

# CALL FOR STARTUPS 2024-2025

## FAQs

### 1. Who can apply?

The following applicants can propose a business project in the **“Emerging Ideas” category** or a startup in the **“Established Startups” category**: University of Bologna students enrolled in a first or second cycle degree programme; in a professional training programme (first-level or second-level professional master’s programme); at a specialisation school (excluding medical doctors under specialist training pursuant to Legislative Decree 368/99); or University of Bologna graduates who obtained their degree less than 3 years prior to the publication of the Call for applications (i.e. who graduated after 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2021). The Call is also open to students enrolled in Graduate Masters of the University of Bologna coordinated by the Bologna Business School and graduates from the same masters who obtained their degree less than 3 years prior to the publication of the Call for applications (i.e. who graduated after 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2020).

Startups that have been established as legal entities for no more than 2 years can apply in the “Established Startups” category. Sole proprietorships are excluded.

To apply, applicants will need to use their Unibo credentials (email and password). If you have forgotten your credentials, you can ask us to reactivate them upon submitting your application.

The requirements above refer to the applicant only. Team members can be natural or legal persons, both from inside and outside the University of Bologna.

### 2. I do not meet the requirements right now, but I expect to meet them later on. Can I still apply?

No, you must meet the requirements at the time of submitting your application, that is, before the application deadline.

### 3. Can anyone enrolled at or who has graduated from the Bologna Business School in the last 3 years apply?

No, only those who are enrolled at or have graduated in the last 3 years from the Graduate Masters of the University of Bologna coordinated by the Bologna Business School can apply. They need to be in possession of the Unibo credentials, which are essential for logging into the portal and submitting an application. Only those who are in possession of those credentials can apply.

### 4. How many applications can I submit?

The limit of one application only applies to the role of applicant and within the same category of the Call (“Emerging Ideas” or “Established Startups”). This means that an applicant cannot submit more than one project, or the same project, in more than one sub-category within the “Emerging Ideas” category. However, the same person can be an applicant for a team and a member of other teams at the same time. It is also possible to act as the applicant for both a team applying in the “Emerging Ideas” category and a team presenting its business in the “Established Startups” category.

To sum up, the only limitation is that you cannot submit two or more applications as an applicant within the same category of the Call.

**5. What are the Emerging Technologies and ECOSISTER sub-categories?**

These are two ‘special’ sub-categories of the four within the “Emerging Ideas” category. They build on two projects in which the University of Bologna is involved – “Casa delle Tecnologie Emergenti of the Municipality of Bologna (CTE-COBO)”, funded by the Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT), and “Ecosystem for Sustainable Transition in Emilia-Romagna (ECOSISTER)”, funded under Next Generation EU, respectively.

The business ideas that can be presented in these sub-categories must focus on specific themes (see the call for applications and relevant annexes) and will enjoy additional opportunities compared to those in the other sub-categories. The teams concerned will receive further details as soon as they become available.

**6. How do I choose the right sub-category for my emerging idea?**

The four sub-categories within the “Emerging Ideas” category focus on specific themes, as detailed in the call for applications and annexes. A business idea can fall within more than one sub-category – for instance, it could concern the energy transition (ECOSISTER sub-category) and exploit emerging technologies (Emerging Technologies sub-category) at the same time. In that case, the applicant will select the sub-category and theme considered more relevant to their business project. At the proposal of the offices in charge, if the Evaluation Committee considers that a project submitted under a certain sub-category is not relevant to that sub-category, it will be entitled to move it to a different one, without the project being excluded and without penalty in the evaluation.

**7. Are only projects that take place on African soil eligible for StudENT for Africa?**

No, what really matters is that a business idea has the penetration of the African market as its focus. This means that projects that are not based in Africa or only plan to carry out part of their activities directly in that geographical area can be eligible too.

**8. I am a PhD student. Can I apply?**

No, you can’t submit your idea as an applicant in this Call, but you can participate in other business development initiatives promoted by the University; see <https://site.unibo.it/idea/en/our-idea/timeline-for-spin-of>.

**9. How do I retrieve my Unibo credentials?**

Visit the website <https://ricercatm.unibo.it/startupday/index.aspx>.

**10. At what level of development does my business idea need to be?**

Your business idea can be at any stage of development – from just an idea to an ongoing project that already involves other team members and for which a prototype has already been created.

**11. How do I know if my idea has been selected?**

The winners will be published on the website <https://site.unibo.it/idea/en/our-idea/activities-and-initiatives/call-for-start-up> no later than 05 March 2025.

**12. Can someone copy my idea?**

The information contained in the applications will be used by the University of Bologna exclusively for the purposes of this Call and will not be disclosed or made accessible to third parties unless expressly

authorised to do so by the applicant(s), without prejudice to any third parties who need to access the information for the purposes of this Call (including team support through the Call for Players).

**13. Intellectual property**

Having regard to intellectual and industrial property rights, please refer to the provisions of the University of Bologna Regulations on industrial and intellectual property.