

Bocconi

BOCCONI PhD SCHOOL

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Università
Bocconi
MILANO





At Bocconi University we believe that the enthusiasm and energy of young academics are crucial to the continuous advancement of knowledge. Our founding dates back to 1902 as the first business and economics University in Italy. Since then we have been nurturing generations of researchers in business, economics, social sciences and related fields. With each group of bright PhD students who come to Milan every year, we look forward to sharing the pleasure of learning and the joy of discovery. By teaching and mentoring in our rigorous and interdisciplinary PhD programs, we aim to shape the scholars and innovators of tomorrow who will address topical issues in the business, economic and political arenas.

Pierpaolo Battigalli
DEAN, PHD SCHOOL

AN INTERNATIONAL AND DYNAMIC ENVIRONMENT

FACULTY

Our faculty is dedicated to supporting PhD students throughout their time at Bocconi: as teachers, mentors, researchers and co-authors. They create a collaborative and rich learning environment, involving PhDs in Department research activities and introducing them to international academic networks. The Bocconi faculty is made up of distinguished scholars who bring high-level international experience to their work. The University is among the leading host research institutions by number of ERC grants in the areas of “Economics, Finance and Management” and “Environmental Studies, Geography, Demography, Migration, Regional and Urban Studies”.

PROGRAMS

All PhD programs are offered in English (one program has a curriculum that includes Italian teaching). Visiting professors and experts on leading research topics are hosted for classes and seminar series, and international co-advisors are often involved in the thesis process. In addition, partnerships have been set up with international institutions to produce cutting-edge research. PhD students participate in international conferences and Summer Schools as speakers and auditors and can also take part in BELSS (the Bocconi Experimental Laboratory for the Social Sciences), where researchers conduct experiments in all areas of the social sciences. PhD students are also encouraged to attend a teaching and learning program managed by BUILT (Bocconi University Innovations in Learning and Teaching). It allows them to explore new pedagogical methodologies and teaching practices so they can provide enhanced learning experiences as professors in their future classrooms.

CAMPUS

The Bocconi campus offers a variety of structures and initiatives that make daily life more interesting and stimulating. Culture and sports, as well as social responsibility and commitment are all part of the values promoted by Bocconi through a wide range of activities on campus. In addition to facilities such as residences and dining halls, dedicated offices with desktop PCs are available to PhD students, and the latest software can be installed on their personal laptops. PhD students have access to the vast array of books, journals and electronic resources available in the Bocconi Library, Italy's biggest collection in economics and business.

PLACEMENT

Placement of PhD candidates on the job market during their final year is closely supported and highly successful. We provide assistance in attending recruitment conferences as well as coaching for presentations and communication skills. The majority of our graduates hold faculty positions in academia (prestigious EU and non-EU schools), international institutions and research centers, while others are placed in private institutions.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT

www.unibocconi.eu/phdbusinessadministration

4-year program, in English

Key research fields: Marketing, Organization, Strategy, Technology & Innovation Management

The PhD in Business Administration and Management consists of two curricula, Management and Marketing. The Management Curriculum has three main fields: Organization, Strategy and Technology & Innovation Management.

The 4-year full time program provides the rigorous methodological foundation necessary to approach research issues at the frontier of knowledge, enabling participants to design and implement research projects across the entire range of managerial studies. This is achieved through a balanced mix of full time courses, advanced seminars, exchanges and field projects within Bocconi and in collaboration with other leading universities, interacting with international scholars, on the strength of a carefully tutored dissertation project. The program emphasizes rigorous training in both quantitative and qualitative methods for management research.

Bocconi's PhD program in Business Administration and Management provides students with an invaluable chance to receive top-notch training from brilliant and well-respected professors. As PhD students, we were offered a wealth of opportunities to develop the skills needed to pursue our future career paths. I feel very privileged to have earned my PhD at Bocconi.

Verdiana Giannetti 2018 PHD GRADUATE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF MARKETING, LEEDS UNIVERSITY
BUSINESS SCHOOL

Bocconi is an incredible environment for learning to do high quality research. The courses organized by the University allow you to access up-to-date scientific knowledge; faculty and people are supportive and always available to interact; and the University's international network is far reaching. But it is not just about professional experience: here at Bocconi I have also developed some of my most important friendship bonds.

Simone Santamaria 2018 PHD GRADUATE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF SINGAPORE

ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

www.unibocconi.eu/phdeconomicsfinance

4-year program, in English

Key research fields: Political Economy, Institutions and Development; Macroeconometrics and Public Finance; Time Series and Financial Econometrics; Microeconomics, Decision and Games; Applied Microeconomics and Microeconometrics; Corporate Finance and Banking; Asset Pricing; Accounting, Disclosure and Regulation; Auditing and Corporate Governance

The PhD in Economics and Finance consists of three curricula: Economics, Finance and Accounting. The 4-year full time program is designed for highly qualified and motivated students who wish to acquire world-class research skills. The program is multidisciplinary in nature and students have the option to choose from a wide range of electives, and are also given regular mentorship and support throughout their time at Bocconi.

In the first two years, students acquire a broad set of theoretical and methodological skills relevant to their curricula, choosing their research specialization in the second year. The third and fourth years are largely dedicated to thesis research work, but students are expected to enrich their studies by attending the regular research workshop series presented by internationally renowned internal and external faculty.

PhD classes benefit from interaction among students from all over the world, with background not only in economics, finance and accounting, but also in other disciplines such as engineering, mathematics, physics and statistics. Exchange periods abroad are managed within the European Doctoral Group in Economics (www.edge-page.net).

Bocconi has instilled in me a deep fascination for finance thanks to continuous interaction with tremendous scholars. The finance faculty is devoted to pushing students beyond their limits with the sheer number of research opportunities available. In all, Bocconi provides a unique opportunity for your development as a leading scholar in the field of financial economics.

Andrea Tamoni 2012 PHD GRADUATE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF FINANCE, THE LONDON SCHOOL
OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE

Very engaged and committed faculty, caring and stimulating peers. The PhD in Economics and Finance at Bocconi University strikes the right balance between rigorous theoretical analyses, state of the art empirical tools and insightful policy applications. I found this research mix extremely useful for my career, both at policy institutions and in academia.

Paolo Surico 2009 PHD GRADUATE
PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS, LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL

The PhD in Economics and Finance at Bocconi is a unique opportunity to get exposed to cutting-edge research in economics, inspiring mentors, and solid training. It has sharpened my economic thinking and acted as a springboard for my career in academia. I will never forget my time at Bocconi and I am forever grateful for the opportunities I was given there.

Michela Carlana 2018 PHD GRADUATE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF PUBLIC POLICY,
HARVARD KENNEDY SCHOOL

LEGAL STUDIES

www.unibocconi.eu/phdlegalstudies

3-year program, in English and Italian

Key research fields: Corporate and Financial Markets Law, Competition Law and IP, Labor Law, Criminal Law, Bankruptcy Law, International Law, including both Public and Private International Law, and European Union Law

This 3-year full time program offers two specialization curricula, one in Business and Social Law and the other in International and European Law. It is designed for students who are particularly interested in focusing on methodological issues and scientific research, in a comparative and interdisciplinary approach, as well as analyzing the connections within economic and social topics. During the first part of their studies, students are required to attend both compulsory and elective courses. During the second part, students are highly recommended to spend time abroad at international universities or institutions, in order to complete research for their final dissertation. The Business and Social Law curriculum is partly in Italian and partly in English; the International and European Law curriculum is offered entirely in English.

Candidates in the PhD program in Legal Studies join an excellent interdisciplinary school, as well as an international network where Bocconi is firmly established as a leading institution. They gain access to a wonderful group of fellow PhD students and young researchers and a high-quality and diverse faculty always accessible and ready to help.

PhD candidates are lectured and mentored by outstanding professors with different backgrounds and affiliations from around the world. Moreover, from my perspective as an academic and a practicing lawyer, I consider the PhD program particularly appealing as the perfect path to pursue a career both in academia and practice – including the private and public sector and international institutions. This PhD program provides research and analytical skills that will be particularly valuable to future leaders, thinkers and decision-makers.

Laura Zoboli 2018 PHD GRADUATE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN BUSINESS LAW,
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

The doctoral program in Legal Studies provides the ideal opportunity to train and nurture curiosity in a stimulating cultural environment. One of its crucial strengths is the possibility of combining independent research activities with enthusiastic support from the faculty and staff.

More importantly, the study plan offers a solid multidisciplinary basis and encourages (and funds) visiting periods to internationally renowned universities and research institutes, along with the option of being involved in adrenalin-boosting teaching schemes in higher education.

I enjoyed the program, which enabled me to advance my legal intuition and develop a critical attitude towards concepts and ideas. I strongly recommend this experience since it has fueled my passion for socio-legal studies thanks to the efforts of the global and open Bocconi community.

ANTONIO ALOISI 2018 PHD GRADUATE
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF EUROPEAN LABOUR LAW,
IE UNIVERSITY, MADRID

PUBLIC POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

www.unibocconi.eu/phdpublicpolicy

4-year program, in English

Key research fields: Economic and Political Institutions, Governance, Globalization, Health, Methods for Policy Evaluation, Policy Innovation, Public Administration, Sociology and Population Studies

The PhD in Public Policy and Administration, first launched in 2014-2015, prepares qualified candidates to be the next generation of high-level policy researchers and professors. It is intended for students interested in either academic or policy-making careers that require advanced, multidisciplinary knowledge and training. The 4-year full time program is open to students who demonstrate strong qualifications and motivation for research in demography, economics, management, political science and/or sociology. The program offers a wide range of electives and is nurtured by highly qualified teachers and mentors from a variety of fields. In the first year, students acquire cutting-edge theoretical and methodological skills. In the second year, students specialize within two different tracks: Political and Social Sciences, or Public Administration. This includes the completion of a research paper under the guidance of a selected faculty member, as well as participation in a research practicum. The third and fourth years are devoted to research that will lay the basis for students' doctoral dissertations. Students will interact with top international researchers in their chosen field. They will also have the opportunity to participate in international exchange programs and do internships with leading policy institutes across the globe.

With its rigorous quantitative training, multidisciplinary approach, and international community, the PhD in Public Policy and Administration at Bocconi was exactly what I was looking for in a PhD. The faculty are extremely welcoming and of the highest quality, which means that you have access to excellent mentoring from a range of fields. The numerous seminar series that span several disciplines are also wonderful arenas in which to be exposed to both first-rate scholars from across the globe and a culture of active, engaged debate. The chance to complete a visiting period abroad of up to 18 months also provides PhD candidates with an invaluable opportunity to experience and learn from other academic environments.

Eleanor Florence Woodhouse 2019 PHD GRADUATE
MAX WEBER POST DOC, EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY INSTITUTE

The PhD in Public Policy and Administration at Bocconi University was a great experience. The coursework in the first two years of the program allowed me to gain confidence with many research tools. In addition, being interested in studying public administration, the multidisciplinary training allowed me to draw from different approaches to look for new perspectives on old phenomena.

Paolo Belardinelli FELLOW IN PUBLIC POLICY
AND ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT,
THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL
SCIENCE

STATISTICS AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

www.unibocconi.eu/phdstatscompscience

4-year program, in English

Key research fields: Algorithms, Bayesian Inference, Biostatistics, Computational Complexity Theory, Information Theory, Machine Learning, Optimization, Predictive Inference, Probability and Stochastic Processes, Risk and Decisions, Statistical Modeling and Computing, Statistical Physics

This 4-year full time program is structured into two tracks: Statistics and Computer Science. First year courses are compulsory for all enrolled PhD students and provide a common core methodological background. Second year coursework is track-specific and, according to the chosen track, introduces students to frontier research topics in Bayesian Modeling and Computations, Machine Learning, Graph Theory, Deep Learning and Neural Networks, Random Structures and Disordered Systems, Applied Multivariate Analysis and Biostatistics. The third and fourth years are devoted to work on the research dissertation. The PhD faculty includes top scholars in Statistics, Computer Science and Statistical Physics and enjoys the collaboration of visiting professors from all over the world. Students with graduate degrees in Statistics, Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistical Physics, Economics or Engineering as well as other quantitative fields are encouraged to apply for admission.

The Statistics PhD program at Bocconi University was an invaluable and highly enjoyable experience. The first two years were filled with rigorous course work taught by professors who supported my training and progress, which gave me a solid theoretical foundation for my research. Over the final two years, my supervisor's guidance and passion were beyond helpful to my research. The opportunities and funding for international travel allowed me to attend international conferences, receive feedback on my research and establish new collaborations. As a professor, I strive to show students the caring and passion that I encountered at Bocconi

Sara Wade 2013 PHD GRADUATE
LECTURER IN STATISTICS AND DATA SCIENCE,
THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

The program offered the opportunity to work on multiple areas of Statistics and encouraged me to start developing my own lines of research, bridging different fields in an original way. I experienced a very stimulating environment, having access to bright young researchers and insightful senior professors. I also had the chance start prestigious scientific collaborations. As there are no teaching obligations, I could adapt the teaching load to my research needs. Overall, I found in the program all the key ingredients for the outset of a fruitful research career.

Stefano Rizzelli 2019 PHD GRADUATE
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW, LABORATORY OF STATISTICS,
ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

My dissertation focused on Bayesian statistics, nonparametric models and statistical designs of clinical studies. The PhD experience has been extremely rewarding and effectively shaped my research skills, as in my current work I continue developing Bayesian models for adaptive clinical trial designs in oncology.

Lorenzo Trippa 2009 PHD GRADUATE
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR IN BIostatISTICS,
HARVARD UNIVERSITY



SELECTION

Applications must be submitted in the fall, one year before the beginning of the program. In order to apply, students need to have completed, or be on their way to completing, their graduate studies and have at least a B2 (CEFR) level of competence in English; a B2 (CEFR) level in Italian is needed for the curriculum in Business and Social Law of the PhD in Legal Studies.

Assessment is based on:

- CV
- Academic records (including thesis abstract, for the PhD in Legal Studies only)
- Current GRE/GMAT scores (except for the PhD in Legal Studies)
- Research proposal and abstract of graduation thesis (for the PhD in Legal studies only)
- Statement of purpose
- Up to two reference letters
- Other relevant documents (e.g. publications, other programs attended)

Complete information regarding deadlines, documents required, the online application process and financial support is available at www.unibocconi.eu/admissionphd

