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UNIPD SCHOLARS AT RISK 2024

Selection notice to award Research Fellowships at the University of Padua for scholars at risk

1. OBJECTIVES

The University of Padua, to help deal with the grave situation in regions around the world affected by political and military crises, and considering the success of the previous call that in 2022 and 2023 allowed to host 26 *scholars at risk* for a research and study period in one of the University Departments, has approved by resolution of the Board of Directors no. 61 of 27 February 2024 the continuation of the initiatives in support of *scholars at risk*, providing funding of € 150.000 on the Central Administration budget, co-financed at least 50% by the host Department/Centre. In addition, with the resolution of 28 May 2024, the Board of Director approved the allocation of an additional € 60,000 on the Central Administration budget for the co-funding of fellowships dedicated exclusively for scholars coming from the Palestinian Territories. Research fellowships of a minimum duration of 3 months and a maximum duration of 12 months may be awarded to scholars at risk.

2. ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Visiting Scholars will carry out their work in a Department/Centre of the University of Padua.

The Visiting Scholar will be able to stay for a period of minimum 3 months, which may be renewed up to 12 months. The scholar's stay can start once confirmation has been received by the University of Padua International Relations Division that the application has been accepted. In any case, the stay should end before December 31st, 2025. Exceptions will be assessed on an individual basis.

3. FUNDING

The three-month research fellowship amounts to €5,000 gross¹. It can be renewed up to a maximum of 12 months, for a total amount of €20,000 gross.

The fellowship will be co-funded as follows: 50% by the Central Administration, which will make the funding available to the host Division, and 50% by the host Department/Centre of the University of Padua. The host Department/Centre may increase its co-funding portion on the basis of its own assessment and

¹ The fellowship amount is treated as income derived from employment under article 50(1)(c) of the Italian Consolidated Law on Income Tax (TUIR). Taxation will vary based on the number of months the fellowship lasts. In any case, up to €6,000 per year, the working person pays no tax; above €6,000 and up to €15,000 per year, Italian personal income tax (IRPEF) of 23% will apply and tax deductions at the full, minimum amount unrelated to the period worked of €1,380 will be recognized. Above €15,000 per year, the IRPEF rate is 25% and ordinary tax deductions will be recognized in relation to the period worked.

availability. The host Department/Centre co-funding portion may be further supplemented by contributions from other national and international bodies, including for example the [IIE-SRF](#).

The specific payment methods will be communicated to the beneficiaries by the individual Departments/Centres.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Scholars and researchers are eligible for the activities detailed in this call for proposals if they fall into one of the following categories:

- a. being beneficiaries of temporary protection as defined in Decision EC 2022/382;
- b. hold a residence permit for asylum / subsidiary protection / political asylum / humanitarian protection / special protection in Italy or in a member country of the European Union;
- c. have obtained recognition as a "scholar at risk" by *Scholars at Risk - SAR* or by other international bodies operating in the sector (*Scholars Rescue Fund - SRF* and *Council for At-Risk Academics - CARA*) or declare themselves to be in a situation of risk as specified in Annex 1.

5. SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Applications will be accepted from the date this announcement is published and until the funds are exhausted, and in any case before October 31st, 2024. They will be proposed by the Department/Centre of the University of Padua, which will host the scholar by exclusively using the [online form](#) available at <https://www.unipd.it/en/visiting-scholars>, to which the following documents, in PDF format, need to be attached:

1. Letter of acceptance by the Visiting Scholar;
2. Documentation of status (under art. 4): permit of stay *or* declaration of the situation "at risk" as in Attachment n.1;
3. Curriculum Vitae of the Visiting Scholar;
4. Description of the research activities and the length of the proposed stay in months;
5. Resolution of the Council or Decree of the Director of the Department/Centre of the host university, approving the application and determining the budget made available; in the case of several applications, indicate the priority and confirm the commitment to pay 50% of the amount of each grant.

6. SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHOD

Applications meeting the above requirements will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector and, if the evaluation is positive, they will be accepted until the available co-funding is exhausted.

7. SCHOLARS AT RISK WELCOME TRAINING COURSE

The Global Engagement Office will organise a training course to be attended by the Visiting Scholar. This course aims to help Scholars place their experience in Padua in their career path. The course will help them both to reflect on their status as well as to deepen their understanding of the psychological, legal and professional dimensions that may be relevant to maximise the outcomes of their activity in Padua and lay the foundations for pursuing their careers in Italy or abroad.

At the same time, the Global Engagement Office will organise a second training course for the host teachers of the scholars received, which will aim to explore the role and commitments of the *mentor* as well as motivations (wars, persecution, etc.) that prompted the students/scholars to flee their countries, deepening the characteristics and consequences of the trauma associated with fleeing the country of origin.

8. POLICY ON PROCESSING PERSONAL DATA

The personal data collected will be processed in accordance with the principles and provisions of the European Regulation on the Protection of Personal Data (2016/679) and, in any case, exclusively for the purposes of managing the selection procedure. For more information, see: <http://www.unipd.it/privacy>.

9. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

This notice has been translated into English for information purposes only. With regard to the handling and resolution of disputes, and for all legal effects, only the Italian version shall be considered valid.

10. PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROCEDURE AND FOR INFORMATION

The person in charge of the administrative procedure is Dr. Mattia Gusella, Director of the Global Engagement Office.

This notice for applications, including the annexes, and the results of the selection procedure will be available from the University website at <https://www.unipd.it/en/visiting-scholars> (publication will be the only means of publicity, no personal communication will be made, not in writing nor by telephone).

For further information, contact the Global Engagement Office:
e-mail unipd.rescuefund@unipd.it, tel. (+39) 049 827 6206.

The Rector
Prof. Daniela Mapelli
digitally signed pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree no. 82/2005