SISSA
Scuola Internazionale Superiore di Studi Avanzati

Translation of Announcement for 1 research position
at the Neuroscience Area of SISSA
Decree No. 848 dated 6 November 2026

THE DIRECTOR

Having regard to Law No. 168 of 9 May 1989;
Having regard to Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990 and all subsequent amendments and additions;
Having regard to Law No. 413 of 12 October 1993;
Having regard to Presidential Decree No. 445 dated 28 December 2000;
Having regard to Legislative Decree No. 165 of 30 March 2001 and all subsequent amendments and additions;
Having regard to Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of 10 August 2018, which transposes the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR);
Having regard to Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010;
Having regard to Law No. 183 of 12 November 2011, and to Art. 15 in particular;
Having regard to the Statute of SISSA, issued by Directorial Decree No. 40 of 18 January 2012, published in the Official Journal No. 36 dated 13 February 2012, in force since 28 February 2012;
Having regard to SISSA Directorial Decree No. 121 dated 5 March 2012;
Having regard to Directorial Decree No. 295 of 21 May 2012, establishing SISSA's scientific Areas;
Given the Decree No. 639/2024 of 2 May 2024, issued by the Ministry of University and Research, concerning the determination of scientific-disciplinary groups and their descriptions, as well as the streamlining and updating of scientific-disciplinary sectors, and their reassignment to scientific-disciplinary groups, pursuant to Article 15 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010;
Having regard to Decree-Law No. 45 of 7 April 2025, converted with amendments by Law No. 79 of 5 June 2025, and in particular to Art. 1-bis introducing Articles 22-bis and 22-ter into Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010;
Having regard to Ministerial Decree No. 592 of 6 August 2025, determining the minimum remuneration for post-doc and research appointment;
Given the resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate on 23 September 2025 and by the Board of Directors on 30 September 2025;
Having regard to the SISSA Regulation for the award of research appointments pursuant to Art. 22-ter of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, issued by Directorial Decree No. 750/2025 of 1 October 2025;
Having regard to the resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors of SISSA on 21 October 2025 and 28 October 2025 respectively, providing for reimbursement of health insurance costs for foreign research

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personnel (EU and non-EU), to be covered either by external funds or by the School, including, where applicable, travel health insurance for relocation to Trieste;
Having regard to the resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on 29 October 2026, based on the assent granted by the Academic Senate on 27 October 2026, authorizing the launch of the procedure for the direct award of a research appointment pursuant to Art. 22-ter of Law No. 240/2010;
Given the availability of financial coverage for the abovementioned research position pursuant to Art. 22-ter of Law No. 240/2010, funded by the project HE-ERC-Starting Grant, project title: Context-dependent flexibility in innate behaviours and their underlying neural circuitry, acronym "FLEXIN", scientific supervisor: Dr. Katja Reinhard (UGOV code: R_HE_ERC_StG_NEUR_Reinhard_0833, project code: G93C22001860006, Grant Agreement: n. 101075848);

D E C R E E S

Art. 1 - **A procedure based on qualifications is hereby announced for 1 research appointment in the research field detailed in Annex 1. Full details, admission requirements and duration are listed in Annex 1. The Scientific supervisor of the position is prof. Katja Reinhard.**
Pursuant to Art. 7, par. 1, of the Italian Legislative Decree No. 165/2001, public administration bodies ensure gender equality and equal opportunities, as well as the absence of any form of direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, religious belief and language, affecting access to employment, working conditions and economic treatment, vocational training, career advancement and workplace safety. Public administration bodies also guarantee a working environment characterised by organisational well-being and undertake to detect, counteract and eliminate any kind of moral or psychological violence in the working environment".

Art.2 - Candidates who hold a Master's degree (Laurea Magistrale) or a single-cycle Master's degree obtained no more than six years prior to the date of application, who possess a curriculum suitable for assisting in the conduct of research activities, and who meet the additional requirements specifically indicated in Annex 1, may submit an expression of interest.

Individuals who have held fixed-term researcher positions pursuant to Art. 24 of Law No. 240/2010, as well as permanent staff of public administrations, are excluded from applying.

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In accordance with art. 18 of the Italian Law No. 240/10, candidates having a family relationship or other degree of kinship up to the 4th degree with the following persons are also excluded from applying:

- SISSA Professors belonging to the Area that requested the position;
- Director of SISSA;
- Secretary General of SISSA;
- Member of the Board of Directors of SISSA.

Research appointments do not give rise to any rights regarding access to permanent positions within the institutions awarding them, nor can they be counted for the purposes referred to in Article 20 of Legislative Decree No. 75 of 25 May 2017.

Art.3 – The employment contract, drawn up in writing, is signed by the contractor and the Director.
The gross annual amount of the contract, as indicated in Annex 1, is stated before any charges payable by the contractor. Said amount shall be paid to the beneficiary in equal monthly installments in arrears.
The contracts are governed, for tax purposes, by Article 4 of Law No. 476 of 13 August 1984, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and, for social security purposes, by Article 2, paragraphs 26 et seq., of Law No. 335 of 8 August 1995, as subsequently amended and supplemented.
The School provides insurance coverage against workplace accidents and third-party liability for the contractors during the performance of their research activities. The cost of such insurance premiums shall be deducted annually from the amount payable to each contractor.

Art.4 – Research appointments are not compatible with attendance of Bachelor's, Specialist or Master's degree courses, PhD programmes, or medical specialization courses, either in Italy or abroad, nor with holding PhD scholarships or other scholarships of any kind awarded by national or foreign institutions, except when such scholarships are aimed at international mobility for research purposes. Research appointments are also incompatible with holding research grants, research contracts, other post-doc appointments or research assignments, fixed-term researcher contracts, and entail leave without pay for employees serving in public administrations.
Without prejudice to the above, holders of research appointments are subject to the provisions of the Regulation on assignments and external activities for academic staff regarding incompatible activities, activities requiring authorization,

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and activities freely exercisable. Activities subject to authorization shall be assessed and approved by the relevant scientific structure.

Art. 5 – Admission to the procedure for the submission of expressions of interest for the direct award of the research appointment under this call is subject to the fulfilment of the requirements specified in Annex 1.
In the case of academic qualifications obtained abroad, candidates holding a qualification deemed suitable by the Scientific Supervisor shall be admitted, following an assessment of the consistency of the qualification – on the basis of the relevant study programme – with the requirements set out in Annex 1. Such assessment shall be valid exclusively for the purposes of the present procedure. Candidates who already hold an official recognition of the qualification (e.g. a declaration of equivalence or academic recognition of the qualification) may attach it to their application.

Art. 6 – The Scientific Supervisor of the research project shall assess the expressions of interest received in relation to the activities to be carried out and may conduct further discussions with the candidates deemed most suitable, in accordance with Art. 25 of the Regulations.
Any invitation for further discussions shall be communicated directly to the candidate via the e-mail address provided in the online application, indicating the relevant schedule and procedures.
Following the assessment referred to in the preceding paragraphs, the Scientific Supervisor shall identify the candidate considered most suitable.
The outcome of the procedure shall be made public through publication on the University's Official Notice Board and on the dedicated section of the University's website within 30 days from the deadline for the submission of expressions of interest.
The documents relating to the direct award procedure shall be approved by decree of the Director and published on the School's website.
The Scientific Supervisor shall complete the evaluation process and identify the selected candidate within one month from the receipt of the expressions of interest.
In the event that the candidate identified as most suitable declines the appointment or fails to accept it within the prescribed time limit, the appointment may be awarded, upon explicit request of the Scientific Supervisor, to another candidate deemed suitable within the same expression of interest procedure.
Inclusion among the suitable candidates shall not constitute entitlement to participate in or be selected in subsequent procedures.

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Art. 7 – **Expressions of interest** for the position in question, together with the qualifications held, publications, and any documents deemed useful for the purposes of the selection, **must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion**, by electronic means using the dedicated **online application available at the following webpage:** https://pica.cineca.it/sissa/idr-fe-neuro-13-2026.
A valid email address is required for the registration process.
Applicants shall upload all personal and professional data as requested by the application procedure and attach the documents in electronic PDF format. 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:

- a curriculum vitae with a complete list of the candidate's scientific and professional activities;
- a 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 the exclusion of the applicant from the procedure.
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 deadline 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 24 November 2026, 11.59 p.m. (Rome time).**

The submission of the online expressions of interest must be completed and finalized:

- **with the digital signature of the candidate**, by means of smart card, USB token or remote digital signature allowing the applicant to digitally sign 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 a 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 (e.g. ConFirma);

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- **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 selection procedure;
- **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 selection procedure. The .pdf shall 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").
The School will verify that all the statements made in the application and accompanying documentation comply with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000.

Art.8 – After a budget verification has been carried out, the candidate will be formally notified of the award of the research appointment.
Within 30 days from the start of the research activity at SISSA, Italian and EU candidates and non-EU citizens resident in Italy will have to submit a valid ID and fill out the following documents:

1) affidavit attesting birth, citizenship, place of residence and Italian tax code of the applicant;
2) affidavit attesting the possession of a University Degree;

Non-EU citizens authorized to sojourn in Italy owing to conventions between Italy and their own country have to submit the same above-mentioned documents.
Non-EU citizens regularly sojourning in Italy may submit an affidavit according to articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000 exclusively for personal data and events which can be certified and attested by public Italian authorities.
In any other case, the information requested in points 1) and 2) of this article must be notified by means of an affidavit and plain copies of the relevant documents within 30 days from the beginning of the research activity at SISSA. Research fellows are requested to submit certificates and declarations issued by the foreign competent authorities, possibly accompanied by an Italian translation

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authenticated by the Italian Consulate abroad. The School reserves the right to verify all affidavits.
Should the winner refuse the position, not accept it or fail to submit the above-mentioned documents on time, the research appointment may be offered to the next eligible candidate in the classification list, following the authorization granted by the Director, at the express request of the Area Coordinator or the scientist responsible for the research activity.
The starting date of the appointment shall be agreed with the Area Coordinator or with the scientist responsible for the research project.
Should the financial coverage not be guaranteed by the funding body, SISSA reserves the right not to activate the research position. The start of the contract will therefore be subject to verification of the necessary financial coverage.

Art.9 – Holders of research appointments shall carry out the research activities specified in the contract and compatible with the research programs of the relevant Area, in coordination with the Scientific Supervisor.
The research activity shall be conducted within the framework of the research project for which the appointment holder has been selected.
The activity may be suspended in the cases provided for by the School's current Regulations concerning the awarding of post-doctoral and research appointments, including maternity, illness, or other serious personal reasons, according to the procedures set out therein.
A total justified and agreed absence not exceeding thirty days in a year shall not constitute a suspension and shall not be subject to recovery.
Where required by the funding body, the research appointment holder may be asked to complete a time-sheet for reporting purposes only.

Art.10 – Research appointments, including those awarded by different institutions to the same individual, shall have a minimum duration of one year and a maximum duration, including any renewals or extensions, of three years, even if non-consecutive.
The total duration of contracts awarded to the same individual under research contracts (Art. 22, Law 240/2010), post-doctoral appointments (Art. 22-bis, Law 240/2010), research appointments (Art. 22-ter, Law 240/2010), and fixed-term tenure-track researcher contracts (Art. 24, Law 240/2010, as amended on 30.06.2022), even if awarded by different institutions, may not exceed a total of eleven years, whether consecutive or not. For the purposes of this calculation, periods of leave taken for maternity, paternity, or health reasons, as defined by current legislation, shall not be counted.

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Any extension of a research appointment, with a minimum duration of one month, may be requested upon a reasoned proposal by the Scientific Supervisor appointed by the School to oversee the research activity under the contract, and subject to an evaluation of the work carried out by the appointment holder in relation to the progress of the research project. For this purpose, the appointment holders shall submit a report on the research activity carried out to the relevant Area.
Any renewal of a research appointment, with a minimum duration of one year, may likewise be requested upon a reasoned proposal by the Scientific Supervisor appointed by the School to oversee the research activity under the contract, and subject to an evaluation of the work carried out by the appointment holder in relation to the progress of the research project. For this purpose, contract holders shall submit a report on the research activity carried out to the relevant Area. In the case of renewals funded by sources other than the School's own budget, the amount of the contract may be increased, within the limits permitted by current legislation, in accordance with the level of commitment required.
In any case, extensions and renewals must comply with the overall maximum duration of three years.
The formal procedures relating to any extensions or renewals of the appointment are governed by the School's current Regulations on the awarding of post-doctoral and research appointments.

Art. 11 - Termination of the employment relationship shall occur upon the expiration of the contract term, through withdrawal by either party, or for any other reason provided for under applicable law.
Should the research appointment holder decide to terminate the contract before its natural expiry, they must provide written notice at least 30 days in advance. In the event of failure to give such notice, SISSA shall withhold an amount equivalent to the salary corresponding to the unserved notice period.
The termination of external funding that enabled the activation of the contract shall constitute grounds for withdrawal by the School. In such case, the School is required to provide at least 60 days' notice. Should the School fail to provide the required notice, it shall pay the appointment holder an amount equivalent to the salary corresponding to the unserved notice period.

Art. 12 - The Head of procedures is Dr. Alessandra Lucatello, Chief of the Human Resources Area (e-mail: contrattiricerca@sissa.it).

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Studi Avanzati

Art.13 – All personal data provided to this Administration shall be processed solely for purposes related to and instrumental to the present procedure, in compliance with the applicable legislation, pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, “Personal Data Protection Code”, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of 10 August 2018, “Provisions for the adaptation of national legislation to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)”.

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

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ANNEX 1

NEUROSCIENCE AREA
Direct appointment procedure

Research title: "Investigating visuo-motor circuits using viral vector tools"

Fields of the research activity: viral vector production, injection of viral vectors, histology, rodent handling.

Scientific supervisor: Prof. Katja Reinhard
Members of the research group: Prof. Katja Reinhard, members of the research group "Flexibility in Circuits & Behaviour"

Area 05 - Biology
Academic recruitment field: 05/BIOS-06 Fisiology
Academic discipline: BIOS-06/A Fisiology

Duration of the appointment: 12 months

Gross annual amount payable under the contract: € 26.500,00

Minimum requirements:
Master's degree in: Neuroscience, Biotechnology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Bioengineering, Engineering and related degrees
PhD degree in: Neuroscience, Biotechnology, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Bioengineering, Engineering and related degrees (preferred qualification)

Proven experience in: Experience with viral vector production and/or stereotaxic injections is required. Experience with histology protocols is an advantage. Candidates should have a background in neuroscience or be motivated to acquire the relevant understanding during the project.

Additional requirements, skills and competencies: The candidate should have an interest in producing and using viral vector tools to trace subcortical neural circuits. The candidate will also participate in rodent husbandry. Further, candidates should be collaborative and reliable and engage in open and active communication within the lab.

The online application and submission procedure shall be completed **by 24 November 2026, 11.59 p.m. (Rome time).**

Evaluation:
The assessment of expressions of interest is carried out on the basis of the scientific and professional profile considered suitable for the implementation of the research project by the Scientific supervisor, who may conduct further assessments with the candidates deemed most suitable. Each candidate is

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assessed individually, and the Scientific supervisor formulates an overall assessment of each candidate in order to identify those deemed suitable to carry out the planned activities. For the purpose of awarding the assignment, the Scientific supervisor selects, from among the candidates deemed suitable, the candidate considered best qualified to carry out the planned activities, providing adequate justification for the decision.

The research activity shall be carried out on behalf of and shall be funded by the project HE-ERC-Starting Grant, project title: Context-dependent flexibility in innate behaviours and their underlying neural circuitry, acronym "FLEXIN", scientific supervisor: Dr. Katja Reinhard (UGOV code: R_HE_ERC_StG_NEUR_Reinhard_0833, project code: G93C22001860006, Grant Agreement: n. 101075848).

Position approved by:
Neuroscience Area Council: on 16.10.2026
Academic Senate on 27.10.2026
Board of Directors on 29.10.2026

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