



CALL FOR AWARDS OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PARTICIPATION IN OPEN INNOVATION PROJECTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL CBI AND SUGAR PROGRAMMES a.a 2025/2026

In the event of any discrepancy between the notice in the Italian version and the notice in English, the notice in Italian shall prevail.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE CBI AND SUGAR PROGRAMMES

As part of the **CBI (Challenge Based Innovation)** programme (<http://www.cbi-course.com/>), implemented in collaboration with CERN in Geneva, and the international **SUGAR Network** (<https://sugar-network.org/about>) created by Stanford University, the University of Bologna - in collaboration with Almacube and Confindustria Emilia Centro - promotes *Open Innovation* projects and **offers study grants to students to carry out the activities envisaged in the above programmes.**

The initiative is funded through contributions from partner companies that will set a challenge for the students who will work in project teams to create an innovative prototype that meets the needs indicated at the start of the challenge.

The results obtained may lead to an innovation implemented by the partner company or to a project for a new innovative company.

The programme consists of a series of training modules which, taken together, help the students acquire additional and complementary skills.

The experience gained will be recognised in the *Diploma Supplement* and may also count towards the accrual of credits, based on the opinion of the relative degree programme board and subject to the certification of the experience gained, issued by Arin. Recognition within the Diploma Supplement and any credits is only possible if the student does not graduate before the end of the programmes.

The **CBI (Challenge Based Innovation) programme** will take place mainly at the University of Bologna and at the Almalabor and Almacube facilities, and involves 2 mobility periods at CERN in Geneva (CH).

The aim of the **CBI Program** is to apply *human centred design and technology transfer methods* to challenges proposed by partner companies. The approach focuses on stimulating the development of innovative solutions, inspired by CERN technologies that are of value to the companies proposing the challenges. The students will work in multidisciplinary teams, supported by academic staff, researchers and innovation experts and will interact with CERN researchers and partner companies. They will work on innovation challenges in which technologies developed by CERN inspire solutions to address societal needs. The teams consist of 5 to 8 students.

The total time commitment for the CBI programme is approximately 300 hours, spread over 18 weeks.



For the part of the programme carried out in Italy, a part-time commitment of approximately **15 hours per week** is expected. The students will work on the programme twice a week, for a total of 8 hours: a 4-hour group session at the ARIN Almalabor facility in Via Ugo Foscolo 7 established by the program organiser (every Wednesday or Thursday, to be decided), which cannot be changed. Another 4 hours will be chosen by each team together with their coach at the start of the programme, according to the commitments of the team members. These hours are in addition to the time required to carry out the individual work necessary to continue with the activities. The two mobility periods at CERN involve a *full-time* commitment over a cumulative period of 15 days during which the students will carry out activities related to the project review and final presentation. An additional mobility period of up to 6 days in Italy is planned. This will be in close cooperation with the companies and mentors involved. The dates of the mobility periods will be announced at the start of the programme or in any case with sufficient notice.

The SUGAR program will take place mainly at the University of Bologna - Almalabor and Almacube premises, and entails 3 mobility periods at foreign universities.

The aim of the **SUGAR programme** is to apply *human centred design* methods developed in Silicon Valley to find solutions to the challenges presented by the companies. The students will work in multidisciplinary and multicultural teams on innovation challenges. The programme is delivered in tandem with a University of the SUGAR Network (whose team of students will work together with the team of students from the University of Bologna). The students will be supported by teachers, researchers and innovation experts and will be in contact with partner companies. The programme enables students to learn how to create new product concepts through a "needs research-ideation-rapid prototyping" process.

The total time commitment for the programme is approximately 450 hours, spread over 28 weeks. The exact dates of the mobility periods and of the weekly group meeting will be announced during the initial programme kick-off meeting or in any case with sufficient notice.

For the part of the programme carried out in Italy, a part-time commitment of approximately **15 hours per week** is expected. The students will work on the programme twice a week, for a total of 8 hours: a 4-hour group session at the Arin Almalabor facility in Via Ugo Foscolo 7 established by the program organiser (every Wednesday or Thursday, to be decided), which cannot be changed. Another 4 hours will be chosen by each team together with their coach at the start of the programme, according to the commitments of the team members. These hours are in addition to the time required to carry out the individual work necessary to continue with the activities.

During the mobility periods abroad, students will be required to make a full-time commitment. The mobility periods are organised as follows:

Pre kick-off meeting: 1 half-day (to be decided)

1 – *Global Kick Off*: 1 week between October and November 2025 at a foreign university (also outside Europe) that is a partner in the project, to be decided before the start of the programme;

2- *Projects review*: 1 week between December 2025 and March 2026 at another foreign partner university (also non-European), of the project to be defined before the start of the programme

3 - *Final presentation*: 1 week in late May/early June 2026 in Cina or California (TBC).



The two programmes involve the following activities:

1 - *Project kick-off*, during which the challenges proposed by the partner companies are defined and the working methods presented to the teams.

2 - *Understanding the context*: an activity carried out to analyse the target user, the market and the design opportunities. For CBI, the team will aim to identify new opportunities and unmet needs and to link them to possibilities offered by CERN technologies and the experts at the international research centre. In addition, vertical training days are planned on specific topics and technologies. For SUGAR, the team will seek to identify new opportunities and unmet needs and to reformulate the challenge from a user perspective. In both programmes, the research phase will include the following activities: further investigation of the context and users; market research; identification of users' needs, wonderings, problems and frustrations; identification of all stakeholders and their interests, testing of initial hypotheses.

3 - *Summary and Abstraction*: activity aimed at summarising the information gathered during the previous phases, in order to identify the most promising project characteristics and to develop an innovative solution based on real and original needs and problems. During this phase, the team will interact with the partner company.

4 - *Project Review*: meeting with the CERN researchers (CBI Programme) or meeting with the international team of partner universities (SUGAR Programme) to discuss the progress made and to plan future work.

5 - *Ideation*: activity aimed at gaining further knowledge of the design space and of the user through the rapid and interactive prototyping of different ideas and through potential project developments in order to gradually arrive at the final concept solution. Through multiple interactions, the team generates many prototypes to test and validate the design hypotheses to achieve a final solution that truly meets the needs and requirements of the users.

6 - *Solution*: after a number of prototypes and testing activities carried out with the users and suppliers during the process, the team will develop a final solution in the form of a detailed prototype that integrates desirability, feasibility and profitability.

7 - *Presentation of the final solution*: presentation of final solutions by student teams with partner organisations and companies.

The start dates of the programmes will be sent by e-mail to the participant's university e-mail address (@studio.unibo.it).

2. AVAILABLE GRANTS

The following grants are available for the above initiatives:

- up to N. 36 competitive study grants in order to cover mobility costs amounting to €1000.00 gross each for the CBI Programme - at CERN in Geneva - which will take place between October 2025 and March 2026.

- up to N. 24 competitive study grants in order to cover mobility costs amounting to €2,800.00 gross each for the SUGAR/ME310 Programme - which will take place between October 2025 and June 2026.

The number of grants to be awarded is subject to confirmation at the start of each cooperation



project with the partner companies. Fulfilment of this condition will be verified before the start of the activities.

The above amounts will be disbursed if it is possible to carry out the planned trips, taking into account the national and international health regulations in force.

Mobility costs during the periods spent abroad are understood to include, for example, food, accommodation, travel, local transport, health insurance. Regional mobility costs during the part of the project carried out in Italy include, for example, transport costs to travel to the companies or Universities in the region in order to meet with and interview users or experts.

The grant may also be paid in a single instalment after the date of departure for the mobility period abroad. If the student does not participate in one or more mobility periods abroad during the scheduled period, he or she will be required to repay the sums already received for the periods not carried out. He/she will also no longer be eligible to apply again in the event of a subsequent call for applications being published.

If, after the grant has been awarded, circumstances arise that would prevent the grant being used (e.g. maternity, serious and documented illness), the person concerned must declare these circumstances and provide appropriate documentation, and will be eligible to reapply in the event of a subsequent call for applications.

The amount of the study grant may be reduced if it is not possible to complete the mobility period abroad due to the possible continuation of the health emergency.

3. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to students of the University of Bologna who, at the time of application, **are enrolled for the academic year 2025/2026 in:**

- **the first or second year of a second cycle degree programme**
- **the fourth or fifth year of a single cycle degree programme with a duration of 5 years**
- **the fifth or sixth year of a single cycle degree programme with a duration of 6 years**

Students in the final year of a first-cycle degree programme, including from other Universities, can also participate, as long as they are enrolled in the first year of a second-cycle degree programme at UNIBO, also if subject to obtaining an undergraduate degree qualification.

The administration will carry out the relevant checks in good time. Candidates who have not obtained the qualification by the deadline will be immediately eliminated from the selection procedure, even if they have already been enrolled and ranked according to merit.

Candidates must be enrolled at the University of Bologna for the entire duration of the project, until its conclusion, for the course to be recognised in the Diploma Supplement and for credits to be awarded.



Candidates must be able to **demonstrate their knowledge of English**, which is the official language of the programmes. This requirement will be verified during the interview with the evaluation committee. Those who have already participated in the CBI and SUGAR Programmes in previous years may not apply.

4. APPLICATION

Applications must be submitted using the online form available at <https://studenti.unibo.it> – in the "Call" section - **no later than Friday 5th September 2025 at 12:00 (midday)**. The name of the call is "Open Innovation Program 2025/26".

N.B.: *If according to the rules of the Master's Degree Course in which the student intends to enrol, matriculation is possible only after graduation (and therefore "sub condicione" matriculation is not possible), the online system will not allow you to submit your application. In this specific case, it will be possible to send the application by email to oper.space@unibo.it instead of via Studenti Online, attaching all the required documentation to the email.*

Applications must include a curriculum vitae (indicating the degree awarded and the relative classification or the weighted average of the grades achieved in the exams taken during the degree programme) and a link to a video presentation, in English only, of no more than 2 minutes, outlining the candidate's reasons for applying. Special equipment is not required to make the video: a simple *smartphone* equipped with a camera will sufficient.

Upon receipt of your application, you will be assigned an ID that will be displayed on your personal page on *Studenti Online*.

Students admitted to the interview are requested to present themselves with an identification document.

Further information can be obtained by sending an email to oper.space@unibo.it

5. SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHODS

The selection procedure consists of 3 steps:

- a) assessment of the candidates' *curricula vitae*, their presentation videos and qualifications, for which up to 30 points are available;
- b) group assessment, for which up to 30 points are available;
- c) individual interview, which will also test the candidate's knowledge of the English language, for which up to 40 points are available.

An initial assessment will be carried out of the candidates' CVs, presentation video, and qualifications. Candidates who are considered eligible will be invited to take part in a **group assessment activity**, which will take place **between September 16th and September 19th 2025**, at a



time to be decided. The exact date of the group test will be communicated to candidates by e-mail within September the 12th.

Candidates who are considered eligible after the group test will be invited to an **individual interview** to be held **between September 23rd and September 25th 2025**, at a time to be decided. All communications to successful students, following the various assessments, will be sent to their university e-mail address (@studio.unibo.it).

The assessment of the curricula vitae, presentation videos and qualifications, the group assessment and the individual interview are designed to evaluate the characteristics and motivations of the candidates in relation to the specificities of the CBI and SUGAR programmes.

The programmes are interdisciplinary. Therefore, the disciplinary heterogeneity of the students will be encouraged. Verification that the candidates meet the requirements for admission to the programme will take place at the end of the selection procedure.

If an insufficient number of candidates are deemed suitable by the Award Committee, the available places will not be filled.

6. AWARD COMMITTEE

The Evaluation Committee is composed of the following members, who are experts in the field of innovation: Matteo Vignoli (Department of Management); Valentina Iadarola and Lorenzo Sabatino (Innovation Area); Lucia Monti and Alessandro Cacace (Almacube). In the event of the permanent members being unavailable, the following substitutes are appointed: Romina Veronica G. Kniaz (Innovation Area) and Elena Colombo (Almacube).

7. RANKING LIST

The ranking list will be published within **October the 7th, 2025** on the website <https://site.unibo.it/idea/en>.

Successful candidates will be notified by email to their university e-mail address (@studio.unibo.it) provided in the application.

Successful candidates must confirm their acceptance within three days of the publication of the ranking list. Those who do not confirm their acceptance by the deadline will be automatically and irrevocably removed from the list without further notice. However, following the publication of the ranking list and the acceptance of the successful candidates, some successful candidates may be re-selected after the ranking list has been shortlisted. In this case, the successful candidate will be notified exclusively by e-mail to their university e-mail address (@studio.unibo.it) by 30 of October. Candidates are strongly advised to also check the spam/unwanted e-mail folders of their email account.

8. INSURANCE AND START OF ACTIVITIES



Students will be provided with insurance cover from the time of payment of the enrolment fee until the completion of their studies.

The decision of the ARIN manager constitutes the formal authorisation of the Head of the Facility to guarantee the insurance cover of the grant holders and eligible students during their travel and stay abroad. Students of the University are automatically insured if they are properly enrolled.

9. OBLIGATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

Successful candidates will be required to:

- attend the initial programme kick-off meeting
- work on the Project in accordance with the relative specifications and the commitments envisaged for each programme
- at the end of the programme, produce a final report on the activities carried out
- present the solution at the relevant partner company/organisation, if requested by the company
- present the project/solution at one or two events to disseminate the results at the end of the programme (e.g. Startup Day 2026)

These activities are part of the programme and failure to complete them will be interpreted as failure by the student to complete the programme.

10. FORFEITURE OF BENEFITS

In all cases of termination of the course of study, i.e. for transfer out, withdrawal from studies, forfeiture of studies, the student will be obliged to give timely notice and will see the right to the benefit of the grant forfeited, with the obligation to return the amount received in accordance with the procedures that will be indicated.

11. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

With regard to confidentiality and intellectual property rights on any products that may be produced during the programme that is the subject of this selection procedure, the relevant provisions of the University Regulations shall apply (Art.5). In particular, the results obtained in the context of this Call are the property of the University.

12. PRIVACY PROTECTION

The personal data provided by the applicant will be processed by the University of Bologna in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679.



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It is compulsory to provide the personal data indicated in this call for applications and in the attached forms in order to participate in the procedure and any carry out any subsequent operations.

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

1. the data controller is the Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna with administrative offices in via Zamboni, 33 – 40126 – Bologna
2. the data processor is the Manager of the Innovation Area (Dott.ssa Alice Corradi - via Zamboni, 33 - 40126 - Bologna)

The complete and updated list of Data Processors can be obtained by writing to privacy@unibo.it or by contacting the Data Processor mentioned above. The procedures for the processing of personal data are available in the information notice published on the University portal (<https://www.unibo.it/it/ateneo/privacy-e-note-legali/privacy/>).

RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE OPERATION As per art. 4, 7 and 8 of law 241 dated 7 August 1990 (New norms governing administrative procedure and right of access to administrative documents) the person in charge of the operation is the manager of the Innovation Division, Dr. Alice Corradi. Candidates may exercise their right of access to competition proceedings, as foreseen under existing law. Claims should be addressed to the KTO New Entrepreneurship Unit, Via Ugo Foscolo 7, Bologna, filling in the form which the Unit will provide.

Data protection Information pursuant to Art. 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR) Pursuant to Art. 13 of Legislative Decree 196/2003 (hereinafter the 'Privacy Code') and Art. 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (hereinafter the 'GDPR 2016/679'), containing provisions on the protection of persons and other subjects with regard to the processing of personal data, the personal data provided will be processed in compliance with the above-mentioned legislation and confidentiality obligations

(IN ITALIAN) Diritti dell'interessato ai sensi dell'art. 7 del D.Lgs. 196/2003 e degli artt. 15 - 22 del Regolamento UE n. 2016/679 L'interessato in ogni momento ha diritto di: a) chiedere la conferma dell'esistenza o meno di propri dati personali; b) ottenere le indicazioni circa le finalità del trattamento, le categorie dei dati personali, i destinatari o le categorie di destinatari a cui i dati personali sono stati o saranno comunicati e, quando possibile, il periodo di conservazione; c) ottenere la rettifica e la cancellazione dei dati; d) ottenere la limitazione del trattamento; e) ottenere la portabilità dei dati, ossia riceverli da un titolare del trattamento, in un formato strutturato, di uso comune e leggibile da dispositivo automatico, e trasmetterli ad un altro titolare



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del trattamento senza impedimenti; f) opporsi al trattamento in qualsiasi momento ed anche nel caso di trattamento per finalità di marketing diretto; g) chiedere al titolare del trattamento l'accesso ai dati personali e la rettifica o la cancellazione degli stessi o la limitazione del trattamento che lo riguardano o di opporsi al loro trattamento, oltre al diritto alla portabilità dei dati; h) revocare il consenso in qualsiasi momento senza pregiudicare la liceità del trattamento basata sul consenso prestato prima della revoca; i) proporre reclamo a un'autorità di controllo.

Signed electronically
Head of Innovation Area
Alice Corradi