



Research fellowship on “Research methodologies for language and wellbeing” - Università Ca' Foscari Venezia (Italian law 30 December 2010, n. 240, art. 22)

The present document in English is to be considered as merely a summary of the main provisions of the notice of competition, which is available in Italian at the following ([link](#)). The text in Italian is considered to be the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, therefore, the Italian text is definitive in the event that there is a discrepancy between the Italian and English versions.

Description

The Department of Asian and North African Studies at Università Ca' Foscari Venezia invites applications for a fellowship in:

Title: Research methodologies for language and wellbeing

Scientific sector: L-OR/22

Scientific supervisor and tutor: Prof. Patrick Heinrich

Duration: 12 months

Abstract:

The research fellowship activities will be part of the SPIN project “Language Endangerment and subjective wellbeing (LESWE)”, which studies comparatively language and wellbeing in three endangered language communities in the Ryukyu Islands.

Indigenous languages are more important for their speakers and society than has been previously thought. Most countries have established monolingual language regimes to create a sense of unity among their linguistically diverse population. Japan is a prototypical example. The effect is that indigenous languages – in Japan Ainu and Ryukyuan – have become endangered. We understand today that monolingual language regimes are problematic. Pilot studies among Aborigines in Canada and Australia show that linguistic assimilation that leaves no place for indigenous languages coincide with higher-than average mental and physical problems (e.g. depression, obesity). These findings prompt the following research question: To what extent does the language people know and speak affect their mental and physical wellbeing? To answer this question, this project studies language and wellbeing comparatively in three endangered language communities, starting from three large-scale surveys in the Ryukyu Islands and among new speakers of Ryukyuan in Japan and in diaspora communities.

The research fellow will support the SPIN Principal Investigator, Prof. Patrick Heinrich, in the analysis of the large amount of data that will be collected via questionnaires. He/she will be responsible for:

- a) data cleaning and data input into the statistical software SPSS;
- b) basic data analysis (crossing variables) and statistical calculation (regression analysis);
- (c) assisting the PI identifying and collecting existing psychometric data on wellbeing from the three communities.

These skills can be acquired in the course of activities but Japanese language skills and knowledge about Japanese sociolinguistics are required. The research fellow will acquire important sociolinguistic research and analytical skills at the end of the research period.

Who can apply

Candidates are expected to hold at least a master's degree and to have a CV suitable for the requested research activities. They must be proficient in Japanese, English and Italian language.

The interview will focus on the following topics:

- Knowledge of language endangerment in Japan, especially in the Ryukyu Islands



Università Ca'Foscari Venezia

- Notions of quantitative sociolinguistics
- Assessment of knowledge of Japanese language;

Ca' Foscari encourages applications from researchers who have received positive evaluation in all the criteria applicable to funding programs, such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar. Researchers having successfully completed Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects are warmly encouraged to apply.

Duration of contract: 12 months (approx. start: October, 01st, 2022).

Stipend: The research fellowship amounts to 19,367 Euros per year, including taxes and social charges.

Deadline for submission of applications: August, 31st, 12.00 noon.

How to apply:

Candidates should submit:

1. The application form;
2. A motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their CV in European format, duly dated and signed, both to enclosed as a one single.pdf file. ([link](#))
3. A copy of a valid identity document (either Identity Card or Passport);
4. (If available) Evaluation Summary Reports of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships/ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) individual proposals having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
5. (If available) Details of Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships, ERC Starting Grants, FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/ SIR Scientific Young Independence Research funded projects;
6. Declaration on availability to participate in the interview remotely ([link](#)) to be send via email at the following address: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it;
7. For all documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure please, see the notice ([link](#)).
8. Publications in electronic format

All the schemes of the quoted documentation are available on the website ([link](#)).

How to submit your application

Applications should be submitted through the online procedure:

<https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/31082022-1-dsaam>

The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application.

The candidate (if necessary) could access the procedures for updating any data and materials by the link provided by the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline **August, 31st, 2022, 12 noon.**

Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline.

Please note the possibility that a high number of applications and / or large file sizes among the documents uploaded by the candidates into the system could result in the slowing of the online procedure. Therefore it is suggested to begin the process as soon as possible and not wait to start the process immediately before the deadline.

NB: the University does not take on responsibility for wrong or late communication of addresses, nor for any communication problem not depending on the University.



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Evaluation

Up to 100 points, specifically:

For CV and publications, from 0 to 60;

For interview, from 0 to 40.

Selection procedure

Short-listed candidates will be invited for interview on **September, 14th, 2022 at 10.00 AM** via Zoom video conference.

The short-list of the candidates admitted to the interview, or any postponement, and the link for the interview will be published on the University's webpage within September, 8th, 2022 ([link](#))

Information and contacts

Candidates may find further details about the application process and the research project in the official call published on the following ([link](#)). For further information please email: ricerca.dsaam@unive.it. Please note that Research Office will be closed from 8th to 19th August 2022.