



Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca
Alta Formazione Artistica, Musicale e Coreutica
Conservatorio di Musica "Giovann Battista Martini" di Bologna

Decree no. 2141

Protocol no. 9251 of 02.10.2026

**Activation of the 42nd cycle of the AFAM Ph.D. Program for the 2026/2027 Academic Year
and authorization to publish the corresponding call for applications**

THE PRESIDENT AND THE DIRECTOR

GIVEN the Law No. 508 of December 21, 1999, as amended and supplemented;

GIVEN the Presidential Decree (D.P.R.) No. 132 of February 28, 2003, containing criteria for the statutory, regulatory, and organizational autonomy of AFAM institutions;

GIVEN the Statute of the "G.B. Martini" Conservatory of Music in Bologna and, in particular, Articles 13, 14, 16, and 17, concerning the powers of the President, the Director, the Board of Administration, and the Academic Council;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 470 of February 21, 2024, containing regulations governing the accreditation of PhD programs at AFAM institutions;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 544 of March 27, 2024, concerning the amount of the PhD scholarship;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 778 of June 12, 2024, approving the ANVUR Guidelines for the accreditation of AFAM PhD programs;

GIVEN the Regulations governing the Conservatory's PhD programs, approved by Directorial Decree No. 1957 of February 4, 2026, Ref. No. 1206/2026;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 927 of June 26, 2026, setting forth the criteria for the allocation of resources to state AFAM institutions for PhD scholarships for the years 2026–2031;



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GIVEN the MUR memorandum dated July 22, 2026, protocol no. 1475, according to which the annual allocation of resources is to be established by a subsequent order of the competent Directorate General, within thirty days of the conclusion of the accreditation process;

CONSIDERING that the Conservatory intends to ensure the continuity of its advanced training programs in research by launching, for the 2026–2027 Academic Year, the 42nd cycle of the PhD program "Musical Universes and Sound Architectures: Sources, Spaces, Instruments, and Performative, Interpretive, and Technological Practices";

CONSIDERING that, at this time, the Academic Council and the Board of Administration have not yet adopted resolutions regarding the launch of the program and the determination of enrollment positions and scholarships;

NOTING that the selection process sets October 30, 2026, as the deadline for submitting applications and the course, in accordance with the Internal Regulations, begins on January 1, 2027;

NOTING therefore the need to proceed without further delay with the publication of the call for applications, in order to ensure that potential candidates have a reasonable period of time to submit their applications and to allow for the subsequent orderly conduct of the selection process;

CONSIDERING that postponing publication until the first available meetings of the collegial bodies could jeopardize adherence to the timeline required to launch the 42nd cycle and could harm the institutional interest in the timely launch of the PHD program;

HAVING RESOLVED, therefore, in light of the aforementioned exceptional and urgent circumstances, that it is appropriate to jointly adopt a provisional and precautionary measure, strictly aimed at enabling the selection process to begin, while expressly reserving the powers of the Academic Council and the Board of Administration;

CONSIDERING that the announcement of no. 4 positions with scholarships does not, at this time, entail a definitive obligation on the part of the Conservatory, since the actual creation of the positions and the awarding of the scholarships are expressly contingent upon the successful completion of the accreditation procedures and the actual allocation and availability of ministerial funds;



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HAVING RESOLVED to submit this resolution, within the scope of their respective jurisdictions, to the Academic Council and the Board of Administration for ratification at the next available meeting;

HEREBY DETERMINE

1. to approve, on an urgent basis and with provisional effect until the competent collegial bodies have made their decisions, the launch for the 2026/2027 Academic Year of the 42nd cycle of the AFAM PhD program entitled "Musical Universes and Sound Architectures: Sources, Spaces, Instruments, and Performative, Interpretive, and Technological Practices," with a duration of three years and its administrative headquarters at the "G.B. Martini" Conservatory of Music in Bologna;
2. to approve, for the sole purpose of immediately launching the selection process, the call for applications attached to this resolution as an integral and essential part thereof, offering no. 4 positions with scholarships;
3. to establish that the actual launch of the program, the admission of successful candidates, and the awarding of scholarships remain contingent upon the favorable outcome of the procedures under the jurisdiction of the MUR and the ANVUR and, with regard to scholarships funded with ministerial resources, upon the adoption of the award resolution and the actual availability of the respective resources in favor of the Conservatory;
4. to clarify that this measure does not entail, prior to the fulfillment of the conditions set forth in the preceding paragraph and the decisions of the competent collegial bodies, the undertaking of definitive obligations to be borne by the Conservatory's budget;
5. to authorize the immediate publication of the call for applications and its attachments on the Conservatory's official website, without prejudice to any other form of publicity required by applicable law;
6. to expressly reserve the powers of the Academic Council with regard to the planning of educational, scientific, and research activities, and those of the Board of Administration with regard to economic, financial, and budgetary matters;



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7. to submit this resolution and the attached call for applications, within the scope of their respective jurisdictions, to the Academic Council and the Board of Administration for ratification at their first available meetings;

8. to acknowledge that, should one of the competent collegial bodies not ratify this measure or introduce amendments incompatible with the continuation of the procedure, the necessary decisions will be adopted promptly, in accordance with the positions that have been established in the meantime and without prejudice to the parties concerned;

9. to arrange for the publication of this resolution on the institutional website, together with the call for applications, in accordance with applicable regulations.

Annex A: Public Call for Applications for Admission to the AFAM PhD program, 42nd cycle, Academic Year 2026/2027.

The President
(Prof. Massimiliano Marzo)

The Director
(M° Aurelio Zarrelli)



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Annex A

**Public Call for Applications for Admission to the PhD programs
(42nd cycle — Academic Year 2026/2027)**

GIVEN the Law No. 508 of December 21, 1999, as amended and supplemented;

GIVEN the Presidential Decree (D.P.R.) No. 132 of February 28, 2003;

GIVEN the Presidential Decree (D.P.R.) No. 212 of July 8, 2005;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 470 of February 21, 2024, containing regulations governing the accreditation of PhD programs at AFAM institutions;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 544 of March 27, 2024, which sets the annual amount of the PhD scholarship at 16,243.00 euros, before social security contributions borne by the recipient;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 778 of June 12, 2024, approving the ANVUR Guidelines for the accreditation of AFAM PhD programs;

GIVEN the Statute of the "G.B. Martini" Conservatory of Music in Bologna;

GIVEN the Conservatory's Academic Regulations adopted by Directorial Decree No. 846 of June 21, 2024;

GIVEN the Regulations governing the Conservatory's PhD programs, approved by Directorial Decree No. 1957 of February 4, 2026, Ref. No. 1206/2026;

GIVEN the Ministerial Decree (D.M.) No. 927 of June 26, 2026, setting forth the criteria for the allocation of resources to state AFAM institutions for PhD scholarships for the years 2026–2031;

GIVEN the MUR memorandum dated July 22, 2026, protocol no. 1475, according to which the annual allocation of resources is to be established by a subsequent order of the competent Directorate General, within thirty days of the conclusion of the accreditation process;

CONSIDERING that, as of the date of issuance of this call for applications, the resolution allocating funds to the Conservatory for scholarships for the 2026/2027 academic year has not yet been adopted;

HAVING RESOLVED that the selection process may be initiated whilst awaiting the conclusion of the accreditation process and the ministerial allocation, thereby subjecting the actual launch of the course and the awarding of scholarships to the conditions set forth in this call for applications;



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DECREES

Art. 1 – Announcement, Duration, Positions, and Conditions for Effectiveness

A competitive selection process based on qualifications and an interview has been announced for admission to the AFAM PhD program for the 42nd cycle, academic year 2026/2027, titled "Musical Universes and Sound Architectures: Sources, Spaces, Instruments, and Performative, Interpretive, and Technological Practices," with its administrative headquarters at the "G.B. Martini" Conservatory of Music in Bologna.

The program lasts three years. The activities are legally and administratively effective as of January 1, 2027, in accordance with the Conservatory's Regulations on Doctoral Programs. Upon completion of the program, and after passing the final exam, the degree of Doctor of Research (Dott. Ric./PhD) is conferred.

No. 4 positions with scholarships are available. The actual awarding of scholarships funded by ministerial resources is subject to the adoption of the MUR regulation on the allocation of resources for the year 2026 and to the actual availability of funding in favour of the Conservatory.

The actual launch of the 42nd cycle and the subsequent admission of the successful candidates are also subject to the positive outcome of the reviews and procedures conducted by the MUR and ANVUR. In the event of failure to obtain accreditation, failure to allocate resources, or any other impediment, the Conservatory will not proceed, in whole or in part, with the establishment of the positions in question, and participation in the selection process does not confer any right to admission or to the award of a scholarship.

The number of scholarships may be increased if, following the publication of the call for applications, additional funding is definitively secured. The additional scholarships will be awarded to eligible candidates in order of their ranking, by decree of the Director, upon the recommendation of the PhD Board, within the limits and in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, paragraph 6, of the Regulations.

Art. 2 – Admission Requirements

Applications may be submitted — regardless of age or citizenship — by those who, as of the application deadline, hold one of the following qualifications:

- a) Second-Level Academic Diploma issued by institutions belonging to the AFAM (High Artistic and Musical Education) sector;
- b) AFAM Diploma obtained under the previous system (i.e. *vecchio ordinamento*, pre-reform degree system), together with the High School Diploma;
- c) Master's degree or specialised university degree;
- d) a university degree requiring at least four years of study, achieved in accordance with the degree system in effect prior to Ministerial Decree (D.M.) 509/1999;
- e) eligible foreign degree.

Those who obtain the required degree by the deadline for enrollment in the course are also eligible to participate. They are admitted conditionally; failure to obtain the degree by that deadline will result in the revocation of their admission.



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If the candidate holds a degree obtained abroad, they must provide the reference details of the certification of recognition or declare that they have submitted, by the application deadline specified in the call for applications, the related request for recognition for the purpose of participating in the competitive selection process, in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 of Legislative Decree No. 165 of March 30, 2001, and applicable regulations. In the latter case, the candidate is admitted conditionally.

The candidate must submit substitute statements regarding compliance with the requirements set forth in Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000. The Conservatory may conduct verifications at any stage of the procedure. False statements will result in the consequences provided for in Articles 75 and 76 of the same Presidential Decree.

Anyone who has already received — even partially — a scholarship to attend a PhD program at a university or AFAM institution is not eligible to receive another PhD scholarship.

Art. 3 – Request for Admission and Documentation

Applications must be submitted no later than 11:59 p.m. on October 30, 2026, using the form attached to this call for applications and sending it exclusively via certified email (PEC) to conservatoriobologna@pec.it. Applications submitted by any other means or after the deadline will not be considered.

The following documents must be attached to the application in PDF format:

- a) a valid photo ID or identification document;
- b) a dated and signed résumé;
- c) self-certification of Italian academic qualifications and other qualifications eligible for consideration;
- d) research project in Italian, prepared in accordance with the guidelines in the annexed form [●];
- e) any documentation relating to foreign qualifications, accompanied, if necessary, by a translation into Italian or English;
- f) receipt of payment of the admission fee;
- g) any additional documents required by the annexes to the call for proposals.

A non-refundable application fee of 30.00 euros is required and must be paid by the deadline via PagoPA using the institutional link provided in the application form.

It is the applicant's responsibility to promptly report any changes to the contact information provided in the application. The Conservatory is not liable for any errors resulting from inaccurate information provided by the applicant or from transmission issues not attributable to its own systems.

Candidates with disabilities as defined by Law No. 104/1992 or with specific learning disabilities (SLD) as defined by Law No. 170/2010 may request the necessary assistance and/or additional time by attaching appropriate documentation and submitting their request in accordance with the procedures set forth in Annex [●], by the deadline specified therein.

Art. 4 – Selection Committee and Public Disclosure of Records

The Selection Committee is appointed by decree of the Director, within ten days following the deadline for applications, based on nominations approved by the PhD Board, together with the list of substitute members. It consists of a minimum of three and a maximum of five members selected from Italian and foreign university faculty and AFAM institutions, who are qualified in scientific and



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artistic fields consistent with the program's educational objectives. It may be supplemented by no more than two experts, in accordance with Article 10, paragraph 4, of the Regulations.

At the first meeting, before proceeding with the evaluation, the Commission shall determine and record in the minutes — in accordance with the criteria already established in this call for applications — the eligibility criteria and the procedures for assigning scores.

The appointment decree, the list of candidates admitted to the interview, the schedule, the results, and any other communications regarding the procedure are published in the designated section of the institutional website www.consbo.it. This publication serves as official notification to the interested parties, except in cases where the call for applications provides for individual notifications.

Art. 5 – Selection Procedure and Evaluation

The selection process consists of an evaluation of academic qualifications and an interview, for a maximum total score of 60 points, in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 6, subparagraph c), of the Regulations governing PhD Programs.

The evaluation of qualifications is expressed on a scale of 30 points and covers the applicant's academic/university background, additional educational training, and artistic, teaching, professional, and research experience, as well as any scientific or artistic publications and the research project submitted. Prior to the evaluation, the Committee allocates the 30 points among these categories and records the criteria for their application in the minutes. Candidates who have obtained at least 18 out of 30 points are admitted to the interview.

The interview is graded on a scale of 30 and is designed to assess the candidate's aptitude for research, ability to present and defend the project, methodological awareness, scientific and artistic interests, and willingness to conduct research abroad. During the interview, knowledge of English is also assessed; if relevant to the project, knowledge of an additional language — selected by the Committee from among French, German, and Spanish — may also be assessed. A score of at least 18 out of 30 points is required to pass the interview.

The final score is calculated as the sum of the scores obtained in the evaluation of qualifications and the interview. Candidates who have passed both tests are eligible. The Commission compiles a single merit-based ranking list in descending order of score.

The interview is conducted in person, unless the Commission grants authorized permission for it to be held remotely due to a proven impediment, in a manner that ensures the identification, transparency, and proper conduct of the test. The schedule is published on the institutional website and serves as official notification.

Art. 6 – Scholarships and Research Budgets

The annual amount of the scholarship is 16,243.00 euros, before social security taxes borne by the recipient, in accordance with Ministerial Decree No. 544/2024. The scholarship is paid in monthly installments and is subject to INPS social security taxes to the Separate Fund (*Gestione separata*), with two-thirds paid by the Administration and one-third by the scholarship recipient.

The scholarship has a total duration of three years and is renewed annually following a positive evaluation of the activities carried out in the previous year, in accordance with the course's academic



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and organizational regulations and Article 8 of the Regulations for PhD programs.

In addition to the scholarship, each PhD student is guaranteed a budget for research activities in Italy and abroad equal to 10% of the gross annual amount received, excluding any additional funding provided from the budget of the department where the program is administratively based.

For research activities abroad authorized by the PhD Board, the scholarship amount is increased by 50%, subject to budget availability, for periods totaling no more than twelve months, except as provided for in the Regulations on Joint Supervision.

Incompatibilities, the restriction on holding multiple scholarships, suspension, renewal, and renunciation of the scholarship are governed by Ministerial Decree No. 470/2024 and Articles 8 and 16 of the Regulations for PhD Programs.

In the event of withdrawal or failure to enroll before the start of the program, the Administration will move down the ranking list in order of merit. After that date, and in any case no later than January 31, a replacement may be admitted subject to the approval of the PhD Board.

Art. 7 – Ranking and Admission

At the conclusion of the process, the documents are approved by order of the Director. Candidates are admitted in the order of the ranking list until all available and funded positions are filled.

In the event of a tie in scores for the award of a scholarship position, the candidate in the most disadvantaged financial situation shall be given priority, as determined in accordance with Article 5 of the Prime Ministerial Decree (D.P.C.M.) of April 9, 2001, as amended and supplemented. If the tie persists, the criteria set forth in Article 11, paragraph 4, of the Regulations shall apply, in the following order: gender balance and, in the event of a further tie, younger age.

Upon completion of the admission procedures and following the formal awarding of scholarships to eligible candidates, as approved by the PhD Board, the list of admitted students is formalized by a decree issued by the Director.

Art. 8 – Enrollment and Foreign Qualifications

Successful candidates must complete their enrollment by the deadline specified in the notice approving the ranking list or in a subsequent communication from the Administration, or risk forfeiting their admission. The deadline will be set in accordance with the course starting date.

Enrollment is contingent upon payment of the amounts required by law and by the current resolutions of the Conservatory and the regional agency for the right to education, where applicable.

Winners who hold a foreign degree must submit the certification of recognition by the deadline set by the Administration. Failure to submit the required documentation by the deadline will result in forfeiture of the award, unless there are justified impediments as determined by the Administration.

In the event of withdrawal, failure to enroll, or late enrollment, the Administration will move down the ranking list within the time limits established by Article 11, paragraph 2, of the Regulations.

Art. 9 – Commitments, Rights, and Responsibilities of PhD Students

Admission to the program requires an exclusive, full-time commitment in accordance with Article 11, paragraph 1, of Ministerial Decree No. 470/2024, subject to the exceptions and compatibility



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provisions set forth in current legislation and the Regulations for PhD programs.

Enrollment in other courses and the performance of activities — including paid ones — are governed by Article 16 of the Regulations. Paid activities must be authorized in advance by the PhD Board in accordance with the procedures set forth therein.

PhD students are required to fulfill the educational, instructional, and research obligations established by the Conservatory's Regulations and the course's instructional and organizational regulations.

Art. 10 – Suspensions and Extensions

Suspensions and extensions are governed in their entirety by Article 12 of the PhD program regulations. In particular, for proven reasons that prevent the submission of the dissertation within the standard timeframe, the PhD Board may grant, upon the PhD student's request, an extension of six or twelve months without additional financial costs.

For justified scientific reasons, an extension of six or twelve months may be granted; for PhD students receiving a scholarship, the extension requires financial coverage for the corresponding extension of the scholarship and prior approval by the Board of Administration.

The periods of suspension and extension may not exceed a total of 18 months, except in the cases provided for by law.

Art. 11 – Awarding of the Degree

The awarding of the Ph.D. degree is governed by Articles 13 and 14 of the Regulations for PhD programs. The dissertation, accompanied by the required documentation, is submitted to the examiners and subsequently presented at a public defence in accordance with the procedures and deadlines set forth in the regulations.

The final version of the thesis is submitted in electronic format. The Conservatory ensures its preservation and public accessibility in the open-access institutional archive, in addition to complying with the submission requirements set forth by law, subject to the limitations authorized in the cases provided for in the Regulations.

Art. 12 – Person in Charge of the Proceedings

In accordance with Law No. 241 of August 7, 1990, the person responsible for the proceedings is the Director of the "G.B. Martini" Conservatory of Music in Bologna, Maestro Aurelio Zarrelli.

Art. 13 – Processing of Personal Data

The personal data provided by applicants are processed by the Conservatory for purposes related to the management of the selection process and the PhD program, in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of August 10, 2018, No. 101, and the privacy notice attached to this call for applications. The applicant acknowledges having read the privacy notice in accordance with the procedures indicated in the application.



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Art. 14 – Publication, Postponement, and Acceptance of the Terms and Conditions

This call for applications, its annexes, and related documents are published on the official website of the "G.B. Martini" Conservatory of Music in Bologna. The publications specified in the call for applications shall serve as official notification to interested parties.

Unless otherwise expressly provided, Ministerial Decree No. 470/2024, Ministerial Decree No. 544/2024, Ministerial Decree No. 778/2024, the Conservatory's Regulations for PhD programs, and the program's instructional and organizational regulations shall apply, in addition to all other applicable regulations.

Submission of the application implies knowledge of and acceptance of the provisions of this call for applications and the regulations referred to therein.

Annexes:

- 1) Application Form
- 2) Presentation of the PhD Program
- 3) Privacy Notice Regarding the Processing of Personal Data

THE DIRECTOR
M° Aurelio Zarrelli