

PHD PROGRAMME TABLE
Announcements of competition for admission to PhD Programmes
42nd cycle, Academic Year 2026/2027

PhD programme: REGGIO CHILDHOOD STUDIES

Available positions: 8

Evaluation Methods: academic and research records and interview

Available positions:

Place n.	Description	Financial support	Specific research topic
1	Scholarship	University scholarship	-
2	Scholarship	University scholarship	-
3	Scholarship	University scholarship	-
4	Scholarship	University scholarship	-
5	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by Fondazione Reggio Children	-
6	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by Fondazione Reggio Children	INSPIRE PROJECT: AI in educational processes
7	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by MIUR Call "Department of Excellence 2023-2027" – Department of Education and Human Sciences – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia – CUP: E83C22006680001	Visual literacy
8	Scholarship	Scholarship funded by MIUR Call "Department of Excellence 2023-2027" – Department of Education and Human Sciences – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia – CUP: E83C22006680001	Visual literacy

Areas of PhD Programme: Theory and philosophy of education in its aesthetic, linguistic, moral, social, organizational, religious and political dimensions; constructivist theories of (practical) knowledge and education; theory of perception; theory of moral discernment; theory of social, and emotional learning; theory of taste; theory of metaphors; theory of moral and practical reasoning for pluralistic and inclusive communities; theories of normative change, conflict resolution and mediation, human rights and interfaith dialogue; organizational approaches to pedagogy; theories of moral, epistemic and social responsibility; psychodynamics of family relations; group agency and processes and clinical psychology; gender and feminist theories; inclusive approaches to material and immaterial cultural heritage; media aesthetics; visual literacy; aesthetic, linguistic, digital, moral, and religious education; theories of learning and teaching of the first language and additional languages; digital learning.

The citizenship of children and adults in multicultural cities that invest in public educational services: nurseries and schools as outposts of participatory democracy and active citizenship. The cultural, linguistic, and social multiplicities encountered in

the city's educational services can be interpreted as a richness for all. Which practices can transform cultural reference systems, and how theories can support the paradigm shift.

The official language of the PhD programme is English. However, every student is encouraged to learn the Italian language skills during their study cycle, considering that some activities will also be carried out in Italian.

Further information is available from PhD Programme website at: <https://www.phdreggiochildhoodstudies.unimore.it/en/homepage-english/> and <https://www.frchildren.org/en/reggio-childhood-studies-phd>.

Admission requirements: Italian second cycle master's degree ("Laurea Magistrale", under D.M. 270/04 or "Laurea Specialistica", under D.M. 509/99) or Italian degree obtained prior to D.M. 509/99 (the previous Italian regulations) or Second cycle non-Italian Master's degree, equivalent to the Italian degrees mentioned above, in accordance with Article 2 of this Call.

Documents to be attached to the application:

- 1) In order to express interest in also competing for the scholarships linked to a specific research topic, candidates must complete and attach the file "[Declaration of priority interest to compete for scholarships linked to a specific research topic](#)";
- 2) Degree certificate (or self-certification for Italian degrees) and Transcript of Records including the full list of examinations with corresponding marks. Applicants with a non-Italian degree must attach their certificate (including the full list of examinations with corresponding marks) and a legalized translation or Diploma Supplement and, if available, the Declaration of Value ("Dichiarazione di Valore in loco") issued by the competent Italian diplomatic-consular Representation, or the certificates issued by the CIMEA - ENIC-NARIC centre. If the degree certificate is not yet available or if the degree has not yet been obtained, the candidate must attach a description of the degree with a list of the examinations taken using [Annex A](#);
- 3) a Curriculum Vitae (CV) including their scientific and teaching activities in Italian or English using the form in [Annex B](#); the CV must include the university-level qualifications held;
- 4) a digital copy of the thesis for degrees obtained before D.M. 509/99 or for specialist or master degrees or equivalent degrees in the case the degree was not obtained in Italy. Alternatively to their full thesis, candidates can attach an abstract;
- 5) a short text in English (Statement of Research Interest) using the form in [Annex C](#), in which the candidate illustrates her/his motivation for attending the Programme and the description of her/his specific research interests;
- 6) possible certificates of English competence (TOEFL, CAE/Proficiency or others) or of competence in other foreign languages (including the level of competence);
- 7) A research project, written in Italian or English, related to one of the topics of the PhD Programme (available on the webpage: <https://www.phdreggiochildhoodstudies.unimore.it/en/research-areas/>). The project must be between 2,000 and 4,000 words in length and must include:
 - a. a specific research topic;
 - b. a working hypothesis;
 - c. a reference bibliography;

- 8) letters of introduction/recommendation/reference (maximum three); in the online application, applicants must enter all the personal details of the professor/researcher/expert who will be sending the letter of recommendation. Once the application has been submitted, the computer system will send an automatic e-mail to the contact person requesting the letter of recommendation. The deadline for uploading letters is June 30th 2026, 11.59 pm (CET); applicants can check on the application summary page whether the contact person has sent the cover letter/recommendation. Within the aforementioned deadline, applicants may send a reminder to the contact person who has not yet done so by selecting the 'reminder' item from the application summary page;
- 9) any other document considered useful for the candidate's assessment and/or scientific publications; candidates must provide a full list of all the documents and publications attached;
- 10) a copy of a valid identity document.

Evaluation criteria:

For the evaluation of qualifications, the Selection Committee has at its disposal a score up to a maximum of 60 points, divided as follows:

- exams taken, degree mark, degree thesis / abstract of the degree thesis: from 0 to 9 points;
- curriculum vitae and experience considered relevant: from 0 to 9 points;
- other qualifications, e.g. masters, courses, degrees: from 0 to 4 points;
- language skills: from 0 to 4 points;
- publications: from 0 to 4 points;
- research project: from 0 to 30 points; evaluation criteria of the research project:
 - relevance of the proposal: from 0 to 9 points;
 - feasibility in the space of the PhD Programme: from 0 to 3 points;
 - knowledge of the scientific framework: from 0 to 9 points;
 - innovativeness of the proposal: from 0 to 9 points.

Candidates will be admitted to the interview if the evaluation of their qualifications has reached a score of at least 40 points out of the 60 available. The list of the candidates admitted to the interview, and any variation in the selection procedure, will be published before July 15th, 2026 at the following University website address: <https://www.unimore.it/en/bando-phd-42>.

For the interview, the Selection Committee has at its disposal a score up to a maximum of 60 points. The interview will include an assessment of the candidate's proficiency in English. Furthermore, the research project will be discussed, and candidates will be given the opportunity to elaborate on or further develop it orally. No attachments or additional written materials will be accepted.

Evaluation criteria:

- a) basic knowledge: from 0 to 25 points;
- b) argumentation skills: from 0 to 30 points;
- c) knowledge of languages: from 0 to 5 points.

A pass is achieved where candidates are awarded a minimum score of 40/60. Candidates with a total score of less than 80 out of 120 will not be considered eligible for admission to the programme.

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

In-person interview: July 27th, 2026, 9:30 am. Interviews could continue on July 28th, 2026 9:30 am, should there be a high number of candidates.

The examination will take place in the “Kuwait” Room of Centro internazionale Loris Malaguzzi, Viale B. Ramazzini, 72/a, Reggio Emilia.

Interview via Microsoft Teams (allowed for each candidate, regardless of residence): July 27th, 2026, 9:30 am. Interviews could continue on July 28th, 2026 9:30 am, should there be a high number of candidates.

Instructions on how to conduct the interview via Microsoft Teams will be communicated with the list of candidates admitted to the interview.