

Call for financing of joint research projects with companies and bodies aimed at innovation and the economic and social development of the territory

Uni-Impresa 2021

With this call, the University of Padua (hereinafter "the University") intends to promote the development of joint research projects with external parties to encourage cooperation aimed at mutual expansion in terms of innovation and the economic and social development of the territory.

The University will co-finance the university structures (Departments and Centres) that will present joint projects to carry out the planned research activities.

Private and public partners (hereinafter "the partners") will help finance the project by making a contribution that will, as a minimum, match that financed by the University.

Article 1 - Type of projects

Uni-Impresa projects aim to foster public-private partnerships (between universities and companies or private bodies) and public-public partnerships (between Universities and public bodies). Projects should be aimed at the joint implementation of research activities applied to the partner's economic sector of reference, encouraging multidisciplinary approaches.

There are no limitations on the scientific area or the economic sector. However, the projects must have an applied nature with a high socio-economic impact. Research activities may be carried out at university departments, at partner sites and at the testing grounds deemed most suitable for conducting research.

Article 2 – Eligible applicants and partnerships

Projects shall be submitted by partnerships consisting of:

- 1 or more University departments, up to a maximum of 3, and
- 1 or more companies and/or public or private bodies up to a maximum of 3

The project leader shall be a University department and shall be responsible for the administrative, financial and accounting management of the project in the event of admission to financing.

The projects may be submitted by a tenured lecturer of the University (ordinary professor, associate, researcher) belonging to the project leader, who will assume the role of Scientific Coordinator. The Coordinator may also be a type B, fixed-term researcher who, if they are in the last two years of their contract, must be accompanied by a Scientific Vice-Coordinator, chosen from among tenured lecturers, who will take over as Coordinator upon expiry of the researcher's contract if the latter is not hired by the University on a permanent basis.

Lecturers and researchers who have been part of Uni-Impresa project teams financed in a previous edition may participate in this call, provided that:

- the project is closed;
- it has not been extended for more than six months;

- it has obtained in both final evaluations a minimum score of 12/20 (projects that by their nature do not produce patentable results or results otherwise eligible for protection) or 15/25 (projects that could produce patentable results or results otherwise eligible for protection).

All the conditions must be met.

The partnership must be established by a declaration of participation, containing the declaration of the partners' interest, their willingness to cooperate in carrying out the project and to support the financial commitment as well as to be bound by confidentiality regarding the data shared during the project as specified in Article 6.1 below.

Where financing is granted, an agreement will be signed between the University and the partners, as specified in Article 8 below

Article 3 – Financial resources and co-financing

The University will finance the creation of the projects submitted and selected within the framework of the call, by allocating € 465,000 divided into two lines of financing:

- LINE 1: Up to a maximum of € 315,000 in favour of research projects carried out jointly by the University and a maximum of three partners. Of these, at least one must be a private company.
- LINE 2: Up to a maximum of € 150,000 in favour of research projects carried out jointly by the University and by a maximum of three public or private non-profit bodies.

The University will make a contribution up to maximum € 50,000 for each project. The partner must finance the creation of the project with a contribution at least equal to that made by the University.

Where there is more than one partner, their total co-financing must be higher than that of the University, according to the following formula:

$$\text{Partner Contribution} = \text{University Contribution} + [50\% \text{ University Contribution} \times (\text{no. partner} - 1)]$$

By way of example:

LINE 1

University contribution	Cumulative contribution from partners	
€ 50,000	€ 50,000	1 partner
	€ 75,000	2 partners
	€ 100,000	3 partners

LINE 2

University contribution	Cumulative contribution from partners	
€ 20,000	€ 20,000	1 partner
	€ 30,000	2 partners
	€ 40,000	3 partners

The University will make its contribution to the University departments participating in the project following notice of the project's launch. The department will return any portion not needed or unspent at the end of the project.

For each financed project, the University will enter into a research agreement with the partners to regulate the various aspects of the cooperation. The agreement shall state that the partners must transfer their contribution to the University department.

Article 4 - Duration of projects and expenditure eligibility period

Projects will last 24 months from the date the activities start, which must be communicated to the Research Development Office by the project manager within a maximum of three days from the start of the project activities.

Any extension to complete the activity may only be granted by decision of a Commission, chaired by the Pro-dean for technology transfer and business relations, at the written and justified request of the scientific project manager.

Expenditure will be eligible from the date the activities start until the date of submitting the final report (45 days from the end of the project).

Article 5 – Eligible expenses

Eligible costs are exclusively those costs necessary for the creation of the project and those incurred during the project's lifetime.

1. Costs of non-permanent personnel: this category includes research grants, scholarships for conducting research activities, coordinated and continuous self-employment contracts as well as temporary staff hired for the project in respect of staff hiring regulations by the "Fondo di funzionamento ordinario". If the non-permanent personnel is not entirely dedicated to the project, the percentage of cooperation with the project must be indicated.
2. Costs for purchasing consumables specifically related to the project (e.g. reagents, slides, etc.). Stationary and general use expenses are excluded.
3. The total cost incurred to purchase durable goods specifically related to the project. Furniture, office equipment and books are excluded. The University remains the owner of the goods even after the conclusion of the project.
4. Costs for renting equipment specifically necessary to carry out the project.
5. Costs for technical-scientific advice and services. Expenses for supporting the administrative management of projects are excluded. Expenses related to patenting/protecting the project's results are eligible. In this case, the procedure provided for in the University's Patent Regulations in force must be followed.
6. Distribution and publication costs. The project and its results must be distributed and published in compliance with the confidentiality agreements entered into between the partners.
7. Missions strictly necessary for the creation of the permanent and non-permanent university personnel project in accordance with the Mission Regulations of the University of Padua and mobility expenses of the partner's personnel involved in the project.

Any changes to the project's budget must be duly justified when reporting the project.

Article 6 – Procedure to submit project proposals

The project submission application must only be sent by using the appropriate procedure made available at the address <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd/uni-impresa-2021> no later than 13:00 (Italian time) on 14th March 2022.

In addition to a photocopy of the applicant's valid identity document (Project Coordinator), the

documents referred to in Article 6.1 must be attached to the project submission application in pdf/A format.

The project submission application is to be considered for all legal purposes as a substitute declaration pursuant to Article 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000 and subsequent amendments.

Once completed, the application must be printed, signed and uploaded to the platform following the indications described in the instructions available on the PICA platform.

The application is submitted to the University automatically with the definitive closure of the online procedure. Therefore, no paper material shall be sent or delivered to the offices. The applicant is responsible for checking the correct conclusion of the electronic procedure.

We recommend completing the electronic procedure well in advance of the deadline of this call. Complaints over any malfunction of the computer system due to overloads encountered near the deadline will not be accepted.

Once the application has been submitted, it will no longer be possible to modify it. However, cancelling and submitting a new application in the event of errors or missing information, is permitted within the deadline.

6.1 Mandatory Annexes

The following must be attached to the project submission application:

- 1) a declaration by the director of the lead university department approving the submission of the project proposal and committing the department to the role of project leader and assuming the subsequent responsibilities and obligations;
- 2) a declaration of participation in the project signed by the director of any other departments of the University of Padua that take part in the project;
- 3) a declaration of partnership membership signed by the legal representative of each partner. If the signatory is a delegate of the legal representative, a copy of the power of attorney must be attached.

The declarations mentioned in the previous points must be drafted according to the models prepared by the Research Development Office and attached to this call.

6.2 Mandatory Information

Each proposal must state:

- 1) the professors/researchers of the University of Padua, including those without tenure, who will participate in the activities;
- 2) a contact person from the department of the University of Padua which is the project leader, who will act as a reference for administrative issues and notices;
- 3) a contact person for the company or other partner entity;
- 4) company personnel or other partner entities involved in the project;
- 5) at least 3 keywords that allow the identification of experts with research backgrounds similar to the project's subject;
- 6) the ERC codes and the disciplinary scientific fields the project falls within, combined with the keywords, will allow the selection of experts from the MIUR database, Reprise;
- 7) WPs describing the planned activities and the personnel involved in each phase;
- 8) the project's budget. The total cost of the project must be equal to the sum of the co-financing contributions made by the University and the partners.

Article 7 - Selection procedure

The project proposals received will be subject to the following evaluation steps:

1. administrative review of eligibility and completeness of documents;
2. quality assessment.

7.1 Administrative review of eligibility and completeness of documents

The Research Development Office will carry out an administrative review by checking:

- a) the completeness of the documentation required by Article 6.1. If the documentation is incomplete, the Research Development Office will request the documentation to be supplemented. This must be provided strictly within 15 days of the request, under penalty of inadmissibility to the project proposal;
- b) the presence in the project proposal of the information referred to in Article 6.2. The review purely regards the completeness of the information, it will not go into the merits of its correctness and suitability.

Proposals considered eligible will be subject to a technical-scientific quality assessment.

7.2 Technical-scientific quality assessment

Only those proposals that meet all administrative criteria will be subject to a technical-scientific quality assessment.

Each project proposal will be evaluated by three external experts, selected from the "Reprise" database based on the keywords, ERC and scientific-disciplinary sectors indicated in the project proposal.

The evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

1. Innovation and/or originality of the proposed research and advancement of knowledge, skills and/or technologies compared to the state of the art. Methodological approach and appropriateness of the research objectives – Max 40 points;
2. Socio-economic impact of the proposed research, prospects for distribution and transfer of expected results in the specific production sector or field of application of interest. Methodologies of cooperation with industrial/territorial partners – Max 40 points;
3. Quality of project management, appropriateness of costs and expected objectives and adequacy of creation times compared to the overall duration of the project – Max 20 points.

The Research Development Office will draw up a provisional ranking for each line of financing pursuant to Article 3 based on the average scores assigned by the experts. Projects receiving a score of at least 70/100 will be admitted to the ranking.

The provisional rankings will be submitted to the Commission pursuant to Article 4, which will draw up a final ranking for each line of financing, taking into account expert assessments and any tied scoring. For each line, the Commission will assign financing to the projects in the ranking until the budget is reached. In the event that the projects in the ranking for one line of financing do not reach the budget of that line, the Commission may decide to move the remaining budget to the other line of financing, if this allows a higher number of projects to be financed.

The projects will be financed following the final ranking until the budget made available by the University is reached.

Article 8 - Approval of projects

The Commission will forward the ranking proposals to the Dean, who will approve them by his/her own decree.

The final rankings with the evaluation results, approved by the Dean's Decree, will be made public

on the website www.unipd.it/uni-impresa. Publication constitutes legal notice to the beneficiaries.

The Scientific Coordinators of the projects eligible for funding will receive notice via e-mail regarding the project start-up procedures. Approved projects must be started within 60 days of the date of publishing the Decree.

Cooperation among the partners, which will be established following the financing of the project, must be governed by a specific agreement, the model of which will be prepared by the Research Development Office based on the laws in force, the University regulations and the indications referred to in Article 11 of this call "Ownership and use of research results".

The agreement should include that intellectual property rights and related access rights are assigned to the partners in proportion to their inventive contribution to the project.

Article 9 - Intermediate check

The financed projects will be subject to a progress check one year after the actual start of activities, communicated to the Research Development Office pursuant to Article 4.

The check will be both of a technical-scientific and administrative nature. The relevant documentation must be submitted within 45 days of the end of the first year of activity.

The administrative check will be carried out by the Research Development Office.

The technical-scientific check will be carried out by two experts in the field.

Delays and deviations of project activities from the approved plan must be duly justified and a corrective plan and/or a remodulation of expenses must be provided.

Article 10 - Final check

The financed projects will be subject to a final check at the end of the activity.

The check will be both administrative and technical-scientific. The relevant documentation must be submitted within 45 days from the end date of the project.

The final technical-scientific report will describe the project's results and demonstrate the achievement of the objectives, with particular attention to:

- a. creating industrial or application products (e.g. working prototypes, applications, business plans, innovative services, etc.);
- b. inventions that are patentable or otherwise eligible for protection;
- c. impact on society in terms of socio-economic benefits for the territory;
- d. scientific production.

A copy of the deliverables produced must be attached to the report.

The technical-scientific check will be carried out by two experts in the field.

The administrative report will entail a check of the expenses incurred. Costs will be recognised up to the amount approved in the proposal phase. Any surpluses will not be refunded.

In the case of expenses below the budget, the unused sums will be returned to the co-financiers (University and partners) in proportion to their contributions.

The administrative check will be carried out by the Research Development Office.

Delays and deviations on both project activities and expenditure with respect to the approved plan must be duly justified and must not have adversely affected the achievement of the objectives.

Partial or failed achievement of the objectives will result in reduced financing.

Article 11 - Ownership and using the research results

In the materials disclosing the financed projects it is mandatory to use the name and/or distinctive logos of the University, its participating department, the partners and the Uni-Impresa initiative according to the University's visual identity guidelines. In particular, these must state: "Project financed as part of the Uni-Impresa 2020 programme promoted by the University of Padua".

The intellectual or industrial property rights to the research results (patentable inventions, new models, software, technical and commercial know-how) shall be jointly owned by the University and the partners in proportion to the inventive contribution provided by the relevant personnel and shall be governed by a specific agreement. This shall be without prejudice to the legal rights of the authors and inventors.

Each participating entity may only publish the results deriving from the project activity with the written permission of the other partners, taking due account of the protection and exploitation of intellectual property and the possible industrial development of these results.

The research products must be filed in the Padua Research Archive at the following address:
<https://www.research.unipd.it/>

Article 12 - Person in charge of the procedure

The person in charge of the procedure is Andrea Berti, manager of the Research and Business Relations Area.

Article 13 - Protection of privacy

The University of Padua (Data Controller) shall provide those partners submitting the declaration of partnership participation with the information referred to in Article 13 of the EU Regulation, available at: <https://www.unipd.it/informativa-contratti-appalti>.

By submitting this form, the University and its partners undertake to carry out the processing of personal data based on the principles of fairness, lawfulness and transparency in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation) and d.lgs. (Legislative Decree) no. 196 of 30 June 2003, as amended and supplemented. (Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali - Personal Data Protection Code).

Article 14 – Notices

All notices relating to the project must be sent to the Research Development Office at uni.impresa@unipd.it

Article 15 - Information on the call

For information and clarification on the call, please contact the Research Development Office, Structural Financing Sector and Special Projects, by email at uni.impresa@unipd.it or by telephone, to Anna De Biasi, 049/8271935

The Dean
Prof. Daniela Mapelli