



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
INNOVATION DIVISION

## CALL FOR THE AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR PARTICIPATION IN OPEN INNOVATION PROJECTS UNDER THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS CBI AND SUGAR 2023/20234

### 1. DESCRIPTION OF THE CBI AND SUGAR PROGRAMS

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

The initiative will be funded through contributions from partner companies that will set a challenge for the students who, working in project teams, will seek to create an innovative prototype that meets the needs identified at the start of the challenge presented.

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

The experience comprises a set of training modules that altogether serve to help students gain collateral and supplementary 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 degree programme board of the participant** requesting it and subject to certification of the experience gained, issued by Almacube and Arin. The **CBI (Challenge Based Innovation) programme** will take place mainly at the University of Bologna and the Almalabor and Almacube premises and entails 2 mobility periods in CERN in Geneva (CH). The goal of the **CBI Program** is the application of *human centered design and technology transfer methods* to challenges launched by partner companies. The approach is focused on stimulating the development of innovative solutions, inspired by CERN technologies and that represents a value to the companies launching the challenges. Students work in multidisciplinary teams supported by faculty, researchers and innovation experts, interacting with CERN researchers and partner companies. They tackle innovation challenges in which technologies developed at CERN inspire solutions to address societal needs. The teams are composed of between 5 and 8 students.

During the activities of the program in Italy, a part-time commitment of about **15 hours per week** is required. The students will have scheduled work on the program twice a week, for a total of 8 hours: a 4 hours group session to be established by the program organiser (every Tuesday or Wednesday, to be defined), which cannot be changed; another 4 hours, to be chosen by each team together with their coach at the start of the program, based on the agenda of the team members. In addition to these hours, every student has to add the time required to perform the individual work necessary to continue with all the activities. The two mobility periods in CERN entail a *full-time* commitment over a cumulative period of 15 days during which the students will carry out activities



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
INNOVATION DIVISION

related to the project view and final presentation. A further mobility period of up to 6 days in Italy is envisaged, in close connection with the companies and mentors.

**The total time commitment for the CBI programme is around 300 hours**, spread out over 18 weeks. The dates of the mobility periods will be communicated at the start of the programme or in any case with adequate advance notice.

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

The goal of the **SUGAR program** is the application of *human centred design* methods developed in Silicon Valley with a view to finding solutions to the challenges proposed 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 experts in innovation, interacting with the partner companies. The programme enables students to learn how to create new product concepts through a “needs research-ideation-rapid prototyping” process.

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

- 1 - Program *kick-off*: 1 week in October 2023 in Bologna - Italy;
- 2 - *Projects review*: 1 week between December 2023 and March 2024 at a foreign university (including outside of Europe) that is a partner in the project, to be defined prior to the start of the program;
- 3 - *Final presentation*: 1 week at the end of May/beginning of June 2024 at San Francisco - California, or Kyoto - Japan.

**The total time commitment for the programme is around 450 hours**, spread out over 28 weeks.

The exact dates of the mobility periods and of the weekly group meeting will be communicated during the initial programme kick-off meeting or in any case with adequate advance notice.

The two programmes entail the following activities:

- 1 - *Project kick-off*, during which the challenges proposed by the partner companies are defined and the work methods are shown to the teams.
- 2 - *Understanding the context*: activity performed in order to analyse the target user, the market and the design opportunities. For CBI, the team will aim to discover new opportunities and unsatisfied needs, connecting them to opportunities dictated by CERN technologies and experts from the international research center. In addition, there will be vertical training days on any specific issues and technologies. For SUGAR, the team will aim to discover new opportunities and unsatisfied needs, seeking to reformulate the challenge through the eyes of the users themselves. In both programs, the research phase will entail the following activities: further investigation of the context

**New Entrepreneurship Unit**

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ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA  
INNOVATION DIVISION

and users; market research; identification of the needs, desires, problems and frustrations of users; identification of all the stakeholders involved and their interests; test the initial hypotheses.

3 - *Summary and Abstraction*: activity that entails summarising the information gathering during the preceding phases, in order to identify the most promising project characteristics, and developing an innovative solution based on real and original needs and problems. During this phase, the team will have to 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) in order to discuss the research 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 various ideas and through potential project developments, with a view to gradually arriving at the final concept solution. Through multiple interactions, the team generates many prototypes to test and validate the design hypotheses, with a view to reaching a final solution that actually meets the needs and demands of the user.

6 - *Solution*: after several 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 which integrates desirability, feasibility and profitability.

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

**The beginning date of the Programs will be notified via e-mail to the participants.**

## 2. AVAILABLE GRANTS

For the above initiatives, the following grants are available:

- up to N. 36 study grants to assist in covering the mobility costs amounting to €1000,00 gross each for the CBI Programme - at the CERN in Geneva - which will take place between October 2023 and February 2024.

- up to N. 24 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 2023 and June 2024.

***The number of grants to be provided is subject to confirmation of the start of the individual collaboration projects with the partner companies. Satisfaction of this condition will be verified prior to starting the activities.***

The aforementioned sums will be disbursed provided that it is possible to make the planned trips, taking into account the national and international provisions in force concerning health protection.

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

The grant may be disbursed in a single payment also after the date of departure to undertake the mobility period abroad. If the grant recipient does not participate in one or more mobility periods abroad during the period envisaged, he or she will be required to return the sums already received

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for the periods not undertaken. Furthermore, he or she will no longer be eligible to reapply in the event that a subsequent notice of selection is issued.

If, following the award of the grant, circumstances arise that would prevent the grant being used (e.g., maternity, serious and documented illness), the person concerned must communicate said circumstances, providing adequate documentation, and will be eligible to reapply in the event that a subsequent notice of selection is issued.

The amount of the study grant may be reduced in the event that it is not possible to undertake 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 applying, **are enrolled for the 2023/2024 academic year 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, provided that they are enrolled on the first year of a UNIBO second-cycle degree programme also if *subject to obtaining the undergraduate degree qualification ("sub condizione")*.**

The Administration will perform the relative checks in a timely manner. Candidates who do not obtain the qualification by said date will be immediately excluded from the selection procedure, even if already enrolled and ranked according to merit.

**Candidates must be enrolled at the University of Bologna for the entire duration of the project.**

Since participants must maintain their student status, the programme is not open to students who plan to graduate prior to the end of the programme.

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

### 4. APPLICATION

The application (see facsimile Annex 1) must be submitted using the online form available at the link <https://studenti.unibo.it> - "Call" section, **by and no later than 23:59 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023**. The name of the call is "*Open Innovation Program 2023/24*".

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

The application 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, which must be **exclusively in English**, of a maximum duration of 2 minutes, outlining the candidate's reasons for applying (no special equipment is necessary to make the video: a simple *smartphone* equipped with a video camera is sufficient).

Upon receipt of the application, an ID will be assigned which can be viewed on your personal page on *Studenti Online*.

Students invited for interview are reminded that they must bring an identity document with them. Further information may be obtained by writing an email to [oper.space@unibo.it](mailto:oper.space@unibo.it)

## 5. SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHODS

The selection process entails 3 steps:

- a) assessment of the candidates' curricula vitae, their presentation video 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 verify the candidate's knowledge of the English language, for which up to 40 points are available;

An initial assessment will be performed of the candidates' resumes, presentation videos, and qualifications. Candidates who are deemed suitable will be called to take part in a **group assessment activity**, which will be held **between September 13th and September 18th 2023**, at times to be determined. The exact date of the group test will be communicated to candidates via email.

Students found eligible following the group test will take an **individual interview** to be held **between September 18th and September 22nd 2023**, at times to be determined. The exact date of the interview will be communicated to candidates via email.

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

The programmes are interdisciplinary. The aim will therefore be to foster the disciplinary heterogeneity of the students. Verification that the candidates meet the requirements for admission to the programme will take place upon conclusion of the selection procedure.

In the event that a sufficient number of candidates is not deemed eligible by the Award Committee, the available places will not be filled.

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## 6. AWARD COMMITTEE

The Award Committee is composed of the following members, who are experts in innovation: Matteo Vignoli (Department of Management); Valentina Iadarola and Massimiliano Fraulini (Innovation Area); Mario Di Nauta and Eleonora Musca (Almacube). In the event that the permanent members are unavailable, the following substitutes are designated: Lucia Monti e Alessandro Cacace (Almacube).

## 7. RANKING LIST

The ranking list will be published by or before 27th September 2023 on the website <https://site.unibo.it/idea/en>.

Successful candidates will be notified through an email sent to the institutional account (@studio.unibo.it) provided in the application.

**Candidates must notify possible renunciation by September 28th, 2023 1:00 p.m.**, to ensure the possible sliding of the ranking list. Any reserves will be contacted by September 30th. Candidates are urged to also check the spam/unwanted email folders in their email account.

## 8. INSURANCE AND START OF ACTIVITIES

Students will benefit from insurance cover provided as of payment of the enrolment fee and in effect until the award of the degree qualification.

The orders of the AFORM/ARIN managers shall constitute formal authorisation of the Head of the Structure for the purposes of guaranteeing the insurance cover of the grant recipients and eligible students during their travel and stay abroad. Students of the University will automatically be insured provided that they are properly enrolled.

## 9. OBLIGATIONS OF THE SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES

Successful candidates must:

- participate in the initial programme kick-off meeting;
- work on the Project in compliance with the relative specifications and the commitments envisaged for each program;
- keep a diary of the activities carried out and the hours spent on the program;
- upon completion of the programme, produce a final report on the activities performed;
- present the solution at the partner company/organization, if requested by the company.
- present the project/solution at one or two results dissemination events, following the closing of the programs (e.g. Startup Day 2024)

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

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If a student decides to withdraw from the programme, he or she must promptly communicate said intention and return any grant received in accordance with the procedures that will be specified.

## 10. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

With regard to confidentiality and intellectual property rights over any products that may be produced during the programme with which this selection procedure is concerned, the relative provisions of the University Regulations shall apply. In particular, the results generated in the context of this Notice of selection are the property of the University.

## 11. 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.

The provision of personal data indicated in this competition announcement and in the attached forms is mandatory for the purposes of participation in the procedure and any consequential operation.

The University may also process applicants' personal data in order to process or 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 study. 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 headquarters in via Zamboni, 33 – 40126 – Bologna;
2. the manager of the data processing is the Manager of the Innovation Area (Dott.ssa Alice Corradi - via Zamboni, 33 - 40126 - Bologna);

The complete and updated list of Data Processors is available by writing to [privacy@unibo.it](mailto:privacy@unibo.it) or by contacting the aforementioned Data Processor. 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/>).

Signed electronically  
Head of Innovation Area  
Alice Corradi