COMPETITION RULES
for PhD Day 2026
"Best PhD Pitch XXXIX Cycle" and "Best Poster"

Art. 1 – Purpose

These Rules govern the "Best PhD Pitch XXXIX Cycle" and "Best Poster" competitions within PoliBa PhD Day 2026, promoted by the Doctoral School of the Polytechnic University of Bari. The competitions have educational purposes and aim to enhance doctoral research, promote scientific communication, interdisciplinarity, dialogue with internal and external stakeholders, and the visibility of research results.

Art. 2 – Participants and competition sections

1. The "Best PhD Pitch XXXIX Cycle" competition is reserved for doctoral candidates of the XXXIX cycle of the PhD Programs of the Polytechnic University of Bari.

2. The "Best Poster" competition is open to doctoral candidates enrolled in any of the active cycles of the PhD Programs of the Polytechnic University of Bari. Participation in the Poster Session is also allowed for candidates taking part in the Pitch Session.

Art. 3 – Application

1. Applications are individual and must be submitted within the deadlines and according to the procedures set out in the call.

2. Candidates may apply for the Pitch section, the Poster section or, if they are doctoral candidates enrolled in the XXXIX cycle, both sections.

3. By submitting the application, the participant declares that the contents presented may be disclosed and do not breach confidentiality obligations, third-party rights or intellectual property constraints.

Art. 4 – Rules for the "Best PhD Pitch" session

1. Each pitch shall have a maximum duration of 3 minutes. Exceeding the allotted time may result in the moderator interrupting the presentation.

2. A maximum of 20 pitches shall be admitted. If the number of applications exceeds this limit, the pre-selection procedure referred to in Art. 8 of these Rules shall apply.

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3. The presentation may be delivered in Italian or in English. The use of English is encouraged in order to foster the international dimension of the event.

Art. 5 – Rules for the "Best Poster" session

1. The poster must concern the candidate's doctoral research activity and must be understandable also to a non-specialist audience.

2. A maximum of 100 posters shall be admitted. If the number of applications exceeds this limit, the pre-selection procedure referred to in Art. 8 of these Rules shall apply.

3. The candidate must be in person during the Poster Session to present the work and answer questions from the Evaluation Committee and participants.

Art. 6 – Evaluation Committee

1. The Evaluation Committee is appointed by the Doctoral School after the application deadline and is composed of the Vice-Rector for Research or their delegate, the Director of Scu.Do. or their delegate, and research delegates/experts selected to ensure disciplinary plurality.

2. Committee members shall declare any conflicts of interest. In the event of a conflict concerning a candidate, the member concerned shall not take part in the relevant evaluation and shall be replaced, if necessary, by an alternate member.

3. The decisions of the Committee are taken collegially, recorded in minutes and are final.

Art. 7 – Criteria and scores

For both competitions, assessment is based on a total of 100 points, with up to 20 points awarded for each of the following criteria:

a) Originality and innovation of the research;
b) Scientific impact and, where relevant, industrial, social or territorial impact;
c) Methodological quality and soundness;
d) Interdisciplinarity and ability to connect the research to different contexts or communities;
e) Clarity and effectiveness of communication; for posters, graphic quality and readability are also considered.

In the event of a tie, the Committee shall take a collegial reasoned decision.

Art. 8 – Pitch and Poster pre-selection

1. If the number of applications for the Pitch section exceeds 20 and Poster section exceeds 100, a Technical Committee appointed by Scu.Do. shall carry out a pre-selection based on the title, the abstract and the consistency with the purposes of the initiative.

2. The pre-selection shall take into account, where possible, balanced representation of the different PhD Programs. The pre-selection score shall not contribute to the final score.

Art. 9 – Awards

1. An award shall be granted to the first-ranked candidate in the "Best PhD Pitch – XXXIX Cycle" section.

2. Two awards shall be granted in the "Best Poster" section.

3. Each winner shall receive an official certificate and a cash prize, in the amount specified in the call and within the limits of available resources.

4. Scu.Do. may award non-monetary special mentions without changing the official ranking of the two competitions.

Art. 10 – Intellectual property, confidentiality and ethics

1. Participants are responsible for the contents disclosed and must omit confidential data, patentable information not yet protected, or content subject to confidentiality constraints, unless prior authorization is obtained from the rights holders.

2. Participation in the competition does not entail the transfer of intellectual property rights to Polytechnic University of Bari.

3. The University Code of Ethics, the rules on research integrity and any other applicable provisions must be complied with.

Art. 11 – Recording, communication and data processing

1. The event may be photographed and video-recorded and may be communicated through institutional channels, in compliance with the privacy notice and any releases required by the Polytechnic University of Bari.

2. Personal data collected for applications shall be processed exclusively for organizational, administrative and communication purposes related to the event, in accordance with applicable law and the privacy notice provided to participants.

Art. 12 – Final provisions

1. Participation entails full acceptance of these Rules and of the attached call.

2. For matters not covered herein, the Doctoral School shall decide in compliance with Polytechnic University of Bari regulations and procedures.

Approved by the Board of the Doctoral School on 01/10/2026.