

Project: Strengthening and attractiveness of the Research at the University of Pavia - **Strengthening**

Call of interest

CONSIDERING that the institutional initiative - Project: "Strengthening and attractiveness of the "research system" of the University of Pavia - was begun by the current Administration with approval by the Board of Governors on 24 July 2020, and that this project aims at supporting the actions that will be taken to increase the attractiveness of the University and promote projects of excellence;

SEEING that the University of Pavia has allocated €750,000 in the 2020 budget for the sub-action "Strengthening";

CONSIDERING that the applications submitted as part of this initiative will be evaluated by a Committee appointed by the Chancellor;

SEEING that the Code of Ethics of the University of Pavia has been in force since 21/06/2011;

GIVEN that the main purpose of the strengthening and attractiveness project is to *improve the ability to design research in high-quality competitive areas where ERC action is educationally paradigmatic*

THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE SET FORTH

Article 1: Definitions

With regard to the present guidelines:

- ERC stands for the European Research Council;
- PI stands for Principal Investigator (scientific head of the project).

Article 2: Aims of the selection

To take full advantage of the human capital already present in our university, or recruited from outside, in order to increase participation and success in bottom-up research programmes, recognizing for researchers an effective transition to independence in an environment that has the appropriate infrastructure to allow them to carry out high-quality research activities.

Article 3: Beneficiaries of the initiative

Beneficiaries of the "Strengthening" initiative may be non-permanent researchers already working at the university or recruited from outside who have both of the following requirements:

- significant scientific achievements through the presentation, as a PI, of ambitious national and/or international competitive projects (research fellowships excluded) in the latest "call" for projects by the financing institution;

- in the absence of funding in the last call, individuals who have received quantitative assessments which were particularly positive and close to the threshold value (for example, but not exclusively, exceeding Step 1 for ERC projects and reaching a threshold of at least 85% of the maximum valuation for other types. For projects for which 85% of the maximum assessment ensure funding from the financing institution, the committee may also consider lower threshold values, which, however, are not less than 70%).

Article 4: Areas of interest and resources available

The action calls for 18 selective procedures offering the same number of research grants (*assegno di ricerca*, type “b”), no more than one per department, based on expressions of interest from the departments or directly involved researchers.

In particular, the plan calls for a maximum of 3 two-year research grants and 15 yearly research grants:

- for PIs of ERC projects who have passed Step 1, the offer will consist of a two-year grant of €30K/year (gross amount for recipient);
- the PIs of other, non-ERC projects, will receive a yearly research grant in the amount of €25K/year.

Each position entailing a grant will be accompanied by an additional funding of €20K/year (for two-year research grants) and €5K/year for annual grants.

Two expressions of interest per department will be evaluated, one for each type of research grant (two-year or annual).

Article 5: General criteria for the utilization of the financial allocations

The financial allocations accompanying each research grant should be used for

- purchase consumables;
- research travels;
- inventoriable expenses (e.g., PCs, purchase of small equipment, and co-financing of shared instrumentation);

in order to develop and improve the project to be strengthened.

For all areas of financing, the funds allocated to each project will be recorded in the accounts of the Department the researcher belongs to.

The grant money will be provided in full after the approval of the annual projects. For the two-year projects, 70% will be disbursed upon approval of the project and 30% at the beginning of the second year.

The grant money awarded to each PI must be spent or used without exception within the deadline for the research grant.

Article 7: Presentation, procedure, and evaluation of application

All applications for researchers will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the Chancellor and chaired by a delegate appointed by him, taking into account the prestige of the grant (evaluated on the basis of objective descriptors: e.g., regional, national, international: 20%), the candidate CV and/or the quality of the group, in relation to the type of grant under consideration (20%), the budget (10%), and the score obtained in the evaluation regarding the funding threshold value (50%).

The applications must be submitted by the departments or directly by the candidates to the Research and Third Mission Unit (staff.servizioricerca@unipv.it) and in copy to the Vice-Chancellor for Research (mauro.freccero@unipv.it), using the attached model, by **30 November 2020** (for the two-year research grants), and by **1 February 2021** for the annual research grants. The application (attachment 1) must include the file of the entire project (including the budget) and the evaluation.

Article 8: Obligations of the grant recipients

The awarding of the two-year research grants is conditional on the application for the project "Promoting the attractiveness and competitiveness of researchers studying instruments of the ERC", Sub-action Strengthening, from the Cariplo Foundation (if officially published). Failure to submit an application will result in exclusion.

In the case of the allocation of Cariplo resources, part of the university funding (equal to 50% of the Cariplo contribution) will have to be returned to the university and used for new research initiatives.

Article 9: Publication and confidentiality

In order to maximise the benefits to the University of the planned investment, the project will be accompanied by actions aimed at increasing the international visibility of the research at the university through the dissemination of the results of the research (in collaboration with the Vice-Chancellor, the ERC grantees of the university, and the Communication Service through press releases and/or participation in European networks such as EARMA, and through the consolidation of existing relations with the Coimbra Group and EUA), the organization of awareness-raising events, and the promotion of university research.

At the request of the beneficiaries, it is possible to prepare a special *Non-Disclosure Agreement* that will be signed by all parties involved both in the proposal selection phase and in the management phase of the approved proposals.

In any event, all applicants will be guaranteed access to the documents under legislation 241/1990 and subsequent modifications.

Article 10: Correspondence and information

All information and forms, as well as the ranking lists, will be published on the following website: <https://web.unipv.it/ricerca/attraction/>

With the submission of the applications, the Administration considers it implicit that the applicants have authorized the publication of information relating to the submitted proposal (First and Last Name, Proposed Title, Department of Reference, Score obtained).

For information and correspondence, the e-mail address is: staff.servizioricerca@unipv.it

The Vice-Rector for Research

Prof. Mauro Freccero

(document digitally signed)

Attachments:

Attachment 1 – Application model