



BEFINE

Beyond Fine-Grained Complexity

CUP J53C25002160001 - FIS-2024-04061

OVERVIEW of the Program Research interests and Faculty	<p>The PhD program in Statistics and Computer Science at Bocconi University is a 4-year program taught in English that provides students a strong statistical, computational and mathematical background.</p> <p>The program features two curricula: Statistics (STAT) and Computer Science (CS).</p> <p>BEFINE will be carried out within the Computer Science curriculum. In the first year, the program includes both shared and curriculum-specific compulsory courses for all enrolled PhD students.</p> <p>These provide a wide range of theoretical, methodological and computational skills that are essential for research in the Computer Science curriculum. The second year features reading groups and courses taught by international Visiting Professors. Students receive dedicated mentorship throughout their time at Bocconi.</p> <p>The faculty includes internationally recognized leading researchers in Statistics, Computer Science, Machine Learning, Probability, and Statistical Physics. The program also benefits from contributions of distinguished visiting professors who deliver short monographic courses. The PhD in Statistics and Computer Science is designed for highly motivated students aiming to pursue first-rate research careers in academia, research institutes and industry. Career opportunities also extend to central banks, financial institutions, government agencies, international organizations, and public health institutions.</p> <p>For more information about the program, please visit the website: https://www.unibocconi.it/en/programs/phd/phd-statistics-and-computer-science</p>
Opening date	17 th April 2026
Closing date	18 th May 2026
Enrollment date	Refer to Art.9 "Enrollment deadlines" of the Call for details
Available places WITH FELLOWSHIP funded by Fondo Italiano per la Scienza (FIS)	1
Fellowship	€ 27,000 for year 1 and € 23,000 for years 2, 3 and 4.



Starting date	1 st September 2026
Duration	4-year, full-time program
Principal Investigator	Prof. Adam Teodor POLAK
Project overview	This is a project in fine-grained complexity and algorithms. In particular, it aims to draw connections between diverse fine-grained complexity hypotheses, and to extend the theory with beyond-worse-case analysis.
Research objectives	The PhD candidate will work on developing fine-grained reductions between various fundamental computational problems. Such work may also lead to improved algorithms or conditional irreducibility results.
Profile of the candidate	Candidates should have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- strong background in algorithms and data structures, discrete mathematics, linear algebra, and probability;- strong interest in algorithms research. Further desirable qualifications are: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- relevant research experience;- experience in IMO, IOI, ICPC, etc.
Selection Criteria	<p>The assessment is based on a candidate's:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Curriculum Vitae (mandatory);• Academic Records (mandatory);• International Graduate Admission Tests Scores (GMAT or GRE, not mandatory);• Statement of purpose (mandatory);• Up to two reference letters (not mandatory). <p>The assessment criteria are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a maximum of 50 points for the applicant's curriculum vitae and academic records;• a maximum of 10 points for GMAT/GRE score;• a maximum of 40 points for statement of purpose and reference letters. <p>The Admission Board may decide to conduct a brief online interview to clarify aspects of a student's qualifications. No additional points are given to the interview.</p> <p>A minimum total score of 60 points is required to be eligible for admission.</p>
Results	No later than 8 th June 2026
Contact and Technical Support	phdadmission@unibocconi.it http://www.unibocconi.eu/admissionphd