



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

RESEARCH , LIBRARIES,
INTERNATIONALIZATION
AND THIRD MISSION AREA
RESEARCH AND GRANTS
MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Disposition of the Director
Classification: III/13
No. of attachments: 1

RESEARCH SUPPORT PLAN 2022

Call for applications for funding allocation to research projects

Curiosity-driven (F-CUR)

THE DIRECTOR

- Having regard to the laws on university education;
- Having regard to Law no. 240, 30 December 2010. "Rules governing the management of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as the authorization to the government to incentivize the quality and efficiency of the university system";
- Given the assignments of the MUR determined by Ministerial Decrees no. 737 of 25 June 2021 and no. 1062 of 10 August 2021;
- Having regard to the Statute of the University of Siena issued with D.R. (Rector's decree) no. 164/2012 of 7 February 2012 published in G.U. (Official Gazzette)- no. 49 of 28 February 2012 and amended with D.R. no. 93/2015 of 28 January 2015, published in the G.U. no. 37 of 14 February 2015, and in the Official University Bulletin - Supplement no. 114;
- Having regard to the University Regulations for Administration, Finance and Accounting in force since 2 February 2017;
- Having regard to the University Regulation on the processing of personal data in implementation of EU Regulation 2016/679 and Legislative Decree 196/2003, issued with D.R. no. 56/2022 of 13 January 2022 and published in the University Online Register on 13 January 2022;
- Having regard to the Policy of the University of Siena for the deposit of research products in the institutional Repository and in particular Article 4 under which USiena-air is the primary source of data for internal and external evaluation, for requests for funding and reward funds, to be constantly and

systematically updated by the University's researchers, so as to be exhaustive and reliable;

- Considering the University's adherence to the principles of open access to research activities and products, reiterated in the 2022 – 2024 Strategic Planning document with the identification of a specific objective and indicator;
- Having regard to the 2022 Research Support Plan, validated by the Academic Senate in the session of 18 January 2022 (Rep. N. 7/2022) and approved by the Board of Directors in the meeting of 28 January 2022 (Rep. N. 1/2022);
- Considering that the aforementioned Plan provides for the F-CUR fund, intended to finance research projects which are *bottom-up Curiosity-driven* of young researchers of the University, with a budget of € 875,000;
- Considering that the F-SEAL Fund of the PSR 2022 is based on the project presented by the University within the framework of Ministerial Decree 737/2021, referred to in the resolution of the Board of Directors (Rep. no. 275/2021) and that for these activities the CUP B65F21002780001 was acquired;
- Given the D.R. (Rep. n. 464/2022), relating to the completion of the project files D.M. 1062/2021 PON "Research and Innovation" 2014-2020 in which was defined, among other things, the suspension of the expendability of part of the funds allocated to the 2022 Research Support Plan for the F-CUR fund, under Ministerial Decree 737/2021, to the extent of € 341,910.00;
- Having regard to the D.D.G. (Rep. N. 1142/2022), which restores the expendability of the entire sum of € 875,000.00 for the F-CUR call;
- Having considered the opportunity to publish a call for applications for funding to research projects which are *Curiosity-driven* (F-CUR);

PROVIDES FOR

the activation of the procedure for the submission of applications aimed at allocating funding for research projects which are ***Curiosity-driven* (F-CUR)** under the Research Support Plan 2022, in the following ways:

Art. 1

Purpose

1. The call is targeted at funding interdisciplinary research projects aimed at issues of importance for PNR, intended to support the research activity conducted by young researchers from the University of Siena.



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2. The fund available for the projects amounts to 875,000.00 Euros and will be divided among the 3 ERC macro-sectors: SH (Social Sciences and Humanities), LS (Life Sciences), PE (Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Information and Communication, Engineering, Earth, and the Universe Sciences), according to the percentages that will be determined as per the projects presented for each macro-sector.

Art. 2

Recipients and requirements for participation in the selection

1. The Fund for the assignment of F-CUR Projects is intended for researchers at the University of Siena who are Researchers on a Fixed term contract, ex Law 240/2010, Art. 24, par. 3 letters A and B (hereinafter RTDa e RTDb) at the deadline for this call.
2. Researchers of the RTDa type will be able to participate only if their employment contract has a duration appropriate to the coverage of the project presented.
3. Researchers may submit only one project and may freely choose the ERC macro-sector for which to apply, according to their research project. Research fellows of F-CUR 2021 will not be eligible to apply as proposers.
4. The project must have a duration between a minimum of 12 and a maximum of 24 months, starting from the date indicated in the decree of allocation of resources to the winners and there will be exceptions in the duration only in case of duly justified needs or in case of parental leaves.
5. The maximum amount which may be requested is €35,000.00 for a project with a maximum duration of 24 months.

Art. 3

Eligible expenses

1. All expenses deemed necessary to conduct the project will be considered eligible, including the costs of personnel specifically hired to perform the project activities.
2. No co-financing is required.
3. All expenses must be made within 24 months of the allocation of resources, except for any extensions as per art. 2, paragraph 4. For needs such as those related to the dissemination of the results (e.g., participation and organization of conferences, expenses for publications), where these are envisaged after the expiry for the project, the expenses must be incurred and reported no later than 31 December 2024.
4. In no case - except parental leaves- may there be extensions and/or derogations for project-related expenses, which go beyond the deadline of 31 December 2024.



UNIVERSITÀ
DI SIENA
1240

Art.4

Procedures and deadlines for submission of applications

1. Those who intend to compete for the allocation of funding for F-CUR projects must submit their applications to participate and go by the template of the application form (Annex 1) available at the following link: <https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/piano-di-sostegno-alla-ricerca>. The application must consist of a single .pdf file, and must be submitted **by 31 May 2022, at 14.00**, to the e-mail address **flab-psr@unisi.it**. The date of receipt of the e-mail from the University terminal will be valid. The Administration declines all responsibility for the applications not received due to third-parties' liability.
2. The application must contain the following information, and must be made as follows:
 - project title and acronym.
 - duration of the project (maximum 24 months).
 - ERC macro-sector in which the project is presented.
 - any other researchers of the University of Siena involved and their role in the project.
 - abstract (the abstract does not contribute to reaching length limit of the proposal).
 - description of the research project, with a maximum total length of 5 pages, divided as per the following sections:
 - motivation.
 - objectives.
 - context analysis and innovation with respect to the state of the art.
 - description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project.
 - planned research program and working methodology.
 - economic request, broken down by expenditure items.
 - bibliographic references (bibliographic references do not contribute to reaching the proposal length limit).
 - curriculum vitae of the proposer of a maximum length of 3 pages, with an indication of the publications deemed most significant and relevant with respect to the project submitted.
 - Indication of at least three experts, including foreign experts, to whom to entrust the revision of the proposal. The experts indicated must be external to the University of Siena and must not have publications in common with the proposer.
3. The personal data of the candidates resulting from the proposals and the documentation accompanying the application are processed by the University of Siena for the purposes referred to in this call, in compliance with the University Regulation on the processing of personal data in implementation of EU Regulation 2016/679 and Legislative Decree no. 196/2003, as specified in the information published in the University portal – Privacy section <https://www.unisi.it/ateneo/adempimenti/privacy> .

Art. 5

Assessment of applications and identification of the winners

1. The selection of the projects to be financed from those presented will be carried out by a special Evaluation Committee, chaired by the Rector's Delegate for Research, and composed of four experts from outside the University – one for each of the four Disciplinary Areas of the University – appointed by the Rector, in addition to the Area Director, with the functions of Minutes Secretary.
2. The evaluation will be based on a procedure of *peer-reviewing*, entrusted to independent external auditors, identified on the basis of the projects submitted. For the selection of auditors, the Commission may use the list of auditors indicated by the proposers at the time of their applications.
3. Once the projects deemed worthy of funding for a given ERC macro-sector have been selected, in the presence of any unallocated funds, the Evaluation Committee will have the power to channel them into funds destined for another sector, within which there are other eligible projects.
4. The criteria for the evaluation of applications will be established by the Evaluation Committee at a preliminary meeting and must consider:
 - the validity of the research project.
 - the description of the interdisciplinary nature of the project.
 - the candidate's curriculum vitae.
 - other criteria at the discretion of the Commission which consider, inter alia, the specificities of the different ERC macro-sectors.
5. The selection process must be completed by 30 September 2022.
6. Allocation of contributions will be formalized by a decree of the Rector.
7. The advertising of the announcement and the results is ensured through publication on the University portal, on the web pages of the Research , Libraries, Internationalization and Third mission Area, at the address <https://www.unisi.it/ricerca/piano-di-sosporte-alla-ricerca>

Art. 6

Final provisions

Within 60 days from the conclusion of the research project, the beneficiaries of the F-CUR funding must send to the Research, Libraries, Internationalization and Third mission Area a final report describing the implementation of the project, the results obtained, the changes that occurred with respect to the initial proposal. The term of 60 days is considered to be postponed in the event of extensions in accordance with the provisions of Articles 2 and 3 of this call.

It is recommended that the research data and outputs resulting from the project be available for open access.



Siena, date of the digital signature
The Area Director
Guido Badalamenti

Seen by
Head of the procedure
Donata Franzì

ATTACHMENT:

1. Application form for the assignment of research projects which are *Curiosity-driven* (F-CUR).