from the application of VAT pursuant to Articles 1 and 4 of Presidential Decree 633/1972, as amended.

#### Article 9 - Registration

1. **Registration** must be done by **February 18th**, deadline by logging on to the website [www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline](http://www.unibo.it/Portale/Guida/StudentiOnline)
2. The procedures for online matriculation can be found in the operating instructions found in the ATTACHMENTS section of the Course tab.
3. Matriculation is subject to paying the registration fee and uploading a passport-size photo.
4. With reference to item 3 of this article, non-EU citizens must produce:
  - The study visa (Postgraduate) and the receipt showing that the application for a residence permit for study purposes has been made,  
or
  - Residence permit allowing for equivalence, pursuant to Art. 39 paragraph 5 TU Immigration (non-EU citizens holding an EU long-term resident permit - formerly the Residence Card - or a residence permit for: employment, self-employment or investors; family reasons; political asylum, subsidiary protection; religious reasons are allowed to enroll in the university course).
5. For those who have held a residence permit for study purposes for at least one year, please note that this must fall under the type of renewable permits (e.g., a study permit issued for an Italian language course is not





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renewable) and, in order to be renewed, must be held together with the Italian degree for which it was issued. Further details can be found on the page Unibo <https://www.unibo.it/it/didattica/master/informazioni-sui-master/informazioni-per-gli-studenti-internazionali>.

6. Candidates who decide not to proceed with matriculation, even though they have taken and passed the selection, must immediately notify the Master's Office (via email to [master@unibo.it](mailto:master@unibo.it)) attaching a photocopy of the front and back of an identification document, so that the places can be made up.

The allocation of places will take place only if the rankings include more eligible candidates than the maximum number of places available and only if there are places available after the registration of eligible candidates. On the first working day after the closing date of enrollment, the Master's Office will check the availability of places and contact (by phone or e-mail) the eligible candidates on the ranking list. If the latter are still interested, they must proceed to enroll by the deadline indicated by the office and in the manner described in the Notice.

#### Article 10 - Renunciation of Studies

1. Students who, after paying the enrollment fee, decide to withdraw or renounce participation in the programme are not entitled to a refund of the fees paid for any reason.  
Renunciation of studies is a formal and irrevocable act by which one decides to end one's university career. The notice of withdrawal must be received by the master's office ([master@unibo.it](mailto:master@unibo.it)) from the student's institutional mailbox.
2. For non-EU students, the renunciation of studies results in the loss of the requirements for residence on Italian territory.

#### Article 11 - Obligations of successful candidates

1. By participating in this procedure, the candidate agrees as of now to keep the information acquired or otherwise learned during the CAF confidential.
2. Successful candidates should:
  - Participate in distance at the **safety training** held on the date 27/03/2026 from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. which is required to access to the Almalabor Makerspace, via U. Foscolo 7 (or provide the certificate if previously obtained for the same workshop);
  - Attend the initial program kick-off **meeting** on **February 18th**, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m;
  - Attend **weekly classes** on **Wednesdays** from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Almalabor (BO) for at least 70 percent of the classes;
  - Participate in **mobilities** under the program throughout their duration, specifically:
    - Mobility at CERN Ideasquare, Geneva, March 9th - 13th, 2026, with full-time involvement;
    - Mobility at Bertinoro (FC) or other venue at the University network: 3 days between May 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026, with full-time involvement;
  - To work on the project within the relevant specifications and program commitments;
  - Keeping a diary of activities performed and hours devoted to the program;
  - Develop a **prototype** of a tangible product or service that meets the design challenge of your team project;
  - Develop a **poster** for each team project;
  - Produce a **video** that illustrates the idea and final prototype of each team project;





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- At the end of the program, produce a **comprehensive report**, student project, covering the evolution of the design and description of the final solution (minimum 5000 words) for your team project;
- Present the project/solution at one or two results dissemination events after the program closes (such as Startup Day 2026 or others to be determined);
- Respond to the course feedback form.

Attendance at these events is intended to be in person unless explicitly stated. These activities are part of the program and failure to attend will be interpreted as failure of the student to complete the program. Some dates may be subject to change which will be promptly communicated to students.

### Article 12 - Confidentiality and Intellectual Property

1. Each University owns the intellectual and industrial property rights related to its Background and, in particular, to the Technologies. Under no circumstances the program activities directly or indirectly imply the assignment of any rights in relation to each University's Background. Without prejudice to the foregoing, the Universities recognize each other, free of charge, the non-exclusive right to use their respective Backgrounds within the framework of the Program and by reason of its execution and, in any case, not beyond its duration, with express prohibition of sublicensing or transferring this right to third parties for any reason.
2. No results are expected from the execution of the projects that may constitute the subject of exclusivity or privative rights under current national, EU and international intellectual and industrial property laws. Should this be the case, the intellectual property rights and industrial relating to any refinements of the Technologies or developments of such Technologies that may generate new inventions, or in any case intangible goods capable of being protected through intellectual and industrial property rights, will belong to the University that owns the rights of the Technology. To this end, a specific agreement will be entered into with the students involved in the Project in order to recognize the ownership of the property rights to such refinements or new inventions in the head of the University, without prejudice to the moral rights of the author or inventor in accordance with the provisions of the regulations in force.
3. Students by taking part in the program therefore agree to such confidentiality and intellectual and industrial property clauses.
4. In addition, students acknowledge and agree to the above and sign the document regarding confidentiality on technologies provided by the program.
5. Finally, if the need arises, each University that owns the Technology may require the student group working on it to sign specific agreements (Non Disclosure Agreements) required by the relevant research group in order to protect the confidentiality and ownership of the results.
6. All participants must ensure open access to any publication regarding the Student Program.

### Article 13 - Insurance

1. Students benefit from insurance coverage provided from the time of payment of the application fee and in effect until they graduate. All students will be automatically insured as long as they are duly enrolled.





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### Article 14 - Information and contact details

1. Scientific and educational information (schedule, calendar, examinations, information on curricular internship/internship or project work, etc.) can be obtained from the educational secretary's office ([oper.space@unibo.it](mailto:oper.space@unibo.it)).

2. Administrative information can be obtained from the Master's Office.

The Master Office is located at Viale Quirico Filopanti, 7 - 40126 - Bologna and is open to the public, by appointment.

<https://sportelli.unibo.it/>

Email [master@unibo.it](mailto:master@unibo.it)

Pec [scriviunibo@pec.unibo.it](mailto:scriviunibo@pec.unibo.it)

3. The University of Bologna assumes no responsibility for late delivery, lost or incomplete documentation.

4. The only official sources of information, in addition to this call for proposals, are the communications posted on the University of Bologna Portal [www.unibo.it](http://www.unibo.it) and social media, and by the TechForward Program partners (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, University of Ferrara, University of Parma) on their institutional portal and/or social media.

5. The person in charge of the procedure is the Head of the *Settore Alta Formazione, Formazione permanente e formazione co-progettata con enti esterni* of the Innovation Unit, Dr. Alessandra Marchi.

### Article 15 - Processing of personal data

1. Personal data provided by applicants will be processed by the University of Bologna in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

The provision of personal data indicated in this notice of competition and in the attached forms is mandatory for the purpose of participation in the procedure and any consequential operations.

The University may also process the personal data of applicants in order to process or provide MUR with statistical data or to facilitate the analysis and improvement of teaching activities and services, for research activities and for activities related to the right to study. The personal data provided in the procedure StudentiOnline may also be processed by the University for the institutional purposes of the institution itself, indicated, by way of example, in Article 4 of Rectoral Decree 271/2009. Pursuant to Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

2. The data controller is the Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna with headquarters in via Zamboni, 33 - 40126 - Bologna;

3. The person responsible for data processing is the Head of the Innovation Area (Dr. Alice Corradi - Via Zamboni, 33 - 40126 - Bologna).

The complete and updated list of Data Processors is available by writing to [privacy@unibo.it](mailto:privacy@unibo.it) or by contacting the aforementioned Data Processor. Procedures for the processing of personal data are available in the notice published on the University Portal (<https://www.unibo.it/it/ateneo/privacy-e-note-legali/privacy/>).





ALMA MATER STUDIORUM | AREA  
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Digitally Signed

Bologna, 19/12/2025

The Headmistress  
(Dr. Alice Corradi)

