

Call for Applications for the Award of No. 1 Research Position pursuant to Article 22-ter of Law No. 240/2010, Scientific-Disciplinary Group 05-BIOS-08 – Molecular Biology, Scientific-Disciplinary Sector BIOS-08/A – Molecular Biology, at the facilities of the Research Unit in Food Science and Nutrition and the Departmental Faculty of Science and Biotechnology of the University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome (selection code: IR/07_26).

THE RECTOR

Having regard to	the Statute of Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma;
Having regard to	the Code of Ethics and Charter of Purpose of Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma;
Having regard to	Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, concerning the organization of universities, academic personnel and recruitment procedures, as well as the delegation to the Government to promote the quality and efficiency of the university system, and in particular Article 22-ter;
Having regard to	Rectoral Decree No. 61 of 24 February 2026, issuing the Regulation governing the awarding of research contracts, post-doctoral appointments and research appointments pursuant to Articles 22, 22-bis and 22-ter of Law No. 240/2010;
Having regard to	Ministerial Decree No. 592 of 6 August 2025 establishing the minimum remuneration for research positions;
Having regard to	Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990, as amended, concerning administrative procedures and the right of access to administrative documents;
Having regard to	Presidential Decree No. 445 of 28 December 2000 containing the consolidated text of laws and regulations on administrative documentation, as amended;
Having regard to	Legislative Decree No. 196 of 2003, as amended, and Legislative Decree No. 51 of 18 May 2018 implementing Directive (EU) 2016/680 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data;
Having regard to	the financial coverage provided by the project PROSPER – Promoting Resilient Orphan Legumes for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security;
Having regard to	Ministerial Decree No. 639 of 2 May 2024 concerning the definition of Scientific-Disciplinary Groups and related declarations, as well as the rationalization and updating of Scientific-Disciplinary Sectors;
Having regard to	the project entitled “Promoting Resilient Orphan Legumes for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Security – PROSPER”, grant agreement No. 101181400, coordinated by the University of Pavia and funded by the European Commission under the HORIZON-CL6-2024-BIODIV-02, CUP C83C25000860006;;
Having regard to	the resolution of the Academic Senate dated July 9, 2026;
Considering	it necessary to issue a call for applications for the award of one Research Assignment focused on an introduction to research and innovation under the supervision of the tutor—Research Supervisor Dr. Alessandra Boccaccini—within the facilities of the Food Science and Nutrition Research Unit and the Departmental Faculty of Science and Biotechnology at the University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome;

HEREBY DECREES

Article 1 (Type of Selection Procedure)

1. A public selection is hereby announced, based on qualifications and interview, for the awarding of no. 1 Research Assignment pursuant to Article 22-ter of Law no. 240 of 2010, aimed at introducing young scholars to research and innovation, within the framework of the research project entitled: "Prediction and characterization of salt-responsive Cis-Regulatory Elements – SaltCRE," under the supervision of the Tutor, Research Supervisor Alessandra Boccaccini, within the facilities of the Food Science and Nutrition Research Unit and the Faculty Department of Science and Bio-Technologies of the University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome.
2. Annex "A", which forms an integral part of this call, also specifies: the Scientific Disciplinary Group, the Scientific Disciplinary Sector, the research program associated with the assignment, the duration of the assignment, the Research Supervisor, the affiliated Faculty Department/Research Unit, the place where the activities will be carried out, the maximum number of publications, any additional qualifications, the date, time, and method for summoning candidates to the public interview, and the foreign language proficiency required.

Article 2 (Admission Requirements and grounds for exclusion)

1. Applicants may participate in the selection if they meet one of the following requirements:
 - **Master's Degree (or single-cycle degree)**, obtained no more than six years prior, or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad, recognized solely for the purpose of awarding the research assignment by the Selection Committee, together with **a curriculum suitable for supporting research activities**.
2. The following individuals are not eligible to participate in the selection:
 - a) permanent staff employed by universities, public research institutions, and institutions whose advanced scientific training diploma has been recognized as equivalent to a PhD pursuant to Article 74, paragraph 4, of Presidential Decree no. 382 of July 11, 1980;
 - b) individuals who have held fixed-term researcher contracts pursuant to Article 24 of Law no. 240 of 2010;
 - c) individuals who have a familial or affinity relationship up to the fourth degree inclusive with a professor belonging to the Faculty Department Board (GDF) and/or Research Unit that proposed the activation of the contract, or with the Rector, the Chief Executive Officer, the General Director, or a member of the Academic Senate.
3. Exclusion from the selection procedure may be ordered at any time by a reasoned decree of the Rector and shall be notified to the person concerned.

Article 3 (Application Procedures and Deadline)

1. The application for participation in the public selection, together with the qualifications held, documents, and publications deemed relevant for the competition, must be submitted, **under penalty of exclusion, electronically** through the dedicated online application available on the

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- “Concorsi” page of the University website:
<https://www.unicampus.it/en/ateneo/concorsi/incarichi-di-ricerca/> .
2. The online application system requires applicants to have an email address in order to complete self-registration. Candidates must enter all the required data to generate the application and upload, in electronic format, the documents required by this call. **No other methods of submitting applications or supporting documentation are permitted.**
 3. Until the application deadline, the system allows saving the application as a draft. The date of electronic submission is certified by the system through a receipt automatically sent to the candidate via email. After the deadline, access to and submission of the electronic form will no longer be possible.
 4. Each application will be assigned an identification number which, together with the competition code indicated in the online application, must be referenced in any subsequent communication.
 5. The procedure for completing and submitting the application electronically must be finalized **no later than 12:00 noon** on the **fifteenth day** following the day after publication of this call on the University, Ministry of University and Research, and European Union websites.
If the deadline falls on a public holiday, it is extended to the next working day.
The application must be completed **in all its parts**, as indicated in the online procedure, and must include in particular:
 - a) full personal details: name and surname, place and date of birth, tax code, residential address and the address chosen for correspondence relating to this procedure, including postal code, telephone number, and email address for communications;
 - b) citizenship;
 - c) declaration of possession of the qualification required under Article 2 of this call;
 - d) a valid identity document;
 - e) a scientific-professional curriculum vitae suitable for carrying out the research activity covered by the contract, dated and signed, to be attached in PDF format;
 - f) any additional qualifications;
 - g) a list of publications deemed relevant for the selection, to be attached in PDF format;
 - h) the publications deemed relevant for the selection, to be uploaded and submitted in “PDF” format (maximum size per publication: 30 MB) exclusively through the designated section of the online procedure and strictly in full-text format;
 - i) a declaration of the level of proficiency in the English language.
 6. In the application, the candidate must also declare:
 - a) that they have no criminal convictions;
 - b) that they enjoy full civil and political rights;
 - c) that they have no family or affinity relationship up to the fourth degree inclusive with a professor belonging to the Faculty Department Board and/or Research Unit that proposed the activation of the contract, nor with the Rector, the Chief Executive Officer and General Director, or a member of the Academic Senate;
 - d) that they are not permanent staff employed by universities, public research institutions, or institutions whose advanced scientific training diploma has been recognized as equivalent to a PhD pursuant to Article 74, paragraph 4, of Presidential Decree no. 382 of July 11, 1980;
 - e) that they have not held fixed-term researcher contracts pursuant to Article 24 of Law no. 240 of 2010, as amended following the entry into force of Decree-Law no. 36 of April 30, 2022, converted with amendments into Law no. 79 of June 29, 2022 (Tenure Track Researcher).

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7. The same procedures applicable to Italian citizens also apply to citizens of the European Union. For the use of substitute declarations by non-EU citizens, reference should be made to Article 4 of this call.
 8. The application submission must be completed and finalized according to one of the following methods:
 - by means of a digital signature, using a smart card, USB token, or remote signature, allowing the holder to sign documents using signature software on a PC or a web portal provided by a certification authority. Applicants with a smart card or USB token may verify compatibility with the digital signature system integrated into the server; if compatible, they may sign the application directly online;
 - applicants without compatible digital signature devices, and holders of remote digital signatures with access to a signing portal, must download the PDF generated by the system, without modifying it in any way, sign it digitally in CAdES format (producing a file with .p7m extension), and re-upload it to the system. Any modification to the file before applying the digital signature will prevent automatic verification of consistency with the original and will result in exclusion;
 - if it is not possible to use the above options, the applicant must download the PDF generated by the system, without modifying it, print it, affix a handwritten signature in full on the last page and initials on all preceding pages. The completed document must then be scanned into PDF format and uploaded to the system.

Article 4
(Non-EU Citizens – Substitute Declarations)

1. Non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy may use substitute declarations pursuant to Presidential Decree no. 445 of December 28, 2000, limited to facts, personal qualities, and circumstances that can be certified or attested by Italian public authorities, without prejudice to the specific provisions contained in laws and regulations governing immigration and the status of foreign nationals.
2. Outside the cases provided for above, non-EU citizens authorized to reside in the territory of the State may use the aforementioned substitute declarations in cases where their use is permitted under international agreements between Italy and the applicant's country of origin.

Article 5
(Appointment of the Selection Committee)

1. The Selection Committee is appointed by the Rector, upon proposal of the Research Supervisor.
2. The Selection Committee shall consist of three members, with due regard, where possible, to gender balance, chosen from among professors and researchers with experience in research on the topics covered by the call, at least one of whom must belong to the Scientific Disciplinary Group/Scientific Disciplinary Sector specified in the call.
3. One of the members may also be selected from among experts, Italian or foreign, including those not affiliated with universities, in fields falling within the Scientific Disciplinary Group/Scientific Disciplinary Sector indicated in the call.

Art. 6

(Evaluation of qualifications, interview and establishment of the ranking list)

1. The selection is carried out through a comparative evaluation of candidates and is aimed at assessing whether applicants possess a scientific-professional curriculum suitable for carrying out the research activities covered by the assignment.
2. The Committee may make use of telematic tools for collective work and may hold its meetings remotely. The procedures adopted must be recorded in the minutes.
3. During its first meeting, the Committee establishes the criteria and methods for evaluating candidates.
4. The Committee then communicates the adopted criteria and scores, expressed out of one hundred, to the person responsible for the procedure, who proceeds with their publication on the University website.
5. The evaluation will be supplemented by a public interview aimed at assessing the candidates' aptitude and suitability to carry out the activities envisaged by the assignment.
6. The public interview may also be conducted remotely, via the Microsoft Teams platform, in accordance with the procedures set out in the call, and will take place according to the schedule indicated in Annex A to this call, which shall serve as official notification for all legal purposes without further formalities.
7. Candidates must be present on the day and at the time scheduled for the interview. For identification purposes, under penalty of exclusion from the selection procedure, each candidate must identify themselves before the interview begins by presenting a valid identity document. If the interview is conducted remotely via the Microsoft Teams platform, failure to connect, unavailability of the candidate, or failure to present a valid identification document shall result in exclusion from the selection procedure.
8. Candidates are comparatively evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:
 - a) relevance and consistency of the educational background with the research program covered by the assignment;
 - b) suitability of the curriculum for supporting research and innovation activities in relation to the scientific-disciplinary sector(s) covered by the selection;
 - c) relevance of the submitted publications to the activities covered by the assignment;
 - d) where provided for in the call, evaluation of additional academic qualifications obtained by the candidates;
 - e) where provided for in the call, an interview aimed at assessing suitability to carry out the research activities covered by the contract, as well as knowledge of the English language and/or other languages relevant to the research.
9. After appropriate evaluation and on the basis of the established criteria, the Committee proceeds collectively to express, for each individual evaluation criterion, a reasoned judgment and to assign the corresponding score.
10. The Committee draws up a merit ranking based on the scores obtained by the candidates and identifies the winner of the selection. The selection is considered successful with a minimum score of 70 out of 100.
11. In the event of a tie, preference is given to the younger candidate.
12. The results of the selection will be available on the University website at the following link: <https://www.unicampus.it/ateneo/concorsi/incarichi-di-ricerca/> and shall serve as official notification for all legal purposes to the interested parties.

Article 7
(Approval of the Selection Results)

1. The Rector, by decree, within 30 days from the submission of the minutes to the Competitions Office – Human Resources Directorate, after verifying the formal regularity of the documents, approves the outcome of the ranking.
2. The Decree approving the proceedings is published on the University website, within the timeframes and according to the procedures established in the call, in compliance with the principles of transparency and personal data protection.
3. The merit ranking shall remain valid for 180 days from the date of publication of the Decree approving the proceedings.
4. Within 90 days from the approval of the proceedings, for the needs of the same research project, additional research assignment contracts may be awarded to candidates suitably placed in the ranking, provided that the availability of the necessary financial coverage has been verified.
5. The awarding of these additional research assignments shall take place upon request of the Research Supervisor, processed by the Doctoral Programs, Research Grants, Technologists, and Postgraduate Scholarships Office, in accordance with the procedure set out in Article 29, paragraph 4, of the regulations cited above.

Art. 8
(Execution of the employment contract)

1. At the time of signing the employment contract, the Human Resources Administration Office – Human Resources Directorate shall invite the selected candidate to submit the documentation required under the applicable legislation.
2. The contract must specify:
 - a) the start date and the final term of the employment relationship;
 - b) the place of work;
 - c) the scientific-disciplinary sector(s) and the scientific disciplinary group to which the research and innovation activities are related;
 - d) the total remuneration;
 - e) the procedures by which the appointee is required to report their activities to the Research Supervisor;
 - f) the commitment to comply with the obligations set out in the Code of Ethics and the Charter of Purposes.
3. The employment contract shall be signed by the holder of the research assignment and by the Chief Executive Officer and General Director.
4. In the event of renunciation, failure to take up duties, or forfeiture by the selected candidate, within 90 days from the approval of the proceedings, the ranking may be used to appoint another candidate. Financial coverage for the months exceeding the originally approved assignment (i.e., the months already used by the withdrawing or forfeiting postdoctoral researcher) must be guaranteed by the Research Supervisor, verified by the Research Area, and approved by the Human Resources Directorate.
5. Failure by the selected candidate to sign the contract within the established timeframe shall be considered as a waiver of the appointment.
6. In the event of termination, remuneration shall be paid up to the last actual day of service.

Art. 9
(Duration, Renewal, or Extension of the Research Appointment)

1. The research appointment has a duration of 18 months and may be renewed or extended up to a total duration of three years.
2. Without prejudice to the initially established remuneration, the renewal or extension is proposed by the GdFD to which the holder of the research appointment belongs, or by the DRU, upon request of the Head of Research within the available resources, taking into account legal constraints.
3. The request for renewal or extension is made in accordance with the provisions of Article 29 of the Regulation mentioned above.
4. The DRU submits the request for extension or renewal to the Academic Senate for approval, which will subsequently be approved by the Board of Directors.
5. Any extension or renewal of the research appointment must in any case comply with the maximum total duration of 3 years as provided for in Article 22-ter, paragraph 7, of Law 240/2010, as well as with the maximum total duration of 11 years as provided for in Article 22-ter, paragraph 9, of Law 240/2010.
6. The extension or renewal of the employment contract is signed by the holder of the research appointment and by the Chief Executive Officer and General Director.

Art. 10
(Rights and Duties of Contract Holders)

1. Holders of research appointments carry out research activities under the supervision of the Research Supervisor.
2. Holders of research appointments have the right to make use, for the purpose of carrying out their research activities, of the facilities and equipment of the structure where they perform their activities and to benefit from the services available to them in accordance with the rules in force within that structure.
3. The performance of research activities outside the structure that proposed the awarding of the contract must be authorized in advance by the proposing entity.
4. Holding the appointment does not give rise to any right of access to university positions.
5. Holders of research appointments are subject to the health checks provided for by Legislative Decree 81/2008 at the expense of the University, as well as to the regulations on workplace safety.

Art. 11
(Termination of the Employment Relationship)

1. The termination of the employment relationship occurs, in addition to cases of subsequent disqualification, upon expiry of the term, withdrawal by either party, or any other grounds for termination provided for by the applicable legislation.
2. Either party may withdraw from the contract before its expiry if a circumstance arises which, under the applicable legislation, does not allow the continuation of the relationship, even on a temporary basis, or in the event of supervening impossibility.
3. Finally, the performance of the activities covered by the contract in conflict with the institutional principles of the University, as set out in its Charter of Purposes, and with the provisions of its Code of Ethics, shall constitute grounds for termination of the relationship.

Art. 12
(Incompatibilities)

1. Research appointments are incompatible with:
 - a) any other subordinate employment relationship, including part-time or fixed-term, with public or private entities;
 - b) holding research fellowships (assegna di ricerca), including at other universities or public research institutions;
 - c) holding research contracts pursuant to Article 22 of Law 240/2010, including at other universities or public research institutions;
 - d) holding postdoctoral appointments pursuant to Article 22-bis of Law 240/2010 or other research appointments, including at other universities or public research institutions;
 - e) holding fixed-term researcher contracts pursuant to Article 24 of Law 240/2010, including at other universities or public research institutions;
 - f) holding scholarships or research grants of any kind awarded by national or foreign institutions, except those exclusively aimed at international mobility for research purposes, including doctoral scholarships and remuneration related to medical specialization contracts.
2. The research appointment is not compatible with enrollment in bachelor's, specialist/master's degree, doctoral, or medical specialization programs, in Italy or abroad, without prejudice to the possibility of participating in specific European Union research funding programs within the framework of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA).
3. Without prejudice to all of the above, the holder of a research appointment may not, in any case, engage in activities that could give rise to a conflict of interest with the activities of the University.

Art. 13
(Economic, Tax, Social Security, and Insurance Treatment)

1. Holders of research appointments are entitled, for the entire duration of the relationship, to a gross annual all-inclusive remuneration determined in relation to the required commitment and the complexity of the activities to be carried out, not less than 41.330,00 gross per year (total employer cost 51.000,00).
2. This amount is paid to the holder of the appointment in equal monthly installments.
3. The employment relationship is governed, as regards tax treatment, by the provisions set out in Article 4 of Law No. 476 of 13 August 1984, and, as regards social security, by the provisions set out in Article 2, paragraphs 26 et seq., of Law No. 335 of 8 August 1995.
4. The University shall also provide insurance coverage against workplace accidents, occupational diseases, as well as civil liability coverage.

Art. 14
(Personal Data Processing)

1. The personal data provided by candidates shall be processed, subject to the formal consent of the data subjects, exclusively in accordance with the procedures provided for by the applicable sector legislation and solely for purposes strictly related and instrumental to the management of the selection procedure.



Art. 15

(Competent Organizational Unit and Person Responsible for the procedure)

1. The person responsible for the selection procedure under this call is Rosa Lauretta, Head of the Competitions and Academic Staff Office – Human Resources Directorate, e-mail: concorsi@unicampus.it

Art. 16

(Final Provisions)

1. For anything not expressly provided for in this call for applications, the legislative and regulatory provisions cited in the preamble, as well as all applicable laws and regulations, shall apply.

Art. 17

(Final Provisions)

1. This decree is made available on the following websites:
 - of the University: <https://www.unicampus.it/en/ateneo/concorsi/incarichi-di-ricerca/>;
 - of the Ministry of University and Research: <https://bandi.mur.gov.it/>;
 - of the European Union: <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess>.

Chief Executive Officer and Director General

Signed Dr. Andrea Rossi

Rector

Signed Prof. Rocco Papalia

Call for Applications for the Award of No. 1 Research Position pursuant to Article 22-ter of Law No. 240/2010, Scientific-Disciplinary Group 05-BIOS08 – Molecular Biology, Scientific-Disciplinary Sector BIOS-08/A – Molecular Biology, at the facilities of the Research Unit in Food Science and Nutrition and the Departmental Faculty of Science and Biotechnology of the University Campus Bio-Medico of Rome (selection code: IR/07_26).

Competition code: IR/07_26

Research positions available	1
Contract duration	18 months
Departmental Faculty/Research Unit of affiliation	Science and Bio-Technology/Science of Food and Nutrition
Place where the activities will be carried out	UCBM – at the Research Unit laboratories
Scientific Disciplinary Group	05-BIOS-08 – Molecular Biology
Scientific-Disciplinary Sector	BIOS-08/A – Molecular Biology
Subject of the contract (title of the research program)	Prediction and characterization of salt-responsive Cis-Regulatory Elements - SaltCRE
Brief description of the research program to which the position is linked	Soil infertility is a global threat to global food security, adversely affecting plant growth, crop yields, and biodiversity. One of the main causes is the increase of salt content in the soil due to natural events, human activities and climate change. Effective land management can mitigate some of these negative effects, but breeding salt-resistant crop varieties is essential for long-term resilience. Traditional breeding methods, however, are time-consuming and labor-intensive. Therefore, advancing our understanding of the molecular mechanisms that underlie plant responses to salt stress is crucial for developing innovative strategies to produce more resilient crops. This project wants to use the model plant <i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>, to uncover the genetic and regulatory mechanisms that drive plant transcriptional responses to salinity, by employing a combination of high-throughput sequencing technologies and both modern and classical mutagenesis strategies. A key objective of this project is to predict and characterize the cis-regulatory elements (CREs) involved in the salt response. These CREs are short DNA sequences located in the regions of the genome that don't encode for proteins but play crucial roles in gene regulation. Mutations in these regions have been linked to phenotypic variations, domestication, and evolutionary events, but despite their importance, CREs remain poorly understood due to the challenges associated with their identification. This project offers a reliable approach to defining the CREs involved in plant salt response and dissecting the complex relationships



	between gene regulatory changes and environmental responses. In the future, the results of this research will provide valuable insights that can be applied to improve crop resilience, ultimately contributing to sustainable agriculture and food security.
Research Supervisor/Tutor	Alessandra Boccaccini
Maximum number of publications	12
Language knowledge and skills	Inglese
Any additional qualifications subject to evaluation	Participation in conferences
Date and time of the interview	25th september 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Remote candidates on Microsoft Teams platform
Funding body	Project “Prediction and characterization of salt-responsive Cis-Regulatory Elements – SaltCRE” funded by MUR
Funding Programme / Call for Proposals	PNRR M4C2 - Investimento 1.2 “Finanziamento di progetti presentati da giovani ricercatori” – Linea MSCA
CUP	C83C25000550006

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