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RETTORIALE

Decree of the Rector n. 778 of 08/08/2022
Competition for awarding 1 research grant at the University of Udine

DISCLAIMER:

The official and legally binding call for applications is in Italian only.
This document cannot be used for legal purposes and is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications (Decree of the Rector n. 778 of 08/08/2022). Please refer to the official call published on: <https://www.uniud.it/it/albo-ufficiale>

Any change and integration will be made available on the above mentioned web page. Therefore, no personal written communication regarding the examination date and/or competition results shall be provided to applicants.

Annex 1

Competition announcement for the assignment of 1 one-year research grant at the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences (DI4A) of the University of Udine, consistent with the priorities of the National Research Programme 2021-2027 (PNR 2021-2027) and functional to present a project proposal under the HE - MSCA-PF-GF - call 2023 – action. “Assegni MSCA 737”. Life Sciences Field.

Art. 1

A selection procedure is hereby launched for the award of 1 one-year research grant at the University of Udine (hereinafter referred to as University), that is consistent with the priorities and with the areas of research and innovation of the National Research Programme 2021-2027 (hereinafter referred to as PNR) and that is functional to present a project proposal on the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Post-doctoral Fellowship Global Fellowship of Horizon Europe (hereinafter referred to as MSCA-PF-GF) action in the call 2023, choosing the University as Host Institution. **The admission requirements have therefore been defined to guarantee the aforementioned purposes and to meet the eligibility requirements of the MSCA-PF-GF.**

The MSCA-PF-GF action finances the mobility of researchers aimed at developing a project idea, initially at a scientific institution located in third countries (outgoing phase) and, in the second period, at the Hosting Institution. For the purposes of eligibility for the MSCA-PF-GF, candidates must not have spent more than 12 (twelve) months in the third country of destination in the 3 (three) years prior to the expiry of the call (mobility rule). For more information, at the moment it is possible to consult the indications for the call 2022 at the link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2022-pf-01-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=2021%20-%202027;programCcm2Id=43108390;programDivisionCode=43108473;focusAreaCode=null;destination=null;mission=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLe=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState>

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If the project proposed for the MSCA-PF-GF action is funded, the University will recruit the winner with a new contract with a duration equal to that of the project.

The research activity of the Research Fellow will take place at the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences (DI4A) of the University of Udine and will concern topics related to the following ERC panels:

- LS9_5 Food biotechnology and bioengineering;
- LS9_8 Applied plant sciences, plant breeding, agroecology and soil biology.

The activities covered by the research grant will be monitored for compliance with the Do Not Significant Harm principles (hereinafter DNSH) and for the ethical aspects.

Applicants can visit the website <https://www.uniud.it/it/ateneo-uniud/ateneo-uniud-organizzazione/dipartimenti/di4a> to view the research topics developed by the Department of Agricultural, Food, Environmental and Animal Sciences (DI4A) of the University of Udine.

The annual amount of the grant, gross of charges payable by the grant holder, is € 25,000.00. In the hypothesis that the applicant holds a Seal of Excellence on an MSCA - Individual Fellowship proposal presented in the period 2019-2020-2021, the amount will be raised to € 30,000.00.

For the realization of the project activities, the University will make available a budget of € 8,000.00 per project.

Participation in the selection is reserved to those that meet the requirements foreseen by the MSCA-PF-GF, as specified at Art.2.

The research grant does not entail any right regarding access to tenured positions at the University.

Art. 2

The research grant may only be awarded to those who meet the following criteria:

- have a scientific CV suitable for carrying out research activities;
- hold a doctorate or equivalent qualification obtained abroad from 6 (six) years at most at the date of application, which is a mandatory requirement for the award of the grant in question;
- have carried out a maximum of 20 (twenty) months of research fellowship pursuant to Art. 22 of Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022) at the time of the deadline of the call (except for those used during the legal duration of the research doctorate);
- have the citizenship of one of the EU member states or of a country that, at the expiry date of this call, is associated with Horizon Europe or have the status of long-term residents or refugee status as required by the eligibility criteria of the MSCA-PF-GF action.

The Examining board (see Art. 7) shall assess — if necessary, with the help of professors from the department who are experts in the field and for the sole purpose of the admission to the competition — the suitability of the qualification obtained abroad on the basis of the documentation attached to the application to take part in the selection and may exclude the candidate if the documentation submitted does not provide sufficient information for the assessment.

Therefore, applicants must enclose all the documentation in their possession relating to their qualification in order to provide the Examining board with sufficient information for assessment.



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Candidates holding a qualification issued by a non-European Research Area country, if successful, must submit, if not already attached to the application form:

- Declaration of the on-site value of the qualification and the certificate relating to the degree with examinations and grades. A certificate in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation into one of these languages (certified by the competent diplomatic-consular authority or certified by a court in Italy).
- CIMEA Certificate of comparability of the foreign qualification, issued by CIMEA (Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence) via the "diplome" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>

If the statement/attestation of comparability is not available at the time of conclusion of the contract, the applicant must prove that he/she has requested it and submit it as soon as possible.

Any exclusion from the selection procedure due to lack of eligibility requirements, absence of required documents, failure to sign the selection application or submission of the selection application in a manner different from what is provided for in this call for applications will be communicated to applicants exclusively at the email address indicated in the application form.

Art. 3

The research grant referred to in this call for applications cannot be awarded:

- a. to employees of Universities and the entities referred to in Article 22, section 1, of Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022);
- b. to anyone who has already received a research grant pursuant to Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022) for more than 20 (twenty) years at the time of the deadline of the call, excluding the period in which the grant was used in conjunction with the doctorate, up to the legal term of the relative course;
- c. to anyone who has already benefited from a research grant and a fixed-term researcher contract provided for, respectively, in Articles 22 and 24 of Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022), for a total of 8 (eight) years, even if not consecutive;
- d. to anyone who has a degree of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with:
 - the Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Udine;
 - the scientific supervisor or a professor/researcher belonging to the department or organisation hosting the research grant in question.
- e. to anyone who does not have the citizenship of one of the EU member states or of a country that, at the expiry date of this call, is associated with Horizon Europe or does not have the status of long-term residents or refugee status as required by the eligibility criteria of the MSCA-PF-GF action.

The research grant provided for in this call for applications cannot be combined:

- a) with scholarships of any kind, except for those granted by Italian or foreign institutions to supplement, by means of stays abroad, the fellow's training or research activities;
- b) with other research grants;
- c) with an employment relationship, even if part-time, without prejudice to the relevant provisions for employees of public administrations.



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The grant awarded under this call for applications is also incompatible with simultaneous attendance at degree courses, specialist or master's degrees, doctoral studies with a grant and medical specialisation, in Italy or abroad.

If the current legislation and the provisions of the University of Udine allow it, the grant may be renewed, in the presence of a positive evaluation of the scientific supervisor on the activity carried out by the grant holder, adequate scientific motivation and related financial coverage.

Art. 4

Applicants must enclose with their application, under penalty of exclusion, the following documents:

- a) their professional scientific CV, dated and signed, highlighting the candidate's aptitude for carrying out and implementing the research project referred to in point b);
- b) the description of the research project proposed for the research grant, highlighting scientific excellence, the impact of the results and the potentiality to develop a MSCA-PF-GF proposal, written in Italian or English using exclusively the Annex A form;
- c) their identity card or other identification document;
- d) the letter of commitment compiled on the form provided as Annex B and signed by the candidate, with which the same undertakes to:
 - submit a project proposal on the MSCA-PF-GF action in the call 2023, choosing the University as Host Institution;
 - identify, as country of destination for the MSCA-PF-GF outgoing phase, a third country in which he/she has not spent more than 12 (twelve) months in the 3 (three) years prior to the expiry of the MSCA-PF-GF 2023 call;
- e) (for candidates with a foreign qualification only) certification or self-certification of their doctorate in research.

For evaluation purposes, the application form may include:

- publications and any other qualification considered useful to prove the candidate is qualified for the research programme (Annex A) and to certify any research activity carried out in public and/or private subjects (indicating the start and duration);
- evaluation showing previous award of a Seal of Excellence on a Marie Skłodowska-Curie project on a MSCA - Individual Fellowship proposal presented in the period 2019-2020-2021.

The above documents and qualifications must be submitted in Italian or English under penalty of non-evaluation. Documents and qualifications, originally in a different language, must be accompanied by a translation into Italian or English carried out by the candidate, under his responsibility. The translation can be limited to an extended abstract with reference only to the thesis.

Italian and Community candidates wishing to submit qualifications referring to conditions and facts attested by Public Administrations must proceed exclusively with self-certification.

Non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy may only self-certify data that can be verified or certified by Italian public bodies. They may also use declarations in lieu when provided for by an international convention between Italy and the declarant's country of origin.

Non-EU citizens not residing in Italy cannot self-certify.

Only the qualifications possessed by the candidate on the date the application form is submitted and submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 5 will be assessed.



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Failure to submit the required documents provided for in this article will constitute grounds for exclusion from the selection.

Art. 5

The submission of the applications for the present call starts on August 31, 2022 at 2:00 pm (Italian time) and ends on September 30, 2022 at 2:00 pm (Italian time).

The application to take part in the selection must be completed, under penalty of exclusion, using the appropriate online procedure, available at <https://pica.cineca.it/>. The procedure involves an applicant registration step, for those who do not already have an account, and then an application completion step.

Once completed, the online application must be signed in the manner described in the online procedure (manual signature with attached identity document or digital signature), under penalty of exclusion from selection. The application does not have to be signed if you access the above-mentioned online procedure using your SPID ID.

The qualifications referred to in Article 4 must be attached to the application in .pdf format. Individual .pdf files may not exceed 30MB.

The application for participation in the selection is automatically sent to the University of Udine with the definitive closing of the online procedure.

The University Administration:

- is not responsible if it is impossible to read the submitted documentation in electronic format due to damaged files;
- shall not accept or take into consideration qualifications or documents received in paper form or by any means other than what is specified in this article.

Reference to documents or publications already submitted in connection with other competitions is prohibited.

The Administration accepts no responsibility if communications are not received because the applicant indicates their residence and address incorrectly or fails to report/delays reporting a change thereof, nor for any postal or telegraphic errors not attributable to the fault of the Administration itself.

Candidates are advised not to wait until the last few days before the closing date to submit their application. The University accepts no responsibility for any malfunctions due to technical problems and/or overloading of the communication line and/or application systems.

Any personal communications to candidates relating to this selection will be sent exclusively to the email address indicated when registering for the selection.

Art. 6

Selection is made by evaluating:

- a. the qualifications submitted by the candidate (CV, publications and other qualifications referred to in Article 4);



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- b. the research project, written in Italian or English, submitted by the candidate (Annex A). To this end, the Examining board may engage professors from the department who are experts in the field of the project submitted;
- c. the candidate in an interview to be held in Italian or English.

The overall assessment is expressed out of 100 points, using the criteria and scoring set out in the table below:

- a. up to a maximum of 35 points for the evaluation of qualifications:

Criteria	Score
1. Peer-reviewed publications	Max 10
2. Awards and prizes	Max 3
3. Consistency and coherence of the Curriculum Vitae	Max 12
4. Seal of Excellence*	10
* Score $\geq 85/100$ on a MSCA - Individual Fellowship proposal presented in the period 2019-2020-2021	

- b. up to a maximum of 35 points for the evaluation of the research project:

Criteria	Score
1. Originality of the topic	Max 10
2. Progress in relation to the state of the art of the proposed topic	Max 8
3. Interdisciplinarity	Max 5
4. Feasibility of the planned research activity	Max 7
5. Potential impact on the scientific community	Max 5

- c. up to a maximum of 30 points for the interview, aimed at discussing the qualifications and the research project submitted in order to assess the candidate's aptitude.

Once the application deadline has closed and the eligibility requirements have been checked, the selection procedure will proceed as follows:

1. evaluation of qualifications by the Examining board;
2. evaluation of the research project with the possible involvement of professors from the department who are experts in the field of the project submitted;
3. interview invitation, sent to the candidates at the email address indicated in the application form with at least 10 days' notice.

The interview will take place by videoconference.



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All candidates who receive a cumulative score of at least 49/70 in the assessment of their qualifications and research project will be invited to interview. Invitation to (or exclusion from) the interview will be communicated to candidates at the email address indicated in the application form.

Instructions on how to conduct the interview electronically will be sent to candidates in a subsequent email from the President of the Examining board. Under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure, each candidate must identify him/herself before the interview begins by producing the same identity document attached to the application for admission to the competition. The candidate must be available on the day and at the time indicated in the call for applications. Failure to log on, unavailability of the candidate on the day or at the time stipulated, or failure to produce identification shall be grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure. Recording of oral interviews is prohibited. The University will therefore take all the measures in its power to protect those involved in the event that video, audio or images of the selection procedure are disseminated via the Internet or other means of public dissemination.

The score relative to the qualifications and research project evaluation will be told to the candidate during the interview.

Art. 7

The Examining board is made up as follows:

First name and surname	Qualification	Scientific disciplinary sector (SSD)	University
Appointed members			
Marco Contin	PA	AGR/13	Università degli Studi di Udine
Lara Manzocco	PA	AGR/15	Università degli Studi di Udine
Stella Plazzotta	RTD	AGR/15	Università degli Studi di Udine
Guido Fellet	RTD	AGR/02	Università degli Studi di Udine
Substitute Member			
Giuseppe Firrao	PO	AGR/12	Università degli Studi di Udine

At its first meeting, the Examining board shall appoint its President and Secretary, verify the eligibility requirements and establish the procedures for awarding points based on the above criteria.

The results of the qualifications assessment must be disclosed to applicants during the interview.

The Examining board can award a maximum of 100 points (one hundred out of one hundred) to the selection.

At the end of the process, the Examining board shall formulate the general merit list based on the overall score of each candidate and draw up the minutes of the competition procedure.

Based on the ranking list, the assignment is awarded to candidates who have obtained a minimum overall score of 70/100 (seventy out of one hundred).



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The Examining board's judgement is final.

The ranking list will be made public exclusively through publication on the University's official website.

Applicants will not be notified of the outcome of the evaluation.

Those who do not declare their acceptance of the research grant and do not present themselves at the research centre within the deadline communicated by the latter, even if not formally, shall lose the right to receive it. Exceptions to this term will only be granted in cases of documented force majeure.

Art. 8

The research activity cannot be started before signing the contract defining the terms and conditions of the collaboration.

The effective date of the research grant will be defined in the following interval: **15 October 2022 - 15 December 2022**.

The activity covered by the research grant must have the following characteristics:

- a) carried out as part of the research programme covered by the grant and as a purely technical support to it;
- b) a close link with the implementation of the research programme which is the basis for the relationship with the winner;
- c) continuous and, in any case, temporally defined, not merely occasional, and in coordination with the overall activity of the University;
- d) performed autonomously, solely within the limits of the programme prepared by the programme supervisor, without predetermined working hours.

The researcher is required to submit a detailed written report on the work carried out and the results achieved, accompanied by the opinion of the scientific supervisor, to the reference organisation at the intervals set out in the contract. The research activity and the achieved results described in the report must make specific reference to the progress of the preparation of the project proposal for the MSCA-PF-GF action.

The researcher must also submit interim reports and timesheets, if requested by the reference organisation.

Either the fellow or the reference organisation may withdraw from the contract.

The reference organisation may terminate the contract not only in the cases referred to in Article 9, sections 2 and 3, of the "Internal rules for awarding research grants pursuant to law 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine, but also in the event the research project and therefore the financial coverage on which the research grant is based cease to exist.

Art. 9

The following shall apply to the grant referred to in this call for applications:

- for tax matters, the provisions of Article 4 of Italian Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- for social security matters, the provisions of Article 2(26) *et seq.* of Italian Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- for mandatory maternity leave, the provisions of the Italian Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007;

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- with regard to sick leave, the provisions of Article 1(788) of Italian Law no. 296 of 27 December 2006 and subsequent amendments.

During the period of mandatory maternity leave, the allowance paid by INPS according to Art. 5 of the Italian Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007 is supplemented by the University up to the full amount of the research grant.

The grant will be paid in monthly instalments.

Art. 10

The data collected as part of the procedure referred to in Art. 5 are necessary to properly manage the selection procedure, for any subsequent management of the research grant and for purposes related to managing services provided by the University. The University of Udine is the Data Controller. At any time, the data subject may request access, rectification and, depending on the University's institutional purposes, cancellation and restriction of processing or oppose the processing of their data. The data subject can always lodge a complaint with the Italian Data Protection Authority. The complete disclosure is available on the University of Udine website in the "Privacy" section, accessible from the home page www.uniud.it Direct Link: <https://www.uniud.it/it/it/pagine-speciali/quida/privacy>

Art. 11

For all matters not expressly mentioned in this call for applications, refer to the regulations in force on the subject cited in the introduction and to the "Internal rules for awarding research grants pursuant to Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine, issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021.

Art. 12

The Procedure Supervisor is Dr Sandra Salvador, Head of the Research Services Area of the University of Udine.

The Responsible office at the University of Udine is "Area Servizi per la Ricerca - Ufficio Formazione per la Ricerca", via Mantica n. 31 - 33100 Udine, Italia.

To request information about the call for applications, please complete the following form available on the University of Udine website:

https://helpdesk.uniud.it/SubmitSR.jsp?type=req&accountId=universityofudine&populateSR_id=42105

