



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



PISCOPIA Fellowship Programme co-funded by Marie Curie Actions
Call for Proposals 2013
Deadline: 22/11/2013

OVERVIEW

This call for proposal is issued by the University of Padua (UNIPD) within the Project PISCOPIA, co-funded by UNIPD and by the European Commission within the objectives of the 7th Framework Programme for the period 2007-2013 – “People” specific programme – FP7 Marie Curie Actions – Co-funding of Regional, National and International Programmes (G.A. n. 600376).

The co-funding action aims at increasing the European-wide mobility possibilities for training and career development of experienced researchers by supporting their trans-national mobility and broadening or deepening their individual competence, in particular in terms of acquisition of multi- or interdisciplinary skills. The co-funding action aims to encourage existing or new regional or national programmes to open up to and provide for trans-national mobility.

Researchers selected by the PISCOPIA Programme will be considered as “Marie Curie Fellows”.

Candidates can submit a research project in one of the following 17 Scientific Areas, grouped in three Macro-areas corresponding to the three European Research Council (ERC) research domains:

Macro-area PE:	Macro-area LS:	Macro-area SH:
Physical Sciences and Engineering 1. Mathematics 2. Physics 3. Chemical Sciences 4. Architecture and Civil Engineering 5. Industrial Engineering 6. Information Engineering 7. Earth Sciences	Life Sciences 1. Pharmaceutical Sciences 2. Medical Sciences 3. Biology 4. Agronomical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine 5. Psychology	Social Sciences and Humanities 1. Philology, Literature, Art and Ancient Sciences 2. History, Philosophy and Pedagogical Sciences 3. Juridical Sciences 4. Economical Sciences and Statistics 5. Social and Political Sciences

Art. 1 DESCRIPTION OF THE PISCOPIA FELLOWSHIPS

The present call for proposals provides for 19 fellowships addressed to researchers divided as follows:

Fellowship Type	Duration	Number of fellowships	Deadline of the call (DD/MM/YYYY)
Incoming	12 months	7	22/11/2013 at 17:00 (CET)
Incoming	24 months	7	22/11/2013 at 17:00 (CET)
Reintegration	24 months	5	22/11/2013 at 17:00 (CET)

A call for additional 9 fellowships will be issued in 2014.

The fellowships are generally distributed across the three scientific macro-areas in line with the percentage of distribution given for ERC-Starting Grants (PE: 44%, LS: 39%, SH: 17%). The PISCOPIA Management Committee will decide the exact distribution of the fellowships on the basis of the number and of the quality of the proposals received at the end of the evaluation process.

ART. 2 ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

Eligibility for incoming fellowships

Applicants may be of any origin, European or other, provided however that at time of the deadline for submission of proposals, they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the closing date for submitting proposals. Short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

Eligibility for reintegration fellowships

Applications are reserved to applicants from EU Member States or Associated Countries¹ provided that, at the time of the deadline for submission of proposals, applicants have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc) in a Third Country² for at least 24 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals and are now interested in coming back to Europe to further their research interests in Padova. Short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

General eligibility conditions

On the date of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, applicants must either:

1. be in possession of a PhD (for the purpose of this condition the date of the PhD graduation will be taken into account), or
2. have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience, measured from the date when the researcher obtained the degree which would have formally allowed him/her to embark on a doctorate.

Should the degree have been awarded outside Italy, then, for the sole purposes of this selection procedure, it must be declared as equivalent to an Italian Master's degree by the Internal Eligibility Committee during the first phase of the selection process (see Art. 4 below). Likewise, should the PhD have been awarded

¹ Switzerland, Israel, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Turkey, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Faroe Islands and Republic of Moldova.

² Other than EU Member States and Associated Countries

outside Italy, it must have lasted at least three years and must be declared equivalent to an Italian PhD by the aforesaid eligibility committee for the sole purposes of this selection procedure.

Support to the applicant will be given by UNIPD during this procedure.

Ineligibility and incompatibility with other funding

The aim of this action is to support the most promising young experienced researchers in their career development. Hence, permanently employed researchers of universities and research centres are considered ineligible for this competition.

A candidate is not allowed to apply for more than one type fellowship among those described in this call.

The fellowship cannot be held simultaneously to other fellowships of any kind, except for those stated in the regulations of the University of Padova (“Regolamento assegni”).

<http://www.unipd.it/universita/statuto-e-regolamenti/regolamenti/personale-docente>

Aggregation of income from working activities, including part-time work, is not accepted.

ART. 3 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Each candidate will identify the most suitable UNIPD research group where she/he wish to conduct out her/his proposed research project and, in agreement with the research group leader, will indicate a scientific staff member of the hosting Department as the scientific supervisor of her/his project.

For a detailed description of the research groups, please visit <http://www.unipd.it/piscopia-fellowships>

As part of the application form, applicants will be requested to fill in the ethics issues table used in FP7 projects.

Any proposals that pose ethical concerns will be examined by the PISCOPIA Ethics Committee. Further clarification may be sought, if the proposal includes incomplete sections.

If necessary, the applicant can resubmit a new proposal before the deadline. In such a case, only the last version submitted will be evaluated.

Applications shall be written in English.

Only electronically submitted applications will be eligible.

The online application and a guide for applicants containing all the information relevant to drawing up the project are available on the PISCOPIA website <http://www.unipd.it/piscopia-fellowships>.

Applications shall be submitted before 22/11/2013 at 17:00 (CET). Late submissions will not be considered.

ART. 4 SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process consists of the three phases described below and is expected to last about 20 weeks after the closure of the call:

1. Administrative eligibility check
2. International peer-review evaluation
3. Interview with the Scientific panel and final decision

Each phase must be passed successfully to proceed on to the next.

1. Administrative eligibility check

At the closure of the call, all applications received will be checked against the eligibility conditions stated in article 2 of this call for proposals. The eligibility is checked on the basis of the information given by the applicant in the proposal. An Internal Eligibility Committee will conduct the eligibility check.

In addition to the eligibility conditions described in article 2, in order to be considered eligible, the applications must include the acceptance from the Head of the hosting Department stating that the project is feasible and that the hosting Department commits to providing researchers with the spaces, instruments and knowledge necessary to implement their activities.

The results of the eligibility check are expected to be published on the website 3 weeks after the closure of the call.

Ineligible applicants will be informed by email.

If, at a later stage, an eligibility criterion is found not to be fulfilled (for example, due to incorrect or misleading information), the proposal will be declared ineligible.

2. International peer-review evaluation

Each proposal will be reviewed by three international experts highly specialized in the relevant scientific areas mentioned in the project under evaluation.

The selection of reviewers will be made from an international database, which UNIPD have access to, by electronically matching keywords stemming from the proposals.

Referees will evaluate the full proposal (research project, scientific level of the applicant and professional growth) and will give a mark and comments based on the evaluation criteria.

All applicants will receive feedback on the outcome of the peer-review evaluation of their application with marks and comments by the reviewers.

In any case, the number of candidates invited for an interview will not exceed double the number of available positions.

The results will be published on the website.

3. Interview with the Scientific Panel

There will be three Scientific Panels, one for each of the scientific macro-areas of the University:

- PE: Physical Sciences and Engineering
- LS: Life Sciences
- SH: Social Sciences and Humanities.

Interviews are expected to be held within 4 weeks following the invitation, will be held in English and will be computer-based via Skype according to the instructions given by UNIPD.

The Panels will evaluate the applicant on the following criteria: scientific quality of the proposal, presentation and communication skills, and motivation of the candidate.

For candidates successful at this stage, the score will be added up to the score obtained in the peer-review evaluation. A ranked list for each Macro-area will be established for Proposals. This is expected to be published on the website 3 weeks from the last interview.

All applicants will receive an evaluation report based on the outcome of the evaluation.

The successful candidates are those who enter within the number of available fellowships.

In case of proposals with the same score, priority will be given to the candidate whose project comes closest to meeting the target of 40% participation of women. If necessary, any further prioritisation will be given to the youngest candidate.

Request for redress

At the end of each stage of the selection process, applicants may request a redress should she/he feel there was a shortcoming in the way the proposal was evaluated and that may affect the final decision.

To be considered, requests for redress must:

- be related to the evaluation procedure or eligibility check;
- clearly describe the grounds for complaint;
- be sent within the time limit specified on the report sent to candidates after each stage of the evaluation procedure.

This procedure is concerned with the rules of the evaluation process and/or the eligibility checking process. The committee will not call into question the scientific or technical judgment of qualified experts.

A reply is expected to be sent to complainants two weeks after the deadline for redress requests and will be regarded as definitive.

ART. 5 CRITERIA AND METHOD OF JUDGING MERIT

International peer-review evaluation (weighting 60%)

The three evaluation criteria against which the proposals will be scored are the following:

Evaluation Criteria	Threshold
1. Research Project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Strength and novelty of the proposed research; – Clarity in formulating the problem and in identifying the objectives; – Method and approach; – Awareness of prior research and critical points; – Feasibility and strategic potential; – Organization of the project 	3.75/5
2. Scientific level of the applicant: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Quality of applicant's background; – Quality and impact of publications; – Autonomy and level of independence; – Quality of collaborations; – Potential for leadership and management 	3.75/5
3. Professional growth: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Acquisition of new skills; – Potential for a lasting impact on career 	3.25/5

After calculating the average of the three marks given for each criterion, they will be summed up to obtain the final score for this evaluation step.

In order to proceed to the next stage candidates must:

pass the threshold for each criterion

pass the total threshold of 12/15.

Each criterion will be scored out of 5. The scores indicate the following with respect to the criterion under examination:

0-The proposal fails to address the criterion under examination or cannot be judged due to missing or incomplete information;

1-Poor: The criterion is addressed in an inadequate manner or there are serious inherent weaknesses;

2-Fair: While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses;

3-Good: The proposal addresses the criterion well, although improvements would be necessary;

4-Very Good: The proposal addresses the criterion very well, although certain improvements are still possible;

5-Excellent: The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are minor.

Interview with the Scientific Panel (weighting 40%)

The interview will be held in English

The following criteria will be assessed:

- Presentation and communication skills (max 4 points)
- Defence of the scientific project, answers to questions (max. 6 points)
- Motivation for the project, interest in a research/teaching career (max. 5 points)

A maximum of 15 points will be given to the interview and added up to the previous score (International peer-review evaluation).

Proposals failing to meet the threshold of 10 points in the interview will not be placed on the final qualified ranked lists.

Final decision

The final mark is the weighted sum of the score assigned after the International peer-review evaluation (60%) and the score assigned after the interview (40%).

Career breaks or variations in the chronological order of CVs will not be penalized but regarded as a potentially valuable contribution to the professional development of researchers towards a multidimensional career track.

Appointment

Successful candidates will receive via e-mail a notification of award of the fellowship and must send an acceptance letter by e-mail within 15 days after receiving the notification. Should the University not receive this letter in the given period, the candidate will be deemed to have refused the scholarship.

In the aforementioned letter, successful candidates must explicitly declare that they shall not benefit, throughout the period of the fellowship, from other scholarships or similar grants, that they shall not receive other salaries, and that they commit to working full-time and exclusively on the funded project.

UNIPD will appoint the researchers by means of an “Assegno di Ricerca”. The contract will be signed by the Head of the host department and the fellow when he/she arrives in Padova before the agreed starting date of the fellowship.

The expected starting date of the research project is within 4 months from the award of the fellowship (on the 1st day of the month). An extension will be allowed in case of projects requiring an ethics review or in case of prolonged visa procedures. If the candidate does not sign the contract within this period without justified reason, she/he will surrender her/his entitlement to the fellowship.

Under no circumstances will the signing of the contract imply a subordinate employment relationship or ensure any rights to access to permanent UNIPD staff positions.

ART. 6 RECRUITMENT CONDITIONS

The type of contract, “Assegno di Ricerca” is governed by: Italian Law 20 December 2010, n. 240, Art. 22), the Ministry of Labour and Social Security decree dated 12 July 2007 for maternity leave (see Official Gazette no. 247 dated 23 October 2007), and Art. 1 paragraph 788 of Law no. 296 dated 27 December 2006, plus subsequent amendments, for sick leave and by the “Regolamento per il conferimento degli assegni di ricerca” of the University of Padova.

The “Assegno di Ricerca” will not have to pay either IRPEF tax (Personal Income Tax) or IRAP tax (Italian regional tax on productive activities). Health Insurance will be guaranteed.

During the obligatory period of maternity leave, the benefit provided by Italy’s National Social Security Institute (INPS), in accordance with Article 5 of the aforementioned law dated 12 July 2007, shall be topped up by the University so that the entire amount of the research grant is covered.

The total amount of the fellowship is equal to the sum of the following components:

Compensation total gross amount:

- Living allowance 25,320.50€/year (Total gross employee remuneration)
- Mobility allowance 3,038.50€/year (Total gross employee remuneration)
- Total: 28,359.00€/year

Travel allowance: A maximum of 1.250€/year for fellows coming from outside Europe and 550€/year for fellows coming from Europe. The University will reimburse the expenses on presentation of original supporting travel documents.

Research cost contribution: 5.000€/year for lab-based research and 2.000€/year for non lab-based research. The amount will be managed by the host Department which will put it at the fellow's disposal under the University’s rules. The University commits itself to spend this amount only on benefit of the fellow. The research cost contribution will cover costs for consumables and other material needed to carry out the project, to participate in training activities, conferences etc... Expenses that occur outside the period of the contract are not eligible.

ART. 7 OBLIGATIONS OF THE FELLOW

Fellows’ first duty is the successful completion of the research project for which they have been awarded funding.

Fellows must engage full-time in research during the period of the “Assegno di Ricerca” and should not engage in any activity other than developing the stated research project and the Training and Career Development Plan.

Career Development Plan

The fellow will prepare a Career Development Plan with the help of her/his supervisor at the time of the signature of the contract. The development plan will form the framework for monitoring progress on a continual basis and shall include the following:

- scientific objectives;
- plan of personal research activities;
- supervision plan;
- attendance of scientific meetings and conferences;

- plan for the acquisition of complementary skills;
- personal milestones with respect to research results;
- dissemination plan including presentations and publications.

Scientific Reports

Within 30 days after the end of the project, the fellow must submit a detailed scientific final report describing the implementation of the project, the results obtained, any changes compared to the original proposal and a report on training activities and on ethical issues. The scientific report will be evaluated by the supervisor and submitted to the Head of the hosting Department, to the Council of Department, and to the PISCOPIA Management Committee.

For 24 month fellowships, an intermediate report must be submitted at the end of the first year. The report will be accompanied with an interim evaluation by the supervisor and submitted to the Head of the hosting Department and to the PISCOPIA Management Committee.

The fellow will be fully integrated in the activities of the host department. She/he will have the possibility to participate in seminars or conferences organized by the host department and is expected to give one or more seminars illustrating her/his scientific activities.

At the end of each fellowship, the PISCOPIA Management Committee will send the fellows a questionnaire to be completed within one month. In the questionnaire, fellows will be asked to assess their satisfaction with the Programme and their hosting Departments. The questionnaire will regard both practical and scientific matters, as well as general aspects like the implementation of equal opportunities policies throughout the Programme.

Any scientific publications related to the fellow's research activity and carried out during the progress of the fellowship must include "Marie Curie-Piscopopia fellow of the University of Padova" and the following statement: "The research leading to these results has received funding from the European Commission, Seventh Framework Programme, under Grant Agreement n° 600376".

Travels

As a general rule, the project must take place at the host department's premises.

However, in some cases, stays away may be justified as part of the collaboration.

Researchers may not stay more than 30% of the duration of the fellowship away from the host department.

The travel regulation of the University of Padova ("Regolamento missioni") will apply.

ART 8. CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

Should the fellow come into contact with information or data covered by confidentiality agreements signed by the host Department, she/he hereby pledges to keep all of this information and data confidential.

The entitlement to register a patent for the inventions produced on the basis of any scientific research activity carried out with the facilities and funds of UNIPD is generally governed by the University's Patent Regulations.

Temporary suspension for special reasons

During the project, the fellow may propose to suspend the project due to personal or family (including parental leave) reasons. The Management Committee will approve the request if duly justified. The total duration of the project cannot, in any case, go over the duration of the PISCOPIA Programme.

The fellowship may be temporarily suspended, should the fellow be absent as a result of pregnancy, childbirth, illness lasting more than a month or for any other serious reason.

UNIPD must be informed immediately of interruptions of fellows' stays and appropriate justifications should be provided.