

Dear Colleagues,

we are very glad to announce that the University of Bologna will be hosting the 2026 Staff Training Week “***Doctoral Education: Emerging Trends, Changing Practices***” from **23 to 27 November, 2026**. Please forward this information to the relevant offices in your Institution.

Applications are now open until 21 September 2026.

Doctoral education is undergoing a profound transformation. Once primarily designed to prepare future academics, it is now expected to equip researchers with the skills, mindset and experience needed to address complex global challenges and pursue diverse career paths. At the same time, universities are adapting their policies, services and organisational models to respond to new European priorities and an ever-changing research landscape.

This Staff Training Week (STW) would like to explore some of the most pressing topics shaping the future of doctoral education, including:

- **Phd Programme design**
- **Soft Skills and Training activities**
- **Phd Candidates' Wellbeing**
- **Open Science**
- **European University Alliances and Joint PhD programmes**
- **Artificial Intelligence**
- **Doctoral Careers**

It is addressed to administrative staff working in **doctoral administration, research support, international relations, or academic governance, with experience on doctoral education**.

Through workshops, collaborative discussions, and shared reflections, the programme will provide a valuable chance to meet with colleagues from different European universities, share good practices, and contribute to building more innovative and future-oriented doctoral education systems.

The STW programme is free of charge. Accommodation, travel costs, lunches and dinners are not included and might be covered by using Erasmus+ Staff Mobility grants.

For further info about the STW, rules, programme and applications:

<https://eventi.unibo.it/staff-training-week>

Become part of an international community
exploring how doctoral education is evolving across Europe.

Don't miss this opportunity!

Our best regards,

Elena Consolini and Debora Di Rocco

Staff Rettore e Direttore Generale/Executive Support Services

IRSS - International Relations Strategy Support Unit

Incoming Staff Training Service

Alma Mater Studiorum-Università di Bologna