

Are you a new student?

Reading this document is recommended to students who are not acquainted with the Italian university system.

Academic year structure:

In Italy, each academic year is divided into two semesters:

- **First Semester (lectures and laboratory activities):** generally starting in September, ending in December (or beginning of January).
- **Second Semester (lectures and laboratory activities):** generally starting in February, ending in June.

Please, check the timetable for Photochemistry and Molecular Materials master's degree programme at the following link:

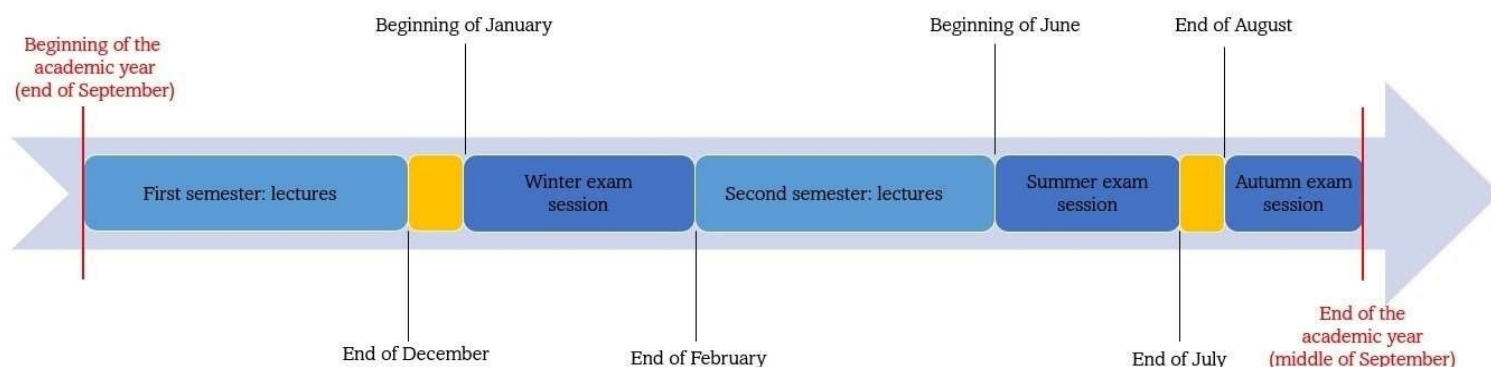
<https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/PhotochemistryMolecularMaterials/timetable?anno=1&curricula=>

The end of a semester marks the beginning of the next exam session. During exam sessions students are allowed to take exams of the learning activities they attended in the previous semesters.

Exam sessions take place:

- in winter (January - February);
- in summer (June - July);
- in autumn (in September, before the beginning of lectures).

HOLIDAY PERIODS: Italian universities are usually closed in August, for Christmas holidays (from the end of December till the first week of January) and about a week for Easter holidays (see yellow gaps in the flow chart below).

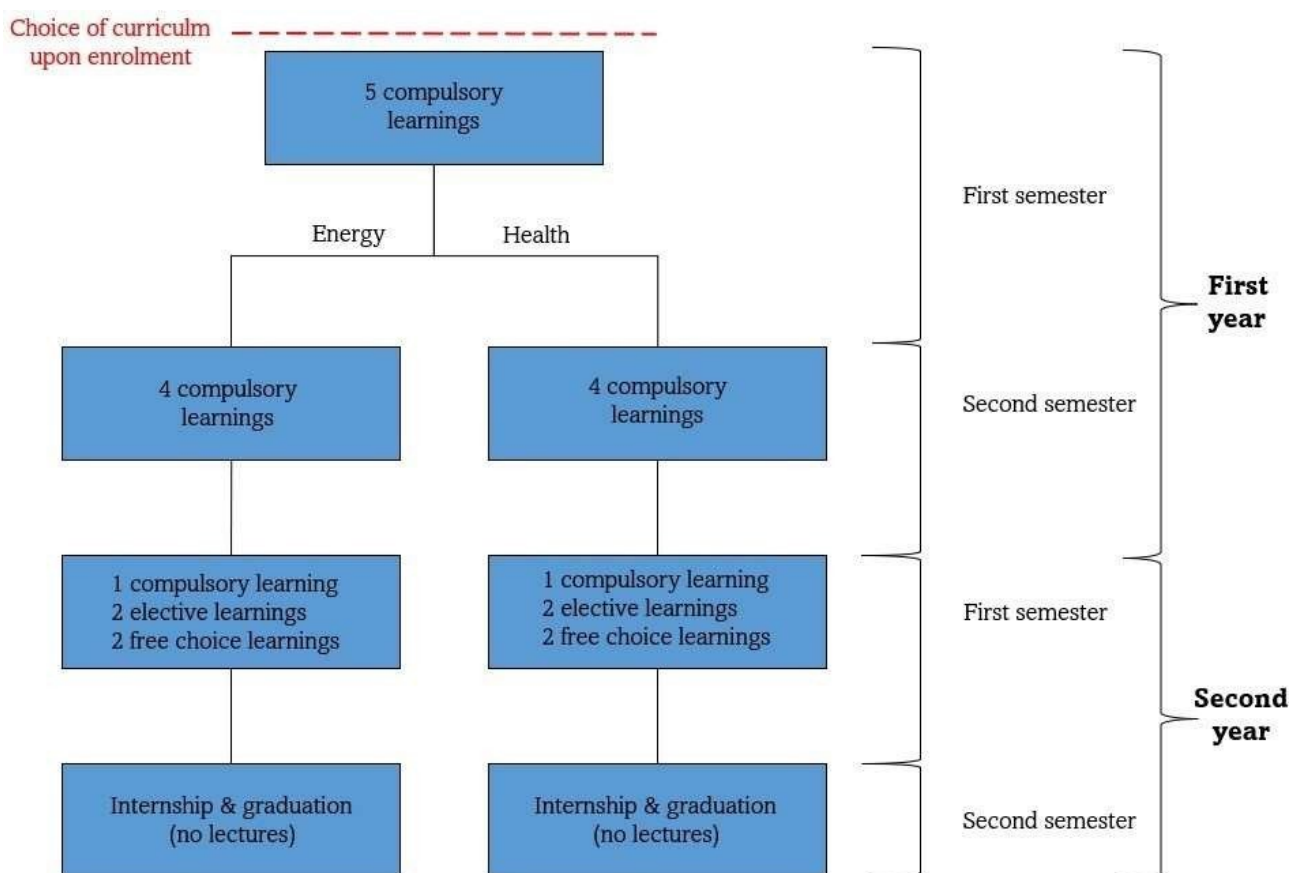


COURSE STRUCTURE:

The master's degree programme in Photochemistry and Molecular Materials features two curricula. Upon enrolment, first year students will be asked to choose between the Energy and the Health curriculum.

First year learning activities are compulsory. During the first semester, students will attend the same learning activities, whereas in the second semester they will take different courses according to the curriculum they will have chosen. Please take a look at the course structure diagram at the following link:

<https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/PhotochemistryMolecularMaterials/course-structure-diagram>



As for the first semester of the second year, students are encouraged to make independent choices based on their personal preference and interests. Therefore, students will be free to shape their personal academic path, by choosing four learning activities amongst a selection proposed by the Degree Programme Board.

Each student will be required to choose:

- **Two elective courses:** among a list of activities that is provided for each curriculum;
- **Two free choice courses:** from the elective learning activities available for both curricula and/or all the exams activated by the Degree programme. In principle, any teaching activity offered by the University of Bologna can be selected. However, your choice will be subjected to some restrictions as the Degree Programme Board will assess

the coherence of the choice with the students' study plan. Selection among the courses offered by the Degree Programme is highly recommended.

Safety training:

All students enrolled at the University of Bologna are required to attend a mandatory safety training.

Regardless of your study programme you will have to complete the General Training (Module 1).

Depending on the activities you will attend as part of your studies, you may also have to follow specific training courses:

Low Risk (Module 2)

Medium Risk (Module 2 + Module 3)

High Risk (Module 2 + Module 3 + Module 4)

If you already attended a safety training during your bachelor's studies at another institution, you may apply for exemption by submitting the certificate to the competent office, that **may or may not recognise its validity** at the University of Bologna.

Please, note:

General Training (Module 1) certificates will be considered for exemption even if you had training at a different institution that is not affiliated to the University of Bologna.

Specific training certificates will be considered for exemption only if you attended Specific Training Courses (Module 2 and/or Module 3 and/or Module 4) at the University of Bologna, for the same risk category, within the 5-year validity of the certificate.

For further information on General and/or Specific Risk Courses, please visit the page at the following link:

<https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/PhotochemistryMolecularMaterials/health-and-safety-mandatory-training>

For further information on registration please write to scienzeavile.sicurezza@unibo.it

To send a certificate for recognition of previous training please write to s.grilli@unibo.it

Exams:

In Italy exams follow either oral or written format.

Please remember that students are allowed to take exams only for those courses they have already attended.

Oral examinations consist of some oral questions concerning, potentially, any subject treated during the lectures.

Written texts usually take longer than their oral counterparts. Depending on the teaching, they may include numerical exercises as well as theoretical questions.

In addition, each exam is attributed a specific number of credits (CFU). In principle, the number of credits corresponds to the hours of lessons and the individual learning that brings to the final evaluation.

Examinations must be booked, either via the online platform “AlmaEsami” or through the University App “MyUnibo”. Reservations are not necessary, whether you wish to attend only as an observer.

Marks:

Each exam is evaluated on a 30-point basis, which makes 30/30 the highest score attainable for each course and 18/30 the **lowest passing** score. Teachers can confer a symbol of special distinction to those who yield an excellent performance in their teaching by conferring “30+” (in Italian “Lode”).

Note that students are allowed to reject marks at least once per each teaching activity. In other words, it is possible to take each exam at least twice, by rejecting the mark obtained in the last attempt (provided it is equal or greater than 18/30) if it does not meet one’s expectations. Thereafter, students are allowed to retake the exam for that same teaching during one of the next exam sessions.

The final mark attributed upon graduation is the weighted average, over CFU, of all marks.

Example of calculation for three exams:

$$\frac{28 * 6 + 30 * 8 + 24 * 6}{8 + 6 + 6} = 27,6$$

The **blue numbers** indicate the **mark obtained**, whereas the **red numbers** indicate the **CFU value** of that same teaching activity.

Internship:

Before graduating, each student must complete an internship programme in preparation for the final examination.

Internship programmes usually involve the student spending a period of time (usually six months) in a company or an academic institution, either at the Department of Chemistry or in another academic institution, in Italy or abroad. During the internship, students can try out the knowledge acquired throughout the study programme, supporting experts in the field of chemistry in their daily research routine, working on real scientific projects. The internship is vital for the development of critical skills, such as the ability to work in a team, as well as for the acquisition of deeper knowledge on forefront branches of the subject of research.

The internship programme can start after the student has collected, at least, 55 university credits (CFU).

It is advisable to begin inquiring for internship opportunities in advance, either by contacting external private companies and institutions or a Professor of the University of Bologna. In any case, it is necessary to **find a tutor** amongst the faculty members. The tutor oversees the internship project and can potentially help students to make first contact with the hosting Organisation/Professor.

For further details, please visit the master's degree programme website: <https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/PhotochemistryMolecularMaterials/internships>

Students who are interested in doing their internship abroad, can follow one of the paths listed below:

- by participating in a mobility programme (e.g. Erasmus+ Mobility for Traineeship). For further information on the Erasmus+ Mobility Programme, please visit the following webpage: <https://www.unibo.it/en/international/Studying-abroad/General-information-on-Erasmus/General-information-on-Erasmus>
- by contacting a foreign Company/Institution. There are companies and institutions that already have an agreement with the University of Bologna. However, sometimes, the finalization of a new agreement may be required and this may require time due to bureaucracy. Therefore, for any doubts it is always advisable to contact the Internship office at: scienze.tirocini@unibo.it
- by participating in specific calls for scholarships for preparing the thesis abroad; this kind of opportunities consist of a lump sum support, to spend a period abroad in a company or in a research institution/university. To obtain the grant, applicants must already have planned their thesis project and must be able to describe the kind of cooperation they will carry out abroad. The calls are available at the Unibo web portal <https://bandi.unibo.it/agevolazioni/borse-mobilita>

Final examination:

The final examination consists in an oral public defense of an original thesis in front of the Degree programme Examination Board. The dissertation shall demonstrate critical abilities and communication skills, and provide elements of originality. The Board must ascertain the

student's ability to work independently, to describe and discuss clearly and autonomously the results obtained in the research project. The Board expresses its final assessment with a grade out of 110, as a result of the following features:

- Weighted average (of the marks obtained) converted to a scale with grades up to 110
- Max 7 points, made up of:
 - Supervisor's mark: up to 4 points;
 - Examination board's mark: up to 3 points

The research project for the final examination may be carried out abroad. The Department of Chemistry usually offers departmental scholarships to a limited number of second-year students who want to fulfil this purpose. The call is usually published in the master's programme website between September and February at the following webpage: <https://bandi.unibo.it/agevolazioni/borse-mobilita>

Please refer to the following link for contacts: <https://corsi.unibo.it/2cycle/PhotochemistryMolecularMaterials/contacts>

In particular, for information on:

- enrolment for international students, immigration procedures, study grants and tuition fee waivers, guidance on arrival in Italy and other services available at the Bologna Campus **International desk** - <https://www.unibo.it/en/international/contacts-forinternational-students>;

- submission of documents and completion of enrolment to degree programmes in Bologna, for students with foreign qualifications

International Student Administration Office Email: segstudintbo@unibo.it

- Enrolment, transfers, issue of badges, degree certificates, diploma supplements

Student administration office Email: segscienze@unibo.it

- access to the degree programme, general support to international students

INTERNATIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMMES SUPPORT - Email: scienzeavile.international@unibo.it

- curricular internships, internships for the final examination

Internship Office – Email: scienze.tirocini@unibo.it

- student mobility programmes (i.e. Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus Action 2, Overseas, Internships abroad, etc.)

International Mobility Office – Science - Email: mobility.pharmacychembiotech@unibo.it