UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
CATANIA

Public competition, with qualification and interview assessments, for the award of research grants

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD TO the Law 9 May, 1989, n. 168;

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Catania;

HAVING REGARD TO the Law December 30, 2010, n. 240 and in particular its art. 22 establishing the new discipline of research grants;

HAVING REGARD TO the Regulations for the awarding of research grants, approved with Rectoral Decree n. 2179 of July 3, 2015;

HAVING REGARD TO the Resolution of the Ministry of Finance n. 17 of February 17, 2000, protocol n. 2000/30703;

HAVING REGARD TO the Ministerial Decree Posted on October 4, 2000 S.O. n. 175 of the GURI n. 249 of October 24, 2000 concerning the redefinition of the scientific areas;

HAVING REGARD TO the D. MIUR n. 102 of March 3, 2011, of determining gross annual minimum amount of research grants;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Board of Directors of April 28, 2011, by which, in accordance with the Ministerial Decree referred to above, was determined by the annual amount of the research grants;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT that the European Commission has financed, within the Horizon 2020 Programme, call H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017, the project “An Integrated Platform for Developing BRAIN CANCER Diagnostic Techniques” (AiPband), Grant Agreement n. 764281;

HAVING REGARD TO the Horizon 2020 work programme, and in particular the specific provisions related to Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions 2018-20;

HAVING REGARD TO the Grant Agreement n. 764281 of the project “An Integrated Platform for Developing BRAIN CANCER Diagnostic Techniques” (AiPband);

HAVING REGARD TO the deliberation of the council of the Department of Chemical Sciences, of February, 26, 2018, transmitted with note n. 29427 of March, 05, 2018, with which it is required the activation of a research fellowship for the scientific field CHIM/01 “Analytical chemistry”, pursuant to art. 1, point 2, let. b), and art. 14, comma 2, of the Regulations for the awarding of research grants reported in art. 22 of Law December 30, 2010, n. 240, and the further supplementary note n. 38701 of March, 20, 2018, with which the Director of the Department transmitted the text of the call, in Italian and in English, to be published for the purpose of the selection procedure, with the commitment to
bring that request to approval to ratification at the next Council of Department useful;

HAVING ASCERTAINED that financial coverage of the research grant is granted within funds of the European Project “An Integrated Platform for Developing BRAIN CANCER Diagnostic Techniques” (AiPBAND), whose responsible for the University of Catania is Professor Giuseppe Spoto;

CONSIDERED the commitment of expenditure n. 15996 relating to the funding of that research grant;

HERBY ISSUES THE FOLLOWING DECREE

Art. 1 – Under the Regulation for the awarding of research grants and, in particular under the provisions contained in art. 14, comma 2, it is announced a public competition, with qualification and interview assessments, for the award of n. 1 research fellowship, type b), for conducting research in the Department of Chemical Sciences; scientific field CHIM/01 “Analytical chemistry”; research program: “Plasmonic detection of microRNA biomarkers in microfluidic devices for brain cancer non-invasive diagnosis”; scientist in charge of the project: Professor Giuseppe Spoto.

Art. 2 – The research grant for 36 months will be awarded through public selection, with qualifications and interview assessments, as detailed in the attached call.

Art. 3 – The overall cost, including related administrative burden, amounting at maximum to € 159.061,32, for the entire coverage of the research grant, will weigh on the commitment n. 15996.

Catania,

THE RECTOR
Prof. Francesco Basile

IL PRORETTORE
Prof. Giancarlo Magnano San Lio
PUBLIC COMPETITION, WITH QUALIFICATION AND INTERVIEW ASSESSMENTS, FOR THE AWARD OF N. 1 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP.

ART. 1
Description
A public competition based on qualifications and interview is launched, for the assignment of a Research Fellowship to conduct research in the framework of the Horizon 2020 European Project, call H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017, “An Integrated Platform for Developing BRAIN CANCER Diagnostic Techniques” (AiPBAND), Grant Agreement n. 764281.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL SCIENCES:
n. 1 research fellowship related to the scientific sector CHIM/01 “Analytical chemistry”
Research project: “Plasmonic detection of microRNA biomarkers in microfluidic devices for brain cancer non-invasive diagnosis”
Duration: 36 months
Tentative starting date: September 2018
Scientist in charge of the project: Prof. Giuseppe Spoto

The recruited researcher will be enrolled in the PhD programme on Chemical Sciences headed by the University of Catania – XXXIV cycle and must comply with conditions established for the enrolment in the PhD programme. Conditions must be complied at the date of recruitment.
The recruited researcher will be required to complete international secondments, even at non-academic partners, limit secondments to a maximum of 30% of the actual months spent implementing the research training activities under the action.

ART. 2
Requirements and eligibility
Candidates for the Early Stage Researcher (ESR) position described in Art. 1, at the date fixed as the deadline for submission of the application and at the date of recruitment, must comply with the following conditions:

1) Master level degree or equivalent degrees in chemistry, biochemistry, physics or affine sectors awarded by Italian or foreign universities;

2) to be in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of his/her research career and not to have a doctoral degree;

3) not have resided in Italy for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date. Short stays, such as national service and/or holidays are not taken into account;

4) knowledge of English language.

Candidates that are regularly enrolled in the last year of an undergraduate or graduate degree course or in a degree course of a foreign university suitable for the enrolment in an Italian PhD programme, and that comply by 10/09/2018 with the above mentioned conditions, are also eligible for the ESR position. In the latter case, under penalty of forfeiture, the candidate will be required to produce, by the date of the recruitment (10/09/2018), a self-certification of qualification (in the case of an Italian old degree / specialist / master degree released by an Italian university) or a suitable certificate (in the case of a qualification obtained at a foreign university), if selected for recruitment.

Applicants can be of any nationality.
All qualifications obtained abroad must be, as a rule, previously recognized in Italy in accordance with the legislation in force (information on the website of the Ministry of University and Scientific Research: www.miur.it). The equivalence of qualifications obtained abroad that have not already been recognized in Italy, will be evaluated, solely for the purposes of the present selection, by the Selection Committee established according to art. 5.

Those who are part of the permanent staff of Universities, Institutions and public bodies of research and experimentation, of ENEA and ASI, as well as of the institutions where the degree of scientific specialization has been recognized as equivalent to the title of PhD, pursuant to art. 74, paragraph 4, D.P.R. n. 382 of July 11, 1980, can’t be holders of research grants.

The selection procedure is not allowed to those who have a degree of consanguinity or affinity, up to the fourth degree, or conjugacy with a professor at the Department that approved the research program, with the Rector, with the General Manager or with a component of the Board of Governors of University of Catania.

The Administration may, at any time, with due provision, exclude candidates from the public selections due to lack of requirements.

The University of Catania guarantees equality and equal opportunities between men and women in access to employment and treatment at work.

**ART. 3**

**Duration and amount of the grant**

The research fellowship will have a term of 36 months, as required by the European Grant Agreement of reference.

Any postponement of the starting date of the activity planned for conducting research in the frame of the grant, or any disruption thereof, will be allowed in the case of: maternity or illness lasting more than thirty days. The interruption of the planned research activity, that is justified under the above provisions, involves the suspension of the payment of the amount of the allowance for the period in which the interruption occurs. In such cases, the conclusion of the research activity and the corresponding payment of the grant is postponed for a duration equivalent to the same interruption, within the limits of the duration of the project “AiPBAND”.

The total gross amount of the research fellowship, as envisaged by the European Commission for "Early Stage Researchers", as specified by the contract n. 764281 of the project AiPBAND “An Integrated Platform for Developing BRAIN CANCER Diagnostic Techniques” (H2020-MSCA-ITN-2017), will range between € 141,061,32 and € 159,061,32 according to the family status of the recruited researcher (respectively not married or married) and consists in the sum of:

A) living allowance equal to € 3,318,37 per month (€ 119,461,32 total)

B) mobility allowance equal to € 600 per month (€ 21,600,00 total)

C) family allowance equal to € 500 per month in case researcher with family charge (€ 18,000,00 total);

The amount will be allocated in deferred monthly payments.

The maximum cost for the research grant that the Department will support (for the total duration of 36 months) is equal to Euro 159,061,32 (amount financed by the EC) and will be subject to withholding tax and benefit of the law, therefore, the net compensation awarded will be determined in an amount not exceeding the maximum amount financed by the European Commission.
The contractor carries out its activities in an autonomous manner, within the limits of the program prepared by the responsible of the research.

**ART. 4**

**How to apply**

Applications, written on plain paper, must be addressed directly to the Rector of the University of Catania, Department of Chemical Sciences, and sent by express courier, within a deadline of 40 days from the date of publication of this notice on the website of the University of Catania. To this end, the postmark date of the courier office or of the accepting forwarding service provides the certification.

Applications for admission must be drawn up according to the template (Appendix A of this document) and completed in all parts, **under penalty of exclusion**.

In the application, besides indicating the precise name of the scientific sector, of the research program and of the Department concerned, the applicant must declare, according to D.P.R. n. 445/2000, as amended, and under his/her responsibility:

1. his/her full name;
2. tax identification number (if he/she already has it);
3. date and place of birth;
4. place of residence;
5. place of domicile as chosen address for correspondence for the purposes of this selection;
6. telephone number, email address, data for the electronic connection;
7. citizenship;
8. that he/she holds the degree requested in art. 2 of this call, indicating the institution that issued it and the date of achievement;
9. that he/she in the first four years (full-time equivalent research experience) of his/her research career and not to have earned a Ph.D;
10. not to have lived or worked in Italy for more that 12 months in the last three years immediately before the date of recruitment;
11. that he/she is not in a relationship of consanguinity or affinity, up to the fourth degree inclusive, or conjugacy with any professor of the Department which approved the research program, with the Rector, with the General Manager or with a member of the Administrative Board;
12. that there are no obstacles to the establishment of contracts with Italian Public Administration,
13. the position with regard of any military obligations;
14. that he/she is aware that the assignment of the research allowance will not engage him/her in any permanent employment relationship and that allowances cannot be combined with fellowships awarded for any purpose, except those awarded by national or foreign institutions to integrate, during stays abroad, the research activities;
15. that he/she is not part of the permanent staff of Universities, Institutions and public bodies of research and experimentation, of ENEA and ASI, as well as of the institutions where the degree of scientific specialization has been recognized as equivalent to the title of PhD, pursuant to art. 74, paragraph 4, D.P.R. n. 382 of July 11, 1980;
16. he/she does not hold jobs at universities or other institutions listed in the art. 22 of Law 240/2010;
17. that he/she does not serve / serve / have served in public administrations.

The candidate also undertakes to promptly report changes in contact details that may occur subsequently.

The signature of the candidate, placed at the bottom to the application, does not need to be authenticated.

Applications not reporting statements about the fulfilment of requirements will be excluded.
Along with the application, candidates must submit documents on plain paper or in the original, or in a copy of the original declared by a declaration in lieu of affidavit or, in the alternative, by a certification under Articles n. 46 and 47 of D.P.R. n. 445/2000 (Annexes B and C), proving qualifications for which they want to be evaluated according to the next Art. 6, otherwise they will be excluded.

Candidates must, also, submit a photocopy (front and back) of a valid identity document of the person who signed the application. Only identity documents provided with photograph and issued by a public administration are valid.

The application should contain the following documents:
1. a photocopy of the front and back of a valid identity document of the person signing the application; (only identity documents provided with a photograph and issued by a public administration will be considered valid);
2. at least 2 recommendation letters from experts in the field of the call;
3. scientific-professional curriculum signed on each page;
4. list, duly signed on each page, of any publications, certificates or other evidences relevant to assess the qualifications of the candidate to conduct the proposed research;
5. publications (if any), or any other document useful to assess the suitability of the candidate to perform the proposed research activity.

The envelope containing the application for admission, the qualifications and the publications should report the following wording: “Department of Chemical Sciences”, public competition, based on qualifications and interview, for the assignment of n. 1 research fellowship for conducting research activity - scientific sector CHIM/01 “Analytical chemistry” - research program: “Plasmonic detection of microRNA biomarkers in microfluidic devices for brain cancer non-invasive diagnosis” - call n. 13.09/2014” and the name of the applicant.

It is not allowed to refer to documents and publications previously submitted to this University.

Applications posted after the deadline indicated above will not be taken into account. The Administration assumes no responsibility for loss of communications due to incorrect address details provided by the candidates or failure or late notification of change of address indicated in the application, nor for any postal or telegraphic problems, or facts due to thirds, to fortuitous events or to force majeure.

Personal data provided by applicants will be treated in accordance with law 196/2003.

ART. 5
Selection Committee

The Selection Committee is appointed by the Board of the Department which approved the call and is composed of three professors, identified by the same Department, involved in the specific research program to which the call relates. The scientist in charge of the project will be one of the three professors.

The Selection Committee shall complete its work within 90 days from the notification of the appointment.

ART. 6
Assessment of qualifications and interview

The selection is based on qualifications and interview on the basis of the following criteria:
Evaluation of qualifications and publications:

a) detailed Curriculum Vitae et Studiorum, up to a maximum of 10 points

b) attendance to specialization courses, post-master courses, participation to certified research activity in public or private research institutions, up to a maximum of 10 points

c) publications, up to a maximum of 15 points

Interview

The interview, which can be performed by using audio/video online facilities, is aimed to assess the candidate’s ability in relation to the research program claimed in art 1, the motivational aspects as well as his/her knowledge of the English language, up to a maximum of 65 points.

The document assembled by the Selection Committee and reporting on the evaluation of each candidate will be public.

The assessment of qualifications precedes the interview and will be announced by publication on the website of the Department concerned.

Applicants will be informed about the date of publication of results by the competent offices at the Department of Chemical Sciences.

The day, time and place of the interview will be communicated to the candidates by institutional email, at least 20 days in advance.

To be admitted to the interview the applicants must exhibit a valid identification document.

The Selection Committee can interview candidates by using online audio/video facilities. The procedure will ensure that the interview will be public and to the other candidates present at the exam site will be allowed to attend.

Candidates that prefer to be interviewed by videoconference must request it in the application form. Detailed information on the allowed/preferred platform for the videoconference must be also provided.

After completing interviews, the Selection Committee will draw up a merit list of candidates.

The merit list will be published on the web site of the Department of Chemical Sciences at the web address: http://www.dipchi.unict.it/

Failure to attend the interview, whatever the cause is, will be considered as a waiver of the selection.

ART. 7

Formulation and approval of the merit list

The overall score for each candidate is determined by adding the marks obtained in the valuation as reported in article 6, and the vote reported in the interview.

The Selection Committee will draw up a merit list of candidates that will obtain an overall score of at least 65 points and identify the candidate selected for recruitment.

The merit list is formed according to the order of the overall scores obtained by each candidate. In case of two or more candidates with the same score, the grant will be awarded to the younger candidate (L. 06/16/98 n. 191, Art. 2).

No statements of eligibility will be issued, resulting from the results of the rankings.
The winner of the selection will be the candidate usefully placed in the merit list, under the condition that his/her possession of requirements for admission to the selection are ascertained.

The merit list is issued by order of the Rector and is immediately effective.

The merit list of the selection is posted on the website of the University.

The selected candidate will enter into a special contract with the University Administration, which regulates activities related to the research. The signing of the contract is subject to the prior evaluation of fulfilment of requirements by the selected candidate.

The recruited researcher will start the planned activities on the date of recruitment.

If the candidate who is in a prior position of the merit list does not conclude the relevant contract referred to in the preceding paragraph within 30 days from the receipt of notification, the Administration will enter into the same agreement with the candidate which follows in the merit list within the next 30 days.

**ART. 8**

**Incompatibility**

The fellowship cannot be compatible with enrollment in undergraduate or master courses in Italy or abroad.

In order to take advantage of the research fellowship, the staff employed by public authorities other than those mentioned in the previous article 2, except for the ratio of part-time work with performance up to 50% of the ordinary working hours, must be placed on unpaid leave.

Financial contributions resulting from scholarships awarded for any purpose are not compatible with the fellowship. Exceptions are scholarship awarded by national or foreign institutions with the aim to integrate the research work through stays abroad involving the recruited candidate.

The fellowship is likewise incompatible with the enrolment to other schools or courses that require compulsory attendance, unless otherwise reasoned opinion of the professor in charge of the project, and of the Board of the concerned Department.

The allowance is also incompatible with employment contracts with private entities with other cooperation agreements and other free-lance, conducted continuously.

The allowance is not allowed to the permanent staff of universities, institutions and public bodies of research and experimentation, ENEA and ASI, as well as of the institutions where the degree of scientific specialization has been recognized as equivalent to the title of PhD, pursuant to art. 74, paragraph 4, D.P.R. n. 382 of July 11, 1980.

The holder of research fellowship cannot perform other work activities.

The fellowship is individual.

**ART. 9**

**Common rules**

Concerning the overall duration of the relationship, it will be established pursuant to art. 22 of Law 240/2010 as amended by art. 6, paragraph 2 bis of Decree Law 192/2014 converted by Law 11/2015.
For the duration of the aforementioned relationships periods are not included periods spent on maternity leave or for health reasons according to current legislation.

The researcher must conduct the activity in agreement with the European legislation related to the Marie-Sklodowska-Curie ITN action and to the “An Integrated Platform for Developing BRAIN CANCER Diagnostic Techniques” (AiPBAND) project.

A final report on the performed work must be submitted to the chief scientist by the end of the duration of the fellowship. The report should also include a list of outcomes of the scientific activity performed.

The contract can be renewed by its original deadline. The contract may be renewed, in any case, by mean of a ruling within 60 days the expiry, after certification proving the continuity of the research by the scientific director; in that case, the renewal will take effect retroactively from the day following the expiry of the contract.

Within two months of the end of the period of the fellowship, worth the inadmissibility of the application, the scientist in charge must submit to the Director of the Department in which he carried out his renewal request, accompanied by a final report about the work performed by the candidate's scientific production, the motives that justify the continuation of the research and accompanied by a comprehensive assessment of the scientist in charge, from which it emerges, however, that the grant recipient has fulfilled his/her commitments under and holds the set goals.

In the event that the grant recipient does not carry on continuously research activities entrusted to him, the scientist in charge will notify the competent offices of the administration, so that they will proceed with the suspension of the payment of dues, from the month following the notification and until further notice of the regular resumption of research, the scientist in charge transmitted to the offices.

If the scientist in charge does not communicate to the administration the resumption of regular activity, within three months of being notified, that produces the suspension of the payment of fees, the contract with the grant recipient is resolved by law.

The grant holder may terminate the contract by giving notice of at least 30 days.

In case of default, the Administration has the right to withhold to the grant holder an amount equal to the fees payable for the period of notice not given.

The contract may be suspended, at the request of the grant recipient, for military service, scientific missions, pregnancy and diseases, without any obligation for the University to pay its allowance, provided that its duration cannot be reduced because of the above suspension.

To research grants apply in taxation, social security and compulsory maternity leave provisions referred to in paragraph 6 of art. 22 of law 240/2010.

For matters not covered in this announcement shall, unless applicable, the provisions of the Regulations mentioned in the introduction.

This notice is published on the online on the University website, the Ministry of Education and the European Union website (Euraxess Job Portal)

Catania,

THE HEAD OF RESEARCH DEPARTMENT
Inge Lucio Mannino

THE RECTOR
Prof. Francesco Bello
PRORETTORE
Prof. Giancarlo Magnano San Lio