

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 1 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP POSITION

English Translation of Decree No. 458/2024

Article 1 - Announcement

A public selection based on qualifications is hereby announced for the award of 1 research fellowship, in accordance with art. 22 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, in its former version prior to Law No. 79 dated 29 June 2022, financed by the European Social Fund Plus 2021/2027 (FSE+) - PPO 2023 (operation code 2023/2115).

Article 2 - Purpose

This announcement is aimed at achieving the goals of the Sustainable Smart Specialization Strategy (S4) and contributes to the development and strengthening of integration with the regional production system and/or research organizations, through liaisons and cooperation with regional companies or research institutions or through possible technology transfer of processes, products, applications or, in any case, research results.

Article 3 - Research fellowship

A public selection is hereby announced for the award of 1 research fellowship, whose profile, requisites, duration and gross annual amount are set out in Annex 1 which is an integral part of this announcement.

Article 4 - Eligible candidates and requisites

The selection can be accessed by candidates who on the date of application have a documented scientific professional curriculum suitable for carrying out research and any further requirements stated specifically in Annex 1.

Permanent staff of universities, institutions and public research and experimentation entities, of the Italian National Agency for new technologies, energy and sustainable economic development (ENEA) and of the Italian Space Agency (ASI) as well as scientific institutions whose scientific post-graduate degree has been recognised equivalent to a PhD cannot be awarded research fellowship in accordance with Art. 74, paragraph 4, of the Italian Presidential Decree No. 382 of 11 July 1980.

In accordance with Art. 18 of Law 240/10, candidates with a degree of kinship or affinity up to the fourth degree included with the following subjects (see Annex 2) may not participate in the selection:

- Professor of the scientific Area of SISSA who requested the research fellowship;
- Director of SISSA;

- Secretary General of SISSA;
- Member of the Board of Directors of SISSA.

At the starting date of the research project candidates shall be resident or domiciled in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region.

Candidates who have held research fellowship contracts with any institution, pursuant to Italian Law no. 240/2010, for a period which, summed to the foreseen duration of the contract as detailed in Annex 1, exceeds a total of 6 years including any renewals, are excluded from applying. To this end, the time in which the candidate was holder of a research fellowship and enrolled in PhD courses is not taken into account for a period not exceeding the legal duration of the PhD program.

Furthermore, candidates who have held research fellowship or fixed-term researcher contracts at SISSA or any other State-funded, private-funded or on-line Italian university pursuant to articles 22 and 24 of Italian Law 240/2010, or with any other body listed in paragraph 1 of art. 22 of Italian Law 240/2010 for a period which, summed to the foreseen duration of the contract as detailed in Annex 1, exceeds a total of 12 years, even if not consecutive, are excluded from applying. To this end, the time in which the candidate was on maternity or sick leave is not taken into account according to the current legislation.

The fellowship cannot be held contemporarily with other fellowships of whatever kind, except those awarded by Italian or foreign institutes with the aim of integrating the research activity of the candidate through a period spent abroad.

Candidates enrolled in University Degree, Bachelor or Master courses, PhD courses with fellowships or medical school of specialization in Italy or abroad are excluded from applying. Public employees must be given unpaid leave for the period of the fellowship.

The fellowship is awarded through a private-law contract that does not imply any right of access to other academic positions.

Article 5 - Application to the selection procedure

Under penalty of exclusion, application for participation in the competition, along with the relevant qualifications held and the relevant scientific publications, shall be submitted online through the following online application procedures <https://pica.cineca.it/sissa/ar-fe-fisi-22-2024>.

It is of utmost importance to provide a valid email address in order to enable the registration process on the electronic procedure.

Applicants shall upload all personal and professional data as requested by the application procedure; all documents must be uploaded in PDF format (.pdf). Each applicant can produce a maximum of no. 30 publications and a maximum of no. 30 other titles and qualifications. Each attachment may not exceed 30MB.

All fields in the online application form must be filled out. Under penalty of exclusion, the application must contain:

- the candidate's curriculum vitae with a complete list of his/her scientific and professional activities (in one .pdf file);
- valid ID of the candidate, to be uploaded in electronic format.

Candidates accessing the PICA platform using their digital identity (SPID – Public Digital Identity System) will not be required to upload a scan of their personal ID, nor to sign and upload their application.

Failure to comply with the online application procedure will result in exclusion of the applicant.

Prior to final submission, and within the given deadline for applications submission, the online application procedure allows to modify and save the inserted information in a draft copy. Confirmation of final submission date will be certified by an automatic notification email.

Submissions after the given deadlines will not be accepted by the system as the online application procedure won't be accessible.

The online application and submission procedure shall be completed by July 1st, 2024, 11.59 pm (CEST - Rome time).

Reference letters shall be uploaded on the PICA platform by the referees/supervisors chosen by the candidate **by July 8th, 11.59 pm (CEST – Rome time).**

The submission of the online application must be completed and finalized:

- with the **digital signature** of the candidate, by means of smart card, USB token or remote digital signature, for digitally signing electronic documents with a software using a PC or a web portal for Remote Signature provided by a Certification Service Provider (CSP). Candidates with a smart card or an USB token for digital signature should check the compatibility with the Digital Signature system embedded in our server. In case of compatibility, candidates shall sign the application on the server (i.e. ConFirma);
- holders of server-incompatible Digital Signature and holders of Remote Digital Signature who can access a web portal for digitally signing electronic documents, shall save the PDF file generated by the system on their PC; the PDF file shall not be modified in any way, and it shall be digitally signed in CAdES format: the system will generate a file with .p7m extension. The candidate shall upload the **.p7m file** on the system. No changes are to be made to the file by the candidates before the Digital Signature, on pain of exclusion from the competition;
- in case the two above-mentioned options do not apply, candidates shall save the **PDF file** generated by the system on their PC. The PDF file shall not be modified in any way, on pain of exclusion from the competition. The PDF shall then be printed out, signed on the last page, scanned in PDF format and uploaded on the system.

For any technical issue regarding the application, candidates may contact the technical support through the link at the bottom of the page: <https://pica.cineca.it/sissa> ("supporto").

SISSA will verify that all the statements made in the application and accompanying documentation comply with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000.

INTERVIEWS CALENDAR:

The list of candidates admitted to the interview will be published on the website of SISSA on July 15th, 2024 by 2:00 p.m. CEST (Rome time). The interview will be held online on July 18th, 2024.

At the interview candidates must prove their identity showing a valid ID or passport. The notice of the interview calendar acts as an official notification. Candidates are required to collect at their own expenses all documents and publications they have submitted within 3 months from the selection procedure. After this time frame, SISSA cannot be held responsible in any way for these documents and publications.

5.1 - Submission of qualifications and published works

Candidates must enclose to the application all documents, titles and published works that might be useful for the selection procedure.

EU citizens may submit the original documents, a copy, provided that it is declared true to the original by the relevant authorities, or a copy together with an affidavit according to Articles 19 and 47 of the Presidential Decree No. 445 dated December 28th, 2000. EU citizens may also prove that they are in possession of the documents submitting an affidavit according to Articles 46 and 47 of the Presidential Decree No. 445/2000.

Non-EU citizens regularly sojourning in Italy according to the current legislation may submit an affidavit (pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 445/2000) for personal qualities and events which can be certified and attested by public Italian authorities, subject to the special regulations included in laws, legislation governing the immigration and the foreigner status, and international agreements between Italy and the country of origin of the candidate.

In any different case, the abovementioned information must be documented by certificates or documents issued by the relevant authorities of the foreign country with a translation in Italian authenticated by the Italian Consulate abroad, stating that they are true to the original documents.

To prove the equivalence of a qualification so as to meet the requirements described in Annex 1, the candidate must refer to the list of equivalences available on the website of the Italian Ministry of University and Research

(<https://www.mur.gov.it/it/aree-tematiche/universita/equipollenze-equivalenza-ed-equiparazioni-tra-titoli-di-studio/titoli-0>).

Qualifications obtained abroad and declared equivalent by the Italian authority, according to the current legislation, will be accepted for the purposes of the selection procedure.

In the event of a foreign degree that has not been officially recognized as equivalent in Italy according to the law (<https://www.cimea.it/EN/>), the candidate must attach a translation into English and/or Italian of the academic transcript. The examining board, appointed pursuant to art. 6 below, may accept the application for this selection procedure upon evaluation of the candidate's academic transcript and its consistency with the scientific sectors specified in Annex 1.

SISSA reserves the right to verify all affidavit and declarations. In case of false or misleading information the candidate shall forfeit any benefits resulting from the provisions made on the basis of the false declarations, subject to the provisions of Art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000. The withdrawal of the fellowship can be decided at any time, even after the research fellowship contract has entered into force. In such event the candidate shall reimburse to SISSA the fellowships unduly obtained.

5.2 - Research project

The research project must be completed by December 31st, 2028.

With the exception of off-site periods for scientific purposes, the research activity must be carried out at SISSA.

The scientific Area of SISSA, in hosting the research fellow, will be responsible for the activities foreseen in the project, providing access to and use of equipment, materials and services necessary for the implementation of the project, and for providing a scientific tutoring service through its permanent or temporary teaching or research staff.

5.3 - Exclusion from the selection and withdrawal

Each candidate is admitted with reserve to the selection procedure for which they have applied.

If the winner of the selection procedure does not accept or submit the required documents, or withdraws from the selection procedure, the fellowship may be awarded to the next eligible candidate in the ranking, upon explicit request of the scientist responsible for the position.

Article 6 - Examining Board

The Examining Board is appointed by Director's Decree before the start of the evaluation procedure, upon a proposal of the Area Council or of the Area Coordinator. It comprises a minimum of three members, including one President and one Secretary, chosen between professors and researchers of SISSA,

Universities, research organizations or experts in the competition sector referred to in Annex 1.

Each member may be replaced by one of the substitute members that may be included in the Decree of Appointment.

Members of the examining board must not have a family relationship or other degree of kinship up to the 4th degree with the candidates. For each member, a substitute member may be appointed.

Article 7 - Evaluation criteria

The Examining Board may award up to 60 points for each candidate's qualifications and published works, and up to 40 points for the interview. All candidates scoring 42/60 or higher for their qualifications and published works will be admitted to the interview. Candidates who score at least 28/40 at the interview shall be eligible for the research fellowship position.

The assessment shall be made by the Examining Board according to the following criteria that are detailed in Annex 1:

- a) Evaluation of the documented research activity;
- b) Evaluation of the candidate's academic qualifications (university degree, PhD, specialization diplomas and certificates of attendance of postgraduate courses obtained in Italy or abroad);
- c) Other qualifications.

The Examining Board shall also assess the relevance, pertinence and quality of qualifications and published works with regard to the topic of the research activity. The Research fellowship is awarded according to the ranking of candidates who have obtained a total minimum score of 70/100.

The evaluation of duly submitted applications will be carried out by the Commission according to the criteria previously identified, as set out in Annex 1.

SISSA seeks to ensure equal opportunities for men and women for accessing financial facilities covered by this announcement, in line with EU directives.

Article 8 - Evaluation results and ranking

At the end of the evaluation procedure the Examining Board draws up the minutes bearing the overall score of each candidate and the ranking, based on the total score obtained by each candidate.

The documents of the evaluation procedure and the ranking shall be approved by Directorial Decree.

Eligible candidates shall undertake a research fellowship contract with SISSA in accordance with art. 22 of Law 240/2010, in its former version prior to Law No. 79 dated 29 June 2022.

Being in the classification list shall not give any rights in other selection procedures.

Article 9 - Award of the research fellowship

The winner of the selection procedure shall be informed of the results of the evaluation, subject to verification of the financial coverage of the fellowship.

The research fellowship is awarded through a contract, which does not give any right to be employed by universities.

The starting date of the contract shall be agreed upon with the scientist responsible for the position.

The annual gross amount of the research fellowship is listed in Annex 1, will be paid in monthly instalments and includes contributions to be paid by the fellowship holder. The fiscal and social security treatment of the research fellowship is in accordance with Art. 4 of Italian Law No. 476/84, and with par. 26 and following paragraphs of Art. 2 of Italian Law No. 335/95 and subsequent amendments and additions.

Payments are made by bank transfer to the bank account that the research fellow shall own or open in Italy or abroad.

SISSA arranges for insurance coverage for the research fellow against accidents in the workplace and for third party liability while carrying out his/her research work. The amount of relevant premiums shall be deducted from the fellowship.

Should the funding not be guaranteed by the funding authority, SISSA reserves the right to not implement the fellowship. The validity of the contract is therefore subject to the verification of the necessary financial coverage.

Article 10 - Duties of SISSA

SISSA shall make available to the research fellow the equipment and tools necessary to implement the research project, and shall provide a scientific tutoring service carried out by its teaching or research staff.

SISSA ensures to keep all documents related to each submitted application in a separate (paper and/or electronic) folder, which will be constantly updated and stored at the headquarters of SISSA – Research Funding and International Relations Office.

Article 11 - Duties of the research fellow

At the start of the project the research fellow shall be resident or domiciled in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region.

For this purpose, the research fellow shall submit to SISSA one of the affidavit foreseen by the Italian Presidential Decree No. 445, dated December 28th, 2000, notifying the chosen domicile in the Friuli Venezia Giulia region on the starting date of the project.

While carrying out the research project the fellow shall:

- a) follow the plan of the activities and time schedule of the goals foreseen by the project or set by the scientist responsible for the position;
- b) follow the rules of conduct in force at SISSA;
- c) submit to SISSA any reports of the activity carried out as required by the regional regulations regarding ESF-funded research fellowships, as well as the annual analytical report on the scientific activity that has been carried out, signed by the research fellow and validated by the scientist responsible for the position;
- d) submit to SISSA the final report signed by the fellow and validated by the scientist responsible for the position, which acts as certificate of completion of the research activities.

Article 12 - Early termination

In the event that the research fellow resigns before the natural expiration of the contract, due to any of the following circumstances, duly substantiated:

- (a) compulsory maternity leave;
- (b) parental leave of up to six months, which can be extended to nine months for single parents, as provided by law;
- (c) serious health reasons;
- (d) other causes beyond the research fellow's control and so serious as to prevent the performance of the research activities during the period concerned, judged as such by the competent bodies of SISSA and by the manager of the Regional Administration, acting as the funding body; or
- (e) new job or academic position, but **only if the research fellowship contract has been carried out for at least 40% of its intended duration**

the research activity carried out in the framework of this fellowship will be paid according to the months and days actually elapsed and worked since the start of the contract.

In the event that the termination of the contract is not justified by one of the above-mentioned reasons, or refers to the circumstances described in letter (e) but the research fellowship contract has not been carried out for at least 40% of its intended duration, the grant shall not be paid and the recipient shall be required to return to SISSA the full amount already received since the start of the contract.

If the scientist responsible for the fellowship notifies the Administration of a failure to properly perform the research activities foreseen by the contract, SISSA reserves the right to suspend the monthly payment of the grant.

In case of major non-compliance the contract can be terminated by decision of the School Senate and upon a reasoned proposal of the Area Council, having heard the researcher concerned.

The contract is automatically resolved in the following cases:

- unjustified delay or failure to start the research activity;
- unjustified suspension of the activity for more than 15 days;
- breach of the incompatibilities established by the current Rules for the awarding of research fellowship in SISSA;
- negative evaluation of the research activity expressed by the Area Council.

At least 30 days' notice must be given by the fellow in case of resignation. Failure to do so shall result in a penalty involving the recovery of or the failure to pay the salary for the period of notice not given. The 30 days' notice obligation shall not apply during the first 30 days of the research activity.

The loss of the external funding enabling the activation of the research fellowship constitutes cause for termination by SISSA. In that case SISSA is required to give the research fellow an advance notice of at least 60 days.

Should SISSA fail to respect the aforesaid notice period, SISSA shall pay to the fellow an amount corresponding to the remuneration for the period of notice not given.

Article 13 - Suspension of the project

The project and the payment of the research fellowship may be suspended only in the following cases, upon notification by the beneficiary:

- a) maternity leave
- b) parental leave of up to six months, which can be extended to nine months for single parents, as provided by law;
- c) serious health reasons;
- d) other causes beyond the research fellow's control and so serious as to prevent the performance of the research activities during the period concerned, judged as such by the competent bodies of SISSA and by the manager of the Regional Administration, acting as the funding body.

For the purpose of proper management of public funding, and in view of the 2021-2027 programming deadlines, suspension is allowed for up to 12 months, whether consecutive or resulting from several suspension periods.

In such cases, the research fellow should submit a duly certified request. The project may be restarted at the end of the suspension period and must be completed in any case by December 31st, 2028.

Article 14 - Access to documents, data processing and administrative procedure officer

Providing data is necessary for procedural purposes, on penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure. The candidate may exercise the right of access to data in accordance with Art. 7 of Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003.

Pursuant to Legislative Decree 196/2003 and the European Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), SISSA undertakes to respect the confidentiality of the information provided by the candidates: the collected personal

data will also be processed by computers, only for purposes related to the selection and the drawing up and management of the relevant contract, according to the current legislation, and may be transferred to and used by public administrations directly involved in the legal and economic position of the research fellow. Participation to the selection procedure entails, while respecting the principles set out in the abovementioned law, the expression of tacit consent to the publication of the candidate personal data and data relating to the evaluation procedure on SISSA website.

Candidates are guaranteed access to documentation of the selection procedure in accordance with the current legislation (Law 241/90 and subsequent amendments and integrations and Presidential Decree 184/2006).

SISSA, in the person of the Director, is the owner of and responsible for data processing. Under Law 241/90 and subsequent amendments and integrations, the administrative officer is dr. Marco Rucci.

Article 15 - Intellectual property rights

The results of research projects, such as any patents and industrial property rights, as well as their financial usage rights, belong to SISSA, possibly in co-ownership with the partner or partners involved in the project, if any. The relevant legislation currently in force shall apply, with special reference to Legislative Decree No. 30 of 10 February 2005 "Industrial property code" and subsequent amendments and additions, and specific internal regulations of SISSA.

The fellows will retain the moral rights to be recognised as authors/inventors.

The owner of results shall give widespread dissemination of the results, citing specifically that they were achieved with the co-funding of the European Social Fund Plus 2021/2027 of the autonomous region Friuli Venezia Giulia.

Article 16 - Final provisions

All matters not covered in this Announcement shall be governed by SISSA regulations.

THE DIRECTOR
Prof. Andrea Romanino
(Italian version signed digitally)

ANNEX 1

PHYSICS / NEUROSCIENCE AREA

Public selection based on **qualifications and interview**

Title of the research activity: **From puzzles to patterns: Finding statistical signatures of learning in neural populations**

Fields of the research activity: Theoretical neuroscience, machine learning.

Area 02 – Physics

Public selection sector: 02/D1 - Applied Physics

Relevant academic scientific sector: FIS/07 - Applied Physics

Scientist responsible for the research activity: Prof. Mathew E. Diamond, dr. Sebastian D. Goldt.

Members of the research group: Maria Ravera, Davide Ghiana, Sara Varetto, Claudia Merger.

Gross remuneration per year: € 24.336,00

Duration of the research fellowship: 36 months

Minimum requirements for admission to the selection procedure:

University degree: **Master of Science** in Neuroscience, Physics, Mathematics, Computer science or related subjects.

A PhD degree (or nearing completion of a PhD program) in a relevant subject is appreciated, as well as evidence of previous research activity in relevant fields through publications.

The submission of two reference letters is recommended. The letters shall be uploaded on the PICA platform by the candidate's referees/supervisors no later than July 8th, 2024, at 11.59 p.m. CEST (Rome time).

Evaluation criteria:

| Qualification | Evaluation criteria | Score |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| PhD | Relevance to the project | max 12 points |
| University Degree | Type of major, as indicated in the announcement, and final grade | max 8 points |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Published works and other research products | Relevance to the scientific disciplinary sector of the research project | max 30 points |
| Other post-lauream Degrees | Relevance to the scientific disciplinary sector | max 5 points |
| Other qualifications | Contracts, scholarships, enrollment in PhD degrees, periods spent abroad, etc., if any | max 15 points |
| TOTAL (qualifications) | | max 60 points |
| Interview | | max 40 points |
| TOTAL | | max 100 points |

Gross total cost of the research fellowship will be funded by the following project: European Social Fund Plus 2021/2027 (ESF+) of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region – 2021/2027 Programme – Priority no. 2: Education and Training - PPO 2023 – Specific Programme: 22/23 – Sostegno all’alta formazione del sistema universitario regionale; Funding channel: (C) Research Fellowships. Sportello 2024 (UGOV code: R_FSE_2021_2027_SISSA_Direttore_0964; Project code: G93C23000670009). The research activity shall be carried out solely for the purposes of this project.

Given the resolutions of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors of SISSA dated February 20th and February 27th 2024 respectively, EU and non-EU foreign research fellows are entitled to a reimbursement of the costs incurred for their Italian health insurance up to a maximum of € 2,000.00. A reimbursement is also foreseen for a medical travel insurance covering the trip to Trieste at the start of the contract.

Position approved by:

Academic Senate of the School on April 16th, 2024

Board of Directors of the School on April 19th, 2024