



Call for funding for the departments of the University of Trieste wishing to host at-risk visiting researchers

Article 1 – Purposes of the scheme

In accordance with its Regulation on research grants, the University of Trieste supports departmental research at an international level. The University of Trieste is a member of the Scholars at Risk network (SAR) and, more specifically, a member of its Italian section. As such, and in the light of the recurring international crises which see academic freedom and research seriously threatened in different parts of the world, the University of Trieste shall select and support visiting research fellowships at departments within the University of Trieste for scholars at risk who have been prevented from returning to their country of origin to carry out their academic activity.

1. Article 2 – Number of fellowships

The administration of the University of Trieste will provide departments with monthly contributions to fund *visiting research fellowships* with a duration of 3 to 12 months in any academic discipline offered at the University of Trieste. These fellowships cannot be renewed or awarded to the same scholar twice.

A visiting research fellowship is not an employment relationship and does not give the holder the right to enrolment as a teacher at the University of Trieste.

Article 3 – Value of fellowships

The University of Trieste will allocate a total of EUR 38,000.00 for these fellowships under the budget item UA.AMM.SIST.09.13.10 – progetto INTERNAZ_UCRAINA – COAN item A.R.20.200.020.100. For each visiting research fellowship, the selected department will receive EUR 1,500.00 per month (corresponding to the Visiting Researcher's gross wages)¹ plus the regional tax on productive activities (Irap). The amount received can only be used for the purposes set out in this call.

The entire contribution will be transferred to the host department once the University Committee for Internationalisation has announced the selected fellowships. Departments shall not be granted any additional reimbursement.

However, at their own discretion and relying on their own funds, departments may decide to increase the Visiting Researcher's gross wages by a maximum of EUR 200,00 per month.

¹ In accordance with Article 50(1)(c) of the consolidated law on income tax (TUIR), fellowships are considered as a form of paid employment and will therefore be taxed as such. Taxation varies depending on the duration of the fellowship.

Article 4 – Admission requirements

Visiting researcher candidates must be:

- a) non-Italian citizens meeting at least one of the following requirements:
 - (1) the candidate has been granted scholar-at-risk status by Scholars at Risk (SAR) or by another recognised international organisation operating in the field, such as Scholar Rescue Fund (SRF) and Council for At-Risk Academics (CARA).
 - (2) the candidate has been offered international protection from Italy or any other EU country;
 - (3) the candidate has been granted refugee status by a third country which signed the Geneva Convention;
 - (4) the candidate has asylum-seeker status in Italy.



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Candidates shall submit their application along with a copy of the documentation certifying that they meet the above requirement(s);

- b) the candidate must have a master's degree or other academic qualification recognised as equivalent by the competent body for visiting researcher candidates. There are two types of degree recognition in Italy: generic (*equipollenza* - a longer and more expensive procedure that must only be requested once) or call-specific (*equivalenza* - a quicker and cheaper procedure completed on request for the sole purpose of a specific call).

Article 5 – Insurance

Selected candidates are responsible for providing their own third-party civil liability insurance related to all scheduled activities at the University (e.g. access to laboratories, use of equipment, etc.).

Before the arrival of the Visiting Researcher, the host department shall verify the mandatory insurance requirements provided for by the current legislation and any additional requirements related to scheduled activities (e.g. access to laboratories, use of equipment, etc.). The department will do so with the help of the administration office in charge of insurance.

In the case that the Visiting Researcher already has an insurance policy which does not meet the mandatory insurance requirements, they will personally have to find suitable third-party civil liability insurance. The administration office in charge of insurance will verify that this new insurance policy meets the mandatory requirements.

Article 6 – Incompatibility

For more information regarding the incompatibility of a visiting research fellowships with other positions, please refer to the provisions of Article 12 of the Regulation of the University of Trieste on research grants.

Article 7 – Submission of applications

Applications can be submitted from the date of publication of this call until funds are exhausted. In any case, no applications shall be accepted after **15th September 2024**.

Applications will be accepted by the Unit for Development Cooperation and University Networks on a first-come, first-served basis. Applications must be submitted by host departments. Only applications made using the form attached to this call (**Annex A**) will be considered.

Along with Annex A, the department shall submit:

1. candidate's letter of request for hospitality at the host department;
2. documentation certifying the candidate's status referred to in Article 3 of this call;
3. current residence permit (only applicable for candidates already in Italy);
4. candidate's curriculum vitae in English;
5. title and brief description of the research project or activity that the candidate will carry out;
6. candidate's required academic degree;
7. copy of the minutes of the Department Council meeting or an emergency decree of the Head of Department. The minutes or decree should indicate:
 - the department's support for the candidature. The document must also clearly indicate if the department prioritises one candidate over the other.
 - the candidates point of contact within the department;
 - the department's commitment to providing the Visiting Researcher with a workstation;



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- confirmation of the availability of the equipment necessary to carry out the proposed research activity;
- verification of the necessary insurance, in accordance with Article 5 of this call.

Article 8 – Selection

The Unit for Development Cooperation and University Networks will verify that each application complies with the admission requirements set out in this call.

Eligible applications will then be forwarded to the University Committee for Internationalisation.

The identity of the selected candidates will be submitted to the academic bodies of the University of Trieste for their approval.

After the academic bodies have approved the selection results, the Unit for Development Cooperation and University Networks will publish the selection results on the University's website.

Article 9 – Scheduled activities

After the academic bodies have approved the selection results and the Visiting Researcher has accepted the fellowship, the University will transfer the allocated funds to the relevant department, which shall only use them for the purposes established by this call. At the end of their stay, the Visiting Researcher will submit a brief report on the activities they carried out at the host department. The Visiting Researcher's point of contact within the host department will countersign the report and send it to the Unit for Development Cooperation and University Networks on behalf of their department.

All activities must be concluded by 31st December 2024.

Article 10 – Advertising and conclusion of proceedings

This call and the selection results will be published on the [University webpage dedicated to Scholars at Risk](#).

Article 11 – Processing of personal data

Pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree No 196 of 30 June 2003, as amended by Italian Legislative Decree No 101 of 10 August 2018, and pursuant to EU Regulation No 679/2016 – General Data Protection Regulation, the University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by candidates. All data provided will be processed only for purposes related to this selection procedure and the eventual management of an applicant's relationship with the University, in compliance with the provisions in force.

Article 12 – Member of staff in charge of the administrative procedure and contacts

Pursuant to Italian Law No 241 of 7 August 1990, the member of staff in charge of this administrative procedure for the University of Trieste, is Carla Savastano, Head of the Unit for Development Cooperation and University Networks. For any further information or clarification please contact the Unit for Development Cooperation and University Networks at the email: relazioni.internazionali@amm.units.it

Article 13 – Referral clause

For any matters not covered by this call, please refer to the regulation of the University of Trieste on Visiting Professors and on Research Grants.

The Rector
prof. Roberto Di Lenarda