



POLEUROPE

Political Beliefs and European Political Integration

CUP J53C25002480001 - FIS-2024-05869

<p>OVERVIEW of the Program Research interests and Faculty</p>	<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. 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>
<p>Opening date</p>	<p>17th April 2026</p>
<p>Closing date</p>	<p>18th May 2026</p>
<p>Enrollment date</p>	<p>Refer to Art.9 "Enrollment deadlines" of the Call for details</p>
<p>Available places WITH FELLOWSHIP funded by Fondo Italiano per la Scienza (FIS)</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Fellowship</p>	<p>€ 27,000 for year 1 and € 23,000 for years 2, 3 and 4.</p>
<p>Starting date</p>	<p>1st September 2026</p>
<p>Duration</p>	<p>4-year, full-time program</p>
<p>Principal Investigator</p>	<p>Prof. Guido Enrico TABELLINI</p>
<p>Project overview</p>	<p>The project plans to study the formation of political beliefs, with a</p>



	<p>particular focus on attitudes towards European political integration and social identity theory.</p> <p>We plan to investigate through online experiments how to reinforce European vs national identities, and how this affects views towards European integration. We also plan to uncover and compare the narratives and mental models that shape support for and opposition to European political integration. We plan to collect data from surveys, media, political speeches and school textbooks, to understand how narratives and mental models change over time and differ across countries, and how they can be changed through persuasion.</p>
<p>Research objectives</p>	<p>The goal is to identify persuasive narratives and those easier to debunk, providing insights on how to achieve a more effective European political union.</p> <p>Overall, this research will offer new insights on how political beliefs are formed, how propaganda influences them, and on what shapes attitudes towards European political integration.</p> <p>The project will produce several kinds of outputs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. scientific papers, to be submitted for publication in top general interest journals in economics. 2. Data sets on narratives and mental models. 3. Workshops and conference. We will organize some workshops during the entire duration of the project, on the broad topic of the planned research, and a conference to be held towards the end of the project. <p>Besides the scientific impact of the publications, the results of the project will inform policy and political decisions on issues of European political integration</p>
<p>Profile of the candidate</p>	<p>The PhD candidate will contribute to the project, by assisting us in measuring the narratives and mental models shaping public attitudes toward European political integration across countries and over time. The candidate will analyze large textual datasets—including newspaper editorials, parliamentary speeches, educational materials—to identify and compare narratives about European integration. It will also help us conduct AI assisted interviews with a representative sample of European respondents, to measure which mental models are used in thinking about European integration. The research will involve the use of computational methods, including natural language processing and text analysis, to examine how these narratives evolve, differ across political contexts, and influence citizens' beliefs.</p> <p>The ideal candidate will be an expert in computer science, data science, computational social science, possibly with some background economics in economics or other social sciences. Strong programming skills (e.g., Python or similar), familiarity with text analysis and machine learning methods, and an interest in current issues related to European integration are highly desirable.</p>
<p>Selection Criteria</p>	<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