PUBLIC SELECTION FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP GRANT – TYPE B TO
COOPERATE WITH A RESEARCH PROGRAMME WITH SPECIFIC FUNDING
(LAW 30 DECEMBER 2010, N. 240, ART.22)

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD to the Law 9 May 1989, n. 168;

HAVING REGARD to the Law 30 December 2010, N. 240, Art.22 “Assegni di ricerca”;

HAVING REGARD to the Decree of the Minister of Education, University and Research
of 9 March 2011, n. 102, setting the minimum amount of research fellowship grants;

HAVING REGARD to the article 15 of the Law n. 183 of 11 November 2011, defining
the rules of certifications and replacement statements, and the prohibition of
introducing in the implementation of European Union directives additional obligations
compared to those provided for by the directives themselves;

HAVING REGARD to the law of 29 June 2022, n. 79 “Conversion into law, with
amendments, of the decree-law of 30 April 2022, n. 36, containing further urgent
measures for the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan
(PNRR)*, which allows, in a transitional regime, the assignment of grants for
collaboration in research activity pursuant to art. 22 of law 240/2010;

HAVING REGARD to the decree-law of 30 December 2023, n. 215 (“milleproroghe”
decree), following which the possibility of launching procedures for the awarding of
research grants pursuant to article 22 of the law of 30 December 2010, n. 240 was
extended until 31 July 2024, in the text in force before the date of entry into force of the
decree-law 36/22;

HAVING REGARD to the Rules for the awarding of research fellowship grants, issued
with Rector’s Decree n. 2760 of 02/07/2021;

HAVING REGARD to the request of the Director of the Department of Agricultural, Food
and Forest Sciences (SAAF), received on 29/01/2024 with protocol n. 13182,
concerning the activation of n. 1 Type B research fellowship grant, lasting 12 months,
with Scientific Director Prof. Riccardo Scalenghe, within project: PRIMA SOILS4MED
– Code U-GOV PRJ-1336 – WP: “Costi rendicontabili”;

HAVING REGARD to the extract of the minutes of the Board of the Department above
mentioned no. 01 of 22/01/2024, concerning the request for activation of the research
fellowship grant entitled: *Soil health indicators and monitoring protocols adapted to the soils and landscapes of the Mediterranean region*, to be carried out at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forest Sciences (SAAF);

CONSIDERED that the funding assigned for the project Code U-GOV PRJ-1336 – WP: “Costi rendicontabili” was regularly entered in the E.C. budget 2024 of the Department;

HAVING REGARD to the declaration of allocation of the budget covering the research fellowship grant, amount € 30,000.00 on the above-mentioned project, sent by the Administrative official of the Department above-mentioned;

DECREE

Art. 1 - Duration and amount of the research grant

A public selection procedure is called, based on qualifications and interview, for the assignment of n. 1 research fellowship grant for collaboration in research activities (Type B) as specified below:

- Scientific-disciplinary area: 07
- Scientific-disciplinary sector: AGR/14

-Department: Agricultural, Food and Forest Sciences

-Scientific Director: Prof. Riccardo Scalenghe

- Title: *Soil health indicators and monitoring protocols adapted to the soils and landscapes of the Mediterranean region*

- Description:
The selected candidate will contribute to validating soil health monitoring protocols in Mediterranean regions, conducting fieldwork, and integrating soil data into advanced tools for sustainable soil management and carbon stock mapping. Responsibilities include literature reviews, dataset collection, analysis using statistical software, and contributing to technical reports and journal articles. The candidate will also establish an international network of soil scientists, lead a summer school of pedology, and engage in capacity building. A PhD in soil science or related disciplines, fluency in English, and motivation are required. Desired skills include fieldwork experience, geomatics proficiency (GIS, RS, pedometrics), a publication record in soil science, and fluency in French and/or Arabic.

- Duration: 12 months

-Project Funds: Project PRIMA SOILS4MED – Code U-GOV PRJ-1336 – WP: “Costi rendicontabili”;

-CUP: J83C22002410006

The total gross amount for 12 months is equal to € 30,000.00 including the charges borne by the Administration and will be paid to the beneficiary in deferred monthly instalments.
The Administration guarantees equality and equal opportunities for men and women for the assignment of the grant in question in accordance with the law of 10 April 1991 n. 125 and subsequent modifications.

Art. 2 - General admission requirements

The holders of an Italian Degree obtained under the previous system (before Ministerial Decree 509/99) of an Italian Master's Degree, of a single-cycle Degree or equivalent qualifications issued by foreign countries, who are in possession of a professional scientific curriculum suitable for carrying out research activities as for Art.1 may apply for the public selection for the assignment of the allowance in question. Italian citizens who are excluded from the active political electorate cannot be admitted to the selection procedure.

Citizens of EU Member States and non-EU countries must also possess the following requisites:
• enjoy full civil and political rights in the states of belonging or provenance;
• be in possession, with the exception of the ownership of Italian citizenship, of all other requisites envisaged for Italian citizens;
• have a working knowledge of the English language

Applicants must possess the prescribed requirements on the date of expiry of the deadline for the submission of the application for admission. The University administration may at any time, with a motivated provision, decide the exclusion from the selection procedure due to the lack of the prescribed requirements.

Art. 3 - Application and deadline

The application for admission to the selection procedure, drawn up in free paper according to the form attached to the notice (Annex 1, downloadable from the following link: http://www.unipa.it/amministrazione/direzionegenerale/serviziospecialericercadiateneo/u.o.assegnidiricerca/struttura/modulistica.html - ALLEGATI DOMANDA ASSENGNI TIPOLOGIA B), signed by the candidate, scanned and accompanied by the other attachments downloadable from the aforementioned link and by the documentation deemed useful for the purposes of the assessment (in PDF format), should be addressed to the Area Ricerca e Trasferimento Tecnologico – Settore Dottorati e Contratti per la Ricerca - U.O. Assegni di Ricerca, University of Palermo, Piazza Marina n. 61 - 90133 Palermo and forwarded, no later than thirty days from the date of posting of this notice to the University notice board, by electronic means (by midnight of the thirtieth day), by personal PEC at the address: pec@cert.unipa.it.

The application form and the attached documents must be contained in a single PEC. For reasons related to the management of the certified e-mail box, the files to be sent attached to the PEC must have a maximum overall size of 30 MB. As regards the scientific works for which the evaluation is requested, the candidate is required to submit a specific substitutive declaration of certification in which, specifying whether he is the author or co-author, he must list them, number them and divide them by type. For each scientific work listed in the aforementioned list, the link through which the Commission can view it must be indicated.
The Administration is exempt from any responsibility for the non-receipt of the PEC sent by the candidates dependent on technical errors and / or causes not attributable to the same.

The obligation to sign by hand is considered fulfilled by attaching a copy of a valid identity document to the scan of the completed application and signed by the PEC holder.

For subjects belonging to the Member States of the European Union and non-EU countries, the application for admission to the selective procedure, signed with a digital signature and scanned, as well as the relative documentation requested (in PDF format) can be sent electronically from an address of ordinary e-mail by sending an e-mail to the following address: mail-protocollo@unipa.it. If it is not possible to sign with a digital signature, the obligation of handwritten signing, is considered fulfilled with validation of the application and declarations by handwritten signature before the interview.

In both of the cases described above, it is necessary to specify in the subject of the e-mail the following: "Public selective procedure for the assignment of a research grant, Scientific Responsible Prof. Riccardo Scalenghe".

For the participation in the competition candidates are required, under penalty of exclusion, to pay within the deadline for submission of the application, a contribution for organizational costs in the amount of € 50.00. This contribution must be paid by bank transfer to c/c n. 000300004577 registered to the University of Palermo - Via Roma, 185 - 90133 Palermo - identification code of the treasury of the University of Palermo 9150300 - UniCredit S.p.A. - IBAN code IT09A020080468200030004577 - SWIFT code: UNCRITMMPAE indicating in the reason for payment: "Contributo per la partecipazione alla procedura selettiva pubblica per l'attribuzione dell'assegno di ricerca di cui è Responsabile Scientifico il Prof. Riccardo Scalenghe".

Copy of the bank transfer must be attached to the application.

In the application the candidates must indicate the selection call for which they intend to apply, the area and the scientific disciplinary sector (SSD) of reference of the research, the Department, the title of the research and the scientific director of the project; they must also declare under their own responsibility what is specified below:

• surname and name;
• place and date of birth;
• mailing address;
• residence;
• telephone number, e-mail box, social security number (or tax code, if any);
• citizenship;
• municipality on whose electoral lists they are registered, or the reasons for non-registration or cancellation from the same lists;
• to have no criminal convictions or to have ongoing criminal proceedings. In the opposite case, they must indicate the penal convictions reported or the criminal proceedings in progress, specifying whether amnesty, judicial pardon, pardon, etc. have been granted;
• degree held with the indication of the final mark and the date and the University in which it was awarded (candidates with a qualification obtained abroad that has not been declared equivalent, must expressly request a declaration of correspondence, only for the participation in the selection and attach the documents required by current legislation to enable the aforementioned declaration in question by the selection Committee);
• PhD title (if they hold one) or, for specific sectors, Medical Graduate School degree, with indication of the date of achievement and of the issuing University. Candidates with a PhD qualification obtained abroad must send together with the application form the qualifications with certified Italian translation and legalization by the authorities of the Country issuing the title (except in the case of exemption under international agreements and conventions). Each qualification must also be accompanied by the "Declaration of value" ("Dichiarazione di valore") issued by the Italian diplomatic representation in the Country where the qualification was obtained. Where the title has been declared equivalent, the candidate must attach the relevant documentation;
• attendance, if any, of second-level masters courses, post-graduate specialization courses obtained both in Italy and abroad, attendance of high-specialization schools, organization of scientific meetings, periods spent at Italian and foreign scientific institutions;
• e-mail address, to which the communications relating to this selective procedure are to be transmitted;
• enjoyment of civil and political rights in the Country of origin or provenance, or reasons for exclusion from them (for EU citizens and non-EU citizens);
• knowledge of English language (certified by certificate of level B1 or verified during the interview);
• non-existence of incompatibility pursuant to art. 11 of this announcement (otherwise the type of incompatibility must be indicated);
• to have or not have benefited from previous research fellowship grants pursuant to art. 22 of the law 240/2010;
• to have or not to have already been the holder of fixed-term research contracts (if any) pursuant to art. 24 of Law 240/2010.

The qualifications submitted for evaluation must be sent in certified copy or accompanied by a replacement statement, pursuant to article 46 of a declaration pursuant to article 47 of the aforementioned decree.
The data and documents held by the University of Palermo may be acquired ex officio if the candidate indicates the indispensable elements for obtaining the information or data requested.

Candidates who hold only the degree must, on pain of exclusion from the competition, submit the documentation necessary to demonstrate they possess a scientific professional curriculum suitable for carrying out the research activity of this announcement.

Disabled candidates, according to the law of 5 February 1992, n. 104, will have to make explicit request, in relation to their handicap, with regard to the aid necessary to be able to sustain the interview.

Art. 4 – Selection Committee

No later than 15 days from the deadline for submission of applications, the Board of the Department Council or the Board of the field office proposes the names of the members of the Selection Committee, (three full members and an alternate one),
chosen among the professors or researchers (tenured or not tenured) of the University of Palermo belonging to the CUN area of research, including the Scientific Director of the project entitled to funding, with the role of President.

In the first meeting, the Commission of selection, appointed by decree of the Rector, preliminarily and explicitly establishes the criteria and methods for assessing qualifications and the conduct of the interview. Subsequently, after having received the documentation of the candidates from the office and having examined the list of the candidates, it inserts, during the second meeting, a declaration showing that the commissioners are not in a relationship of kinship or affinity up to the fourth degree included, among them and with the candidates and that therefore there are not the causes of abstention referred to in articles 51 and 52 of the Civil Procedural Code. Then it proceeds to the evaluation of the qualifications and the attribution of the relevant score, which is communicated to the candidates before the date of the interview.

The Committee must complete the work within a maximum period of 60 days from receipt of the candidates' applications; it performs a comparative evaluation of the candidates based on the examination of the qualifications submitted by the same and an interview and draws up appropriate minutes according to the current selection regulations.

The judgment of the Commission is unquestionable on the merits.

Art.5 - Selection

The selection is carried out through the evaluation of academic qualification and interview. Up to 70 points may be awarded to qualifications and up to 30 points to the interview. To be admitted to the interview, candidates must achieve at least 40 points out of 70 points for the qualifications. The interview is considered passed by candidates who have achieved at least 10 out of 30 available points.

Art.6 - Evaluation

The Committee will attribute the evaluation, expressed out of 100, according to the following criteria:

Titles

• up to 60 points for documented scientific activity according to the Unipa procedures for determining the status of active University researcher; theses and doctoral theses are excluded;

• up to 10 points for other qualifications (second level University master courses, postgraduate specialization courses obtained both in Italy and abroad, attendance of higher education institutions, organization of scientific meetings, periods spent at Italian and foreign scientific institutions).

Interview

Up to 30 points might be awarded for the interview, based on the discussion of the candidate’s scientific production and aiming at ascertaining the level of scientific knowledge with respect to the research program of the research fellowship grant as
Art.7 Interview and ranking

The place, date and time of the interview will be communicated at least 20 days before in the most appropriate manner to the candidates who, at the time of submission of the application do not enclose a declaration attesting to waive the legal terms of notice. Candidates must bring at the interview a valid identification document. At the end of each interview session, the Committee will exhibit at the examination site the list of the examined candidates with the indication of the mark awarded to each one. The interview will be public. The Committee will post up the ranking of merit in descending order, adding the score of the qualifications to that of the interview. The PhD, or a Medical Graduate School degree, for specific sectors, accompanied by appropriate scientific production, will be considered an advantage for the attribution of the research fellowship grant. With equal merit, the candidate with a minor age will be preferred. The Committee will complete its work and transmit the minutes, signed by each member, and all the relevant documents to the Area Ricerca e Trasferimento Tecnologico – Settore Dottorati e Contratti per la Ricerca – U.O. Assegni di Ricerca for further requirements.

Art.8 (Stipulation of the contract)

The research grant is established following the stipulation with the University of Palermo of an intellectual work contract pursuant to articles 2222 and following of the Civil Code. The contract must be signed by the winner with a digital signature which must be affixed in PadES mode. The contract may provide for possible penalties in case of non-compliance with contractual obligations. The activity of the research fellow should not be considered, in any case, a subordinate employment activity. Grants do not give rise to rights regarding access to the staff roles of Italian universities. The winner is required to present himself for the stipulation of the contract within fifteen days of the convocation. Failure to comply with this term will result in the loss of the right to the research grant. In the case of particular, justified and documented motivations, the stipulation of the contract may be postponed beyond fifteen days but, in any case, for a period not exceeding sixty days from the convocation date; the only exception consists in the possible requests for extension for pregnancy and puerperium, or serious and documented infirmity. The winner or the holder of the grant can also obtain the postponement or suspension of the the grant for a period not exceeding one continuous year in the following cases: a) for the mandatory year of training for teaching at schools on a motivated request, with the consent of the Scientific Responsible of the project and of the Department to which the research project relates (following the Academic Senate deliberation in the session of 30 October 2001)
b) per l'attivazione di borse di studio assegnate da istituzioni nazionali o straniere consentite dalla legislazione in vigore

Il vincitore dell'assegno di ricerca è obbligato a certificare se ne siano apportati cambiamenti ai punti previsti nell'art. 3 di questo bando, prima della firma del contratto.

Art. 9 (Servizio)

Il vincitore è obbligato a intraprendere l'attività di ricerca il giorno successivo alla firma del contratto.

L'inizio dell'attività è documentato dal Direttore del Dipartimento in cui l'integrato deve svolgere la propria collaborazione mediante un attestato inviato all'Area Ricerca e Trasferimento Tecnologico – Settore Dottorati e Contratti per la Ricerca – U.O. Assegni di Ricerca. Per non-EU cittadini l'assegno si attiva solo dopo l'obtention de la visa d'ingresso scientifico e dal momento di inizio dell'attività di ricerca.

Art. 10 (Attività e valutazione dei ricercatori laureati)

I metodi e i caratteri relativi alla ricerca, in conformità con gli obiettivi del progetto, saranno elaborati nel contratto.

Il titolare dell'assegno di ricerca:
• esegue le attività previste dal contratto, precedentemente dichiarate dal Consiglio di Dipartimento compatibili con i suoi programmi di ricerca;
• può partecipare alle attività e progetti di ricerca universitaria, indipendentemente dal corpo finanziante;
• può partecipare a tutte le attività previste dal Dipartimento o dal servizio di promozione della ricerca e diffusione dei risultati;
• può integrare la carica di esame in corrispondenza del proprio campo disciplinare di competenza, anche in qualità di esperto, a richiesta del Tutor e previa approvazione del Consiglio del Dipartimento o del servizio di promozione della ricerca;
• può svolgere incarichi di insegnamento universitario a titolo di contratto;
• può svolgere una attività didattica limitata (massimo 20 ore all'anno) se autorizzato dal Tutor e previa approvazione del Consiglio di un corso di laurea.

Il Dipartimento o servizio di promozione della ricerca deve fornire al ricercatore tutte le supporte necessarie per l'esecuzione della propria carica, garantendo il ricercatore: l'accesso all'apposito attrezzature, il supporto tecnico-ufficiale necessario e le relative responsabilità.

Il ricercatore deve svolgere la propria attività di ricerca all'interno dell'Università, in conformità con il proprio programma di ricerca. A titolo di ricerca universitaria, qualora fosse in grado di sostenere una ricerca autonoma, deve essere prevista e approvata dal Consiglio del Dipartimento o del servizio di promozione della ricerca.

Qualora fosse richiesta, una rinnovazione dell'assegno di ricerca sarà autorizzata, su documentazione motivata, previa verifica della disponibilità di fondi per la ricerca e valutazione positiva del Consiglio di Direttore del progetto di ricerca svolta dal ricercatore.

All'inizio del periodo di ricerca e nel caso di fine dell'attività prima del termine prevedibile, il ricercatore...
must send to the Servizio Speciale Ricerca di Ateneo a report on the activity carried out, countersigned by the Tutor or the Scientific Director/Contact person, accompanied by the evaluation expressed by the Board of the Department or of the field office in relation to the objectives set and accompanied by the relevant scientific production.

Article 11 (prohibition of cumulation, incompatibility, interruptions)

The following categories cannot be holders of a research fellowship grant:

a) the permanent employees of universities, institutions, public research and experimentation bodies, ENEA, ASI, as well as of institutions whose scientific advanced diploma has been recognized as equivalent to the Ph.D. qualification pursuant to article 74, fourth paragraph, of the Decree of the President of the Republic July 11, 1980, n. 382, unless termination of the relationship due to voluntary resignation in the case of attribution of the grant;
b) those who have a degree of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with a professor belonging to the Department to whom the grant has been assigned or to the structure publishing the call or with the Rector, the General Manager or a member of the University Board of Directors.

The grant is individual.

The grant cannot be cumulated with any scholarships, with the exception of those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for integrating, with stays abroad, the research activity of the research fellows.

The holder of the grant cannot participate in 1st and 2nd cycle degree courses, university master courses, PhD courses with scholarship or medical graduate schools, in Italy or abroad; employees of public administration must put themselves on leave, before accepting the research fellowship grant.

Private employees, even if part-time ones, cannot benefit from research fellowship grants.

The holders of research fellowship grants cannot participate to university master courses.

Self-employment and occasional collaboration activities are compatible with the research grant only if previously authorized by the Board of the Department or of the field office, upon acquisition of the motivated opinion of the Tutor and provided that the further activity does not prejudice the regular conduct of the research activity.

The total duration of the research fellowship, including any renewal, cannot in any case exceed six years (DL 31.12.2014 n.192, converted into Law n.11 of 27.02.2015), excluding the period in which the fellowship coincided with a PhD course, within the maximum limit of the legal duration of the relevant course.

The total duration of the research fellowship or of non tenured university researcher contracts, also intervening with other public, private or distance-education universities, as well as with public research and experimentation bodies, ENEA and ASI it cannot in any case exceed twelve years even if non-continuous.

The periods spent on maternity leave or on leave for health reasons according to current legislation are not taken into account for the purposes of the duration of the aforementioned contracts.

The research activity and the grant can be suspended, provided that the duration of the fellowship cannot be reduced due to the following suspensions, for:

- mandatory maternity leave and parental leave;
- severe illness

Art.12 (termination of the grant and voluntary resignation)
In cases of serious non-compliance, reported by the Board of the Department, the contract can be immediately terminated by resolution of the Academic Senate, after hearing the interested party. The revocation is automatic in the following cases:

- failure to start the activity within the established term;
- unjustified suspension of the activity for a period longer than fifteen days;
- serious violation of the incompatibility regime.

In case of withdrawal from the contract, the holder of the grant is required to give thirty days’ notice.

In the event of failure to give notice, the Administration will withhold or recover from the holder of the grant an amount corresponding to the remuneration for thirty days.

The winners of public selections that give rise to the placement in the roles of university personnel are not subject to the obligation of thirty days’ notice.

**Article 13 (Taxes, social security and insurance)**

As established by art. 22 paragraph 6 of Law 240/2010, the provisions of art. 4 of the Law of 13 August 1984, n.476 and subsequent amendments and additions, as well as, in matters of social security, those pursuant to art. 2, paragraphs 26 and following, of the law of 8 August 1995, n. 335 and subsequent modifications do apply to research fellowship grants.

With respect to mandatory maternity leave for checks, the provisions of the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare Decree of 12 July 2007, and, with regard to sick leave, article 1, paragraph 788, of the law of 27 December 2006, n. 296 and subsequent modifications are applied.

During the period of mandatory maternity leave, the indemnity paid by the INPS pursuant to article 5 of the aforementioned decree of 12 July 2007 is integrated by the University up to the total amount of the research fellowship grant.

The University provides to the holders of the research fellowship grant the insurance coverage for accidents and civil liability towards third parties in carrying out the research activity. The amount of the relative premium is deducted from the grant.

Health care insurance is the responsibility of the researcher without any intervention by the University.

**Art.14 - Substitutions**

In case of non-completion of the research fellowship period by the winner of the selection process, it will be possible to call the following in the ranking if the contract period still to be used is equal to or greater than 12 months, pursuant to the provisions of law 240/2010 which provides for a minimum duration of one year.

**Art. 15 - Publicity of the selection procedure**

The present announcement will be posted on the official board of the University of Palermo, ([http://www.unipa.it/albo.html](http://www.unipa.it/albo.html)) and on the MIUR website ([http://bandi.miur.it](http://bandi.miur.it)).

The announcement will also be accessible at the University of Palermo website at: [http://www.unipa.it/amministrazione/direzionegenerale/serviziospecialericercadiateneo/u.o.assegnidiricerca/bandi](http://www.unipa.it/amministrazione/direzionegenerale/serviziospecialericercadiateneo/u.o.assegnidiricerca/bandi)
Art. 16 Processing of personal data

In application of EU Regulations 2016/679 the University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by the candidate: “all data provided will be processed only for purposes related to and instrumental to the competition and to the possible stipulation and management of the contract with the University”.

Art. 17 – Official in charge for the administrative procedure

Pursuant to the provisions of art. 5 of the law of 7 August 1990 n. 241 the official in charge for the selection proceedings referred to in this announcement is appointed in the person of Dott.ssa Stefania Crifasi - Head of the U.O. Assegni di Ricerca del Servizio Speciale Ricerca di Ateneo - email: stefania.crifasi@unipa.it.

Art. 18 Final provisions

For anything not provided for in this announcement, please refer to the Regulations and laws in force.

Palermo

THE RECTOR
Prof. Massimo Midiri

Firmato digitalmente da: Massimo Midiri
Organizzazione: UNIVERSITA’ DEGLI STUDI DI PALERMO/80023730825
Data: 29/02/2024 08:51:24