



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI PADOVA



PISCOPIA Fellowship Programme co-funded by Marie Curie Actions

FAQ – Call 2014

1. I have not obtained my PhD yet. Am I eligible to participate in the PISCOPIA call 2014?

The eligibility condition is to be in possession of a PhD OR to have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience, measured from the date when you obtained the degree which would have formally allowed you to embark on a doctorate.

If the degree you obtained granted your access to a PhD Programme, then it can be declared as equivalent to an Italian Master's degree, but this will be decided by the eligibility committee after the submission of your application. Consider, however, that a PhD Programme does not count as "full-time research activity" inasmuch as it includes research training, seminars or classes to follow.

2. How is the four years of full-time equivalent research experience calculated?

The 4-years full-time equivalent research experience will be calculated on the basis of the research contracts/activities that you have carried out since your Master's degree on.

The suggestion is to explain what kind of activities (research, training, conferences...) you have carried out since your Master's degree on.

That can be done in the documents that you will attach in the online system to prove the 4-years full-time equivalent research experience.

Please consider also that the PhD does not count as "full-time equivalent" research experience. Since PhD Programmes are meant to cover research training, and not only research by itself, the years you spent in the PhD Programme will not be counted as "100% research activities".

3. Does PhD count as research experience?

The PhD Programme will be evaluated but will not count "100%" research experience.

Considered that doctoral studies are meant to cover research training, and not only research by itself, according to the call 2014, doctoral studies count as 2/3 full-time equivalent research experience.

4. I have been living in Italy for approximately one year. Am I eligible for PISCOPIA call 2014?

The application of the eligibility criteria is very strict including the compliance with the mobility rule. For example if you had an employment contract lasting 12 months and one day in Italy you are not eligible for this call.

5. Can researchers of any nationality participate in the PISCOPIA call 2014?

Researchers of any nationality can participate in this call provided that the eligibility criteria stated in the call for proposal are fulfilled.

6. I have already participated in the Marie Curie Individual Fellowship call 2014. Am I eligible to participate in this programme?

Yes, if you fulfil the eligibility conditions stated in the call for proposal.

7. Shall I use the template provided by UNIPD to apply for this call?

Yes, the application forms will be accessible online through the Piscopia e-portal (<http://unipd.cineca.it/piscopia/>) and must be submitted electronically. As an eligibility criterion, candidates must use the template provided by UNIPD for the research proposal (Part B). Only complete applications will be accepted.

8. Shall I contact the supervisor of the project before applying for the call?

You shall apply for the PISCOPIA Programme with the support of a UNIPD research group which you identify as suitable for your proposed research project. In agreement with the research group leader, you will indicate a scientific staff member of the hosting Department as the scientific supervisor of your project. For a detailed description of the research groups, please visit <http://www.unipd.it/en/research-groups-university-padova>.

We therefore suggest you get in contact with a Professor before writing your proposal, so she/he can give you advise in the preparation of your proposal.

9. Shall I flag ethics issues in my proposed project?

You shall answer YES or NO to the proposed questions. All fields are mandatory. If you have answered YES to any of the options, please draw up the section "Explanation of ethics issues". See the guide for applicant for further explanations.

10. Is my gross and net salary in fact equal?

The annual gross salary amounts to 28.359,00 Euro, which corresponds to a net salary of about 2.145,00 Euro/month. The only taxes that apply to your salary will be for social security. The monthly amount of 2.145 Euro is net of social security. No further taxes will apply (the contract that "Piscopia Fellows" will have is a specific employment contract for researchers and is tax-exempt).

11. I was awarded the fellowship, shall I sign the contract within four months?

The expected starting date of the research project is within 4 months from the award of the fellowship. An extension may be allowed in case of projects requiring an ethics review, in case of prolonged visa procedures, or in case of personal problems. If you do not sign the contract within this period without a justified reason, you will be deemed to have refused the fellowship.

12. Do the financial categories “living allowance” and “mobility allowance” come in monthly payments?

Yes, these financial categories are paid together and come in monthly payments.

13. Will I receive the research cost contribution?

No, this amount will be received and managed by the host Department but will be put at your disposal under the University's rules. The research cost contribution amounts to 5.000€/year for lab-based research and 2.000€/year for non lab-based research.

14. How will be the selection procedure and how long does it take?

The selection process is described in the call text, Art. 4. You can find the document here:
<http://www.unipd.it/en/call-piscopia-marie-curie-fellowship-programme>
It will start after the closure of the call and should last up to thirty weeks if no delays occur.

15. When the results of the selection procedure are expected to be published?

The results of the selection process are expected to be published in June/July 2015 if no delays occur.

16. I am permanently employed at a research centre. Am I eligible to participate?

The PISCOPIA Fellowship is not meant to provide a grant for a Research Visit, but an employment-contract. Permanently employed researchers of universities and research centres are considered ineligible for this Programme, as the aim of this action is to support the most promising young researchers.

17. My doctoral degree has not been issued yet. Can I upload an official letter of my University?

If the certificate hasn't been issued yet, but you have already passed the doctoral final examination (dissertation defense) before the deadline of the call, you must indicate this date as “Date of award” and upload a certificate/official letter issued by your Institution stating that you obtained the PhD and the expected date of the issue of the doctoral degree.

18. How can I select the supervisor and Head of department?

To identify your supervisor, please read FAQ 8. To select the supervisor in the online application system, please read carefully the guide for applicants call 2014 at SUPERVISOR AND HEAD OF DEPARTMENT.

Select the Department of the chosen supervisor and insert his/her name.

Enter "Supervisor and Head of Department" again and then click on "Send mail to supervisor for acceptance": an e-mail will be automatically sent to the supervisor in order to have his/her acceptance.

After the acceptance of the supervisor you can send an email to the Head of the Department for his/her approval by clicking on the button. **Please keep in mind that to be considered eligible your application must be accepted by the Head of the hosting Department before the closing date of the call.** You shall be able to submit the application only after the acceptance of the Head of the Department.

19. How many keywords shall I enter in my project?

You shall enter minimum 3, maximum 5 keywords that characterize your research project.

When you start typing a keyword, a list of possible keywords will be displayed. The proposed keywords are chosen from a database. You have to choose at least three keywords from this database. Two further keywords can be freely chosen.

20. Shall I upload some additional documents as attachments?

Yes. Some additional documents are required:

- A scan copy of your ID card/passport with color-photo. If you have an ID card/passport with a white and black photo, please add a colored passport size picture.

For applicants with PhD:

- a scan copy of the doctoral degree is mandatory. Please add also a translation in English of your doctoral degree or if you haven't yet received a doctoral degree but have passed the doctoral final examination before the closing date of the call add a certificate/official letter stating the expected date;
- a list of publications as attachment is **not required**;
- Reference letters are **not required**.

For applicants without PhD:

- proof of 4 years dedicated to working full time in research (contracts, list a publications, ...);
- Reference letters are **not required**.

Please remember that only .pdf formats will be accepted.