



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI SIENA  
1240



RESEARCH AND GRANTS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

RESEARCH AND GRANTS  
MANAGEMENT DIVISION  
Rectoral decree  
Classification: III/13  
No. annexes: 3

**PUBLIC SELECTION FOR THE FUNDING OF 3 PROJECTS SUBMITTED BY RESEARCHERS WHO WERE AWARDED THE SEAL OF EXCELLENCE IN THE CALL HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01**

**THE RECTOR**

- having regard to the Statute of the University of Siena issued by Rectoral Decree no. 164/2012 of 7 February 2012, as amended and supplemented;
- having regard to the University Regulations for administration, finance and accounting in effect as of 2 February 2017;
- having regard to Law no. 241 dated 07.08.1990, as amended and supplemented, containing provisions governing administrative procedures, and the related University Regulations for their implementation, adopted through Rectoral Decree no. 1037 dated 30.05.2007;
- having regard to Law no. 104 dated 05.02.1992, as amended and supplemented, regarding the assistance, social integration and rights of disabled persons;
- having regard to Presidential Decree no. 445 dated 28 December 2000, as amended and supplemented, containing the act consolidating legislative provisions and regulations governing administrative documentation;
- having regard to legislative decree no. 165 dated 30 March 2001, as amended and supplemented;
- having regard to legislative decree no. 82 dated 07.03.2005, “Code for digital administration”, as amended and supplemented;
- having regard to Presidential Decree no. 189 dated 30.07.2009, “Regulations concerning the recognition of academic qualifications”;
- having regard to Law no. 240 dated 30.12.2010, in particular art. 22, as amended and supplemented;
- having regard to Law no. 183 of 12.11.2011, and in particular art. 15 “Norms in matters concerning certificates and declarations in lieu of certificates and the ban on introducing, in the transposition of EU directives, other obligations in addition to those specified in the directives themselves”;
- having regard to the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research Decree no. 102 of 9 March 2011 establishing the minimum gross annual amount of research fellowships;



- having regard to the Code of Ethics of the University of Siena Community, issued through Rectoral Decree. no. 1381 dated 28.07.2011;
- having regard to Law no. 190 dated 06.11.2012 regarding "Provisions for preventing and eliminating corruption and illegality in public administrations";
- having regard to Legislative Decree no. 192 dated 31.12.2014, converted, after amendment, into Law no. 11 of 27.02.2015, and in particular art. 6, par. 2-bis, which sets out that the total duration of fellowships under art. 22 of Law 240/2010, is increased by two years;
- having regard to the Regulations for research fellowships pursuant to art. 22 of Law no. 240/2010, issued through Rectoral Decree no. 125/2022 of 21.01.2022 (hereafter "Regulations"), and in particular in accordance with art. 5 par. 6;
- having regard to the "Regulations on the Processing of Personal Data Implementing EU Regulation 2016/679 and Legislative Decree 196/2003," issued by Rectoral Decree no. 56/2022 of 13 January 2022;
- considering Regulation (EU) no. 695/2021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe - The Framework Program for Research and Innovation (2021 - 2027) and its Rules for Participation and Dissemination;
- having regard to the Commission Recommendation of 11 March 2005 regarding the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers;
- considering the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions 2021-2022 work programme;
- having regard to the Research Development Plan 2023, validated by the Academic Senate at its meeting on 14 March 2023 (Reg. no. 46/2023) and approved by the Council at its meetings on 24 March 2023 (Reg. no. 74/2023) and 28 April 2023 (Reg. no. 139/2023);
- considering that the aforementioned Plan foresees the F-SEAL fund, which is destined for three eighteen-month research fellowships, one per ERC area, each amounting to 75,000€ (University cost) in addition to 5,000€ for expenses related to the research development,
- considering that the above-mentioned research fellowships are fully funded through the allocation of profit from the 2022 financial year (Council Resolution No. 115 of 28/4/2023) to the 2023 Research Development Plan - F-SEAL Project, as certified by the Head of the Administrative and Accounting Services Office- ARBI3 of the Research, Libraries, Internationalization and Third Mission Area;
- considering the University of Siena Policy for depositing research products in the Institutional Repository and in particular article 4 under which USiena-air is the primary source of data for internal and external evaluation, applications for funding and award funds, to be constantly and systematically updated by the University's researcher(s) so as to be comprehensive and reliable;

**HEREBY DECREES**



### **Art. 1 – SUBJECT OF THE NOTICE**

The “MSCA SoE@UNISI 2023” initiative shall award 3 eighteen-month fellowships to 3 researchers who obtained the European Commission’s MSCA Seal of Excellence for a project submitted to the HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01 Call.

Three projects shall be selected, one for each ERC area: SH (Social sciences and humanities), LS (Life sciences), PE (Mathematics, physical sciences, information and communication, engineering, earth and planetary sciences),

Each project shall be awarded 80,000 Euros, distributed as follows:

- 75,000 Euros to cover the researcher's salary;
- 5,000 Euros to ensure that each of the selected researchers has funds available that can be spent on needs strictly relating to the conduct of the research project over the duration of the project (e.g., purchase of laboratory equipment, consumables, mission expenses, networking, publications, etc.).

### **Art. 2 - PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Researchers shall be eligible for selection if they:

- have submitted a European project under the HORIZON call Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Postdoctoral Fellowships (HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01) and were awarded the European Commission's Seal of Excellence - MSC Actions with a score of 85/100 or higher

The following individuals cannot take part in the selection procedure:

- the permanent staff of universities, institutions and public research and experimentation institutes, the National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI), as well as institutions issuing postgraduate diplomas in advanced sciences that have been recognized as equivalent to the title of research doctorate under Article 74, par. 4 of Presidential Decree 382/1980;
- those who have a relationship of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with a professor from the reference Department for the research project or with the Rector, the Director General or a member of the University Council;
- those who have been in receipt, from any institution, of a fellowship pursuant to Law 240/2010, as supplemented and amended, for a period which, including the expected duration of the fellowship herein, exceeds a total of 6 years, including any renewals. Fellowships received during a doctoral programme without scholarship, for the legal duration of the programme only, do not count towards the 6-year limit.

### **Art. 3 – APPLICATION PROCEDURE**



This call for applications and all the documents required to submit a request for funding are available on the page <https://research.unisi.it/seal-of-excellence/> (*Italian and English version*), published in accordance with the procedures indicated under art. 11.

Each applicant should prepare an application dossier, following the Application Template and including the following documents:

- Copy of your identity document (valid identity card or passport);
- Copy of the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship project submitted to the European Commission in the HORIZON-MSCA-2022-PF-01-01 call (Part A and Part B).
- Evaluation Summary Report stating the score awarded.
- Copy of the Seal of Excellence Certificate issued by the European Commission.
- Copy of your doctoral certificate or other equivalent qualification. Applicants who obtained their degree in Italy may attest to their qualification by submitting self-certification (Annex B).
- A brief description of the project proposal, also signed by the Supervisor from the University of Siena, drafted following the Project Facsimile (Annex C). The description should show the changes made and highlight how the project can be carried out within the timeframe identified by the candidate at the University of Siena, as well as how the proposed project is strategic for the research areas of their Department and the specific research team in which the researcher will be inserted, also in view of new projects that may receive European competitive funding.

Applications must be submitted by e-mail only to [rettore@pec.unisipec.it](mailto:rettore@pec.unisipec.it) no later than 22 August 2023.

Applicants are requested to specify the following subject in the e-mail accompanying the application dossier: "MSCASoE-UNISI- COGNOME".

Incomplete applications or applications sent after the deadline will not be accepted.

#### **Art. 4 - SELECTION PROCEDURE**

The procedure for selecting proposals for funding is carried out by the UNISI Research and Grants Management Division (DRGM), which, in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Seal of Excellence - MSCA, shall acquire the required documentation.

The DRGM carries out an initial administrative eligibility check on all applications for funding, as indicated in art. 4 - 4.1.

Following this, selection based on the merit of proposed research projects will take place in accordance with the procedures set out in art. 4 - 4.2.

##### **4.1 Admission to the selection procedure**



At the close of the call, applications received are checked to see that they meet participation requirements as per Art. 2. Dossiers will be examined to verify the correctness and completeness of the declarations provided by the applicant and the documentation submitted. Any applicant who does not meet one or more admission requirements will be notified of the start of exclusion procedures by e-mail, and the interested party will have 10 days to provide further appropriate documentation. After this deadline, the administration will, where appropriate, proceed to issue the exclusion decision.

#### 4.2 Selection

An internal UNISI Evaluation Committee shall formulate a ranking of the eligible proposals, ranked according to:

- the score assigned by the European Commission and indicated in the Evaluation Summary Report;
- any indication of UNISI as Host Institution already in the application submitted to the European Commission;
- strategic importance and relevance of the project for the University of Siena, also with reference to the research activity currently underway, in launching a new line of research and design on competitive European calls;
- any further parameters that the UNISI internal Evaluation Committee will define during the first meeting.

The committee assigns a score to each criterion, up to a maximum of 100 total points. Proposals are considered eligible if they achieve a minimum score of 60/100.

Proposals in the ranking list are funded until the budgeted funds for each academic area are exhausted. Should no applications be submitted for one or more ERC areas (or should the submitted applications not reach the minimum score for admission), the budget provided will be allocated to the first project suitably ranked for funding.

In the event of a tie, the score for the Criterion of Excellence (based on criteria established by the European Commission for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions, Work Programme 2021-2022) will be considered in the first instance, and preference will subsequently be given to the younger candidate.

The list of projects eligible for funding and the relevant funding proposal will be published online at <https://research.unisi.it/seal-of-excellence/> and filed with the DRGM so that they are available to anyone requesting access to the records .

The acts shall also be published as indicated in art. 11.

#### **Art. 5 –SELECTION COMMITTEE**

Applications shall be assessed by an internal selection committee appointed by the Rector.



The committee shall formulate the following within 60 days of the application deadline:

- the ranking of the three proposals worthy of funding, one for each Area;
- the ranking of proposals in a reserve list, i.e. proposals worthy of approval but not eligible for funding due to exhaustion of budgeted funds.

In the event of forfeiture of the grant or inability to carry out the planned research activities, the funded applications will be replaced by others on the reserve list, in order of ranking.

If additional funds become available, applications on the reserve list may be funded in the order of ranking.

#### **Art. 6 – AWARDING OF FUNDING**

The ranking list of the funded projects, approved by Rector's decree assigning the funding, shall be published online at <https://research.unisi.it/seal-of-excellence/> (*Italian and English version*) and as indicated in art. 11.

The University of Siena shall provide a fellowship amounting to 75.000 Euros (gross of expenses borne by the University) , in addition to €5,000 as reimbursement for expenses strictly pertaining to project activities.

The research fellowship lasts 18 months.

The research fellowship is awarded in accordance with art. 5, paragraph 6, of the aforementioned Regulations, as it can only be awarded to subjects already successfully selected within the framework of European or international research projects, on the basis of the requirements and according to the procedures established by the European Commission.

The University agrees with the researcher on the date by which, on pain of forfeiture, the fellowship contract must be signed. The deadline is 15 December 2023.

Failure to stipulate the contract by the above-mentioned date will result in forfeiture of the right to the fellowship. An extension of the deadline for the stipulation of the contract may be allowed in exceptional cases relating to duly documented extraordinary and unforeseeable events (*force majeure*).

Receipt of the fellowship is not compatible with enrolment in bachelor's or master's degree programmes, doctoral research with fellowship or postgraduate medical specialization, in Italy or abroad, and recipients who are employees of public administrations must take a period of unpaid leave.

MSCA SoE@UNISI funding lapses for those who obtain an MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship subsequent to the awarding of the grant under this notice.

#### **Art. 7 – THE FELLOWSHIP**

If the application is approved, the University awards the researcher a research fellowship by entering into an appropriate contract.



The fellowship shall be awarded in compliance with the Regulation for the awarding of research grants, issued by Rector's Decree no. 125 of 21.01.2022, including aspects relating to:

- rights and duties of the assignees
- responsibility for the activities of assignees;
- ban on cumulation of paid activities, incompatibility, suspension;
- monitoring and evaluation of activities;
- taxation, social security and insurance;
- forfeiture, termination and withdrawal.

#### **Art. 8 – DIRECT COSTS**

Direct costs are expenses specifically and directly related to research activities, including but not limited to:

- participation in training activities;
- purchasing laboratory equipment and consumables;
- participation in conferences or workshops;
- carrying out short missions or secondments;
- publication of papers or monographs.

Direct costs are identified and borne by the Department in accordance with the accounting principles and reporting rules set out in Work Programme MSCA 2021-2022, Post-Doctoral Fellowship, by the Annotated Model Grant Agreement - EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027, version November 2021, as subsequently updated, the University Regulations for Administration, Finance and Accounting in force since 2 February 2017 and by any applicable University regulations.

Indirect costs, to be understood as those expenses that cannot be directly identified as specific and attributable to the implementation of research activities, are not eligible. They include but are not limited to:

- management activities and administrative management of the project
- purchase of stationery;
- maintenance costs;
- telephone costs.

#### **Art. 9 – OBLIGATION OF RESEARCHERS WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF FUNDED PROJECTS**

Researchers selected under this call must carry out personally and in full the planned work in the research project submitted, for which they have been funded. In order to ascertain that the aims of funding have been achieved, the researcher(s) must submit, within 60 days of the end of the project,





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a report containing an account of the use made of the portion of the funding allocated to research and describing the manner in which the project was carried out, the results obtained and any changes made to the initial proposal, a list of research products (publications, published or in press, databases), and a report on the networks set up during research, on the organisation of seminars and conferences, on possible future research developments, on the continuation of the research with other external funding.

This report, accompanied by the evaluation of the Board of the Department where research is carried out, and signed by the researcher and the University supervisor, must be sent to DRGM UNISI (research.eu@unisi.it).

Any publications resulting from research activities funded by this call for proposals must acknowledge the funding received by indicating the name of the programme “MSCA SoE@UNISI 2023” and the project acronym.

#### **Art.10 - OPEN SCIENCE**

The University of Siena adheres to the Open Science policy and requests that the beneficiaries of the present call guarantee free on-line open access (at least in green access mode) to research results and to the contents of publications, provided that this does not conflict with the need to protect sensitive and confidential data.

This without prejudice to any obligations of confidentiality or protection of personal data.

#### **Art. 11 – PROCESSING AND PROTECTION OF PERSONAL DATA. PRIVACY NOTICE PURSUANT TO ART. 13 OF THE GDPR**

The processing and protection of personal data, contained in the application for this selection procedure or possibly communicated with documents supplementing the application, will be carried out in compliance with EU Regulation 2016/679 on data protection and Legislative Decree no. 196/2003 as amended, and in particular according to the principles of lawfulness, correctness, transparency, adequacy, relevance and necessity referred to in article 5, paragraph 1 of the GDPR.

The data controller is the University of Siena. The personal data provided by the candidates will be processed for the purpose of managing the procedure, for any conferral of appointment or employment, for managing the ranking lists (where provided for in the call) exclusively for the purpose of fulfilling legislative requirements, including the publication requirements provided for by current legislation.

The provision of personal data is mandatory. Any refusal will make it impossible to carry out the operations necessary for the procedure and, possibly, for establishing and managing the employment relationship.

The policy regarding data processing is published on the University website at <https://www.unisi.it/ateneo/adempimenti/privacy>





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For the purposes envisaged by Law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, as amended and supplemented, the person managing the selection procedure relating to this call is the Head of the Research and Grants Management Division.

This call for proposals is published on the page <https://research.unisi.it/seal-of-exellence/> (*Italian and English version*).

This call is published on the University's online noticeboard and on the University's website at: <https://www.unisi.it/ateneo/concorsi-gare-e-appalti>

This call is also published on the portal of the European Union at: <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/125875>

#### **Art. 12 – ETHICAL PRINCIPLES**

Proposed research activities must respect the ethical and legal principles of the University, Italy, the international community and the European Union, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention on Human Rights and its additional protocols. Particular attention must be paid to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the right to protection of personal data, the right to a person's physical and mental integrity, the right to non-discrimination and safeguarding human health and safety. Proposed research activities must focus exclusively on civil applications.

The Rector, Prof. Roberto Di Pietra  
Siena, date of the digital signature

Approved  
Dott.ssa Donata Franzi  
The Procedure Manager  
date of the digital signature

Approved  
Dott. Guido Badalamenti  
Head of the Research , Libraries, Internationalization and Third Mission Area  
date of the digital signature

ANNEXES  
Annex A: Application template  
Annex B: Declaration in lieu of certificate  
Annex C: Project template