

Young Researchers - FUNDING OF MSCA SEAL OF EXCELLENCE INFO SHEET

Purpose and financial allocation

The Ministry of University and Research (MUR) funds the first edition of the 247 call with **220 million euros**, of which **60 million euros** are aimed to support **400 young researchers awarded with a MSCA-IF and MSCA-PF Seal of Excellence.**

“Young researcher” being defined as a researcher of any nationality benefiting from European grants of excellence, such as ERC Starting Grant and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual and Postdoctoral Fellowships, as well as a researcher of any nationality who has obtained a “Seal of Excellence” following the participation in MSCA-IF and MSCA-PF calls, as part of the Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Framework Programs.

Who can apply?

Researchers of any nationality who have obtained the Seal of Excellence under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships and Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-IF and MSCA PF) calls within the scope of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe Framework Programmes:

- ✓ **Who have obtained the Seal of Excellence in the 48 months prior to the date of publication of the Notice (between 24/08/2018 and 23/08/2022).**
- ✓ Who will submit a project proposal based on an **adaptation of the initial MSCA proposal** awarded with the Seal of Excellence.

Application Process

Eligible candidates must submit an application dossier, complete with all the mandatory documents, **via the MUR GEA portal <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it>. The ultimate deadline for submission is October 25, 2022 – h12:00 pm.**

Selection process

- Candidates choosing UniPD as Host Institution must contact a Department consistent with their research area and obtain a declaration support of their application.
- The Host Institution appoints an **Evaluation Committee** that carries out the evaluation of submitted projects. The assessment (Evaluation Report) is made on the basis of **Scientific adequacy, Impact and Implementation criteria**, worth 5 points each. Eligible proposals must score at least **9/15** (and higher than 1/5 in all criteria).
- **The Evaluation Committee releases an Evaluation Report** for the submitted projects and the Host Institution signs a **Preliminary Agreement** with the eligible candidates.
- **The Ministry draws up and publishes online the list of the selected applicants** and associated Host Institutions, ranked in descending order of score, based on the Evaluation Report.

Key dates - timeline:

- **Before 15 October 2022:** candidates make contact with their Host Department of choice at the University of Padua to obtain a declaration of support to the application.
- **15 October 2022:** **deadline for the submission of project proposals to UniPD as Host Institution (individual.grants@unipd.it),** complete with the above-mentioned declaration of support.
- **By 21 October 2022: UniPD Evaluation Committee releases the Evaluation Report.** Successful candidates may then contact their Host Department for the mandatory Preliminary Agreement signature.
- **25 October 2022 - h. 12.00 pm (Italian Time):** ultimate deadline for the submission on MUR's portal: <https://www.gea.mur.gov.it>.

Duration and financial allowance

The activities of the project must be carried out over a maximum period of **24 months** from the date of signature of the contract and in any case **by December 20, 2024.** The grant provided will correspond to a maximum limit of 150,000 euros for each project proposal and will be provided as a “lump sum”.

Budget – Eligible costs

The amount provided corresponds to 100% of the costs of the projects. The RTDA contract for the researcher may be covered partially (max. 24 months) and must be co-financed by the Host Department at UniPD (min. 12 months).

Employment conditions

The researchers will be offered a contract as fixed-term researcher pursuant to art. 24, paragraph 3, letter a), of Law no. 240 of December 30, 2010 with **direct call as RTDA. The contract should be signed in any case by December 20, 2022.**

Incompatibility

“Seal of Excellence @UNIPD”: in case of acceptance of the RTDA contract, shall communicate the withdrawal from the Seal of Excellence @UNIPD funding in a timely manner, via email to: individual.grants@unipd.it

Useful links on MUR's website

FAQ's (updated regularly): [link](#)
Applicant's documents and attachments: [link](#)

Contacts and links at the University of Padua

International Research Office: individual.grants@unipd.it
UniPD as Host Institution, application instructions: [link](#)