

RAship: (250 hours – 10 CFU Internship)

What is a RAship?

- RA is short for "Research Assistant". This internal internship consists of a research activity under the supervision of a faculty member of CLAMSS (or of another member of the Department of Statistical Sciences of the University of Bologna) on a specific research project.
- A Research Assistant works on a theoretical or empirical problem and tries to give an answer to scientific questions by different steps: reading current solutions in the scientific literature, understanding how other researchers have tried to solve them, figuring out how to solve them in a different, usually better, way, and evaluating the proposed solutions.
- This opportunity is strongly suggested to students considering the possibility to apply for a PhD in Statistics.
- The RAship project cannot coincide with the final master project. Usually, the master thesis is characterized as a more traditional research work that typically focuses on choosing a topic, conducting an extensive literature review and developing data analysis or simulations to answer research questions. All these results are elaborated and summarized in a final dissertation, which is evaluated by the thesis committee. On the contrary, the RAship project does not involve the writing a final extensive report. It is more focused on a specific research question, and it is thought of as a support to novel scientific research.
- The person in charge for RAship (RAship Coordinator) is Prof. Laura Anderlucci (laura.anderlucci@unibo.it).
- The academic tutor approves the internship request and, once the internship has concluded, officially registers the activity. The academic tutor is Prof. Gabriele Soffritti.

Project choice

The RAship Coordinator will help you to find a project and a supervisor. Regularly, the RAship coordinator receives the calls for RAships by Department's members for their research projects.

RAship Supervisor

- The supervisor is a member of the Department (or CLAMSS board).
- The supervisor provides information about the research topic and suggests the required tasks and the organization of the work.
- The supervisor is responsible for the action plan and for the final approval of the RAship work and the completion of the required number of hours.

Duration

- The duration is of 250 hours (10 CFU).
- Depending on the type of project you are working on, research (and hence RAships) can involve reading papers, proposing ideas, implementing solutions and evaluating ideas against other approaches to a problem. How many hours you spend on each task depends on your supervisor and on what background you have on the project.

How to set up a RAship

Once you have set an agreement with a department's member, you need to share via email the details of the research project with both:

- the academic tutor (gabriele.soffritti@unibo.it)
- the internship office (ems.bo.serviziotirocini@unibo.it).

After that, the procedure to set up the RAship consists in the following steps:

Before starting the project:

1. Add the internship to your study plan in one of the 2 designated periods;
2. Access the University's internship database;
3. Select under "AZIENDE": ALMA MATER STUDIORUM - UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA;
4. Click the button "Presenta richiesta";
5. Fill in all the mandatory fields in the page: Richiesta di tirocinio;
6. Select the Department of Statistical Sciences from the Unibo structures' list;
7. Insert as "Tutor Soggetto ospitante" the project supervisor's first and last name (it is the professor proposing the research project);
8. Insert "Library" as place where the internship will be carried out
9. Insert the address of the Department and the other data requested, particularly the aim of the internship and the activities you will carry out/tasks you will perform.

Once the online request has been sent, it will be validated by the internship office. The academic tutor will approve the RAship, then students will receive an email with instructions on how to print and sign their work plan. The signature of the hosting tutor (i.e. the project supervisor) is also required. All the material must be uploaded on the internship database.

After the approval:

- Once the RAship has been approved, students must download from the website their internship's attendance sheet - this is essential to get the RAship started.
- Please note that the online course on Health and safety is mandatory and must be taken before starting the RAship.
- Students must complete the above procedure (which usually takes a couple of weeks) before starting the RAship. The RAship must be carried out in the period in between the start and end dates which appear on the attendance sheet.