



**Università
degli Studi
di Palermo**

AREA RICERCA E INNOVAZIONE
SETTORE DOTTORATI E CONTRATTI PER LA RICERCA
U.O. ASSEGGNI DI RICERCA



PUBLIC SELECTIVE PROCEDURE FOR THE CONFERMENT OF N. 1 RESEARCH CONTRACT
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 22 OF LAW 30 DECEMBER 2010, No. 240.

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD to Law 09/05/1989, n. 168 "Establishment of the Ministry of Universities and Scientific and Technological Research";

HAVING REGARD to Law 07/08/1990, n. 241 "New rules on administrative procedure and the right of access to administrative documents and subsequent amendments and additions";

HAVING REGARD to the D.P.R. of 9 May 1994 n. 487 and subsequent amendments and additions concerning rules for access to public employment in the public administration and the procedures for holding competitions;

HAVING REGARD to D. 81 of 9 April 2008 on health and safety at the workplace;

HAVING REGARD to Law 05/02/1992, n. 104 "Framework Law for the assistance, social integration and rights of disabled persons";

HAVING REGARD to Law of 12 March 1999, No. 68, "Rules on the right to work of persons with disabilities";

HAVING REGARD to D. Lgs. 06.03.2001, n. 151 on the protection and support of maternity and paternity;

HAVING REGARD to the D.P.R. 28 December 2000 n. 445 Consolidated text of the laws and regulations on administrative documentation and subsequent amendments and additions
In the field of research;

HAVING REGARD to D. Lgs. 30 March 2001 n. 165 and subsequent amendments and additions concerning general rules on the organization of work in public administrations;

HAVING REGARD to D. Lgs. 30 June 2003 n. 196 on data protection rules personal and subsequent amendments and additions, pursuant to the U.E. Regulation n. 679 of 2016;

HAVING REGARD to Law 30/12/2010, n. 240 on "Rules concerning the organization of universities, academic staff and recruitment, as well as delegation to the Government to promote the quality and efficiency of the university system" and in particular art.22;

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, on further urgent measures for the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR)" and, in particular, paragraph 6-septies that has completely rewritten Article 22 of the Law n. 240 of 2010 introducing the new figure of research contracts in place of grants for research activities;

HAVING REGARD to the "Contract concerning the contractual sequence relating to the research contract pursuant to Article 22 of Law No. 240/2010" (Article 178, paragraph 1, letter g, of the National



Collective Labour Agreement for the Education and Research Sector of 18 January 2024), executed on 18 March 2025;

HAVING REGARD to the Ethical Code of the University issued with D.R. n. 4115 of 22/09/2022;

HAVING REGARD to the University Regulations for the award of research contracts pursuant to Article 22 of Law 30 December 2010, n. 240 issued with D.R. n. 3639 of 31/03/2025;

HAVING REGARD to the request of the Director of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences, received on 26/11/2025 with protocol no. 219083, regarding the activation of no. 1 research contract pursuant to article 22 of Law n. 240 of 30 December 2010, lasting 24 months, for which the Head of Research is Prof. Riccardo Lo Bianco, to be charged to the funds of the research Project "SMARTOLIVE", funded by the European Community through the HORIZON Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges 2024 Programme (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01) – U-GOV Code PRJ-2136 – WP: "Costi rendicontabili" – CUP: B73C25000980006;

HAVING REGARD to resolution no. 451/2025 of 07/11/2025 of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences, regarding the request for activation of n. 1 research contract in relation to the research program entitled: *Applications of resource-efficient technologies for a sustainable olive growing*, to be carried out at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences;

CONSIDERING that the funding allocated for the project U-GOV Code PRJ-2136 has been regularly entered in the 2026 E.C. budget of the Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the certification of allocation of the budget to cover the cost of the research contract described above, transmitted by the Administrative Manager of the aforementioned Department;

DECREES

Art. 1 – Duration and amount of the research contract

A public selection procedure is called, by title and interview, for the award of **n. 1 research contract**, as specified below:

-GSD (Scientific-Disciplinary Group): 07/AGRI-03

-SSD (Scientific-Disciplinary Sector): AGRI-03/A

-Head of Research: Prof. Riccardo Lo Bianco

-Department of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Sciences

-Title of the research program: *Applications of resource-efficient technologies for a sustainable olive growing*

- Description of the research program on which the post-doc researcher will be engaged:

The contract includes research work that integrates proximal and remote sensing technologies with AI-based decision support systems to optimize water, nutrient and fruit growth/maturation management and ultimately improve olive production efficiency and sustainability. The selected researcher will contribute to the development of predictive models and machine learning algorithms for data analysis



from plant-based sensors, multispectral and thermal imagery, and IoT systems. The required skills include precision olive growing, olive tree physiology, proximal and remote sensing for assessing olive water and nutrient status as well as fruit growth/maturation, machine learning and computer vision techniques, statistical data analysis, and Python programming. Activities will include field calibration and validation of models and data integration into a decision support system. The program will rely on a multidisciplinary consortium of academic institutions, industrial partners, and agricultural cooperatives that will work together to achieve the research objectives.

-Duration: 24 months

-Funds: Research Project "SMARTOLIVE", funded by the European Community through the HORIZON Europe MSCA Staff Exchanges 2024 Programme (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE-01) – U-GOV Code PRJ-2136 – WP: "Costi rendicontabili";

-CUP: B73C25000980006

The total gross amount for 24 months is determined as € 56,912.96 including the costs to be borne by the recipient.

Art. 2 – Admission requirements

Only those who are in possession, on the expiry of the final date for submission of applications for admission may be selected to award research contracts of the Doctor of Research or of a diploma obtained abroad and recognised as equivalent for the sole purpose of participation in the selection procedure by the Selection Board, or, for the fields concerned, of the degree of specialization in the medical area.

Candidates who are enrolled in the third year of the PhD course or who are enrolled in the last year of the medical specialization course may also apply to the selection, provided that the award of the licence is to be made within six months of the date of publication of the selection notice.

May not participate in the selection:

- a) permanent staff employed by universities, public research establishments and institutions whose diploma in scientific further training has been recognised as equivalent to the title of Doctor of Science within the meaning of Article 74, fourth paragraph, of the Decree of the President of the Republic of 11 July 1980, n. 382;
- b) those who have benefited from fixed-term research contracts pursuant to Article 24 of Law 240 of 2010;
- c) those who have a relationship of kinship or affinity up to and including the 4th degree with a professor/researcher belonging to the structure (Department, Autonomous Expenditure Centre) that has proposed the activation of the contract, or with the Rector, the Director-General or a member of the Board.

For admission to the public selection referred to in art. 1, it is also required to meet the following general requirements:

- a) Italian nationality or the nationality of another Member State of the European Union, or a declaration that you are family members of persons who do not have the nationality of a Member State, provided they have the right of residence or the right of permanent residence, as well as third-country nationals who are holders of the EC residence permit for long-term residents or who have refugee status or subsidiary protection status;
- b) physical suitability for the specific employment related to the position advertised under this notice. The Administration reserves the right to subject the successful candidate to a medical examination for verification purposes in accordance with the applicable legislation;
- c) be in compliance with the rules concerning the leverage obligations for new entrants until 1985;



- d) the enjoyment of civil and political rights;
- e) not have been convicted of criminal offences, even if they have not been found guilty, which prevent the establishment or continuation of the employment relationship with the public administration.

Applicants who have received criminal convictions must indicate the date of the sentence, the authority that issued it, the nature of the offence, even if a pardon, amnesty, etc., has been granted and even if nothing appears from the criminal record. Current criminal proceedings must also be indicated, whatever their nature.

Persons who have been excluded from the active political electorate, as well as those who have been dismissed or exempted from employment in a public administration for persistent underperformance shall not be eligible for employment, or have been declared as having lapsed from state employment, pursuant to art. 127, first paragraph, point d) of the single text of the provisions concerning the status of civil servants, approved by decree of the President of the Republic of 10 January 1957 n. 3 and those who have been dismissed for having obtained employment through the production of false documents and in any case with fraudulent means.

Citizens from the EU and non-EU member states must also meet the following requirements:

- enjoy civil and political rights in the States of their origin or nationality;
- possess, with the exception of the possession of Italian citizenship, all other requirements for citizens of the Republic;
- have adequate knowledge of the Italian language.

The prescribed requirements must be fulfilled on the expiry of the deadline for submission of an application.

The Administration may, at any time, by reasoned measure, exclude from the selection procedure for default of the prescribed requirements.

Art. 3 – Application and deadline for submission

Applicants submit their application for participation, attaching the project proposal with reference to the research program that is the subject of the selection.

The application for participation in the competition must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, exclusively by electronic means, using the dedicated online platform available at the following webpage:

<https://pica.cineca.it/unipa/2025-cdr-06>

The applicant may access the competition platform by using the SPID system (Public Digital Identity System), selecting the University of Palermo among the entities, or may alternatively register and log in using credentials issued directly by the platform. The online application system will necessarily require the possession of an e-mail address in order to complete the registration process.

The applicant shall enter all data required for the preparation of the application and upload the documents in PDF electronic format.

The application for participation must be completed in its entirety, in accordance with the instructions provided by the online procedure, and must be accompanied by a valid identity document and a copy of the payment of the participation fee.

For participation in the competition, applicants are required, under penalty of exclusion from the procedure, to pay, by the application deadline, a fee of EUR 50.00 to cover organisational expenses. Such fee must be paid by bank transfer to current account No. 000015632748, held by the University of Palermo – Agenzia Via Libertà, 32 – 90141 Palermo – Crédit Agricole Bank – IBAN: IT50R0623004609000015632748 – SWIFT code: CRPPIT2PXXX, indicating in the payment reference: "Public selection procedure for the award of n. 1 research contract – Project SMARTOLIVE – Head of Research Prof. Riccardo Lo Bianco".

The bank transfer receipt must be attached to the application.



No other methods of submitting applications or documentation relevant to participation in the procedure shall be accepted.

The online application system allows the documentation entered to be saved in draft mode until the application deadline. The date of electronic submission of the application is certified by the information system by means of a receipt, which will be automatically sent via e-mail at the time of submission.

Once the application form has been completed and all attachments uploaded, the applicant must ensure that the 'submit' button has been pressed. Completion of the application will be evidenced exclusively by the change in the application status, which will appear as 'submitted' and no longer as 'draft'.

After the submission deadline has expired, the system will no longer allow access or submission of the electronic form.

Each application will be assigned an identification number which, together with the competition code indicated in the online application system, must be specified in any subsequent communication.

The procedure for completing and electronically submitting the application must be finalised **no later than 11:59 p.m. on the thirtieth day** following the date on which this call for applications is posted on the University's official notice board.

If access is carried out through identification via the SPID system, the application for admission to the selection procedure will be automatically acquired by the system without the need for a signature.

In all other cases, under penalty of exclusion, the application must be signed, must contain all the required information, and must be accompanied by a valid identity document. The application may be signed using a certified digital signature (in CadES or PAdES format). Otherwise, the applicant must save the PDF file generated by the system on their computer and, without modifying it in any way, print it and affix a full handwritten signature on the last page of the printed document. The complete document must then be scanned and uploaded to the system in PDF format.

For reports of strictly technical issues, please contact support using the dedicated link at the bottom of the page: <https://pica.cineca.it/unipa/>.

In the application, candidates must indicate the call for which they intend to apply, the scientific-disciplinary sector of the research, the Department, the title of the research, and the Principal Investigator; they must also declare, under their own responsibility, the following:

- surname and first name;
- place and date of birth;
- domicile chosen for selection;
- residence;
- telephone number, e-mail address, tax code;
- citizenship;
- the municipality in whose electoral roll they are entered, or the reasons for not being entered or for being deleted from the lists;
- to have no criminal convictions or ongoing criminal proceedings. If not, indicate the criminal convictions reported or ongoing criminal proceedings and whether amnesty, pardons, etc.;
- Doctor of Research degree held, or medical area specialization for the fields concerned, with indication of the date of graduation and the University administrative seat of the course;
- Previous research activities and any work experience related to the contents of the research programme selected;
- E-mail address, to which communications relating to this selective procedure should be addressed;
- enjoyment of civil and political rights in the State of origin or provenance, or grounds for non-enjoyment (for EU and non-EU citizens);
- certified knowledge of the English language at B2 level or higher;
- inexistence of incompatibilities within the meaning of Art. 2 of this call (otherwise, the type of incompatibility must be indicated).

The certificates submitted for evaluation must be submitted in a copy declared as conforming to the original by means of a declaration replacing the act of notoriety, pursuant to art. 47 of the D.P.R. n. 445/2000, or, in the cases provided, be certified with a replacement declaration of certification pursuant to Article 46 of the aforementioned decree.



The data and documents held by the Università degli Studi di Palermo may be acquired automatically if the candidate indicates the elements essential for obtaining the information or data required.

Candidates with disabilities, pursuant to the law of 5 February 1992, n. 104, must make an explicit request, in relation to their disability, regarding the aid necessary to be able to attend the interview.

The Administration does not assume any responsibility for the dispersion of communications due to incorrect indication of the PEC by the applicant or failure to provide or late notification of a change in the contact details indicated in the application, or for any inconvenience not attributable to the Administration itself.

Applications which are missing, either the signed and drawn up application for participation or any other documents required by the call will be declared ineligible under penalty of exclusion as well as those sent after the deadline.

Art. 4 – Selection Commission

The Council of the Department where the research activity will take place, after the expiry of the call, decides on the appointment of the members of the Selection Committee. The selection board is composed of three members and an alternate chosen from among professors and researchers with research experience in the subjects covered by the call for proposals, at least one of whom is a member of the scientific-disciplinary group covered by the call, also external to the University and ensuring adequate gender representation.

Cannot be a member of the Commission if:

- a) they have been convicted, even by a non-binding sentence, of the offences referred to in Chapter I of Title II of Book II of the Criminal Code;
- b) have, with the candidate or with the other members of the Commission, situations of incompatibility as provided for by artt. 51 and 52 c.p.c. and Article 7, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Code of Ethics of the University;
- c) they are in a situation of conflict of interest, including potential conflict of interest, with the candidate or other members of the commission, pursuant to art. 7 of DPR 62/2013 and art. 6, paragraphs 1, 2 and 5, of the Code of Ethics of the University.

The selection committee is appointed by decree of the Rector published in the official register of universities.

From the date of publication of the Decree appointing the Commission, 30 days shall elapse for the submission by candidates to the Rector of any request for objection by the Commissioners. If the cause of objection has arisen, provided that it is prior to the establishment of the Commission, the time limit shall run from its beginning. The candidate's right to waive the objection remains unaffected.

No compensation for the selection board.

The Commission's assessment is final.

Art.5 – Procedure for selection

The selection is based on a comparative evaluation of the candidates and aims to assess the suitability of the project proposals for the research programme selected, as well as the possession by the candidates of a scientific-a professional suitable for the research activity covered by the contract.

Candidates are evaluated comparatively on the basis of the following criteria:

- a) quality, originality and innovation of the project proposal, with reference to the research programme selected;
- b) relevance and relevance of previous research activities as well as any work experience in relation to the contents of the selected research programme;
- c) Relevance of the attached publications to the selected research programme;
- d) an oral test to establish the candidates' aptitude for research in order to ascertain their suitability for carrying out the research activity covered by the contract and to assess their knowledge of the English language.



The Selection Board will pre-determine, in the first report, the criteria for the comparative evaluation of candidates. These criteria shall be communicated to the person responsible for the procedure, who shall ensure that they are made public at least seven days before work is continued. The following scores are available to the Selection Board:

- up to 70 for the evaluation criteria referred to in a), b) and c);
- Up to 30 points for the interview.

The Commission shall, after appropriate assessment and on the basis of the criteria set out in the first report, award the relevant score.

The scores relating to the evaluation of criteria referred to in letters a), b) and c) shall be made known to applicants before the interview.

The date, time and place of the interview shall be notified to applicants no less than 15 days before the interview takes place. The timetable for the colloquium test can also be defined in the call, which is considered to be a notification. After notification of the results of the assessment referred to in paragraph 7, candidates may waive the notice period upon written request sent to the person responsible for the procedure.

The interview must be held in a room open to the public, of suitable capacity to ensure maximum participation and, in case of impossibility to proceed in this sense, the development of the test can take place telematically, provided that technical solutions are nevertheless adopted to ensure the identification of participants, the regularity and integrity of the test, the security of communications and their traceability, in compliance with the legislation on the processing of personal data and, in any case, advertising the proof through digital methods.

The Commission shall draw up a ranking of merit taking into account the scores obtained by the applicants. The selection is considered to have been passed with a minimum score of 40 points for the evaluation criteria referred to in letters a), b) and c) and with a minimum score of 20 points for the interview; in case of parity, preference is given to the candidate of less than age.

The Commission may, for reasons set out in the minutes, use telematic tools for collegial work and may hold its meetings remotely.

Art. 6 – End of the procedure

The selection board must conclude its work within a maximum of 60 days after receipt of applications from candidates. Upon reasoned request of the President, an extension of two months may be granted by the Rector.

If the work is not completed within this time limit, the Rector shall, by means of a reasoned measure, initiate procedures for the replacement of the Commission and at the same time fix a new deadline for the completion of the work.

The competition acts and the relative ranking of merit, together with the appointment of the winner will be approved by decree of the Rector.

The documents are published on the website of the University, in accordance with the terms and conditions laid down in the call for proposals and in compliance with the legislation on transparency and protection of personal data.

Within a maximum period of 24 months from the date of publication of the Decree of approval of the acts, if there are justified needs to carry out the same research project, the Departmental Council may, by means of a special resolution, propose that further research contracts be awarded to candidates who are well placed in the ranking, provided that the availability of financial support is ascertained.

Art. 7 – Stipulation of the contract

The employment relationship is established following the conclusion of a specific written contract between the University and the winner.

The contract of employment is signed by the research contractor and the Rector.

The contract should preferably be signed within 30 days of receipt of the call, subject to any more restrictive time constraints specified in the selection notice.



Failure to comply with this deadline shall result in the loss of the right to contract.

In the case of special, justified and documented needs, the conclusion of the contract may be postponed beyond thirty days and, in any case, for a period not exceeding sixty days from the date of the call; The exception is any request for extension due to pregnancy and puerperium, severe and documented infirmity or the achievement of the title of research doctor within a maximum of six months.

In the event of failure to conclude the contract by the winner of the selection procedure, a ranking will be made.

The Director of Department will sign and send to the competent Administration Office the letter concerning the hiring of the contractor.

Research contracts do not give rise to a right of access to the role of university subjects, of public research establishments and institutions whose diploma in scientific further training has been recognised as equivalent to the title of Doctor of Science pursuant to the fourth paragraph of Article 74 of the Decree of the President of the Republic of 11 July 1980, n. 382, nor can be counted for the purposes of article 20 of Legislative Decree 25 May 2017, n. 75.

Art. 8 – Prohibition of cumulation and incompatibility

The research contract cannot be combined with any study or research grants of any kind awarded by national or foreign institutions, except for those aimed exclusively at international mobility for research purposes.

The research contract is not compatible with the attendance of undergraduate courses, master's degree, doctorate or medical specialization, in Italy or abroad, and involves the placement in leave without pay for the employee in service with the Public Administrations.

Research contracts are incompatible with:

- any other employment relationship, including part-time or fixed-term employment, with public and private entities;
- Also hold research grants at other universities or public research institutions.

The contractor may carry out activities to support teaching or be holder of teaching contracts at the University of Palermo provided that the performance of this activity does not interfere with the profitable development of the research activity subject to the contract, Subject to the favourable opinion of the Head of Research and the approval of the Board of Directors. These activities are not compatible with the contract if no such authorization is given.

The holder of the research contract may not, in any case, carry out activities that could lead to a conflict of interest with the activities of the University of Palermo.

Art. 9 – Income, tax, social security and insurance treatment

The contractor is entitled to a gross salary of € 56,912.96 for the duration of the contract, including the costs borne by the recipient.

The employment relationship established between the University of Palermo and the research contractor is governed by the provisions in force on the subject, including as regards the tax treatment, welfare and social security and insurance provided for the compensation of employees.

The University also provides insurance coverage against accidents at work and occupational diseases and civil liability.

Art. 10 – How the employment relationship is conducted

The contractors work in agreement with the Research Manager.

The contractor is subject to the health controls provided for by D.Lgs. n. 81/2008 at the expense of the University.

Disciplinary jurisdiction is regulated by art. 10 of the Law 30.12.2010, n. 240.

Contractors are recognized as the provisions of D.Lgs. 06.03.2001, n. 151 on the protection and support of maternity and paternity, by Law 05.02.1992, n. 104 for assistance, social integration and rights of



disabled persons, by artt. 37, 40 and 68 of the D.P.R. 10.01.1957, n. 3, and subsequent modifications, in matter of extraordinary leave and sick leave. Sick leave may not exceed 9 months in the case of a two-year contract. In the case of an extension, the period of sick leave shall be proportionate to the period.

Contractors are entitled to the provisions of the articles. 69 and 70 of the D.P.R. 10.01.1957, n. 3, and subsequent amendments, on leave for family reasons. Leave for family reasons may not last more than 12 months, during which the applicant does not receive any allowance or social security contributions. Leave for family reasons is authorized by resolution of the Department Council of Reference.

Art. 11 – Termination of employment

The termination of the employment relationship is determined by the expiry of the term or by the withdrawal of one of the parties and by any other cause of termination provided for by the legislation in force.

The contract may be terminated, for both parties, if there is a cause that, according to art. 2119 of the C.C., does not allow the continuation, even provisional, of the report.

The contractor may withdraw in writing with 30 days' notice. In the event of failure to give notice, the Administration will deduct from the contractor an amount corresponding to the remuneration for the period of notice not given. Funds not used for the contract shall be refunded to the Facilities concerned. The contract is terminated, also, in the case of failure to obtain the title within six months following the date of publication of this Selection Notice for winners who were enrolled in the third year of their PhD course at the date of submission of the application or who were students in the last year of the medical specialization course.

Art. 12 – Publication of the selective procedure

This call will be posted on the official register of the University of Palermo (<http://www.unipa.it/albo.html>), on the inPA portal ([Portale del reclutamento](http://www.unipa.it/portale-del-reclutamento)) and on the MUR website (<https://bandi.mur.gov.it/>). The call will also be available on the WEB site of the University of Palermo at: <https://www.unipa.it/servizi/assegnidiricerca/contratti-di-ricerca/>.

Art.13 – Processing of personal data

In accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679, the University undertakes to respect the confidential nature of the information provided by the candidate. All the data provided will be processed only for the purposes related and instrumental to the contest, in compliance with the provisions in force.

Interested parties can consult the information on data processing available at:

<https://www.unipa.it/privacy/informativa/informazioni-sul-trattamento-di-dati-personali---procedura-concorsuali-e-selettive-bandite-dallateneo/>.

Art. 14 – Official in charge for the administrative procedure

Pursuant to the provisions of art. 5 of the law of 7 August 1990 n. 241 the Head of the competition procedure referred to in this call is appointed in the person of Dr. Stefania Crifasi, Head of U.O. Research Grants, e-mail: stefania.crifasi@unipa.it.

Art. 15 – Final provisions

The contractor is obliged to comply with the provisions of law and regulations of the University of Palermo.

All technical data and information, administrative, scientific and didactic that the contractor comes into possession during the course of the research activity must be considered confidential and therefore is not allowed to use for purposes other than those for which the contract is awarded. The industrial and



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European
Commission



intellectual property rights arising from the activities in which the contractor may participate in various ways will be regulated according to the provisions of law and regulations of the University of Palermo on industrial property and intellectual.

For all that is not expressly regulated by this Regulation, please refer to Law n. 240/2010 and the applicable laws and regulations.

Palermo,

The Rector
Prof. Massimo Midiri

The original text is the Italian version. Any discrepancies or differences created in the translation are not binding and have no legal effect for compliance or enforcement purposes. If any questions arise related to the accuracy of the information contained in the translated text, refer to the Italian version of the call for applications which is the official version.