



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

UFFICIO DIRITTO ALLO STUDIO,
BORSE E PREMI DI LAUREA

Provision of the Registrar Index no. 435/16
Register. no. 15200-III/12 of 21/04/2016

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

NO. 4 GRANTS FOR GRADUATES HOLDING A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE (MSc) (LAUREA MAGISTRALE) OR EQUIVALENT QUALIFICATION TO UNDERTAKE RESEARCH AT THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

THE GENERAL MANAGER

Having regard to the laws on university education;

Having regard to pars. 1 and 2 of art. 6, Law no. 168 of 9 May 1989 regulating university autonomy;

Having regard to the part still applicable of Law no. 398 of 30 November 1989 (Rules on university grants);

Having regard to par. 3, art. 4 of Law no. 210 of 3 July 1998;

Having regard to art. 4 of Legislative Decree no. 165/2001 regarding the functions and responsibilities of governing bodies;

Having regard to Legislative Decree no. 196/2003, the personal data protection code;

Having regard to the Statute of the University of Siena;

Having regard to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (Norms concerning the organization of universities, of academic personnel and recruitment, as well as the attribution of power to the Government for improving the quality and efficiency of the university system) and subsequent modifications and integrations implemented in law no. 35 of 4 April 2012 (Conversion into law, with amendments, of decree no. 59 of February 2012 containing urgent provisions on simplification and development);

Having regard to the decisions of the Academic Senate and of the Board of Directors of 29 July and 31 July 2015, respectively, which modify the Provision of the Head of Administration Index no. 1081/2014 "Method for awarding scholarships and grants and for reimbursing traineeship activities – *modifications to the eligibility requirements for research grants* - which stated "Only candidates who, at the deadline for application, have been awarded the academic qualifications specified in this call no more than five years earlier OR are under 35 years old may apply" is substituted by the following: "*individual calls for application may place a limit, with due cause, on the date of completion of the university qualification specified in the call and/or the age of eligible candidates*".

Having regard to the Provision of the Registrar Index no. 887/2015 register no. 30962-III-12 of 5 August 2015, amended pursuant to the changes to article 5 of the Provision of the Head of Administration Index no. 1081/2014 in the section concerning the eligibility requirements for research grants;

Having regard to the decision of the Board of Siena University's Department of Information Engineering and Mathematical Sciences held on 16 December 2015 (received by certified mail, Index no. 50099 on 23 December 2015) containing Prof. Domenico Prattichizzo's request to assign no. 4 grants for research activities within the context of the EU project "WEARable HAPtics for Humans and Robots" (WEARHAP). The grants, each of six months' duration (renewable), will amount to € 9,000.00= each (plus € 500= to cover management fees) and will be covered by funds under the WEARHAP project;

Having ascertained the actual availability of the abovementioned funds, as indicated in project form 2262-2015-PD-CONTR-U.E_008;

Having made the required checks;

Considering the principle of transparency that must be observed throughout the procedure;



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

ORDERS AS FOLLOWS

Art. 1 - Subject and duration

The University of Siena hereby announces a competition, based on qualifications and assessment of a written assignment, to award no. 4 research grants to graduates holding a **Master Of Science Degree (Msc) (Laurea Magistrale)** or equivalent qualification and with good knowledge of the English language. Research activities will focus on *"Ideazione, progettazione e sviluppo di soluzioni applicative per i dispositivi aptici indossabili del progetto WEARHAP"* (Conception, design and development of applications exploiting the WEARHAP wearable haptic devices) and will be undertaken at the Department of Information Engineering and **Mathematical Sciences** under the supervision of the scientific coordinator, Prof. Domenico Prattichizzo (Tutor). Some research may be undertaken at other facilities (even **abroad**), in particular in the Laboratories of partner Institutions of the WEARHAP European research project.

The grants amount to € 9.000,00= each (gross for the recipient, as specified in art. 9 of this announcement) and each have a 6 (six) month duration (renewal is possible, as specified in article 7 of the present announcement).

Art. 2 – Recipients and incompatibility

The citizens of any European or non-European country holding the qualification indicated in art. 1 above may submit an application. The grant cannot be awarded to anyone with a relationship of consanguinity or affinity up to and including the fourth degree with a professor employed at the Department proposing the grant, or with the Rector, the **General Manager** or a member of the University Council.

During the period of the grant the recipient must not be in possession of another study or research grant for any purpose, except those awarded by national or foreign institutions to integrate, with stays abroad, the research activities of grant recipients. The grant cannot be integrated with other payments in the cases provided for by law, or with contracts of employment, unless the latter are for intermittent work and the Tutor considers them compatible with grant activities, as declared in a written statement. The administration can, at any time and by reasoned order, decide to exclude candidates from the selection procedure if they lack any of the admission requirements.

Art. 3 – Aims and activities

Description of activities (in Italian and English):

Il progetto WEARHAP, con i suoi progressi scientifici e tecnologici, apre le porte ad una grande varietà di campi di applicazione per i dispositivi aptici indossabili. Anche se alcune applicazioni vengono progettate negli "workpackage" legati agli scenari applicativi di progetto, il Consorzio pensa che i sistemi WEARHAP possano trovare svariati e innovativi campi applicativi e ha deciso di aprire la **WEARHAPs Competition**. Siamo alla ricerca di nuove possibilità per sfruttare in maniera creativa le ultime versioni dei prototipi di progetto attualmente funzionanti.

Il finanziamento dato dalle borse sarà utilizzato per progettare e sviluppare le soluzioni applicative all'interno dei Laboratori del consorzio. Le informazioni tecniche sul progetto e sui suoi prototipi sono disponibili nella sezione "progetto" del sito di WEARHAP (<http://www.wearhap.eu/>).

Project WEARHAP, with its scientific and technological progress, will open the doors to many different fields of application of wearable haptic devices. While some applications are created in the workpackages linked to the project's application scenarios, the Consortium believes that WEARHAP systems may have more applications and has launched the **WEARHAPs Competition**. We are looking for innovative ways of creatively **exploiting the running versions of the project prototypes**. Grants will be used to design and develop new applications in the Consortium Laboratories. Technical information on the project and on prototypes is available in the "project" section of the WEARHAP website (<http://www.wearhap.eu/>).

Research objectives (in Italian and English):

L'obiettivo dell'attività è l'ideazione, la progettazione e lo sviluppo di soluzioni applicative per i dispositivi aptici indossabili del progetto WEARHAP.

Research aims to conceive, design and develop new applications for WEARHAP wearable haptic devices.

Art. 4 – Selection procedure and committee

The selection committee must number at least three individuals, and possibly a substitute, who are proposed by the Department.

The members of the selection committee will be designated within the WEARHAP Consortium.

The selection committee is appointed by provision of the person responsible for the procedure.

The Committee's decision will be final.

The Committee will assign the grant on the basis of the **qualifications possessed by the candidates and of their submitted**



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

proposals. The following will be assessed:

- proposals written in English containing new ideas for the application of wearable haptic devices developed under the WEARHAP project;
- scientific-professional curriculum vitae;
- letters of reference.

The Committee will draw up a list of candidates in order of merit based on an analytically motivated judgement. The list will be affixed to the Department noticeboard and sent to the *Ufficio Diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea*.

Art. 5 – Awarding of the grant and payment

The grant will be awarded through a Rectoral Decree countersigned by the person responsible for the procedure so as to confirm the legitimacy of the award and the actual availability of funds to cover the grant.

The grant will be paid in monthly instalments in arrears.

Should any further financial resources become available for other grants on the same subject, the same ranked list may be used to allocate them.

Art. 6 – Applications

Applications must be made using the appropriate form and addressed to the *Magnifico Rettore dell'Università degli Studi di Siena - Banchi di Sotto n. 55, Siena*. They may be delivered in person or by a delegated person to the *Ufficio Diritto allo Studio, Borse di Premi di Laurea*, or sent by registered mail or email (in pdf format) to the certified email address rettore@pec.unisipec.it or to borse.premi@unisipec.it

Applications must be received by the 19 MAR 2016 deadline.

Applications sent by registered mail must be recorded as received by the University's *Divisione flussi documentali e informativi* by the deadline. **Postmarks will NOT be honoured.**

The envelope must bear the following: *Domanda di partecipazione a concorso per borsa presso il Dipartimento di Ingegneria dell'informazione e scienze matematiche, sul seguente argomento: "Ideazione, progettazione e sviluppo di soluzioni applicative per i dispositivi aptici indossabili del progetto WEARHAP" (Conception, design and development of applications for WEARHAP wearable haptic devices)*.

Proof of receipt will be considered as follows: for applications delivered by hand - the receipt issued by the *Ufficio Diritto allo Studio, Borse e Premi di Laurea* of the University of Siena (Via S. Bandini, 25 – SI), for applications sent by certified email - the date of the return receipt sent automatically by the certified email service provider;

Candidates sending an application by email or post can check that it was received and is complete (it must in any case be officially registered by the deadline for application) by contacting the University's *Ufficio diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea* - (Tel. + 39 - 0577-235244 -235245 -235246).

Please note that, under art. 38 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000, a copy of the applicant's valid identity document must be enclosed with applications sent by post, e-mail or hand delivered by a delegated person.

The Ufficio Diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea, Via Sallustio Bandini 25 - Siena has the following opening hours : Mon, Wed, & Fri 9am - 1.30pm, Tues&Thurs 2.45-5pm. Closed Saturdays.

The applicant must declare the following on the application form:

- full name, place and date of birth, nationality, Italian Fiscal Code, tax residence and elected correspondence address for the purposes of the competition, telephone number, e-mail address;
- degree held, date awarded, name of the awarding University and final mark;
- that he/she meets the requirements specified in art. 1 of this announcement;
- that he/she authorizes the use of personal data in accordance with the laws in force.

The applicant must enclose with his/her application:

- a proposal, written in English, containing new ideas for the application of wearable haptic devices developed under the WEARHAP project
- an abstract of his/her degree thesis;
- a curriculum vitae (signed);
- self-certification of degree awarded and date of completion, list of exams passed with marks;
- any letters of reference;
- any other document deemed useful;



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

- a copy of his/her Italian Fiscal Code, or passport for foreign candidates.

Any documents enclosed must be listed on the application.

For the sole purpose of the competition, the Committee will decide on the validity of all qualifications submitted.

Candidates with a foreign academic qualification must enclose with their application:

- a certificate reporting the type of degree and listing exams and grades (a "Transcript") - in Italian or English, or translated into Italian or English and a copy of any other documents deemed relevant for assessing the validity of their degree.

Candidates holding a foreign degree will be admitted to the selection process on a provisional basis. Should a foreign degree be found not to meet the requirements of this announcement, the candidate in question will be excluded from the selection process.

For the sole purpose of the competition, the Committee will decide on the validity of all qualifications submitted.

Art. 7 - Nature of the grant and possible renewal

Awarding of the grant does not represent a form of employment, nor imply social security and welfare contributions or career-related legal or economic recognition or awards or automatic social security rights.

Subject to the availability of the relative funds, the grant can be renewed **once only (unless otherwise provided)**, and as long as the **maximum total period of three years** is not exceeded. Based on the report drafted by the recipient at the end of the grant, the grant's proponent may submit a request to the Department Board for its renewal.

Art. 8 – Recipient's rights and obligations

The grant recipient is entitled to access the University facilities he/she is assigned to and to use all available services in accordance with the regulations of the facility in question and complying with its regulations and safety rules.

The grant recipient must guarantee his/her presence at the facility he/she is assigned to, in accordance with the Tutor, for the entire duration of the grant, starting from the month in which the grant is assigned.

For study purposes, the recipient may be required to undertake activities in other appropriate facilities (even abroad). In this case the period must be defined in a plan drafted by the scientific coordinator and the grant recipient and be approved by the Department Board, with no added cost for the Department. The Ufficio Diritto allo Studio, Borse e Premi di Laurea must be informed in advance so that it may check feasibility, including insurance coverage.

Halfway through research activities, the grant recipient must present a report to the Tutor providing evidence of the correct and regular completion of activities and illustrating results attained. If the tutor does not approve this report, the research grant is withdrawn. At the end of the period covered by the grant, a final report must be drawn up on all activities carried out and the results attained. This report must be signed by the grant recipient and countersigned by the Tutor and sent (original paper copy) to the *Ufficio diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea*. Failure to comply with these rules may result in withdrawal of the grant, subject to the final decision of the Tutor.

In the event of obligatory absence due to maternity, illness or other documented reasons considered valid by the Tutor, grant activities and related payment of the grant will be suspended and will recommence when the reason for suspension has been resolved. Periods of suspension must be recuperated.

Should the recipient of the grant intend to give it up, he/she is required to notify the Tutor, who must inform the *Ufficio Diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea*. Payments made for the periods of actual possession of the grant until the date of renunciation need not be returned. Should the recipient give up the grant (even before starting related activities) or no longer be entitled to it, the grant will be withdrawn by Rector's Decree, subject to checks by the person responsible for the procedure.

In such cases, on request of the Tutor in charge, the grant may be awarded to the next candidate in the ranked list (if any). If activities had already commenced, the grant may be reassigned only if the remaining sum corresponds to at least half of the original amount. Alternatively, a new competition may be announced, as long as this is compatible with the provisions of the funding body.

Art. 9 – Insurance coverage and taxation

The University of Siena will provide insurance coverage against professional risks and accidents relating to activities to be performed. The research grant benefits from tax exemption under art. 4, par. 3 of Law no. 210/1998, as clarified by Italian Revenue Agency (*Agenzia delle Entrate*) Resolution no. 120/E of 22 November 2010.

Should tax regulations change during the period of the grant, the recipient will be promptly informed.

Art. 10 – Grant acceptance

The winner of the grant will be called to the *Ufficio Diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea - Via Sallustio Bandini, 25 – 53100 Siena* to accept the grant and undertake the commitment to start research activities.

The winner may be asked to present copies of documents regarding declared qualifications, if not previously submitted with the application.



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

Should the grant recipient not be an EU citizen, awarding of the grant is subject to his/her compliance with the regulations in force regarding immigrants entering and residing in Italy.
All applicants will be informed of selection results by e-mail.

Art. 11 – Processing of personal data

In accordance with art. 13, par. 1 of Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003, personal data provided by candidates will be kept by the University of Siena for the purposes of managing the selection procedure. The provision of personal data is compulsory to permit the evaluation of participation requirements: failure to provide such details will result in exclusion from the selection process. The interested party enjoys the rights provided in art. 7 of the abovementioned Legislative Decree, including the right to access his/her data. Such rights can be asserted against the *University of Siena – Via Banchi di Sotto 55 – 53100 Siena*, as data controller.

Art. 12– Final provision

This announcement and the relative application form are available from the *Ufficio Diritto allo studio, borse e premi di laurea* and on the website: <http://www.unisi.it/didattica/bandi-e-borse>. The announcement is also published on the Siena University online noticeboard (www.unisi.it).

For any matters not covered by this announcement, the laws in force on university research grants will apply.

Siena, 27/07/2016

Deputy General Manager
Giovanni Colucci

Endorsement of the Person Responsible for the Procedure

Roberto Annarumi