



## Psychology - V.P. POSITION

### DESCRIPTION OF THE PHD PROGRAM

The PhD program in Psychology is composed of 13 Full or Associate Professors and 7 Researchers. Teachers come from four Italian Universities: The University of Parma (15 teachers), The University of Modena e Reggio Emilia (2 teachers), the University of Bologna (2 teachers) and the University of Bari. For the XXX cycle, the PhD Program has entered in two agreements of co-tutorship for the double title, one with the Universidade Federal Fluminense (Brasil) and one with the Universidade de Brasilia (Brasil).

#### Project Area

As far as the project area of Developmental and Educational Psychology is concerned, two European Projects (Lifelong Learning Action and Erasmus+) are active. Research in the field is focused on the study of the interactive processes in the educational centres for early childhood, carried out through longitudinal research designs and systematic observation procedures. Until now, these studies have achieved results that are of great importance for: 1) the acquisition of new scientific knowledge about children's inclusion, 2) the development and implementation of new observational methods and innovative interventions in the educational context.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD & VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The challenges of the earliest childhood in a context of increasing diversity: creating competent systems aimed at accessibility and reflectiveness.

The European Commission has recently underlined that the Member States should "review and improve the professional profile of educators and teachers, preparing them to relate to the socio-cultural differences" (European Commission, 2013, 2.2). The day-care centres and nursery schools are, in fact, spaces of gathering between diversities and communities, between public and private, between multiple identities. In this field, a fundamental role is attributed to psychologic and pedagogic research, in order to single out through field observation methods the competence "indicators" of the education systems, and implement roadmaps that would aim at building competent education systems.

### DESCRIPTION OF THE DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES OF THE VISITING PROFESSOR

Regarding this specific research and intervention field, we uphold necessary a didactics that would foresee diversified knowledge and experience acquisition forms: 1) seminar meetings aimed mainly at PhD students on topics such as: competent education systems, context analysis instruments, an epistemological approach to co-construction, participation and reflectiveness; 2) education period in other European countries for some PhD students that would work on said topics in order to start joint research through innovative methodologies; 3) Preparation and completion of international study days that would have as participants various researchers working on said topics; 4) Preparation and completion of seminars aimed at professionals that work on said topics of interest.

**Presence at the University of Parma: A presence period of 3/4 weeks per year at the University of Parma is foreseen. The PhD student would visit the foreign headquarters for several months each academic year of the course.**