

Regulation on the award of research funds

Art. 1 Purposes, definitions and field of application

1. The present Regulation shall regulate the modalities for the awarding of research funds in accordance to art. 22, law 240/2010, the definition of the procedures of public selection, the modality for the implementation of the related activities, the legal system and the economic treatment.
2. The research funds are intended for the implementation of the research activity, the implementation of which is bound by the activation of the research funds.
3. Said activities shall be carried out under the supervision of a scientific director. The indication of the scientific director shall be under the responsibility of the structure proposing said activation.

Art. 2. Types of research funds

1. There shall be two types of research funds:
 - a) Research with financial backing entirely chargeable to the academic budget;
 - b) Research funds funded by the Departments or the research structures with management autonomy in the context of research projects with their own funds or agreements with external authorities.
2. The expense for the funds provided for in the present regulation, within the limits of the budget appropriation , may come from research programmes/projects however financed, in the context of the autonomy of the applicant structures and in compliance with the institutional purposes of the University.

Art. 3. Modalities for the approval of the submitted requirements

1. The Board of Directors shall approve the awarding of the research funds whose needs are identified by the Councils of the proponent structure, if any, or by the Technical-Supervisory Committee until their establishment.
2. For the purpose of the activation of the type a) funds, the Council of the proponent structure shall deliberate:
 - a) The programme/project of research and its effective duration, as well as the indication of the scientific responsible of the programme;
 - b) The scientific-disciplinary sector or the scientific areas ;
 - c) The source of funding, the details regarding the approval of the programme and the statements of availability of the funding;
 - d) The duration of the research grant (no more than three year, no less than one year);
 - e) The qualification needed for the admission of the candidates.

3. For the purpose of the activation of the type b) research funds, the Board of the applicant body shall deliberate on which fund shall weigh all the costs related to the contract and, if present, shall attach a previously stipulated assessment with an external financier.

Art. 4. Selection procedure

1. The research grants shall be awarded subject to the implementation of the selective procedures provided for in the present regulation, aimed at ensuring a comparative evaluation of the candidates and at providing for the publication of the related acts and, in particular:

- a) For the type a) research grants, publication of an announcement of selection for each category, followed by a presentation on the part of the candidates for the research projects, complete with the titles of their publications, whose evaluation shall be entrusted to a Selection Board;
- b) For the type b) research grants, publication of announcements of selection related to specific research programmes.

2. For the type b) research grants, the winner and PI (Principal Investigator) of the competition aimed at the realization of the research project may be recruited directly if the selective procedures on the part of the National/International subjects have been implemented, in accordance with the current legislation on academic research (Ministries, Foundations, European Union, regional authorities and other International bodies); in said case, since the selection has already been implemented by the financing body on the basis of the evaluation of the scientific profile of the PI, no further selective procedures are needed for the purpose of the activation of the research grant.

Art.5 – Selection Announcement

1. The type a) and b) research grants shall be awarded subject to an open competition and an interview of the candidates.

2. The related selection announcement shall contain:

- a) The subjective requirements for the participation to the competition;
- b) Number, duration, limits of renewability of the research grants;
- c) The categories and/or the scientific-disciplinary sectors related to the research project;
- d) The research objects for the type a) research grants or the research programme for the type b) research programme;
- e) The modalities and the terms of presentation (even online) of the application forms;
- f) The notice of the mandatory indication in the application form (pain the ineligibility) of a certified email address registered to the candidate;
- g) The responsible of the procedure;
- h) The authorities which the candidate may consult for an eventual appeal;
- i) The rights and obligations of a researcher;
- j) The location where the research activity shall be implemented;
- k) The criteria and guidelines of the Selection Board for the purpose of the evaluation of the candidates;
- l) The dispositions ensuring the publication of the deeds related to the procedures of the competition.

3. The application forms shall be completed by the scientific-professional curriculum of the candidate, and by eventual publications in the maximum number of 12, certifying any title related demonstration of the qualification of the candidate for the research project, as well as the research project of the candidate, for the type a) research grants.
4. The selection announcements shall be published in the web portal of the University, in the MIUR website and in the website of the European Union.
5. The deadline for the submission of the application forms shall not be lower than 15 days from the date of publication of the selection announcements in the web portal of the University.

Art. 6 – Subjective Requirements

1. The research grants may be conferred to scholars (also citizens of non-European countries), in possession of a scientific curriculum suitable for the implementation of the research activity.
2. A research doctorate; an equivalent title attained abroad, and a title of specialization in the medical area complete with an adequate scientific production, shall be regarded as preferential titles for the purpose of the awarding of the research grant; nevertheless, the possibility remains for the participation to the selection procedures.
3. A share of the research grants shall be reserved to Italian/foreign scholars whom have attained a research doctorate or an equivalent title obtained abroad.
4. The selection announcements shall provide for further titles and/or requirements connected to the scientific production and/or the scientific-professional curriculum required for the implementation of a specific research project.
5. The candidates shall possess the aforementioned requirements at the date of expiry of the deadlines established in the selection announcement.
6. Shall not be awarded research grants to the tenured/fixed-term personnel of any University, institution and public research centre, ASI, ENEA and any institution whose diploma is recognized as equivalent to the title of research doctorate in accordance with art.74, paragraph 4, of D.P.R. n.382/1980.
7. Shall also be excluded any candidate with a degree of kinship (up to the fourth degree)/married to any professor belonging to the institution providing for the activation of the contract, or with the Rector/the Director General/a member of the Board of Directors.
8. The research grants shall not be awarded to candidates already entitled to the contracts provided for in art. 24 (Fixed-term researchers) of Law n. 240 of 30 December 2010, even if they have been stipulated with other Universities and or other subjects provided for in paragraph 1, art. 22 of the aforementioned Law and, in any case, if the overall duration of said contracts, along with the duration of the research grant is exceeds 12 (even not continuous) years. For the purpose of the calculation of the time limitations shall not be taken into consideration maternity leaves/sick leaves.

Art. 8 – Selection board

1. The Selection board shall be appointed by the Rector, after the expiry of the deadlines for the submission of the application forms, upon consultation with the didactic-scientific institutions, and shall be comprised of three professors, even from other universities, belonging to the micro-areas for which the research funds are intended.
2. The judging committee, which may avail itself (without any additional burden for the University) of expert Italian/foreign auditors of high qualification, taking into account the projects submitted by the candidates, shall evaluate the candidates and formulate a classification on the basis of the grades attributed.
3. The members of the Judging Committee shall not be paid for their service.
4. During the first meeting the Judging Committee shall pre-determine the criteria for the attribution of a grade in compliance with what is provided for in the following article..

Art. 9 – Modalities for the implementation of the selection process

1. The selection shall be implemented through a comparative evaluation of the publications and the titles submitted by the candidates, supplemented by an interview and a verification of proficiency in a foreign language previously chosen by the candidate among those reported in the selection announcement and indicated by the candidate in the application form.
2. For the comparative evaluation of the candidates, the Judging Committee shall dispose of 100 total points: the evaluation of the titles and the research project (type *a* research grants), or for the evaluation of the titles and the publications (type *b* research grants) shall correspond up to 50 points; the interview shall correspond up to 50 points.
3. The 50 points related to publications, titles and (only for the type *a* research grants) the research project, shall be attributed by the judging committee, on the basis of specific criteria defined before the evaluation of the application forms.
4. The evaluation of the publications and the titles (and of the research project in case of type *a* research grants) shall be implemented before the interview of the candidates, and the results shall be published on the website of the University. The results of the evaluation of the titles, as well as the date and the location of the interview, shall be announced to the candidate via certified mail.
5. Shall be admitted to the interview all the candidates attaining no less than 35 points.
6. The interview shall relate to the scientific production of the candidate (and on the research project in case of type *a* research grants). The Committee during the interview shall provide for the verification of the candidate's proficiency in one of the foreign language provided for in the selection announcement.
7. The candidate shall pass the interview with no less than 35 points.
8. The Committee, shall draw up a report containing the individual evaluation, the total points attributed to a specific candidate and the ranking list.

9. The ranking list shall be established, in descending order, on the basis of the sum of the points attained by each candidate for the preliminary evaluation and the interview. Where there are equal merits relating to the relevant post, the Committee shall give priority to the younger candidate.
10. The Rector shall approve the ranking list, along with the list of the winners of the research grant.
11. The placement in the ranking list shall not be taken into consideration for any future selection procedure.
12. The results of the evaluation shall be published in the modalities provided for in the selection announcement.

Art. 10 – Duration and amount of the research grants

1. The research grants may have a duration between 1 and 3 year and may be renewed, upon proposal of the applicant body, subject to the evaluation of the activity carried out by the researchers in relation to the research programme and to its advancement.
2. The total duration of the research grant, including any eventual renewal, shall not exceed the limit of 4 years.
3. The amount of the research grant shall not be less than the minimum amount established by the MIUR by its own decree. The Board of Directors may establish a maximum amount for the research grants.

Art.11 – Conclusion of the contract with the winner of the selection

1. The research grants shall be assigned, pursuant to the ranking list.
2. The candidates present in the ranking list shall submit, with the modalities and within the deadlines provided for in the selection announcement, the declaration of acceptance of a research grant along with the required documents.
3. The research grants shall be assigned with civil law contracts stipulated within three months from the acceptance of the candidates. Said contracts shall not be regarded as an employment relationship.
4. The winner of the selection will establish with the University a relationship of participation to the research activity; said relationship shall not give them the right to access to any academic role.
5. The winners whom do not declare the acceptance of the research grant, or do not begin the research activities within the previously established deadline, shall lose their right to said research grant.
6. In case of resignation of the winners or failure to commence the research activity within the previously established terms, the research grants shall be awarded to the suitable candidates according to the order of the ranking list.

Art.12 – Implementation of the research activity

1. The activity of a researcher shall be carried out under the supervision of a scientific responsible and shall provide for the implementation of a specific activity closely linked to the a research programme, or to a specific phase of a research programme, and must not be merely a support for the implementation of the research programmes.
2. The researchers, at least 30 days before the end of each year of activity, shall submit to the Committee of the body where they carried out their research activity a report on their progresses, along with the opinion of the scientific responsible. The Committee than, shall evaluate the research activity of the singular researcher.
3. In the aforementioned circumstances, if the research grant is expiring, the scientific responsible may propose an eventual renewal. The proposal, in addition to the description and the evaluation of the activity carried out by the researcher, shall contain the development of the research project, motivating the request for renewal.
3. The renewal is subject to a positive evaluation of the activity carried out by the researcher, on the part of the Committee of the body and upon positive deliberation of the Technical-Supervisory Committee and the Board of Directors.

Art.13 – Didactic Activity

1. Subject to the authorization of the scientific responsible, the researcher may be conferred, free of charge, teaching assignments pursuant to art.23 of law 30.12.2010, n. 240, within the 12 CFU limit.
2. The didactic activity of the researcher shall not interfere in any way with the productive implementation of the research activity.

Art.14 – Prohibition of co-existence of research grants and other forms of subsidy

1. The research grants shall not co-exist with scholarships for research activities conferred for any reason, except those granted by Italian/foreign institutions for the integration of the research activity with stays abroad.
2. The period of research is not compatible with the subscription to any Degree Course, Specialist Degree, Master's Degree, Research Doctorate of Medical Specialization, in Italy/Abroad, Academic Master. An employment in the public administrations different to those provided for in paragraph , art.22 Law n.240/2010 shall entail a period of leave.
3. The period of research is not compatible with other research grants nor with other contract of collaboration to the research activity.
4. The researchers shall not be assigned the position of substitute teacher, pain the dissolution of the contract.

5. Subject to the complete fulfilment of their duties and subject to a written authorization by the scientific responsible and the director of the body related to the research project, a researcher may exercise occasional working activity provided that:

- a) The aforementioned working activity is compatible with the research activity;
- b) The aforementioned working activity does not compromise the research activity;
- c) The aforementioned working activity does not entail a conflict of interest with the specific research activity carried out by the researcher.

6. The winner of the research process shall realize a substitute declaration of the self-declaration affidavit, committing themselves to communicate to the structure any variation to what has been declared at the same time of the occurrence of said variation.

7. The non-compliance of the dispositions contained in the present Regulation, in the competition notice or in the contract entails the immediate revocation of the research grant and excludes the potential beneficiary from an eventual renewal of the contract.

8. If the revocation, declared by the Rector or by the director of the academic body upon written notification, or the eventual waiver of the research grant were to happen before the expiry of the research grant, the payment shall be proportional to the period of activity carried out by the researcher.

Art.15 – Tax treatment, Social security treatment

1. The current dispositions in the field of tax treatment and social security treatment shall apply to the research grants provided for in the present regulation.

Art. 16 – Insurance Coverage

1. The University shall provide insurance coverage for risks of injury and civil responsibility.

Art. 17 – Advance notice in case of contract termination

1. In case of contract termination, the researcher shall give advance notice of at least 30 days.

Art.18 – Resolution of the contractual relationship

1. The contractual relationship established between the University and the researcher shall be considered concluded, without obligation of advance notice in the following cases:

- a) Unjustified failure to commence the research activity;
- b) Violation of the system of incompatibility provided for by the present Regulation;
- c) Negative evaluation, in case of multi-annual research grants, on the research activity expressed by the committee of the body where the researchers are carrying out their activity.

2. In case of serious breach, or non-compliance to the present regulation, the selection announcement or the contract different from those provided for in the previous paragraph, the scientific responsible shall notify the charge to the researcher. The Academic Senate (or the Technical-Supervisory Committee), assessed the justification of the researcher, may propose the resolution of the contract.

3. The proposal provided for in the previous paragraph, if approved by the Board of Directors, shall be regarded as termination of the contract.
4. The contract shall be intended as terminated after 30 days from the notification to the researcher of the deliberation provided for in the previous paragraph.

Art. 18 – Mobility of the researchers

1. Upon proposal of the scientific responsible, the Director of the body where the research activity is implemented may authorize the researcher to carry out missions in Italy or abroad for the realization of the research programme and/or the presentation of the results to scientific events.
2. For the purpose of the handling of missions, the researchers are competent for the reimbursement of the expenses under the conditions provided for the academic researchers.

Art.19 – References

1. For all the regulatory aspects not provided for in the present Regulation, shall find application the current legislation.

Art. 20 – Safeguard Clause

1. The University reserves the right to revoke and/or not carry out the procedures in case of change in the regulations or in the event of general administrative acts adopted by the Ministry of Education, University and Research.
2. Shall be intended as amending regulations even all the results of the judgements annulling the judicial authority.

Art. 21 – Entry into application

1. The present Regulation shall enter into application effective on the following day that of the Rector's Decree.