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SELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT
FOR THE AWARDING OF RESEARCH GRANTS
THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

HAVING REGARD TO Law no. 168 dated 9 May 1989;

HAVING REGARD TO Legislative Decree DL no. 17 dated 9 January 2008, pertaining to the admission of non-EU citizens for the purposes of scientific research;

HAVING REGARD TO Art. 22 of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010, which envisages the awarding of research grants in accordance with budget availability;

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Padua, published in the Official Gazette no. 300 dated 27 December 2011, plus subsequent amendments and integrations;

HAVING REGARD TO Ministerial Decree DM no. 102 dated 9 March 2011, which establishes the minimum annual gross amount of research grants, published in accordance with Art. 22 of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010;

HAVING REGARD TO the current "University Research Funding Plan";

HAVING REGARD TO the current "Regulations Governing Research Grant Awards";

HAVING REGARD TO the decision of the Academic Senate no. 100 of 20 June 2011, which establishes the maximum annual gross amount of research grants;

HAVING REGARD TO the decision of the Department Board made on 29/10/2013;

IT BEING DEEMED EXPEDIENT to issue a selection announcement for the awarding of N. 1 research grants;

HEREBY DECREES

Art. 1 - Purpose

A selection announcement has been published for the awarding of 1 research grant for the research project entitled *"The Hierarchy Theory of Evolution: a multi-level approach to evolutionary changes"* to be conducted at the Department of Biology under the supervision of Professor Dietelmo Pievani, who is the Research Project Supervisor.

The research grant, which shall last for 27 months and be for a gross amount of 20.590 euro per annum, is issued in accordance with Title II (Selection Procedures for the Awarding of Research Grants) of the current Regulations Governing Research Grant Awards for the aforementioned research project, in Scientific Area no. 06 - Biological Sciences and Scientific Sector and Discipline SSD M-FIL/02, BIO/08.

The purpose of this research grant, which is funded by John Templeton Foundation for the Project *"The Hierarchy Group: Approaching Complex Systems in Evolutionary Biology"*, is to fund research into the following field: *The Grant Holder must carry out their own research, theoretical and methodological, in the Department of Biology, University of Padua, in collaboration with other researchers of the international research project titled "The Hierarchy Group: Approaching Complex Systems in Evolutionary Biology". The main topic is the debate around multi-level approaches to evolution (units of change, levels of selection, evolution and ecology, etc). She/he will also coordinate the results of the different working groups, in order to arrive - at the end of the agreed period of 27 months - to the multi-authored book expected from the project. The scientific implementation of contents for the web site dedicated to the project and the scientific Secretariat of the International conference scheduled for the end of the project will be two other commitments.*

Art. 2 - Admissions requirements

The following are entitled to take part in this selection announcement:

- PhD graduates.

The following skills are required:

- Advanced knowledge in evolutionary biology, combined with theoretical and methodological expertise in the field of philosophy of biology.

Candidates must have their degree by the selection announcement deadline.

Should the candidate's degree or PhD have been awarded abroad, then, for the sole purposes of this selection procedure, it must be declared to be the equivalent of an Italian specialisation degree (*specialistica/magistrale*) by a Selection Committee appointed in accordance with Art. 4 hereunder.

In accordance with Art. 22 of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010, the Grant Holder may not be a permanent employee at the following universities, institutes and public research and experiment organisations: the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development (ENEA), the Italian Space Agency (ASI), the European University Institute, the *Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa*, the *Scuola Superiore di studi universitari e di perfezionamento di Pisa*, the *Scuola internazionale superiore di studi avanzati di Trieste*, and the other Italian post-graduate schools that provide the equivalent of doctoral researcher courses.

The winner of the selection announcement may be awarded research grants for a maximum period of 4 years, in accordance with Art. 22 of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010.

Candidates shall be admitted to the selection procedure with reserve. The Department/Centre that published the selection announcement may at any moment exclude candidates for not having the aforementioned requisites by reasoned order from the Head of the Department/Centre.

Art. 3 – Application

The application to take part in this selection procedure must be written on unstamped paper and addressed to the Head of the Department of Biology; it must, under penalty of exclusion, be submitted in one of the following methods within **30 days** of this selection announcement being published in the Official University Register:

1) posted by registered mail with advice of receipt to the following address:

Head of the Department of Biology, – Via Ugo Bassi, 58/b – 35131 Padova – Italy.

Should the application be sent by registered letter, the postmark will not be accepted as evidence of meeting the application deadline.

Or:

2) delivered in person in a sealed envelope to the following address:

Head of the Department of Biology, – Via Ugo Bassi, 58/b – 35131 Padova – Italy.

3) sent by certified e-mail (PEC) to dipartimento.bio@pec.unipd.it by the deadline. If using this method, any documents for which a traditional signature is required must carry the applicant's digital signature and be exclusively sent through PEC. Any electronic documents (application, attachments and identity document) without a signature will be considered ineligible. Documents must be sent in a fixed and not directly editable format without macros or executable codes, preferably in pdf and tif.

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent automatically by the PEC administrator. The e-mail must include the title of the grant applied for.

The application form, a copy of which can be downloaded from <http://www.unipd.it/ricerca/finanziamenti/assegni>, must include the candidate's:

1) surname and name;

2) Italian tax payer's code (*codice fiscale*) if the candidate has Italian citizenship;

- 3) date and place of birth;
- 4) nationality;
- 5) fixed address and contact details for the purpose of this selection;
- 6) telephone number and email address;
- 7) a list of qualifications and publications mentioned in the application form;
- 8) a declaration, in accordance with Articles 46 and 47 of DPR 445/2000, stating the authenticity of the curriculum vitae, qualifications and list of publications presented.

Candidates must also state:

- 9) that they have the qualifications required by this selection announcement;
- 10) that they are not an employee at the universities or other organisations listed in Art. 22 of Law 240/2010;
- 11) and that they are not related or do have not an affinity, up to and including the fourth degree of kinship, to a professor working in the Department or Centre where the research is based, or to the Rector, Director General, or a member of the University's Administrative Board;

The application must include:

1. a photocopy of a valid identity document;
2. an academic and professional curriculum vitae, duly signed and dated on each page;
3. a list of the qualifications and publications the candidate is presenting with the application form;
4. two letters of recommendation of professors or researchers of Universities or Research Centres.

European citizens may self-certify their academic and professional qualifications. Publications may be presented as originals or as copies with an accompanying statutory declaration in accordance with DPR 445/2000.

Non-European citizens may present their original qualifications, authenticated copies thereof, or copies that have been declared to comply with the original.

Non-European citizens with a valid permit to stay in Italy may make a statutory declaration, as if they were European citizens, should they have to provide evidence of statuses, information and personal qualities that can be certified or attested to by Italy's Public Administration, or should a self-certification be envisaged by international conventions between Italy and the candidate's country of origin.

According to Law no. 104 dated 5 February 1992, candidates with a recognized disability must specify in their application any special aids or additional time they may need during the interview and which is relevant to their status.

The candidate undertakes to notify the Administration of any changes to the contact details listed in the application form.

The University shall accept no liability should it not be able to locate candidates or should any correspondence be lost due to candidates providing imprecise addresses, or no or late notice of any change to the address stated in the application. Neither shall the University accept any liability for postal, IT or third-party errors, nor for errors due to chance or force majeure.

Art. 4 - Selection procedure

Candidates are selected by a comparative evaluation of their qualifications, academic and professional curriculum vitae, publications and of the two letters of recommendations.

Candidate applications shall be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by the Head of the Department/Centre; the Selection Committee shall comprise three members who are experts in the field of research, one of which shall be the Research Project Supervisor.

The Selection Committee has 100 points to evaluate the candidates and they shall cover:

- qualifications: degree, PhD, specialisation degree, postgraduate certificates (awarded in Italy and abroad); up to 30 points may be awarded for this category (20 points shall be awarded if the candidate has a PhD in the field of the research project);
- curriculum vitae: performance of documented research activity at public and private organisations with contracts, grants or appointments (both in Italy and abroad). Up to 20 points;
- publications: including specialisation degree (*specialistica/magistrale*) dissertations or PhD theses. Up to 20 points may be awarded for this category;
- two letters of recommendation: up to 30 points.

At the end of the evaluation, the Selection Committee shall draw up a provisional ranking based on the total of the scores the candidates were awarded for each category.

The selection report and the provisional ranking shall be officially approved by the Head of the Department/Centre and then published in the Official University Register.

To be included in the ranking, candidates must be awarded a minimum overall score of 50 points. In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

Art. 5 - Entering into the agreement

Research grants are awarded with bespoke research activity agreements entered into with the Department/Centre that published the announcement.

The Department/Centre shall notify the winner of the date by which he or she must enter into the agreement, under penalty of cancellation.

Should the agreement not be entered into by this date, the winner shall forfeit the right to the research grant. In the event of this, the second-placed candidate in the ranking shall be declared the winner.

Research activity may not be commenced before the winner has entered into the agreement, which shall normally come into force on the first day of the month after it was signed.

Should the winner be an employee of the Public Administration, then he or she must be placed on unpaid leave for the entire duration of this research grant.

The awarding of the research grant does not constitute subordinate employment nor does it entitle the Grant Holder to a permanent position at the University.

Grants shall be paid in deferred monthly instalments.

Art. 6 – Rights and Duties

The Grant Holder shall conduct his/her research activity, which is of a flexible nature, with no set working hours, in a continuous and not merely occasional manner, autonomously within the limits of the programme or stage thereof as laid out by the Research Project Supervisor and in accordance with his/her general instructions.

A Grant Holder's duties are established by an individual agreement and carried out under a Research Project Supervisor, who will inspect the work that has been conducted.

Research grants are governed by the following laws: the Ministry of Labour and Social Security decree dated 12 July 2007 for maternity leave (see Official Gazette no. 247 dated 23 October 2007; and Art. 1 paragraph 788 of Law no. 296 dated 27 December 2006, plus subsequent amendments, for sick leave.

During the obligatory period of maternity leave, the benefit provided by Italy's National Social Security Institute (INPS), in accordance with Article 5 of the aforementioned law dated 12 July 2007, shall be topped up by the University so that the entire amount of the research grant is covered.

The grants within this announcement may not be combined with other grants or with study grants of any other kind, unless they have been awarded by national or international organisations and involve trips abroad as part of the Grant Holder's research.

Grant Holders are not allowed to enrol in degree courses, specialisation degrees (*specialistica/magistrale*), funded PhDs or medical specialisations in Italy or abroad. Nor is holding a research grant compatible with enrolment at specialisation schools. An employee of the Public Administration must be placed on unpaid leave and Grant Holders who are already enrolled in a specialisation school shall suspend their studies until their research grant comes to an end.

The following activities are also incompatible with a research grant:

- a) employed work, including fixed-term contracts;
- b) self-employed work, even as part of a partnership or an association, except for specific cases authorised by the Research Project Supervisor;
- c) agreements entered into with the University of Padua, except for occasional work that supports research and is authorised by the Research Project Supervisor.

Art. 7 - Confidentiality and intellectual property

Should the Grant Holder come into contact with information or data covered by confidentiality agreements signed by the Department/Centre for which he/she works during the performance of his/her duties, then the Grant Holder hereby pledges to keep all of this information and data confidential.

The entitlement to register a patent for the inventions produced on the basis of any scientific research activity carried out with the facilities and funds of the University of Padua is generally governed by the University's Patent Regulations.

Art. 8 - Tax, social security and insurance

The grants within this present announcement are governed by a series of laws: Art. 4 of Law no. 476 dated 13 August 1984, plus subsequent amendments and additions, for tax; Art. 2, paragraphs 26 and following of Law no. 335 dated 8 August 1995, plus subsequent amendments and additions, for social security.

The University shall provide insurance coverage for accidents and civil liability in accordance with the conditions stated in the policies taken out by the University.

Should the Grant Holder be sent on leave for official university business, then the costs shall be sustained by the Research Project Supervisor's funds, by the Grant Holder from his/her research funds, or by the host organisation in accordance with the University Regulations Governing Leave for Official University Business.

Art. 9- Verifying the Grant Holder's activity

Regarding research grants lasting more than 12 months, at the end of the first year of activity, the Grant Holder shall present the Head of the Department with a report detailing the activity that has been carried out on the project and the results. This report shall be accompanied by an assessment by the Research Project Supervisor and then evaluated by the Board of the Department where the research is based.

Should the Grant Holder's activity not pass the evaluation, then the University shall terminate the agreement without any obligation of prior notice.

At the end of the grant, the Grant Holder shall present the Head of the Department with a final report detailing the activity that has been carried out on the project and the results. This final report shall be accompanied by an assessment by the Research Project Supervisor and by the Head of the Department. It shall then be sent to the Research Service of the University's central administration and evaluated by the pertinent Scientific Area Commission.

Art. 10 - Final Provisions

For anything not specified within this present announcement, reference shall be made to the provisions of Law no. 240 dated 30 December 2010, to the University of Padua's current Regulations Governing Research Grant Awards, and to current law.

In accordance with Legislative Decree DL no. 196 dated 30 June 2003, it is hereby stated that any data provided shall be handled only for the purposes of this announcement and the entering into and managing of the relationship with the University.

The person responsible for the selection process is the Head of Department of Biology, Professor Gerolamo Lanfranchi.

Padua, 5/11/2013



Head of Department
Prof. Gerolamo Lanfranchi