



## **SPIN – Supporting Principal Investigators - Call for proposals 2019**

### *Definitions:*

*RU: Assistant Professor (Ricercatore Universitario)*

*RTD: a) RTD-A Non-tenured assistant professor or b) RTD-B tenure-track assistant professor*

*PA: Associate Professor (Professore Associato)*

*PO: Full Professor (Professore Ordinario)*

*Assegnista di ricerca: Research grant holder*

### **Art. 1 – Scope and available funding**

1. The first objective of the Ca' Foscari University Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is to promote impact research, strengthening the University attractiveness, especially through the recruitment of ERC grantees and a growing access to competitive funds, leveraging the excellence to explore new research directions, at the frontiers of disciplines.

With this purpose, over the last few years Ca' Foscari University has implemented a series of initiatives, such as *Careers+*, *Brain Gain* and the *Human Resources Strategy For Researchers*, which include a series of actions aimed at boosting the quality of research, attracting talents, and consolidating scientific excellence, as well as the *Research for Global Challenges Initiative*, which aims to enhance the access to competitive calls through the institution of interdisciplinary teams supported by *research facilitators*.

The call SPIN aims at strengthening further such policies. On the one hand, it will widen the actions aimed at attracting researchers with an excellent scientific profile, who can compete in the prestigious ERC grant calls; on the other hand, it will strengthen the academic curriculum of the talents already employed at Ca' Foscari, so as to improve their competitiveness at international level.

2. The scope of this call is to fund research projects with a maximum duration of 24 months for the two Measures foreseen in the following paragraph 4. The proposals should meet international quality standards, allow for new research paths and/or new international collaborations, and attract external funding.

Project proposals submitted by applicants who do not hold a permanent position at Ca' Foscari will have to last a minimum of 12 months.

3. The total amount allocated to this call for proposals is 600.000 euros. Of these, 200.000 euros will be allocated to Measure 2 SPIN – Standard Projects, for proposals submitted by applicants holding a researcher or professor position (namely RU, RTD, PA, PO) at Ca' Foscari.

4. Two Measures are foreseen within this call:



- **Measure 1 SPIN – ERC:** it addresses post-doc researchers, holding or not a position at Ca' Foscari, who meet the excellence requirements described in the annual ERC work programme as well as those listed in Art. 2, and who commit to submit a project proposal with Ca' Foscari as *Host Institution* under one of the following ERC calls: *Starting, Consolidator* or *Advanced*.

- **Measure 2 SPIN – Standard projects:** it addresses applicants already holding an academic position at Ca' Foscari (namely RU, RTD b., RTD a. PA, PO) who intend to submit a research project proposal meeting international excellence standards, bringing innovation within a chosen scientific area, and able to strengthen project management capacities of the applicant for a possible participation in future competitive calls for proposals.  
Proposals can be submitted in all scientific areas available at Ca' Foscari.

#### **Art. 2 – Applicants' requirements**

1. Applicants (Principal Investigators, PI) of any nationality, meeting the following requirements, can take part in this call:

- **Measure 1 SPIN - ERC:** the applicant is a researcher (holding or not an academic position at Ca' Foscari) who, when submitting their application to this call, meets the excellence requirements foreseen in the annual ERC work programme, or deems to acquire or strengthen them thanks to the SPIN funding, commits themselves to submit a proposal under the *Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced* ERC grant calls.

Researchers not holding a position at Ca' Foscari, whose projects are retained for funding, will be recruited as Research grant holder ("assegnista di ricerca") pursuant to Art. 6 of the University Regulations on Research Fellowships (<http://www.unive.it/pag/28008/>). Their scientific autonomy as well as management of funds allocated under this call for proposals will be ensured according to provisions of art. 13 paragraph 2 of the same Regulations.

Researchers holding an active ERC grant when submitting the proposal, or those who are or have been Marie Curie Individual Fellows with Ca' Foscari as Host Institution cannot apply for this call.

- **Measure 2 SPIN - Standard projects:** the applicant holds an academic position at Ca' Foscari University (namely RU, RTD, PA, PO), and aims to develop a collaborative project proposal as Coordinator, that could lead to new research developments and international collaborations, and could strengthen their project management capacities in order to allow their participation in competitive calls.

Non-tenured assistant professors letter a) or tenure –track assistant professors letter b) (RTD-A or RTD-B) can apply under this measure as long as their ongoing contract lasts at least as much as the proposed project.

Researchers RTD-A or RTD-B, whose contract does not fulfill the above requirements, will be able to apply under measure 1 of this call.



2. Applicants can submit one single proposal to this call, regardless of the measure they apply for.

Applicants who have already submitted a project proposal under the 2018 SPIN calls must declare that their proposal is a resubmission.

3. As concerns Measure 2 only, full or associate professors, as well as researchers (RU), are excluded from the participation to the present call if they are not entitled to remain in service for 12 months beyond the duration of the project proposal submitted.

Applicants who, at the time of the submission, are also beneficiary of financial support under the Ca' Foscari Research and Internationalisation Support Fund (*Fondo di Supporto alla Ricerca e all'Internazionalizzazione dell' Ateneo*) are excluded from the participation to the present call.

### Art. 3 – Funding

1. The following table defines the **maximum funding ceiling** for each Measure.

The amount of the research fellowship for PIs who do not hold an academic position at Ca' Foscari must be equal to 40.000€/year, regardless of the category (ERC *Starting, Consolidator, Advanced*) and the chosen research field.

It is possible to request additional funding if justified by the purchase of equipment or access to infrastructures which are necessary for the project implementation.

	Cost of the PI research fellowship	Max amount for other research costs (including temporary contract to junior researchers)		Maximum project costs	
		Standard project costs	For projects including purchase of equipment	Standard project costs	For projects including purchase of equipment
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(A+B)
<b>Measure 1 - ERC</b>					
PI holding a position at Ca' Foscari	n.a.	60.000€	100.000€	60.000€	100.000€
PI not holding a position at Foscari	80.000€	40.000€	80.000€	120.000€	160.000€
<b>Misura 2 - Standard projects</b>					
Project Coordinator	n.a.	60.000€	100.000€	60.000€	100.000€

### Art. 4 – Submission process and deadline

1. Applications will have to be submitted following the instructions available at <http://www.unive.it/spin>. The research project proposal must be submitted exclusively in .pdf format, in English language and using the "Proposal Template" available online. The template must be filled out in all its parts; incomplete applications will be rejected.



**2. The deadline for the submission of the project proposal is 31<sup>st</sup> May 2019 4 pm (Rome CET).**

Candidates must submit their proposals exclusively via the online procedure available at this link:

<https://static.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/aric-spin2019>

3. The project proposal must include a Letter of Commitment duly signed by the Director and the Secretary of the Department hosting the research. Mandatory templates to be used are available at the following link: <http://www.unive.it/spin>.

Applications who do not include the Letter of Commitment will not be considered eligible.

The Department will assess the relevance of the project research area and the applicant profile. As a consequence, applicants are strongly encouraged to contact well in advance the Research unit at the chosen Department. Contacts are available at this link: <https://www.unive.it/pag/13717/>

4. The applicants' personal data are processed by the University for the scope of this call, and in accordance with D. Lgs n. 196/03 and following amendments and integrations.

**Art. 5 – Evaluation Committee and external referees**

1. The applications will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee appointed by the Rector and composed of at least 4 members selected among Ca' Foscari ERC winners or evaluation panelist, chaired by the Pro-Rector for Research and supported by an officer from the Research Area, acting as secretary. The Committee will assess the development potential of the proposals, applying the evaluation criteria as defined in art. 6.

2. Proposals selected by the Committee will be further evaluated by external referees. Project proposals will undergo the evaluation of two external referees each, who will assess the scientific excellence of the proposal as well as applicant's profile by applying the criteria as defined in art. 6.

3. The Evaluation Committee will present the applications above the eligibility threshold to the Rector, to draw up the final ranking.

**Art. 6 – Selection process and evaluation criteria**

1. After the call deadline, the National Research Office will check the eligibility of the proposals submitted to ensure they meet the requirements as set out in article 4.

2. The overall selection process will be held in two steps; as soon as each step is completed, evaluations results are communicated to candidates and published online at [www.unive.it/spin](http://www.unive.it/spin).



3. At step one, the Evaluation Committee will assess proposals on the basis of their feasibility and development potential in accordance with the following criteria:

<b>Measure 1 SPIN – ERC - Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
System approach/network: continuity of the collaboration relationship, quality and complementarity of the institutions/scientists potentially involved in the project; relevance of the network with respect to the proposal.	0-7 points
Growth potential: project capacity to contain the elements necessary to overcome current project limits, with a view to the ERC application; budget sustainability; number and coherence of the publications with regards to ERC minimum eligibility standards.	0-25 points
Quality of the information on the context: presence of such information and analysis of what has already been carried out within the same scope at international level, and in particular at European level.	0-8 points

<b>Measure 2 SPIN – Standard projects - Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
System approach/network: continuity of the collaboration relationship, quality and complementarity of the institutions involved in the project; relevance of the network with respect to the proposal.	0-7 points
Growth potential: presence of elements allowing the applicant to strengthen project design capacities, as well as to favour the opening to new research paths, as well as collaborations at international level, such as the presentation of new project proposals under competitive calls.	0-25 points
Quality of the information on the context: presence of such information and analysis of what has already been carried out within the same scope at international level, and in particular at European level.	0-8 points

The Committee will assign a maximum of 40 points. Projects reaching the threshold of 25 points will undergo the external referees evaluation (two for each project proposal); the Committee Members will appoint external referees, according to the keywords included in the application.



4. Referees will undertake step two of the selection process, evaluating the scientific excellence of the project proposals and the applicants' profile, in accordance with the following criteria:

Criteria	Score
Importance and scientific originality of the proposed research topic, and potential impact on the state of the art	0-20 points
Publications, scientific results of the applicant, and experience in projects or initiatives at national or international level	0-20 points
Innovation: capacity of the project to address fields that have not been sufficiently examined; innovative approach – in terms of actions, methods, processes – adopted in relation to identified needs	0-20 points

Referees will assign a maximum of 60 points; the applications, together with the evaluation summary reports, will be returned to the Committee;

5. In case an applicant to Measure 1 has already submitted an ERC proposal, under one of the last two previous calls, and has obtained an "A" evaluation in the most recent ERC call, the applicant will be assigned the whole 60 points of the referee evaluation phase, with no need to undergo the external refereeing;

6. The Committee will draw two final rankings, one for each Measure, to be validated by the Rector; the projects obtaining a score lower than 70/100 will not be funded in any case.

7. In case a project submitted by a PI who does not hold a permanent position at Ca' Foscari (namely RU, RTD, PA, PO), is shortlisted under Measure 1, the Committee will summon the PI for an interview in accordance with provisions of the University Regulations on Research Fellowships. The Director of the Department chosen for hosting the proposed research, or his/her deputy, might participate.

The interview will focus on the project development plan at Ca' Foscari with the view to submit it to the envisaged ERC call for proposals; analysis of the impact and sustainability of the proposal. The research grant will be assigned if the PI positively passes the interview.

PIs already holding a permanent position at Ca' Foscari University may be invited for an interview in case a significant amendment to the budget proposed is required.

8. In case the PI of a fundable project does not accept the grant within 7 days after the receipt of the communication from the National Research Office, the Evaluation Committee will invite for an interview the next candidate on the waiting list, according to the position in the final ranking and until funds are available.



#### **Art. 7 – Publication of results**

1. The publicity of the selection results is assured via email communication to the participants, publication at the online Albo ([www.unive.it/data/30402/](http://www.unive.it/data/30402/)) and at the dedicated webpage at <http://www.unive.it/spin> .

#### **Art. 8 – Use of funding and PI obligations**

1. PIs will have to kick off their projects no later than two months after funds have been assigned, communicating it to the host Department and to the National Research Office. Granted funds will have to be used exclusively to carry out activities described in the project. In case an amendment is needed during the project implementation, it will have to be approved by the Department Director, and communicated to the Research Area.

The hosting Department will verify the correct use of funds.

2. Any funds remaining at the end of the projects will be reallocated to the Research and Internationalisation Support Fund.

3. Beneficiaries will have to submit a mid-term report no later than 30 days after month 12 of the project. The mid-term report will include a description of the results obtained, any possible deviation from the project plan and corrective measures taken.

No later than 30 days after the end of the project, a final report including results achieved as well as a description on the use of resources will have to be submitted.

Both reports must be submitted to the host Department and transmitted to the National Research Office.

4. Beneficiaries under Measure 1 commit themselves to submit a project proposal under the appropriate *Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced* ERC grant call for proposals with Ca' Foscari as Host Institution and by the end of the SPIN funding.

5. If a beneficiary of funding under Measure 1 does not submit a project proposal by the end of SPIN funding, or the project submitted does not reach the minimum threshold foreseen by the European Commission, the PI will not be able to submit proposals under the SPIN call for the three years following the deadline of the call which the applicant has submitted their proposal to.

6. Final reports of projects funded under Measure 2 will instead be evaluated by the Evaluation Committee. If the PI does not submit the report within the deadline foreseen, or the Commission verifies that the project objectives have not



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been fulfilled, the PI will be excluded from SPIN calls for proposals for a period of three years following the end of the project.

#### **Art. 9 – Open access to research results**

Research results will be deposited in the University ARCA repository, in accordance with the University Regulations on Open Access.

#### **Art. 10 – Processing of personal information**

The personal information provided by the candidates in their applications for participation in the selection procedure, pursuant to the legislative decree of June 30<sup>th</sup> 2003, no. 196 and subsequent amendments and additions, will be processed exclusively for the purposes of management of this procedure and any other procedure for attribution of the grants in question.

#### **Art. 11 – Request for information**

For further information on this call, and on application procedures, you can contact the National Research Office at the email address [spin@unive.it](mailto:spin@unive.it) or by phone at +39 041234 8091- 8297