



**Scientific Independence of young Researcher (SIR)** – circular explaining the procedure for submitting funding applications – D.D no. 197 dated 23 January 2014

In accordance with Directorial Decree no. 197 dated January 2014, MIUR has issued a selection announcement for the SIR (Scientific Independence of young Researchers) programme to support young researchers in establishing their own independent research activity.

Below we summarize some useful points in submitting funding applications and refer you, for anything not expressly provided for here, to the selection announcement available at <http://sir.miur.it/>.

**Eligibility**

The funding application can be submitted by one Principal Investigator (PI), either of Italian or non-Italian nationality, resident in or moving to Italy. By the date of the selection announcement, applicants must:

- a) have been awarded a PhD (or, in the absence of a PhD, a Medical Specialization qualification) not prior to **23/01/2008**, without prejudice to Art. 2 Paragraph 2 of the selection announcement stating that even if years are waived, the qualification should not have been awarded earlier than **23/01/2005**.
- b) have not turned 40 years old (born after **23/01/1974**)
- c) have produced one independent publication where the PhD or Medical Specialisation supervisor is not enlisted as a co-author.

Every Principal Investigator can only submit one funding application for the SIR 2014 selection announcement and can not be part of another research group applying for the SIR 2014 selection announcement. Those, of Italian or non-Italian nationality, responsible for research projects funded by other MIUR programmes aimed at young researchers cannot reapply under the SIR 2014 selection announcement, unless the initial research project was completed at least a year from the date of the selection announcement.

The funding application must be submitted by the PI responsible for the scientific area of the project, in collaboration with and on behalf of the Host Institution (an Italian University or a public research institution subject to supervision by MIUR, The application must be submitted **by 13 March 2014 at 14:00**, following exclusively the online procedure available at <http://sir.miur.it/> .

The cost of each project must not exceed 1 million Euro over a period of 3 years (pro rata for projects lasting less than 3 years) and cover topics in any research field under the three macrosectors identified by the European Research Council:

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

MIUR covers all project costs except those relating to salaries paid by the Host Institution (HI from here on) to employees on indefinite contracts.

In the event of being allocated funding and where an indefinite contract does not already exist, the HI commits to draw a contract with the PI.

To this end, PIs not affiliated to the University, must first obtain the consent of the University where they wish to carry out the research activity, by submitting the research proposal to the Head of Department as per Appendix 1 by no later than **28 February 2014**.

The Head of Department, after ascertaining the project's coherence with the Institution's research interests, will send the project proposal and a signed declaration of intent to Research Services by and no later than **10 March 2014**.

For every project, Research Services will ensure the form "*Dichiarazione d'impegno del host institution sulle condizioni di indipendenza del PI*", is duly signed by a legal representative and sent to the PI (via email to address specified on Appendix 1 or the Institution's email address). The PI must submit this form together with the online application by the deadline date.

#### **Further instructions**

For details on drawing the project budget, we invite applicants to refer to Appendix 4 of the selection announcement entitled "*Criteria for determining project cost and expenditure*".

We would like to remind you that in drawing the budget, every PI not affiliated with the Univeristy, must include costs relating to his/her contract with effect from the project's start date and ending not earlier than the project's completion date.

In view of the above and based on current costs, the recommended type of contract is for a Type A researcher with a minimum of 36 months fixed term contract. Approximate overall costs are of 150.000 Euros (full-time) or 110.000 Euros (part-time).

For further information, you can reach Research Services on telephone numbers 049/827.1913 - 1864