

PhD Programs Handbook

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ART. 1 SCOPE OF THE HANDBOOK AND PHD “POSITIONS”	4
Art 1.1 Scope.....	4
Art 1.2 PhD positions: Terminology and Credentials.....	5
ART. 2 AIM OF PHD PROGRAMS.....	5
ART. 3 ACCREDITATION AND ACTIVATION OF PHD PROGRAMS	5
ART. 4 MANAGEMENT OF PHD PROGRAMS: PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND FACULTY BOARD	7
ART. 5 ADMISSION TO PHD PROGRAMS	9
ART. 6 ENROLLMENT.....	10
ART. 7 FINANCIAL CONDITIONS (FELLOWSHIP, TUITION WAIVER, TUITION FEES)...	10
ART. 8 FINANCIAL SUPPORT.....	13
Art 8.1 Part-time work for Bocconi University.....	15
Art 8.2 Extension of the fellowship for justified academic reasons.....	17
Art 8.3 Financial support for job market placement.....	17
Art 8.4 Standard financial support (academic year 2026–2027 only)	17
Art 8.5 Special financial support (academic year 2026–2027 only).....	18
ART. 9 ATTENDANCE AND PROGRESS EVALUATION; DUTIES RELATED TO STUDY AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	19
Art. 9.1 Requirements for admission to subsequent years	19
Art. 9.2 Compliance with ethics standards	20
Art. 9.3 Authorizations and funding requests	21
ART. 10 PHD PROGRAM ATTENDANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES – COMPATIBILITY...23	
ART. 11 EXTENSION PERIOD AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE	24
ART. 12 WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM	25
ART. 13 THESIS WRITING AND SUBMISSION	25
ART. 14 FINAL EXAMINATION	29
ART. 15 “THESIS CO-TUTORSHIP AGREEMENT” (DOUBLE DOCTORAL DEGREE) AND PROGRAMS WITHIN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING NETWORKS	29
ART. 16 MPHIL (MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY) PROGRAMS.....	30
ART. 17 VISITING STUDENTS	31
ART. 18 HIGHER LEVEL COURSES.....	32
ART. 19 CODE OF CONDUCT	32
ART. 20 SPECIAL STUDENTS.....	33

ART. 21 SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES	33
ART. 22 CERTIFICATES, SELF-DECLARATIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.....	35
ANNEX 1: CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT IN TWO UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS	38
ANNEX 2: PHD BOCCONI MERIT-BASED FELLOWSHIPS	40
ANNEX 3: TECHNOLOGY AND DATA PROCESSING: USEFUL INFORMATION	41
ANNEX 4: AUTHORIZATION FOR PERIOD ABROAD (STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT FELLOWSHIP).....	43
ANNEX 5: AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING REQUEST TOOL: TYPICAL EXPENSES	45
ANNEX 6: TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP (TA) FOR 3-Y, 2-Y AND 5-Y DEGREE PROGRAMS	48

ART. 1 SCOPE OF THE HANDBOOK AND PHD “POSITIONS”

Art 1.1 Scope

The present Handbook complements the provisions set out in the document “PhD Programs: Academic Rules and Regulations”. It provides practical guidance on their implementation and expands on operational procedures and financial matters

Other important sources of information include:

- “Detailed Study plans’ requirements” (which vary program by program – see website area of the single program /sub-area “Courses and requirements”);
- Thesis procedures and deadlines (see website area of the single program /sub-area “Info for current students” and then “Focus on thesis”);
- “Regulations for the election of PhD Student Representatives” issued by Rectoral Decree n. 23, 12 March 2024¹;
- “Regulations on student representation” issued by Rectoral Decree n. 22, 12 March 2024²;
- “Parental Leave - Guide” available in the yoU@B Student Diary (left-hand menu > Documents for PhD Students > Parental Leave).

The following rules are compliant with:

- Ministerial Decree 226/2021, 14 December, 2021 and Ministerial Guidelines, 22 March, 2022 (references mentioned in the footnotes);
- the Bocconi Statute, General University Rules and University Academic Regulations.

In accordance with the model outlined by the University’s quality assurance system, the PhD programs covered by these Regulations have internally activated a set of mechanisms and responsibilities for the planning, management, monitoring and self-assessment of all major activities.

In particular, the PhD program is managed by the PhD Director and the PhD Faculty Board, while the self-assessment activities and the performance monitoring process (Annual and Periodical Review) are managed by the Executive Council (if appointed by the PhD Faculty Board) and the Review Team.

¹ - PhD School Council, Faculty Council and University Quality Assurance Committee: one single PhD Student representative who covers the office at the same time for the three academic bodies;

- Department Councils and PhD Faculty Boards: one PhD Student representative for each Department Council who covers the office also in the PhD Faculty Board of the PhD program “matched” with the Department.

² The Regulations on students representation deal with representation in University Sport Committee, Management Board of ISU Bocconi, University Evaluation Unit and Bocconi University Board. PhD students, together with 3-y, 2-y, 5-y degree programs contribute to representation in such Bodies (they have the right to vote and can stand for election).

Art 1.2 PhD positions: Terminology and Credentials

DR - PhD student: FROM enrollment TO Aug 31, year X

(X=last official year of the program: 3rd year for the PhD in Legal Studies and 4th year for other PhD programs).

PDC - PhD candidate: FROM Aug 31, year X TO PhD conferral

PDF - PhD fellow: FROM PhD conferral TO Aug 31, year X+2

Two years (after the official end of the program) is the time span that Bocconi grants to its PhD candidates/graduates to be placed on the job market. During this period, they officially appear as part of Bocconi.

e-mail account:

- e-mail account of the domain @phd.unibocconi.it from enrollment to 31/8/X+2 (to send/receive mails);
- alias of the domain @bocconialumni.it from PhD conferral (to receive mails)
- e-mail account of the domain @unibocconi.it for all those (PhD students / candidates / fellows) who have a Bocconi contract (teaching / research)

website:

all PhD students, candidates and fellows are displayed on the Bocconi website in the area "Research and Teaching fellows"

ART. 2 AIM OF PHD PROGRAMS

Bocconi PhD programs are full-time programs with compulsory attendance, aimed at providing the advanced knowledge and skills required to be top researchers.

PhD programs are designed for highly qualified and motivated students who aspire to become scholars (academic career) or highly skilled professionals for research-related activities in public and private institutions.

ART. 3 ACCREDITATION AND ACTIVATION OF PHD PROGRAMS

The establishment and activation of a PhD program involve:

- an internal decision process, in accordance with the Statute of Bocconi University (art. 21.3);
- an external accreditation process, pursuant to ministerial rules.

The internal decision process, including both the establishment proposals and the annual activation, conforms with the deadlines of the annual Academic Planning.

The initial ministerial accreditation is granted when all minimum requirements are met; requirements concern:

- number of members of the PhD Faculty Board and qualifications (academic position and standards according to ministerial rules)³;
- average number of fellowships calculated on the total of PhDs and number of fellowships for each PhD program⁴;
- availability of adequate and sustainable funding⁵;
- availability of specific and adequate research facilities⁶;
- advanced research activities and advanced teaching / learning activities (including courses and seminars)⁷
- complementary interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary activities for PhD students⁸
- compliance with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) “quality assurance standards” for the design and management of PhD programs, as set out in the guidelines by ANVUR, the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes.⁹

The initial accreditation is subject to annual confirmation which is granted on condition of continuity in the fulfilment of the above-mentioned requirements; confirmation is based on the results of monitoring activities performed by the University Evaluation Unit.

The proposal of a new program includes:

- name of the program and curricula (if any);
- PhD Program Director’s name;
- duration of the program, which cannot be less than three years;
- scope of research related to wide, structured and clearly defined disciplinary fields¹⁰;
- qualifying goals of the program;
- career opportunities;
- structure of the PhD course of studies, including both study and research activities;
- detailed composition of the PhD Faculty Board and their research output;

³ Art 4 comma 1 lett a):

⁴ Art 4 comma 1 lett b)

⁵ Art 4 comma 1 lett c)

⁶ Art 4 comma 1 lett d)

⁷ Art 4 comma 1 lett e)

⁸ Art 4 comma 1 lett f)

⁹ Art 4 comma 1 lett g)

¹⁰ Art 6 comma 2

- maximum number of places offered¹¹ (with fellowship, with tuition waiver, with payment of tuition fees; the balance between places without and with fellowship is 1 place without fellowship (as a maximum) versus 3 places with fellowship¹²;
- maximum number and amount of available fellowships (at least 4 first year fellowships averaged over all the programs of the PhD School and not less than 3 first year fellowships for each single program¹³), number of tuition waivers and of paying students (if any), amount of tuition fees for the program;
- budget allocated to PhD students for their study and research activities (art. 8);
- other potential funding made available to the PhD program or the whole PhD School (e.g. by external donors);
- admission criteria;
- PhD students' assessment criteria during the studies and admission requirements for the following academic years;
- facilities and equipment PhD students can use for their activities;
- details about "in consortium" or partner institutions¹⁴;
- any other element required to verify that the accreditation standards are met.

Proposals for the activation of subsequent cycles include all the information provided in the establishment proposal and specify any variations from the previous year.

Admission procedures and degree requirements for "in consortium" or partnership PhDs will be agreed upon by the parties (parties to the consortium/partner institutions) in compliance with the law.

ART. 4 MANAGEMENT OF PHD PROGRAMS: PROGRAM DIRECTOR AND FACULTY BOARD

The Program Director heads the PhD Faculty Board and is appointed by the Academic Council (on a proposal by the Dean after consulting the PhD Faculty Board) in compliance with the procedures set in the Statute.

He/she is a full-time tenured Bocconi Professor: a full professor ("ordinario") or, in default of full professors, an associate professor ("associate").

¹¹ Art 5 comma 2

¹² Art 9 comma 1

¹³ Art 4 comma 1 lett b)

¹⁴ Art 3 comma 2

¹³ National Scientific Qualification

He/she fulfills the requirements to be a “commissario ASN¹⁵” or meets all the three “threshold values” required to be a full professor¹⁶.

The Program Director may be assisted by one or more curriculum coordinators, appointed in accordance with the procedures established as part of the annual academic planning process, supporting the coordination of the doctoral programs.

The PhD Faculty Board is composed¹⁷ of at least twelve members (gender balance is encouraged), of whom:

- at least 50% are full professors and associate professors (by Bocconi or other universities) whose disciplinary field is coherent with the program; full professors meet at least two “threshold values” required to be a full professor; associate professors meet at least two “threshold values” required to be an associate professor;
- at most 50% are permanent researchers (or fixed-term / tenure track researchers “RTDB”¹⁸ / “RTT”¹⁹) at Universities or public research bodies; researchers meet at least two “threshold values” required to be an associate professor;
- at most one third of the members can be “experts” (who are not part of Universities or public research bodies) with high and recognized scientific / professional qualification as specified in the Ministerial Guidelines (22 March 2022).

The members can join only one PhD Faculty Board at national level (two Boards only in case one of them refers to a program in partnership).

The PhD Faculty Board may appoint the “PhD Executive Council”, comprised of:

- the PhD Director (chair);
- the Curriculum Coordinators (if any);
- at least two PhD Faculty Board members (proposed by the PhD Director).

PhD Faculty Board meetings are open to students that represent the PhD program (who are the PhD student representatives in the Department Councils matched with the PhD Program). They don’t have right to vote and their attendance is limited to the topics affecting them (listed below).

The PhD Faculty Board’s responsibilities (that might be delegated either to the Program Director or to the PhD Executive Council) are related to the planning, management, monitoring and improvement of the PhD program.

¹⁶ Art 4 comma 1) lett a.3)

¹⁷ Art 4 comma 1) let a.1.and a.4

¹⁸ Law 240/2010: Art 24 comma 3 lett b)

¹⁹ Law 79/2022

In particular, the PhD Faculty Board:

- 1) approves the composition of the Admission Board and the Thesis Boards;
- 2) coordinates and supervises study and research activities carried out by PhD students.

Moreover, with the engagement of PhD student representatives, the PhD Faculty Board:

- 3) monitors and assesses the performance of the program as a whole, including the Periodical Review and the Annual Review;
- 4) defines/proposes to the higher Academic Bodies possible improvement actions for the program.

The PhD School coordinates the programs and is in charge of common processes (e.g. selection, organization, placement).

ART. 5 ADMISSION TO PHD PROGRAMS

Admission to the programs is regulated by a public competition decreed by the Rector²⁰.

The criteria to figure out the number of maximum available places are annually set by the University Board on the proposal submitted to the Academic Council.

Admission is subject to the fulfilment of specific requirements, namely:

- an Italian graduate degree or a foreign qualification of equivalent level suitable for admission. The above-mentioned qualifications must be obtained within the deadline set in the official call (coherent with the time-schedule of the program);
- a B2 (or higher) level of competence (CEFR) in the vehicular language of the program.

Further curricular qualifications may be included in the proposal for the activation of the program; in this case, they have to be specified in the call.

The suitability of foreign qualifications is verified by the Admission Board in conformity with the applicable Italian and foreign rules, or in conformity with international treaties or agreements on the validity of qualifications for post-graduate education.

Admission takes place after the selection of applicants. The prerequisites and the qualifications are evaluated and each candidate is ranked according to the assessment criteria specified in the call.

The Admission Board ranks the candidates who will then be admitted to a program according to their ranking (ranking criteria are set in the official call). The PhD School Office oversees the correct implementation of the procedural activities.

²⁰ Art 8 comma 1

PhD programs' Admission Boards are appointed by the Rector after consulting the PhD Faculty Board and are composed of at least three members of the PhD Faculty Board itself.

ART. 6 ENROLLMENT

Candidates admitted to a PhD program must enroll or decline the offer as instructed in the call.

Concurrent enrollment in two university programs is allowed according to what provided for by law, by ministerial guidelines²¹ and by the specific rules adopted by Bocconi within its self-government limits to meet its educational purposes (see Annex1).

In cases of prohibited concurrent enrollment in another university program and a PhD program, the candidate has to opt; therefore he/she either quits the other program to enroll in the PhD program or has to decline the PhD offer.

In the other cases, usually the concurrent enrollment in another university program and in the first year of a Bocconi PhD program is not allowed, as PhD programs involve compulsory attendance and an exclusive full-time commitment, particularly demanding during the first year, and the concurrent enrollment would hinder an active and regular participation in the PhD academic activities.

Within eight days from arrival, all non-EU students who hold a study visa for Italy must apply for a permit of stay for study purposes (*permesso di soggiorno per motivi di studio*).

Non-EU students enrolled in the first year of the program who do not send the copy of permit of stay to the PhD School Office by the end of June, will not be admitted to the second year of the program, even if they have met all the “academic” requirements (art 9).

ART. 7 FINANCIAL CONDITIONS (FELLOWSHIP, TUITION WAIVER, TUITION FEES)

Students can be enrolled (according to their ranking position):

- with Bocconi fellowship (merit-based or based on merit and financial conditions²²);
- with merit-based tuition waiver up to 100%;

²¹ Law no.33 of 12/04/22, Implementing Ministerial Decree No.930 of 29/07/22 and Ministerial Decree No. 933 of 02/08/22

²² Fellowships based on merit and financial conditions are managed by ISU Bocconi (Student Assistance and Financial Aid Center as provided by regional law no. 33, 13 December 2004).

- with payment of tuition fees.

Students can be financed also by external donors (private or public institution)²³:

- in case of “not ad personam financing”, the donor signs an ad hoc agreement with Bocconi; in such case the number of Bocconi fellowships is increased before the publication of admission results; the external donor fellowship is managed as all other Bocconi fellowships (the recipient pays no tuition fees; replacement is possible in case the candidate declines the offer);
- in case of “ad personam financing”, the candidate receives the financial support directly from the external donor (the recipient has to pay tuition fees; replacement is not possible).

Fellowships are awarded to the best ranked *PhD students*²⁴; they are annual and are paid out by monthly, deferred instalments.

Fellowships can be renewed in the following years if the necessary requirements are met (art 9).

For study and research activities abroad (at least one month and full months only) authorized by the PhD Program Director, the amount of the fellowship is increased by 50% (calculated on the amount of the ministerial fellowship: 16,243 €) and for a maximum total period of 12 months (18 months only under special circumstances provided for by ministerial rules such as, for example, theses in co-tutorship)²⁵. For details see Annex 4.

If one or more PhD students who were assigned a fellowship leave the program, then before the start of the new academic year, the “released” fellowships can be “re-assigned” to other students – enrolled in any PhD program- who were admitted without fellowship, provided that the remaining duration of the fellowship is equal or longer than the remaining number of years to be attended by the eligible student. Fellowships funded by external sources or with defined research project cannot be “re-assigned” to other students.

The requirement to be met to be eligible is that the student's performance must be equal /higher than the average performance of students of the same cohort admitted to the following academic year in the same PhD program.

If the number of re-assignable fellowships is higher than the number of eligible students, then all the eligible students are re-assigned a fellowship.

If the number of re-assignable fellowship is lower than the number of eligible students, then eligible students are ranked according to merit and the available fellowships are re-assigned to the best eligible students.

The Committee in charge of re-assigning the released fellowships is composed by the Dean and the Program Directors. The PhD School Office oversees the correct implementation of the procedure.

²³ E.g., Government of the Country of origin of the candidate, or Foundations.

²⁴ PhD positions: Terminology – see art 1.2

²⁵ Art 9 comma 3.

As provided for by the Italian law:

- compulsory Italian pension contributions (INPS “gestione separata”) are deducted from the amount of each fellowship (details in Annex 2);
- income from the fellowship is tax free;
- fellowships cannot be added to other fellowships of any kind except those granted to students who are required to spend time abroad by domestic or foreign institutions²⁶;
- each student can be awarded just one full fellowship for Italian PhD programs; therefore, if a student was given a fellowship for an Italian PhD program and, after the PhD conferral, he/she enrolls in another Italian PhD program, he/she cannot be assigned a second fellowship; moreover, if a PhD student withdraws from an Italian PhD program and then he/she enrolls in another Italian PhD program, the new fellowship will not cover the full duration of the new program but just a part of it (depending on how long he/she benefited from the first fellowship).

The amount of Bocconi fellowships (which is higher than standard ministerial fellowship) and of tuition fees are annually set by the University Board.

Amount of fellowship from a.y. 2025-26:

1st year: 27,000€;

From 2nd year (and for the whole official duration of the program): 23,000 € / year

Amount of tuition fees:

3-y program – 1 st year	15,000€
4-y programs – 1 st and 2 nd year	
3-y program – 2 nd and 3 rd year	5,000€
4-y programs – 3 rd and 4 th year	

All PhD students (with and without fellowship) are required to pay regional fees, as per existing regulations (current amount: 190€).

²⁶ Art 6 Law n. 398, 30 Nov 1989

ART. 8 FINANCIAL SUPPORT

According to Ministerial rules, *PhD students* (with and without fellowship) - within the limits of the financial resources allocated annually to the PhD School by the University Board - are provided with an annual budget for their “study and research activities” ²⁷. The amount of the budget (not ad personam; available on the academic year) is 10% of the amount of the ministerial fellowship; the use of the budget is always subject to the Program director (or delegate)’s approval and check with the PhD Program Officer.

Upon enrollment, first-year students are required to decide whether to use their first-year budget to receive a laptop , or to allocate the funds toward goods and services that support academic study and research activities in Italy and abroad (same amount and purposes as specified below for 2nd and subsequent years). The laptop is purchased directly by Bocconi University and is delivered during the first year. Model and technical specifications are determined by Bocconi University (useful information about Technology and data processing: see Annex 3).

The budget of the following years (2nd and 3rd year for Legal Studies; 2nd, 3rd and 4th year for other PhD programs; 1,650€ per academic year) is meant to purchase services and goods to support study and research activities in Italy and abroad (mainly travel expenses for papers’ presentation at conferences / congresses /seminars, for attendance at summer schools, for visiting periods, costs for rights of access to databases for on-line experiments, ...).

The research budget cannot be used to purchase a laptop and related hardware accessories.

Details in art 9.3 and in Annex 5. Applications must be submitted before the activity takes place or the purchase is made.

Wherever possible, the purchase must be managed through the ad hoc operational software (Mytico) directly by the Student or the PhD Program Officer (e.g. flights, hotels), in compliance with Bocconi policies (no reimbursement); if the purchase cannot be managed through the ad hoc operational software, the reimbursement can apply provided that adequate (for fiscal purposes) documentation is submitted.

Within the same a.y., the funds can be spent according to the recipient’s needs (e.g., all in the first semester, all in the second semester, etc.), on condition that 1,650€ per a.y. are not exceeded.

Before the end of the year, unspent funds can be made available for other students.

²⁷ Art 9 comma 4.

After the end of the year, unspent funds cannot be carried forward in the following year. In case the total annual budget allocated to the PhD School is sufficient, further funds might be made available to each PhD program to address the needs of the students thus supplementing the financial resources labeled as “budget for study and research activities”.

Other types of financial support are as follows:

- part-time work for Bocconi University (see details in art 8.1);
- extension of the fellowship granted by the PhD Faculty Board (or PhD Executive Council on its behalf) for justified academic reasons: all PhD candidates with fellowship who have successfully completed the last year of the Program may receive an extension of the fellowship (see details in art 8.2);
- financial support for job market placement (the University covers the expenses for conferences to present papers and participate in job market events; moreover, the University offers training and procedural support) (see details in art 8.3).

As a transitional provision for academic year 2026–2027 only:

- standard financial support: PhD candidates without fellowship who have successfully completed the last year of the Program in academic year 2025-2026 may receive a research assistantship contract for at most one year; (see details in art 8.4)
- special financial support for PhD candidates and PhD fellows with and without fellowship who have successfully completed the last year of the Program in academic year 2024-2025, enrolled in 4-year programs. The support is addressed to PhD candidates and PhD fellows deemed most promising in terms of top-level placement.; (see details in art 8.5)

The standard financial support and the special financial support can be granted provided that the overall annual (from September to August) income deriving from work for university and/or other profitable activities outside university does not exceed 25,000€²⁸. By mid-April (before the allocation process begins), the PhD candidate/fellow shall communicate (by filling out an ad hoc form) to the Program Director and PhD School

²⁸ 5th year (4th year for LS):

**if income from September to August (including Bocconi contracts) > 25,000€, then NO standard NOR special financial support;*

** if income from September to August (including Bocconi contracts) ≤ 25,000€, then YES standard; special financial support (if deserving).*

6th year (excluding LS):

**if income from September to August (including Bocconi contracts) > 25,000€, then NO special financial support*

** if income from September to August (including Bocconi contracts) ≤ 25,000€, then special financial support (if deserving).*

Office, copying the PhD Program Officer, if the estimated overall gross income (from September to August) deriving from work for university and/or other profitable activities outside university is higher or equal/less than 25,000 €. This information is required in order to proceed with the initial allocation of funds.

If – after the initial allocation – PhD candidates/fellows get other contracts so that the overall income exceeds 25,000 €, they shall promptly inform (by filling out an ad hoc form) the PhD Program Director and PhD School Office, copying the PhD Program Officer. The PhD School Office is the reference point to check whether standard/special financial support has to be discontinued.

Art 8.1 Part-time work for Bocconi University

Here below the list of part time work opportunities; please note that most of them require the PhD program director's approval (art. 10).

- ✓ **Teaching assistantship and Teaching** (upon PhD program director's approval)
All PhD students and PhD candidates who want to work as teachers are required to attend and pass the course “PhD BEAT – Bocconi Excellence in Advanced Teaching”. Those who want to work as teaching assistants are strongly recommended to attend and pass the PhD BEAT course.
The course is managed by “BUILT - Bocconi University Innovations in Learning and Teaching” and aims at giving PhD students useful methods and tools to achieve excellence in teaching. The course is offered each Fall.

Compensation

Teaching assistantship - as of 2024-25:

DR (PhD Student), PDC (PhD candidate) and PDF (PhD fellow) = 44€/hour

Teaching (lectures and exercises) - as of 2024-25 =

DR (PhD Student), PDC (PhD candidate) and PDF (PhD fellow) = 176€/hour for any teaching activity

Maximum number of hours/year (ministerial requirements)

	Teaching assistantship in		Teaching in		
	3-y, 5-y, 2-y degree programs		3-y, 5-y, 2-y degree programs		PhD programs
1st year PhD students (DR)					
2nd year PhD students (DR)	maximum 160 TA hours per year	OR (*)	maximum 40 hours per year		
3rd (and 4th) year PhD students (DR)	maximum 160 TA hours per year	OR (*)	maximum 40 hours per year	OR (*)	maximum 40 hours per year; complementary exercises only**
PhD Candidates (PDC)	No hour-cap		No hour-cap		No hour-cap; complementary exercises only
PhD Fellows (PDF)	No hour-cap		No hour-cap		No hour-cap; lectures (with Dean and Program director approval) + complementary exercises

Please note that first-year PhD students are not allowed to deliver teaching or teaching assistantship hours in three-year, five-year, or two-year degree programs, nor teaching hours (lectures or complementary exercises) in PhD programs.

(*) A mix of TA and teaching hours is also allowed, in compliance with the limits specified above. Please note that the equivalence ratio is: 4 TA hours = 1 teaching hour. Therefore, for instance, a 3rd year PhD student can deliver 80 TA hours + 10 teaching hours in BSc programs + 10 hours (complementary exercises) in PhD programs

(**) rule approved by Academic Council 2 July 2024:

- as a rule, from year 3 onward and on condition that they have already attended the BEAT course
- exceptionally, during year 2, subject to Dean approval, and on condition that:
 - + they commit to attend the BEAT course at the earliest available edition
 - + course directors do not involve them in grading the assignments

For further details about Teaching Assistantship see **Annex 6**.

- ✓ **Research assistantship** (upon PhD program director's approval)
From the second year (as an exception, during the first year, subject to Dean's approval).
Dean's approval is also required in case of two overlapping contracts.
Average duration of the contract = 3 months.
- ✓ **Exam proctoring** (no need of PhD program director's approval)

Activity: acting as exam invigilator for undergraduate and graduate programs.
Timing: from the 1st year and without limits in terms of hours.
Contract: one/two-month contracts; more contracts can be activated to the same person depending on the need.
Compensation: 20€/hour.

Call: sent in September/October each year.

Art 8.2 Extension of the fellowship for justified academic reasons

Starting from a.y. 2026-27, all *PhD candidates* with fellowship who have successfully completed the last year of the Program may receive an extension of the fellowship granted by the PhD Faculty Board (or PhD Executive Council on its behalf) for justified academic reasons as follows (see art. 11 and 13 for further details on extension periods):

- for Business Administration and Management, Social and Political Science, Economics and Finance **a twelve-month extension of the fellowship of €23,000 (gross)** (from 1 September to 31 August);
- for Statistics and Computer Science and Legal Studies **a six-month extension of the fellowship of €11,500 (gross)** (from 1 September to 28 February).

PhD Candidates of Mathematics and Applications cannot be granted an extension of the fellowship.

The fellowship extension automatically terminates with the defense of the thesis. The official duration of the Program is four years (three years for LS). Neither the fellowship increase for research periods abroad nor the annual research budget (€1,650) is provided during the extension period. No-hour-cap limit to teaching assistantship and teaching during this period is applied (see art. 8.1).

Art 8.3 Financial support for job market placement

During their final year, PhD candidates are closely supported, in order to be successfully placed on the job market (Academia).

The PhD School covers, within the limit of available budget and upon authorization of the PhD program Director, the expenses to place PhD candidates on the job market (PhD candidates attend conferences to present their papers, meet scholars of other universities and participate in job market events such as job market international fairs) and offers training and procedural support.

Art 8.4 Standard financial support (academic year 2026–2027 only)

PhD candidates without fellowship who have successfully completed the last year of the Program in academic year 2025-2026 (which ends on 31 August 2026) receive a research

contract (Co. Co. Co.) for a maximum amount of 7,000 € for at most one year (from September 2026 to August 2027).

Funding must be discontinued if and when the overall annual (from September to August) income (if any) deriving from work for university and/or other profitable activities outside university exceeds 25,000€.

Allocations take place in May.

Standard financial support is subject to personal income tax (IRPEF) and to social security contributions (INPS “gestione separata”).

Art 8.5 Special financial support (academic year 2026–2027 only)

PhD candidates and PhD fellows with and without fellowship who have successfully completed the last year of the Program in academic year 2024-2025 and are deemed most promising in terms of top-level placement (research activities in Academia or other institutions) are eligible to receive a special financial support²⁹.

The special financial support is assigned by a Committee chaired by the PhD School Dean and composed of the Dean of the Faculty and another Faculty member chosen by the Dean. The Committee selects the recipients, based on PhD Program Directors’ proposals, considering the following elements: academic CV, PhD career, and supervisor’s reference letter. Allocations take place in May.

The special financial support takes the form of a research and teaching contract.

The Committee assigns contracts whose amount equals to 5,000 € or multiples.

Each 10,000 € contract implies the willingness of the recipient to give 12 teaching hours (T) or, if not possible, 48 teaching assistantship hours (TA) or mix (ratio 1 T = 4 TA, e.g. 6 teaching hours + 24 TA hours). The total hours to be delivered varies proportionally according to the contract amount (e.g. a 5,000 € contract implies 6 teaching hours, or, if not possible, 24 TA hours, or mix). These hours are included in the contract, without extra compensation. Recipients shall actively seek teaching opportunities to fulfill their contract obligations. Non-compliance must be duly justified.

Please note that the teaching load of the above contracts is satisfied based on the following priority scale: (i) lectures, (ii) any other teaching activity (complementary lectures / preparatory courses / complementary exercises), (iii) teaching assistantship. If the recipient delivers more hours than those included in the contract, the extra hours will be compensated separately (see art 8.1).

5,000 € contracts last 6 months, while contracts equal or above 10,000 € are 1-year long. Funding must be discontinued if and when the overall annual (from September to August) income (if any) deriving from work for university and/or other profitable activities outside university exceeds 25,000€.

Special financial support is subject to personal income tax (IRPEF) and to social security contributions (INPS “gestione separata”).

²⁹ The special financial support is addressed to PhD candidates and PhD fellows enrolled in 4-y programs.

ART. 9 ATTENDANCE AND PROGRESS EVALUATION; DUTIES RELATED TO STUDY AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Art. 9.1 Requirements for admission to subsequent years

Study plan's requirements are set by the PhD Faculty Board of each program and approved by the PhD School Council and Academic Council (annual Academic Planning); they are published on the website.

For programs that are divided into specialization areas (field, tracks, ...) the rules to activate specialization areas and their respective elective courses are set in the annual Academic Planning.

Only one exam date is scheduled at the end of teaching activities. In case of absence, duly justified, the Program Director can authorize the student to take the exam at a later date. Unjustified absence is considered as "fail".

Retakes for failed exams might be organized only if allowed by the PhD study plan's requirements.

At the end of each year and before enrollment in the next year the PhD Faculty Board verifies whether the student has met all the academic requirements.

The results can be as follows:

- admitted - PhD pass;
- not admitted - MPhil pass (for PhD programs that award MPhil - art 16);
- not admitted -fail.

Students must be notified about their result (around mid-September).

Only admitted students can enroll in the next year of the PhD program.

If a student is not admitted to the next academic year, the payment of the fellowship is suspended immediately after the last instalment of the last year of regular enrollment has been paid out.

Released fellowships can be re-assigned to deserving students initially admitted without fellowship (art. 7).

Besides "academic" requirements, admission to the second year is subject to the submission of a copy of the permit of stay (art 6).

Students who get an MPhil pass can be awarded the MPhil provided that they submit official application within two months (starting from notification of non-admission).

After such deadline, the status of student is automatically revoked, and the MPhil cannot be awarded any more.

The status of student is immediately and automatically revoked for students who get a fail.

The PhD Faculty Board can remove a student from the program during the year if he/she repeatedly fails to comply with academic duties and obligations (even at the end of the last year, before thesis submission).

If a student is removed, he or she will have to forfeit the fellowship and repay it for the year.

Art. 9.2 Compliance with ethics standards

Ethics is central to scientific integrity, honesty and clarity. It is considered essential by the European Commission and the REA - Research Executive Agency in the research activities (e.g. journals do not publish papers unless they are compliant with ethics standards). Therefore, principles of research ethics must be met in any research activities conducted during the PhD Program.

- 1) All PhD students are required to attend and pass the “principle of research ethics” online course available at [ECR.unibocconi.it](https://ecr.unibocconi.it) (login with Bocconi credentials). Starting from a.y. 2024-25, the course is included in the study plan³⁰.

After attending the course and passing the exam, the PhD student must send the certificate to the PhD Program Officer to be recorded in the academic career.

Compliance checks will be carried out at the end of the academic year. Students will be reminded only once. It is their responsibility to fulfill this important requirement.

Having passed the “Principles of Research Ethics” is a requirement for the submission of the thesis to the external reviewers. PhD candidates cannot submit their thesis to the external reviewers until they have handed in the “Principles of Research Ethics” certificate (see Art. 13).

- 2) Besides the course, all PhD students are required to connect to [ECR.unibocconi.it](https://ecr.unibocconi.it) to be familiar with the following sections of the online portal (needed whenever they conduct a research project that might have an ethical impact):

³⁰ Cohort 2024-25 and following: 1st year compulsory course
Cohort 2023-24: 2nd year compulsory course
Cohort 2022-23: 3rd year compulsory course
Cohort 2021-22 (for 4-y PhD programs only): 4th year compulsory course

- “Informed consent template” to be administered whenever a survey or an experiment, involving human participants and/or personal data must be conducted;
- “Checklist” to be filled out in order to assess the ethical severity of research.

Possible outcomes:

- Expedite application - moderate/low severity: the research project is assessed by 2 members (out of 5) of the Bocconi Ethics Committee.
- Regular application - high severity: the research project is assessed by all 5 members of the Bocconi Ethics Committee.

If the assessment is positive, the Bocconi Ethics Committee issues an “ethics approval”, that can be attached to the research project for submission to journals (or other purposes).

Art. 9.3 Authorizations and funding requests

Any **off-campus** study and research **activity** (e.g. summers schools, conferences, periods at other Universities, ...) as well as any **expense** related to study and research activities, both related and not related to off-campus activities (travel booking, services and goods purchase, ...) must be authorized by the PhD Program Director (or delegate) exclusively by means of an ad hoc IT tool (PhD authorizations and Funding requests).

Applications must be submitted before the activity takes place and before the purchase of the good/service is made (**ex ante phase**)

The IT tool is available at the following link <https://af.phdrequest.unibocconi.eu> or via the Agenda You@B.

At the end, documents attesting any activity and any expense must be uploaded into the IT tool (**ex post phase**).

1) Ex ante Phase

1.1) Authorization for off-campus activities:

It is always necessary even when the activity has no costs (e.g. conference in Milan) or it is funded by a donor.

In case of periods abroad at other Universities/organizations equal/longer than one month (minimum 28 days), the IT tool online procedure includes a step that requires the upload of a duly completed paper form. See Annex 4 for details and the paper form.

In order to complete the authorization process, in case of off-campus activities, documentation that proves the need for mobility must be uploaded into the IT tool (e.g. conference program, Summer School acceptance letter).

1.2) Funding requests

See Annex 5 for details regarding the list of typical expenses that can be financed and how they have to be managed.

The IT Tool therefore includes the following steps:

- 1) Ex ante authorization for:
 - a. mobility and related expenses (Conference/Congress/seminar; Summer School/Winter School/Training Course; Visiting Period)
 - b. expenses without mobility (e.g. editorial revision for the thesis, purchase of highly specialized books, etc...)
- 2) Preliminary request check by the PhD Program Officer
- 3) Approval/partial approval/rejection by the PhD Program Director (or delegate)

After obtaining the approval of the PhD Program Director (or delegate), expenses can be incurred, which, depending on their type (Annex 5), can be processed through the automated tool (<https://bocconi.clienti-mytico.cisalpinatours.it/>) Mytico (cost covered directly by Bocconi; no need for reimbursement), or outside the Mytico tool (in some cases, the cost is initially covered by the PhD student/candidate and requires reimbursement; in other cases it is covered by the PhD Program Officer on behalf of the student, in which case no reimbursement is needed).

All expenses must not exceed the authorized cost limits, and in the case of travel, they must adhere to the Travel Policy (available through the Mytico tool).

2) Ex post phase

The IT Tool includes the following steps:

- 4) Ex post proof of mobility and/or expenses
In all cases (with / without mobility) documents attesting the expenses (e.g. receipts, boarding passes, ...) must be uploaded into the IT tool.
Moreover, in case of off-campus activities, documentation that proves the actual participation in the activity must be uploaded (e.g. attendance certificate).
- 5) Request closure by the PhD Program Officer

ART. 10 PHD PROGRAM ATTENDANCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES – COMPATIBILITY

Being enrolled in a PhD program involves, in compliance with the law, exclusive full-time commitment. Students must actively and regularly take part in the University's academic activities and in all study activities included in the program structure.

In cases (regulated by the Italian law) of prohibited concurrent enrollment in a PhD program and another university program, the student who wants to enroll in another university program must opt; therefore he/she either quits the PhD program to enroll in the other program or must decline the other program offer.

In cases of feasible concurrent enrollment, the PhD Board evaluates on a case-by-case basis and allows the enrollment in the other program (as a second program) only if there is reasonable certainty that an active and regular participation in the PhD academic activities can be really guaranteed.

See details about concurrent enrollment in Annex 1.

Students can be authorized by the Program Director to:

- temporarily study and do research in other Italian or foreign Universities and organizations (see art 9.3 for authorization and Annex 4);
- take part in meetings and seminars and other short-term projects related to their studies and research activities as well as making purchases of services and goods (see art 9.3 and Annex 5);
- work as teaching assistants/teachers and research assistants in conformity with national³¹ and internal rules set in art 8.

Moreover, the PhD Faculty Board, after evaluating the student's request, may authorize him or her to do professional training, undertake remunerated work activity (by subjects different from Bocconi University) or do an internship, provided the activity does not hinder the regular and constant attendance to the program (**compatibility**).

Authorization can be granted on condition that the activity is aimed to acquire competencies coherent with the PhD program (**coherence**).

However, in the case of students without fellowship, the PhD Faculty Board will also consider the fact that these students may need financial means for continuing their studies.

Under special circumstances the PhD Faculty Board may grant a leave (art 11; maximum 6 months³²) when professional training, remunerated work activities or internships hinder the regular and constant attendance to the PhD program (**non-compatibility**).

³¹ Art 12 comma 1 and 3

³² Art 8 comma 8

In case of remunerated work and internships, a leave can only be granted if the activity is prestigious and promises to significantly qualify the student.

ART. 11 EXTENSION PERIOD AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

The PhD Faculty Board can grant, upon request of the PhD student, an extension of six or twelve months, without fellowship³³.

The PhD Faculty Board may also grant an extension of up to twelve months for justified academic reasons; in such cases, the fellowship will be extended³⁴. During this period of extension with fellowship, the research budget and the increase of the fellowship for periods of study and research abroad are not provided. (see art. 8.2 for further information on fellowship extension)

The maximum period of extension is 12 months overall.

The impact of extension periods on the timing of the thesis discussion is described in art. 13.

The PhD Faculty Board can grant a **leave of absence** in the following cases:

- 1) documented evidence regarding the following circumstances provided for by the Italian law: serious and prolonged illness/injury, military /civil service, maternity/paternity leave; the guide on parental leave is available in the yoU@B Student Diary (left-hand menu > Documents for PhD Students > Parental Leave).
- 2) professional training, remunerated work or internship (art 10)
In this case the maximum duration of the leave of absence is 6 months ³⁵.

The leave interrupts all the PhD program activities and financial support (save exceptions regarding parental leave). Financial arrangements will be reinstated at the end of the leave, for a period of time as long as the leave itself, unless the PhD student withdraws from the program or is removed before the end of the program.

At the end of the leave, the PhD Faculty Board will outline the requirements which must be satisfied in order to complete the program.

The extension and leave of absence periods cannot exceed 18 months overall (except when the leave is due to circumstances provided for by the Italian law).

³³ Art 8 comma 6

³⁴ Art 8 comma 7

³⁵ Art 8 comma 8

ART. 12 WITHDRAWING FROM THE PROGRAM

Students can withdraw from the program by submitting an ad hoc form (duly filled in). Withdrawal entails the annulment of the PhD academic curriculum (even if first-year curricular activities can be recognized and the student can be awarded an MPhil (art 9 and 16)).

ART. 13 THESIS WRITING AND SUBMISSION

Procedural steps and timing regarding thesis writing and submission are set in the annual Academic Planning (in compliance with ministerial provisions) and published on the website.

The use of artificial intelligence tools in training activities, in assessment tests, and in writing assignments is governed by the Honor Code, the Student Code of Conduct, and the guidelines in the syllabi of individual courses.

ADVISOR AND CO-ADVISOR CHOICE AND REQUIREMENTS

Students choose their advisor and co-advisor, after consultation with the PhD Program Director. The advisor and co-advisor must be approved by the PhD Faculty Board.

At least one of them must be a Bocconi scholar and at least one of them must be registered in the Italian ministerial database (LOGINMIUR) and meet the requirements to be a member of the PhD Faculty Board (at least two “threshold values” - see art 4)³⁶.

In particular:

- the advisor is either a Bocconi scholar (holding one of the following positions: “ordinario”/”Bocconi full professor”, “associato”/”Bocconi associate professor”, ricercatore/assistant professor) or a scholar from another University (in case of scholar of other University, he/she is required to be part of the PhD Faculty Board);
- the co-advisor is either a Bocconi instructor, or an instructor from another Italian or foreign University, or a non-academic expert. The co-advisor must have proven research experience; if he/she is an instructor, it is advisable (though not necessary) that he/she is “ordinario”/”Bocconi full professor”, “associato”/”Bocconi associate professor”, “ricercatore”/assistant professor; if he/she is a non-academic expert, he/she must be affiliated with a research center;

³⁶ Art 6 comma 6

- at least one between the advisor and the co-advisor (preferably the advisor) must meet the following requirement: at least two “threshold values” required to be a professore “ordinario” (in case of professore ordinario) or at least two threshold values to be a “professore associato” (in all the other cases, including “Bocconi full professors”).

The PhD School Office checks if at least one between advisor and co-advisor meets the requirement “at least two threshold values”. If not, the PhD Faculty Board assigns a new advisor or co-advisor who meets the requirements.

The following solution allows to easily meet the requirements specified above (as it avoids the complex checks about threshold values):

- the advisor or the co-advisor is part of the PhD Faculty Board (as he/she automatically meets the two threshold values)
- the advisor or the co-advisor is a Bocconi scholar (“ordinario”/full professor, “associato”/associate professor, ricercatore/assistant professor).

The requirements have to be met in the moment when the advisor /co-advisor are assigned.

THESIS SUBMISSION

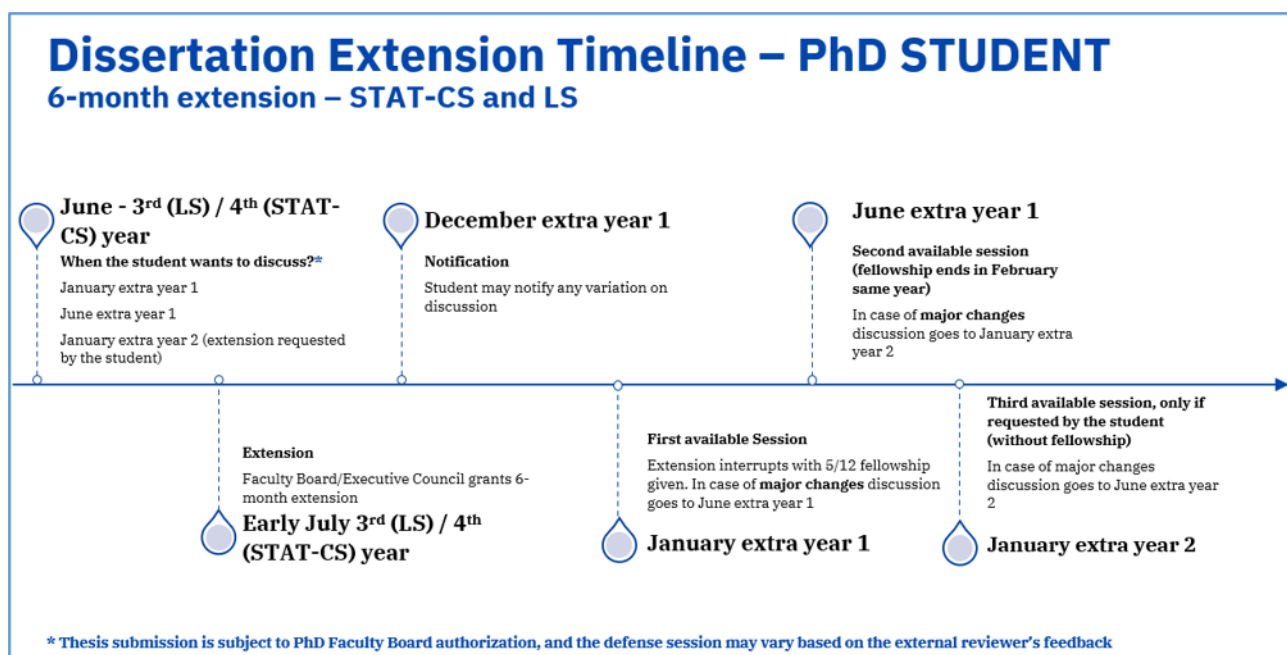
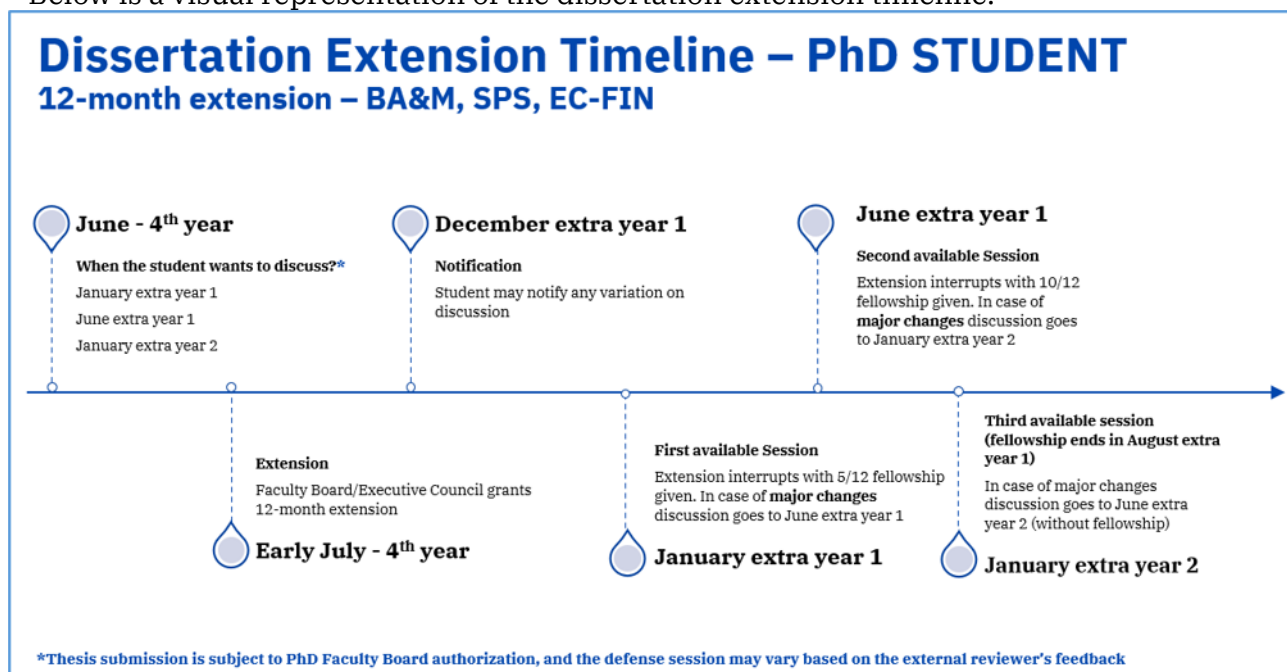
PhD students with fellowship

By the deadline set to submit the thesis draft (see website area of the single program /sub-area “Info for current students” and then “Focus on thesis”; the deadline is **usually June of the final year**), the PhD student, after consulting with the advisor, submits the “thesis defense session declaration” form. The PhD student may notify any change to the thesis defense session previously chosen using the same form (usually in December).

Then, the PhD Faculty Board (or PhD Executive Council on its behalf), deliberates an extension of the fellowship for justified academic reasons for 12 or 6 months depending on the program – see visual representations below (for additional information on fellowship extension see art 8.2 and 11).

For PhD students in Statistics and Computer Science and Legal Studies an additional six-month extension (without fellowship) can be requested. Any extension requested by the student must be approved by the PhD Faculty Board (or PhD Executive Council on its behalf). (see art. 11)

Below is a visual representation of the dissertation extension timeline:

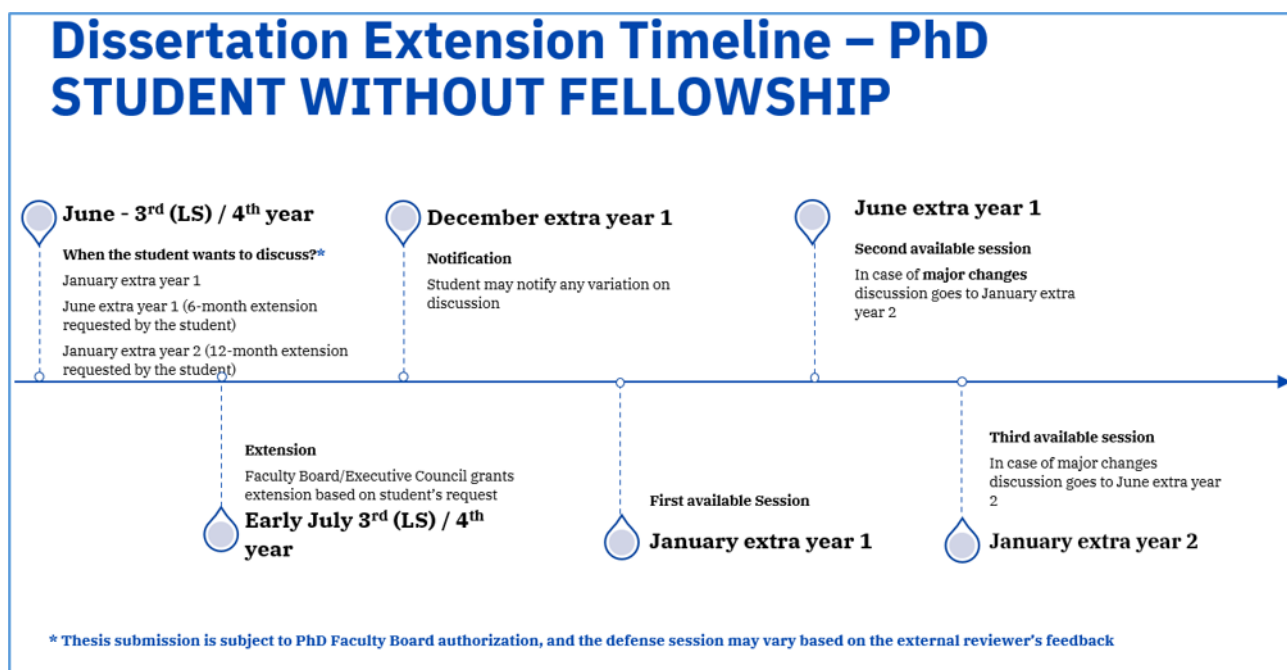


PhD students without fellowship

By the deadline set to submit the thesis draft (see website area of the single program /sub-area “Info for current students” and then “Focus on thesis”; the deadline is **usually June of the final year**), the PhD student, after consulting with the advisor, submits the “thesis defense session declaration” form and requests an extension of six or twelve months.

Then, the PhD Faculty Board (or PhD Executive Council on its behalf), approves the extension requested by the PhD student (if any). (see art. 11)

Below is a visual representation of the dissertation extension timeline:



Within the deadlines published on the website (see website area of the single program /sub-area “Info for current students” and then “Focus on thesis”) the student, after consulting with the advisor, submits the thesis to the PhD Faculty Board and asks for evaluation by the external reviewers. From a.y. 2024-25, the thesis can be submitted provided that the PhD candidate (belonging to any cohort) has completed the “Principles of Research Ethics” course and handed in the certificate to the PhD Program Officer (see art. 9.2).

The thesis (with an attached report on the activities performed during the program and on publications, if any, as well any other document required by the University) has to be submitted to two qualified Professors, chosen by the PhD Faculty Board, who are not part of Bocconi Faculty (External Reviewers).

Within the deadline set in the annual Academic Planning each Reviewer will issue a separate detailed assessment report of the thesis and recommend admission to the public defense (“minor changes”) or ask for postponement, for a maximum of six months, if significant additions or changes are required (“major changes”).

After receiving and giving due consideration to the assessments, the Program Director will admit/not admit the candidate to the public defense. In particular, a candidate will only be admitted if both assessments are favorable.

After the postponement period, theses are always admitted to public defense, without exception. Reviewers will issue new separate detailed written assessment reports.

PhD candidates can find operating instructions about thesis procedures and deadlines in the dedicated webpage of each single program (under “Info for current student”→ Focus on Thesis).

ART. 14 FINAL EXAMINATION

Candidates admitted to the defense of their thesis are assessed, at times set in the annual Academic Planning, by a Thesis Board which is appointed by the Rector. There are at least two thesis defense sessions per year (currently January and June).

The Board consists of three members; two of them are not part of Bocconi faculty³⁷ (they can be the external reviewers); the third member is the advisor or the co-advisor. Two substitute members, one internal and one external, are also appointed in case of justified absence of one member. In case of external advisor or co-advisor, the internal substitute member is a Bocconi scholar.

The date of the defense is established by the Thesis Board and cannot be changed. However, the *PhD candidate* who, for serious reasons, such as illness and/or unforeseeable or extreme circumstances, cannot participate in the defense on that date can ask the Board to change the date, and can be allowed by the President of the Board to defend the thesis on a different day.

After the discussion of the defense, the Board will issue a collective reasoned resolution in writing. The thesis will be approved or rejected; if it is rejected, it cannot be submitted a second time, and the resolution cannot be appealed.

The University will save the thesis (electronic format) in the institutional repository (IRIS), which is open source.

The University (by means of IRIS) will also transfer a digital version of the final thesis to the Italian National Libraries in Rome and Florence³⁸.

ART. 15 “THESIS CO-TUTORSHIP AGREEMENT” (DOUBLE DOCTORAL DEGREE) AND PROGRAMS WITHIN INTERNATIONAL TRAINING NETWORKS

Exceptionally, students can be conferred a double doctoral degree (one from Bocconi University and the other from a foreign partner University).

Requirements are as follows:

³⁷Art 8 comma 12

³⁸ Art 14 comma 2

- an ad hoc agreement must be signed by the partner universities (a single agreement is required for each student involved);
- the agreement must meet both the Italian and the foreign country rules and regulations regarding PhD programs;
- the student must fulfill all the study plan requirements of the home university as well as those of the partner university (in particular exams and other compulsory activities);
- the student writes a single thesis (supervised by two advisors, one of the home university and the other of the partner university); the dissertation takes place in one of the partner universities with a mixed Thesis Board.

Moreover, Bocconi University can participate in Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Doctoral Networks projects in partnership with other Universities that offer Early-Stage Researchers the opportunity to join multidisciplinary networks of universities and non-academic institutions, improve their research skills and enhance their career prospects. Applicants who choose to enroll in a PhD program combined with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Doctoral Network project must meet specific eligibility criteria in addition to the standard Bocconi requirements.

ART. 16 MPhil (MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY) PROGRAMS

On a proposal by the PhD Program Director and approval by the PhD School Council second level specialized master programs, labelled as MPhil (Master of Philosophy) can be activated.

The didactic activity is the same as in the first year of the corresponding PhD program and it carries a minimum of 60 credits, involving about 1,500 hours of study.

In the case of MPhil programs, the Master Program Director is also the PhD Program Director who has proposed the program.

Students registered in the corresponding PhD (any year) can be admitted to an MPhil program if they have passed the curricular exams of the first year and:

- have obtained an “MPhil pass” at the end of the year;
- have obtained a “PhD pass” at the end of the year and voluntary withdraw from the program (art 12).

For students who enrolled for more than one year in a PhD program only the first-year curricular activities will be recognized.

The final grade of an MPhil is the GPA (graded point average) of the first-year exams, to which a maximum of 5/110 can be added for the research activities carried out in the years attended after the first, if any. However, the maximum grade obtainable is 100/110.

ART. 17 VISITING STUDENTS

Outgoing visiting students are students enrolled as Bocconi PhDs who attend lectures and/or do research abroad for a period of time (duly authorized).

Before travelling, all risks and threats should be considered and evaluated. Bocconi has partnered with International SOS to provide medical, safety and security advice to outgoing students³⁹. A dedicated page with detailed instructions is available on yoU@B, on the left side “International SOS” box.

The PhD Program Director will decide which exams passed abroad by a student can be validated (no cap is set for exams taken abroad).

Incoming visiting students are students enrolled in PhD programs at other Universities who only wish to attend Bocconi lectures or take the related examinations.

These students, admitted in compliance with the annual Academic Planning, may be enrolled in any year of the program in the other University, including the first year.

The PhD Program Director will evaluate the student’s profile and establish if his or her preparation is adequate.

The maximum visiting period is two semesters in a three-year PhD and three semesters in a four-year PhD, not necessarily in sequence.

Visiting students may take a total of six Bocconi exams in a three-year PhD and a total of nine exams in a four-year PhD.

Visiting students from Italian or foreign Universities will be given an officially signed document, with a list of the subjects attended and the grades obtained, only if **a formal agreement had been previously reached between the Program Director of their University and the Bocconi PhD Program Director** about the qualitative standing of the student and the duration of the stay.

In case of mutual student exchange between Universities over the same academic year, no fees are charged to incoming visiting students.

In other cases, incoming visiting students shall pay the fees established by the University Board; current fees:

- A fixed amount (100 €) if they only attend lectures (regardless of the number of courses attended)
- A variable amount (200€ per course) if they attend lectures and take exams

³⁹ Recommended for PhD students who:

- have not finished the last “regular” year of the program;
- travel abroad not as research assistants. For students who work as research assistants, Faculty & Research Unit is in charge of travel risk assessment.

ART. 18 HIGHER LEVEL COURSES

Highly motivated and deserving Bocconi MSc students can be admitted to take PhD courses (so called “HLC - higher level courses”) during their MSc career.

Selection requirements and process are set in the annual Academic Planning.

Bocconi MSc graduates who passed one or more PhD exams during their MSc career and who enroll in a PhD program are allowed to ask for a “waiver” in their PhD career.

This implies that the PhD exams that they passed in their MSc career can be recognized (subject to PhD program director approval) in their PhD career.

More specifically:

- If the PhD exam passed during the MSc career is still a requirement of the PhD study plan of the PhD cohort the student belongs to, then it is recognized and matched (“esame con corrispondenza”); it can be a compulsory or elective course.
- If the PhD exam passed is not included anymore in the requirements of the PhD study plan of the PhD cohort the student belongs to, then it is recognized as free elective (“esame senza corrispondenza”).
- Under the supervision of the program director and tutor, they should consider the possibility to “replace” in their PhD study plan the waived courses with extra courses (to be registered as exams on top of standard requirements - “esami in sovrannumero”) to enhance their knowledge in their field of interest and reach sooner the frontier of research.

ART. 19 CODE OF CONDUCT

All registered students shall adopt a code of conduct respectful of didactic activities, research and the University in compliance with the “Bocconi Honor Code” (published on the website).

Disorderly or inappropriate behavior and offences causing any serious interference with the University functioning, or causing substantive damage to the University activities or image shall be sanctioned, and further sanctions may be also imposed by law.

PhD students, PhD candidates and PhD fellows are required to abide by the Bocconi Faculty Code of Conduct in their research activities as well as their teaching/teaching assistantship activities (if any).

As for the rest, they are required to abide by the Bocconi Students Code of Conduct.

Both documents are published on Bocconi University website.

ART. 20 SPECIAL STUDENTS

Special students are people who apply to attend some PhD courses in order to broaden their knowledge and who have adequate preparation that allows them to positively attend PhD courses.

Their admission is subject to a collective evaluation by the Program Director and the members of the Admission Committee.

Students who applied for a Bocconi PhD and were not admitted cannot be considered as special students.

Special students are allowed to attend a maximum of three subjects. However, the PhD Program Director, in agreement with the Dean, may make exceptions.

Special students may wish to take exams, in which case they will be registered for one or more single subjects.

Special students shall pay a variable fee related to the number of hours of lessons attended and a fixed fee in case they want to take the exams (irrespective of the number).

Current fees:

- Variable fee for attendance – coefficient: € 170 per 8 class hours
- Fixed fee for exam(s): € 200.

Special students in a.y. $x/x+1$ may apply to PhD programs for a.y. $x+1/x+2$. In case of admission to the PhD program, they are admitted as regular 1st year students and the exams passed as special students can be recognized.

ART. 21 SUPPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES

Besides the activities included in the study plan, Bocconi University offers a wide range of supplementary activities, open to all students (3-y, 2-y, 5-y degree students, specialized master students and PhD students).

These activities are optional and are not part of the PhD program requirements.

Supplementary activities offered by the University include:

- IT courses organized by the IT Education Centre (www.unibocconi.eu/itec)
- language courses organized by the Language Center (www.unibocconi.eu/languagecenter)
- interdisciplinary courses for students to enrich their cultural backgrounds, discover new interests and delve into current events on topics other than

economics and law, organized by Campus Life (for detailed information check the relevant section of Bocconi website)

- courses on databases and citation organized by the Library (www.unibocconi.eu/library)

courses to develop personal skills organized by Campus Life - Counseling and Self Empowerment (for detailed information [check the relevant section of Bocconi website](#)) The full range of supplementary activities is published each year in September (before the start dates of any activity chosen). More detailed information, including programs and calendars, will be released on the Bocconi website in the sections of the services which offer these activities.

General instructions are as follows:

- sign-up application procedure*: through the yoU@B student Diary in accordance with sign-up methods defined by the service offering the activity, about one month before the start of the course;
- assigning courses*: for each study program, sign-up applications are accepted in the order of chronological sign-ups received. Students who are admitted/not admitted to attend these activities will receive a personal online message sent to their yoU@B student Diary;
- attendance: in most cases, compulsory for at least 75% of teaching sessions and usually checked through the online Attendance procedure by the teacher in class, in order to obtain the certificate of participation; online courses, if offered, also have mechanisms for registering attendance (for detailed information, the section of the Bocconi website dedicated to the office delivering the activity should be consulted);
- evaluation: is carried out by instructors according to the assessment methods discussed in class (the faculty member may require a final written report) but is subordinate to the compulsory 75% attendance and the active participation in class;
- period of study: courses are held during teaching periods and on specific dates which will be finalized before the sign-up period begins;
- duration: depending on the chosen activity.

Successful participation in these activities, certified by the teacher, allows students to obtain a certificate of attendance.

* For aspects regarding sign-up and assigning courses, activities organized by Counseling and Self-Empowerment are exempt. These courses have different sign-up and assigning courses methods, which are described on the Bocconi website (www.unibocconi.eu/counseling).

ART. 22 CERTIFICATES, SELF-DECLARATIONS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

1. Documents available to PhD students

Bocconi University issues the following types of documents:

1) Documents automatically issued by the IT system (ESSE3):

- a) Unofficial academic transcript, also known as “**Academic Curriculum**”, free of charge, printed on Bocconi letterhead, without signature. *Available only to PhD students who enrolled starting from a.y. 2022-23 (38th cycle).*

It contains enrollment details, study plan and exams passed. It is available both in Italian and English. **It is highly recommended to try and submit this document to the receiving institution before asking for an official certificate.**

- b) **Certificates** with payment of stamp duty (“marca da bollo” – see paragraph 3 for costs); they are printed on Bocconi letterhead, and they have a digital tag so that the receiving institution can check their authenticity (see paragraph 4);

Types of certificates (in English/Italian):

- ✓ Enrollment certificate with study plan and exams passed. *Available only to PhD students who enrolled starting from a.y. 2022-23 (38th cycle)*
 - ✓ Enrollment certificate with fellowship amount (including the fellowship increase for the period abroad)
 - ✓ Enrollment certificate
- c) **Self-declaration samples**, free of charge, on white paper, in Italian only, intended for the Italian Public Administration;

Types of self-declarations (in Italian only):

- ✓ Self-declaration with enrollment details, study plan and exams passed. *Available only to PhD students who enrolled starting from a.y. 2022-23 (38th cycle)*
- ✓ Self-declaration with enrollment details and fellowship amount (without fellowship increase for the study abroad period)
- ✓ Self-declaration with enrollment details

- 2) Documents not automatically issued by the IT system: for any case not listed above, it is necessary to contact the PhD Program Officer. N.B. PhD students who started their PhD career before a.y. 2022-23 must always contact the PhD Program Officer to get a statement (letter) with the exams passed.

2. How to obtain the documents

The Unofficial Academic Transcript (**Academic Curriculum**) and the **self-declarations** can be printed by PhD students themselves, without contacting the PhD School Office/PhD Program Officer through the yoU@B Student Diary, left-hand menu: Certificates > Printable documents.

The **certificates** must be requested through **cert@B** available on the yoU@B Student Diary (logging in as “PhD student”, not as instructor), left-hand menu: Certificates > cert@B.

PhD students have to follow the procedure, select how they want to receive the document (see below) and pay the required fees (see paragraph 3).

The request is then forwarded to the PhD School Office, that will prepare the certificate. As a general rule, it takes at least 4 working days for issuing certifications listed in cert@B.

As soon as the certificate is ready, the PhD student will receive a communication through the yoU@B Student Diary and the Bocconi email account as PhD student (@phd.unibocconi.it).

The certificate will be delivered in one of the following ways:

- For certificates in **electronic format**: the file of the certificate will be available for **download** in the yoU@B Diary (in the To Do List and then in cert@B) for **15 days**; IMPORTANT NOTICE: once the link is expired, student must submit a new certificate request via cert@B. It is not possible to re-activate a link when already expired.
- For certificates for which **delivery by mail** was requested: the certificate in paper format will be sent to the address selected with the national postal service (no additional costs) or express courier service (additional costs specified in the cert@B, depending on the place of delivery). In both cases, the timelines for receiving certifications depend on each individual service provider. It is possible to ask for “sealed envelopes” by selecting “foreign purposes – application for foreign universities only”.

Warning: the possibility of printing documents/requesting certificates is available only in the yoU@B Student Diary, that can be accessed using the PhD student ID number as username.

3. Certificates: costs and payment methods

The issue of certificates costs:

- €16.00 (stamp duty 'imposta di bollo' for the request of certifications);
- €16.00 (stamp duty 'imposta di bollo' for the issue of each certification included in the request);

- €2.00 (for administration fees to be applied, where applicable, to each certification issue);
- Additional costs for delivery (if applicable) – see above

The amount must be paid through cert@B through payment procedure with **credit card** integrated into the procedure itself.

The above costs are not due in case of certificates to be used for immigration purposes in Italy (e.g. for the renewal of the permit of stay – permesso di soggiorno). Certificates for immigration purposes are not issued in more than one copy for each type.

Certificates to be submitted to foreign institutions for travelling towards a country different from Italy are subject to the above costs (e.g. certificates to obtain a visa). They are classified as certificates for “foreign purposes” (“uso estero”).

4. Certificates: check of authenticity

The digital tag’s authenticity can be verified by the receiving institution using the software made available by Bocconi University at the address <http://www.unibocconi.eu/certificatedecoder>.

ANNEX 1: CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT IN TWO UNIVERSITY PROGRAMS

1. Ministerial rules common to all kinds of university programs

Bocconi rules about concurrent enrollment derive from Law no.33 of 12/04/22, Implementing Ministerial Decree No.930 - 29/07/22 and Ministerial Decree No. 933 - 02/08/22, MUR clarifications of 10/10/22 and 12/01/23.

Concurrent enrollment occurs when a student is enrolled in two different university programs in the same academic year⁴⁰.

Rules affect programs offered by both Italian and non-Italian universities; in particular for Italian universities: “L” (“laurea” = first level 3-y degree / 6 level EQF), “LM” (laurea magistrale = second level degree: 2-y and 5-y degree / 7 level EQF), “MU” (master universitario di primo e secondo livello, 1-y Specialized Master - 1st level level / 7 EQF and 2nd level / 8 EQF), “CP” (corso di perfezionamento, specialization program / 7 EQF), “DR” (dottorato di ricerca, PhD program / 8 EQF), as well as the corresponding AFAM programs (alta formazione artistica, musicale, coreutica; Higher Education in Arts, Music and Dance).

In theory, various combinations are possible (e.g. 3-yd/5-yd+3-yd; 2-yd+2-yd; 2-yd+3-yd; 2-yd+1-ySM, 2-yd+PhD etc.) provided that the following conditions are met:

- to enroll in a certain program, it is always necessary to meet the entry requirements in terms of degree required for admission; therefore, for instance, to enroll in a PhD program + 2-y degree, the student must already have a 2-yd (or 5-yd) degree
- if a program has compulsory attendance, enrollment in the second program is only allowed if attendance is not compulsory (unless compulsory attendance is only for lab activities and/or internship)
- double degree programs are considered as concurrent enrollments and therefore it is not possible to enroll in another program (joint programs are not considered concurrent enrollment)

⁴⁰ Therefore, for example, if in 2023-24 a student is enrolled in a first level 3-y degree and in May 2024 (before ending the program) enrolls in a second level 2-y degree for 2024-25, it is not a case of concurrent enrollment (provided that he/she gets the first level degree in due time); that is because his/her last year in the first level degree is 2023-24 and his/her first year in the second level degree is 2024-25.

The combinations that are not in any way possible are: 3-yr/5-yr/2-yr + Medical Specialization School; Specialization School + Specialization School (medical/not medical); PhD+PhD.

Concurrent enrollment requires a previous check of feasibility and of fulfilment of requirements with both Universities.

2. concurrent enrollment in two Bocconi University programs

Given that Bocconi programs have a set number of students, as a rule, concurrent enrollment in two Bocconi study programs (in the first year as well as in any year) is not allowed in order to let a larger number of students to be admitted to Bocconi programs.

3. concurrent enrollment in a Bocconi “PhD Program” and in a program (any kind) offered by another university

Bocconi PhD programs imply a full-time commitment with compulsory attendance; therefore:

- according to ministerial rules, concurrent enrollment in a program (any kind) offered by another university with mandatory attendance is not possible; a typical example of program with compulsory attendance (stated by Law) is the “Scuola di Specializzazione” (for example *Scuola di specializzazione per le professioni legali* (SSPL)). Besides the mere attendance to in-class activities, the SSPL takes time for out-of-class activities, as participants have to study and prepare for the state exam for magistrate, notary or lawyer)
- according to Bocconi rules, concurrent enrollment in a program (any kind) offered by another university without mandatory attendance:
 - during the first year of the PhD program it is not possible to be concurrently enrolled in another program as concurrent enrollment would hinder an active and regular participation in the PhD academic activities;
 - if, in the following years, students intended to enroll in another program (while still doing the PhD at Bocconi), they would promptly inform the Program Director so that the PhD Faculty Board can confirm the enrollment in the Bocconi PhD program (if deemed not compatible, which will be the most common case, the student will be asked to opt for one of the two programs).

ANNEX 2: PHD BOCCONI MERIT-BASED FELLOWSHIPS

The amount of the fellowship is subject to INPS contributions (INPS = National Social Security Institute).

Part of contributions is covered by the University (currently 23.35%) and part by the student (currently 11.68%).

The amount of the student fellowship is gross; the part of contributions covered by the student is directly deducted from each monthly gross installment of the fellowship and transferred to INPS.

PhD students must register with INPS, “*gestione separata*”.

Registration with INPS “*gestione separata*” shall be made online at:

<https://www.inps.it/NuovoportaleINPS/default.aspx?iiDServizio=2501>

Information about the credentials for registration can be found on the INPS website:

<https://www.inps.it/NuovoportaleINPS/default.aspx?imenu=111>

Citizens residing abroad who do not have an Italian identification document must refer to this webpage:

Online PIN

In order to complete the registration with the “*gestione separata*”, students must select the option “*se stessi*” and enter their “*codice fiscale*”, then they must select the option “*parasubordinato*” and specify the effective date of their fellowship (1 September yyyy) and enter their personal details (telephone number, etc.).

The fellowship is annual (to be renewed each year) and it officially accrues from September; it is paid out on a monthly basis, at the end of the month. The only exception regards the 1st and 2nd installments that are settled at the end of October.

ANNEX 3: TECHNOLOGY AND DATA PROCESSING: USEFUL INFORMATION

1. Laptop equipment (only for laptops purchased by Bocconi)

- for hardware issues, please contact office.equipment@unibocconi.it;
- for software issues, please contact servicedesk@unibocconi.it or 02 5836 3101, for VPN connection issues, please contact noc@unibocconi.it
- For SW licenses not pre-loaded on the supplied laptop: students shall first apply to the PhD program Director for authorization; then they shall forward the request to software.bocconi@unibocconi.it by including the Director's authorization (together with the name of the PhD program the student belongs to).

2. High Performance Computing services

A dedicated Sharepoint area is available to provide all the information you need ([link](#)).

In any case, for further assistance, please contact hpc@unibocconi.it.

3. cloud storage

- As a general rule, all working documents and data should be stored in Onedrive, Microsoft's cloud service (the official system supplied by Bocconi). For PhD students, a capacity of 100 giga bytes is provided. In the event a larger capacity is required (1 terabyte), students should first apply to the PhD Program Director for authorization and then submit the request (with the Director's authorization attached and the name of the PhD program) to software.bocconi@unibocconi.it;
- If the use of Dropbox is unavoidable for specific research needs, please be aware that any versions (e.g. free version) that involve data storage on non-European servers are not allowed (according to Data Protection Officer instructions) since they are not GPDR-compliant.

4. AI tools

In case of using chat-GPT or other platforms relying on artificial intelligence to process data, please be aware that - according to the Data Protection Officer's instructions - neither data relating to individuals and/or their sensitive data nor data subject to intellectual property rights should be uploaded on such platforms.

A dedicated SharePoint page on the use of AI is available. It provides guidelines and practical information for researchers on the appropriate use of AI tools, including risk

classifications and the types of data that can be used with different AI systems. ([link](#)) For further information, please contact **ainexus@unibocconi.it**.

ANNEX 4: AUTHORIZATION FOR PERIOD ABROAD (STUDENTS WITH AND WITHOUT FELLOWSHIP)

The period abroad must have a duration of at least one month (minimum 28 days). Full months only will be paid.

1st phase (mandatory) – **get the prior authorization for the period abroad:**

- fill out the form “*AUTHORIZATION FOR PERIOD ABROAD*” and have it signed by the mentor or advisor (if already assigned) and by the Curriculum Coordinator (in case of PhD with curricula)
- send it by e-mail in PDF format to PhD School Office
(phdschooloffice@unibocconi.it)
 - a. upon PhD School Office validation (via e-mail), upload the signed form on the “PhD authorizations and funding request” IT tool (together with the invitation letter)

2nd phase (mandatory) – **get the statement of the hosting institution regarding the actual period abroad:**

+ *Students with fellowship*: at the end of the period abroad or at the end of each bimester / month⁴¹,

+ *Students without fellowship*: at the end of the period abroad

- > get a statement, on letterhead, issued and signed by the hosting university/institution stating:
 - > the actual and uninterrupted⁴² period abroad (from dd/mm/yyyy to dd/mm/yyyy)
 - > the activities carried out (research activities and, if any, attended courses/exams passed)
- send it by e-mail in PDF format to PhD School Office.

3rd phase (only if needed) - **get the authorization for an extension of the period abroad:**

- fill out the form (same form and same steps as in 1st phase)

⁴¹ N.B: the payment of the increase will be made at the end of the month which follows the receiving of the statement by the PhD School Office

⁴² As a general rule, periods must be uninterrupted. Exceptionally, one interruption (e.g. for conference attendance) of up to 7 calendar days is allowed every three months. Any interruption must be authorized by the PhD Director (or delegate) and promptly notified to the PhD School Office.

- then go on with the 2nd phase

4th phase (only if needed) - **Inform about early end of the period abroad:**

- send a prompt e-mail to PhD School Office to inform about the early end of the period abroad (with motivation)
- at the end of the period abroad: go on with the 2nd phase

ANNEX 5: AUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING REQUEST TOOL: TYPICAL EXPENSES

1. Types of expenses and related management

A) Expenses with mobility

No need of reimbursement (purchase via MyTico tool⁴³; payment made by Bocconi):

- Travel and accommodation expenses for Conference/Congress/seminar; Summer School/Winter School/Training Course; Visiting Period at other universities and research centers:
request via **“self-booking”** section: possible only **for flight, rail, hotel**;
request via **“assisted mode”** section: necessary for other expenses (Ryanair flights, **ferry transfer, car rental and visa, etc...**).
- **Registration Fees for Conference/Congress/seminar**; request via **“Other services”** section.

With reimbursement (purchase without MyTico tool; payment made by the PhD student /candidate with personal funds):

- Travel and accommodation expenses for Conference/Congress/seminar; Summer School/Winter School/Training Course; Visiting Period at other universities and research centers: e.g. **meals, taxi, underground,**
- **Registration Fees for Summer School/Winter School/Training Course; Visiting Period fees at other universities and research centers.**

NB. Reimbursement can be made for the exact amount in the invoice only (no partial reimbursement is possible).

B) Expenses without mobility (without MyTico):

- **with no need of reimbursement:** e.g. purchase of highly specialized books (Egea); experiments run at BELLS; editorial revision of the PhD thesis; “submission fees”, for publications⁴⁴, purchase of the right to access specific databases⁴⁷. The purchase is made by the PhD Program Officer on behalf of the PhD student / candidate.

⁴³ The login process is managed directly by the Bocconi Single Sign-On framework. When accessing MyTico, please ensure that the email entered in the 'Regime Fiscale' (<https://regimefiscale.unibocconi.it/index.php?lingua=ENG>) field is the **PhD email**. **If it is not, it is necessary to update it in order to be able to operate in MyTico.**

The system requires **one day** to be updated and grant access to MyTico.

⁴⁴ for publications in A+ and A journals only (for info about the list of A+ and A journal, please contact catalogo.ricerca@unibocconi.it, specify that you are a PhD student, and mention in which PhD program you are enrolled)

- **with reimbursement:** e.g.⁴⁵, online experiments, software /cloud storage, membership fees. The purchase is made by the PhD student /candidate.

All travel expenses must comply with the **Bocconi Travel Policy**.

Moreover, before travelling, all risks and threats should be considered and evaluated. Bocconi has partnered with **International SOS** (<https://internationalsos.com>) to provide medical, safety and security advice to outgoing students.

2. Period of funds allocation

Expenses are typically covered through 'study and research activities' funds, and, where applicable, through 'job market' available funds.

However, it is important to consider that:

- **“study and research activities” funds** are available from **September 1st to August 31st** (academic year).

Within the same academic year, funds can be spent according to the recipient's needs (e.g., all in the first semester, all in the second semester, etc.), provided that the total does not exceed 1,650€ per academic year.

Before the end of the academic year, any undrawn funds can be made available to other students.

After the end of the academic year, undrawn funds cannot be carried forward over the following year.

- **Job Market** funds are available from **January 1st to December 31st** (calendar year).

3 . Off-campus activities insight

Departure and return dates for travel should be as close as possible to the authorized off-campus activity dates, as indicated in the official documents (invitation letter, conference program).

The city of departure and arrival for trips ought to be Milan.

Any exceptional personal requests to depart from or arrive at locations other than Milan must be submitted to the PhD Program Officer via the 'PhD AUTHORIZATIONS AND FUNDING REQUEST' tool.

In general, departures from and arrivals to locations other than Milan are authorized if the cost is lower than that of traveling to and from Milan.

If the cost is higher, authorization can be granted only if the traveler agrees to cover the difference at their own expense.

⁴⁵ *If the database is not already available at the Library and it is needed to process relevant and peculiar data (e.g. data that is difficult to find, assembled according to specific criteria) which are needed for the development of the candidate's research project.*

In all cases of departures from and arrivals to cities other than Milan, the PhD student/candidate must contact the PhD Program Officer, who will coordinate with the Travel Center for the necessary authorization.

The time span deemed valid for purposes of insurance coverage and for reimbursement of the costs of meals and accommodation is from maximum one day before and maximum one day after the period related to the authorized off campus activity.

ANNEX 6: TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP (TA) FOR 3-Y, 2-Y AND 5-Y DEGREE PROGRAMS

Description of the activity

Assistance to the professor/instructor

- preparation of supplementary teaching materials; please note that teaching material should be prepared by the Course Director;
- organization and grading of individual and group assignments (outside classroom hours);
- technological support (upload of teaching material on on-line platforms, ...);
- participation in the Examining Boards for written and oral exams (e.g. assessment, questioning...)⁴⁶; the Course Director presides effectively over all exam's activities;
- supervision to written exams, even if he/she does not participate in the Examining Board;
- organization and management of company visits or other extra lectures activities (e.g. testimonials, ...).

Tutorial support to students

Out of class assistance in the activities described below:

- office hours and tutorial support by e-mail (tutorship for assignments, exercises, projects supervision, explanations, support for non-attendant students ...);
- management of on-line communities.

In-class assistance e.g. for lessons that include the use of software or for the discussion of cases.

Application process

At the end of the Spring term, the PhD Programs' Officer contacts the PhD students in order to collect their applications to work as TAs in the following a.y.; applicants' profiles are handed to Departments' Administrative Assistant who share them with the Faculty members who need support for courses activities; selected candidates are contacted by the Dept. directly.

⁴⁶ *It is possible to be a member of the Examining Board provided that the second level degree (MSc /MA) was obtained at least two years earlier*