



## SPIN – Supporting Principal Investigators - Call for proposals 2018

### 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 – Definition and Scope

1. The first objective of the University Strategic Plan 2016-2020 is to promote impact research, strengthening the University attractiveness for the best international researchers and professors, 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 the 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, it will strengthen the academic curriculum of the talents already here at Ca' Foscari, so as to improve their competitiveness at international level.

2. The scope of this call is to receive project proposals 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 by the University to this call for proposals, together with the costs allocated to the external referees' evaluation (the latter, for a maximum of 30.000 euros), amounts to 1.200.000 euros.

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

Funding remaining in measure 1 will be allocated to the second call under the same measure; funding remaining in measure 2 will be allocated to the second call under the same measure;

4. Two measures are foreseen within this call:



- **Measure 1 SPIN – ERC:** it addresses researchers, who meet the requirements listed in Art. 2, and 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- International Level:** it addresses applicants holding a researcher or professor position at Ca' Foscari (namely RU, RTD, PA, PO) who intend to submit research projects within a chosen scientific area, so as 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 a position at Ca' Foscari) who, when submitting their application to this call, meets the excellence requirements, or deems to acquire or strengthen them thanks to the SPIN funding, commits to submit a proposal under the *Starting, Consolidator, or Advanced* ERC grant calls.

The researchers who do not hold a researcher or professor position at Ca' Foscari, whose projects are fundable, 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/>).

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 (instead, they can apply for the Marie Curie +1 initiative);

- **Measure 2 SPIN - Standard projects:** the applicant holds a researcher or professor 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, and regardless of the chosen deadline (see art. 4 paragraph 1).

### Art. 3 – Funding

1. The following table defines funding for each measure. The amounts correspond to the **maximum funding** that can be granted.

The annual amount of the research fellowship for PIs who do not hold a researcher or professor position at Ca' Foscari is 40.000€, regardless of the category (ERC *Starting, Consolidator, Advanced*) and the research field.



It is possible to request additional funding, if justified by the need to purchase equipment or to access facilities/tools which are necessary for the project implementation.

	Cost of the PI research fellowship	Max amount for other research costs		Total max cost of the project	
		For projects with standard costs	For projects that foresee the purchase of equipment	For projects with standard costs	For projects that foresee the purchase of equipment
		(A)	(B)	(C)	(A+B)
<b>Measure 1 - ERC</b>					
ERC PI holding a researcher or professor position at Ca' Foscari	n.a.	60.000€	100.000€	60.000€	100.000€
ERC PI who do not hold a researcher or a professor position at Ca' 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 – Application process and deadline

1. Applications will have to be submitted following the instructions available at <http://www.unive.it/spin>, and they will have to be submitted exclusively in .pdf format, in English, no later than the deadlines specified below. Each application will have to be submitted through the online process.

- **The first opening of the call will be on 31/01/2018, with deadline on 02/05/2018, at 13.00.** Online applications can be submitted at the following page: <http://static.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/eric-spincall1>

- **The second opening of the call will be 03/05/2018, with deadline on 30/10/2018, at 13.00.** Online applications can be submitted at the following page: <http://static.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/eric-spincall2>

The **Proposal Template** and a **Letter of Commitment** which have to be signed by the Director and the Secretary of the Department hosting the research, will have to be attached to the application using the templates available at the following link: <http://www.unive.it/spin>. The Department will assess the relevance of the project research area and the applicant profile;

2. The applicants' personal data in the applications 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

1. The applications will be evaluated by a Committee appointed by the Rector and composed of 4 members selected among Ca' Foscari ERC winners or evaluators, presided by the Pro-Rector for Research and supported by an officer from the Research Area, acting as secretary. The University 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. External referees will assess the scientific excellence of the project proposals and the applicant's profile applying the criteria as defined in art. 6;

3. The Committee will present the list of applications above the eligibility threshold to the Rector, as foreseen in art. 6;

4. The Rector will define the shortlist of the projects to be funded. The Committee will invite PIs who do not hold a researcher or professor position at Ca' Foscari for an interview, in order to appoint them with a research grant ("assegno di ricerca") in accordance with art. 6 of Ca' Foscari Regulations on Research Fellowships.

#### **Art. 6 – Procedures and evaluation criteria**

1. Eligibility requirements of the proposals submitted within the foreseen deadlines (see Art. 4.1) will be verified;

2. The Committee as in Art. 5 will first select applications in accordance with the following criteria:

<b>Measure 1 SPIN – ERC - Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
System approach/network: continuity between the collaboration relationship, relevance, quality and complementarity of the parties that will be involved in the network	0-5 points
Growth potential: project capacity to include elements necessary to overcome current project limits, with a view to the ERC application	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.	0-10 points

<b>Measure 2 SPIN – Standard projects - Criteria</b>	<b>Score</b>
System approach/network: continuity between the collaboration relationship, relevance, quality and complementarity of the parties that will be involved in the network	0-5 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.	0-10 points

The Committee will assign a maximum of 40 points. Projects with a minimum score of 25 points will undergo the external referees evaluation (two referees will assess each proposal, and in case of excessive discrepancy between the evaluations of the first two



referees, another referee will be asked to evaluate the proposal); the Committee Members will choose external referees, according to the keywords chosen in the application;

3. Referees will undertake a second selection, 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

4. Referees will assign a maximum of 60 points; the applications, together with the evaluation forms and the assigned score will be returned to the evaluation Committee;

5. In case the applicant to measure 1 has already submitted an ERC proposal under one of the last two calls prior to this call, 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 a final ranking to be validated by the Rector; the projects obtaining a score lower than 70/100 will not be fundable;

7. In case a project submitted under measure 1 by a PI who does not hold a researcher or professor position at Ca' Foscari (namely RU, RTD, PA, PO), is shortlisted, the Committee as in Art. 5 will verify through an interview the compliance of the information provided by the applicant, in accordance with Art. 6 of the University Regulations on Research Fellowships. The interview will include the following subjects: the project development plan at the University with the purpose to submit it to the funding body; analysis of the impact and sustainability of the proposal. The research grant is assigned if the PI positively passes the interview;

8. In case the applicant does not accept the grant within 7 days following the communication receipt, signing the contract at the Department that has signed the *Letter of Commitment*, the Department is required to promptly notify it to the Research Area, so as to allow for the following shortlisted proposal(s) to be funded.

#### **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 in the Research Area of the University website at <http://www.unive.it/spin>.



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

1. PIs will have to start their project no later than two months after funds have been assigned, communicating it to the host Department and to the Research Area; 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;

2. The PI host Department will verify the correct use of funds;

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

4. Those who have been assigned SPIN funds will have to submit a mid-term report no later than 30 days after the month 12 of the project. The mid-term report will include a description of the results obtained, any possible deviations from project plan and measure take to correct them must be covered.

No later than 30 days after the end of the project, a final report with the description of the results achieved and the costs incurred will have to be submitted.

Both the mid-term and final report will have to be submitted to the host Department, and to the Research Area;

5. Principal Investigators who will receive the funding under measure 1 of this call (SPIN ERC), commit to submit a proposal with Ca' Foscari as Host Institution, under the most suitable call within the duration of their SPIN project;

6. If a project PI under measure 1 does not submit a proposal within the SPIN funding period, 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 within which the applicant has submitted the proposal to this call. The final report of projects funded under measure 2 will instead be evaluated by the Committee as in Art. 5;

If the PI of a project under measure 2 does not submit the report within the deadline foreseen, or the Commission verifies that the project objectives have not been reached, the PI will not be able to submit proposals under the SPIN call for the three years following the end of the project;

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

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

#### **Art. 10 – Request for information**

1. For further information on this call, and on application procedures, you can contact the Ca' Foscari and National Research Office at [spin@unive.it](mailto:spin@unive.it).