

AMMINISTRAZIONE CENTRALE  
AREA RELAZIONI INTERNAZIONALI  
UFFICIO GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DI PADOVA

Lungargine Piovego 1  
35131 Padova  
amministr@pec.unipd.it  
C.F. 80006480281  
P.IVA 00742430283  
www.unipd.it

## DRL Scholar Rescue Fund/Institute for International Education project

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

#### 1. OBJECTIVES

The University of Padua, by resolution of the Board of Directors no. 7 of 26 January 2026, takes part in a project coordinated by the [IIE / Scholar Rescue Fund](#) and financed by the USA Department of State - *Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)*, which will award up to six 12-month research fellowships to Scholars at risk over the next two years (three per year). The project is implemented by a consortium comprising the University of Padua, SRF/IIE and Cornell University (USA).

#### 2. ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING

Visiting Scholars will carry out their work in a Department/Centre of the University of Padua. The Scholar will conduct research activities only.

The Visiting Scholar will be able to stay for a period of 12 months. The scholar's stay can start once after the application has been accepted by the University of Padua International Relations Division and after final vetting of IIE/SRF and the USA Department of State - DRL (see art. 7 of this Call) and in any case not later than 30 September 2027.

#### 3. FUNDING

Each research fellowship amounts to USD 60,000 divided into:

- USD 55,000 (gross for the university)<sup>1</sup> to cover for the scholar's fellowship<sup>2</sup>;
- USD 5,000 of hosting costs to cover for administrative expenses.

The fellowship will be co-funded as follows: USD 30,000 by the USA Department of State - *Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL)* and USD 30,000 by the *Institute of International Education/Scholar Rescue Fund*. The specific payment methods will be communicated to the beneficiaries by the individual Departments/Centres.

#### 4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Researchers and scholars who have been granted "Scholar at Risk" status by the IIE Scholar Rescue Fund are eligible to participate in the activities outlined in this call.

---

<sup>1</sup> An 8.5% IRAP tax (regional production tax) will be deducted from the grant.

<sup>2</sup> The fellowship amount is treated as income derived from employment under article 50(1)(c) of the Italian Consolidated Law on Income Tax (TUIR). For amounts above €15,000, the ordinary tax deductions are granted in proportion to the period of employment, and the IRPEF rate (national income tax) is levied at a rate of 23% on amounts up to €28,000 and 33% on amounts exceeding €28,000.

The Department/Centre must select the Scholar from the list of potential candidates provided by SRF/IIE. This list will be updated approximately every three months and circulated to Departments on the same schedule.

The host Department/Centre must also ensure compliance with the commitments set out in Annex 1.

## 5. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applications can be submitted from the date of publication of the Call until all fellowships have been allocated, and, in any case, no later than 30 June 2027. Applications must be submitted by the Department/Centre of the University of Padua through the following procedure:

1. the Department/Centre will notify its consent to host one of the profiles listed in the Institute of International Education / Scholar Rescue Fund list
2. the International Relations Division will share with the Department/Centre a detailed profile of the scholar, including CV, list of publications, and any other information necessary for the evaluation of the candidate's profile;
3. the Global Engagement Office, in collaboration with Scholar Rescue Fund, will facilitate further assessment of the scholars' profiles, also by organising a Zoom interview with the candidate, when deemed necessary by the parties involved;
4. the Department/Centre will confirm by email acceptance to host the scholar, attaching:
  - a declaration of acceptance of the commitments set out in the host agreement/Annex 1;
  - a description of the research project/activities that the scholar will carry out.

## 6. SELECTION CRITERIA AND METHOD

Applications meeting the above requirements will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by the Rector. The allocation of fellowships will be based on the scholar's Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum and the relevance of the proposed research project to the activities of the Department/Centre.

The Committee reserves the right to seek further clarification from the host Department/Centre and the Scholar where deemed necessary regarding the documentation submitted in support of the application.

The results of the selection process will be published on the following webpage: <https://www.unipd.it/visiting-scholars> from 1 April 2026 until all available fellowships have been awarded, and in any case no later than 15 July 2027. The Global Engagement Office will also notify the relevant host Department/Centre and the selected Scholar.

## 7. FELLOWSHIP ACCEPTANCE AND DISBURSEMENT

Acceptance of the application will also be subject to formal verification and approval by IIE/SRF and final vetting by the U.S. Department of State – DRL, which will provide appropriate notification.

The fellowship funds will be disbursed to the Department in a single instalment by the International Relations Division once the hosting agreement with SRF/IIE and DRL has been signed.

## 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](mailto:unipd.rescuefund@unipd.it), tel. (+39) 049 827 6206.

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