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File no.

Record no. dated

Subject: Notice for the collection of expressions of interest for the direct award of no. 1 Research assignments, pursuant to art. 10 of the current Regulations for the award of Research assignments under art. 22-ter of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 - 2025_IR_18_DPG - Funded under the HORIZON ERC-2025-SyG Nr. 101224192 program, titled "Fostering Learning and Adaptation through Predictability - FLAP" CUP code C93C26000940006 - Scientific Supervisor and Tutor: Dr. Maria Loconsole

In this notice, all positions, professions and titles relating to the functions performed and specified with regard to gender are to be understood as referring to all genders.

The Director of the Department of General Psychology

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

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Padua, published in the Official Gazette no. 300 of 27 December 2011, as subsequently amended and supplemented;

HAVING REGARD TO Law 240/2010 and subsequent amendments and additions, and in particular Art. 22-ter of the Law as amended by Law no. 79/2022 converting, with amendments, Decree-Law no. 45 of 7 April 2025, which introduced the Research Assignment;

HAVING REGARD TO Ministerial Decree no. 592 of 6 August 2025 defining the minimum economic treatment for post-doc assignments and research assignments - Arts. 22-bis and 22-ter, Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010;

HAVING RECALLED the current Regulations for the awarding of Research Assignments pursuant to Art. 22-ter of Law 240/2010, issued by Rector's Decree No. 4508/2025 of 31 October 2025;

HAVING REGARD TO Legislative Decree no. 17 of 9 January 2008 concerning the admission of third-country nationals for scientific research purposes, as subsequently amended and supplemented;

HAVING REGARD TO the Code of Ethics of the University of Padua;

HAVING REGARD TO Presidential Decree no. 62 of 16 April 2013 "*Regulations containing the code of conduct for public employees, pursuant to Art. 54 of Legislative Decree no. 165 of 30 March 2001*", which extended, where compatible, the behavioural obligations of the code to all collaborators or consultants, regardless of the type of contract or assignment;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Council of the Department of General Psychology of 16/07/2026 which approved the activation of no. 1 Research Assignment aimed at introducing young scholars to research and innovation, under the supervision of a Tutor to be carried at the Department of General Psychology under the supervision of dr. Maria Loconsole, acting as Tutor;

ASCERTAINED that the research assignment is funded by external resources, obtained at national, international or European level, which allow the activation of direct award procedures on the project "Fostering Learning and Adaptation through Predictability", acronym FLAP, within the framework of the financing program HORIZON ERC-2025-SyG Nr. 101224192, - CUP code C93C26000940006 -
- Scientific Supervisor dr. Maria Loconsole;

DEEMED APPROPRIATE to activate a procedure for the direct award of no. 1 Research assignment aimed at introducing young scholars to research and innovation, under the supervision of dr. Maria Loconsole;

decrees

Art. 1 – Subject

A procedure is hereby announced for the direct award of no. 1 Research assignment, aimed at introducing young scholars to research and innovation, within the framework of the research project entitled "Fostering Learning and Adaptation through Predictability" to be carried out at the Department of General Psychology under the supervision of dr. Maria Loconsole, acting as Tutor.

The Research assignment, with a duration of 12 months and an annual gross amount, for the recipient, of Euro 22.500,00 is awarded pursuant to art. 10 of the current Regulations for the awarding of Research assignments in accordance with art. 22-ter of Law 240/2010 within the framework of the aforementioned research project, Scientific Disciplinary Group: 11/PSIC-01 - General Psychology, Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience, Psychometrics, Scientific-Disciplinary Sector: PSIC-01/B – Neuropsychology and Cognitive Neuroscience.

The Research assignment, funded by the European Commission, program HORIZON ERC-2025-SyG Nr. 101224192, CUP C93C26000940006, concerns the performance of the research activity specified as follows: The research programme is part of the ERC Synergy project FLAP (Fostering Learning and Adaptation through Predictability), which investigates how animals perceive, represent, and interact with their environment from the earliest stages of life by integrating approaches from ethology, comparative psychology, and quantitative analyses of animal behaviour. Research activities will primarily focus on the domestic chick model, with the possibility of extending the work to other animal models, including birds, mammals, and reptiles. The methodologies employed include ethological and comparative psychology techniques for collecting and analysing behavioural data in controlled laboratory settings. All activities will belong to a collaboration a partner lab in Singapore's Zoo, with active exchange of information and knowledge.

Planned activities:

- Conduct experimental laboratory research primarily using the domestic chick (*Gallus gallus domesticus*) as the main animal model, with the possibility of working with other animal models (birds, mammals, or reptiles) when required by the project;
- Design and conduct behavioural experiments, and collect, organise, and manage research data.
- Perform quantitative data analyses and critically interpret and discuss experimental findings;
- Collaborate with the research team and project partners, contributing to shared experimental and scientific activities;
- Prepare scientific manuscripts, research reports, and other research outputs;
- Disseminate research findings to the scientific community and the general public through conferences, seminars, and outreach activities.

Art. 2 – Admission requirements

Young scholars who hold a master's degree in *Psychology* (LM-51) obtained no more than six years ago and have a curriculum suitable for assisting in research activities may submit an expression of interest for the assignment.

The qualifications must be held on the announcement deadline date.

If the degree diploma was obtained abroad, it must be declared equivalent, for selection purposes only, to the master's degree or single-cycle master's degree by the Selection Committee.

Research Assignments, pursuant to Art. 22-ter of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, may not be awarded to those who are in one or more of the following situations:

- those who have held contracts referred to in Article 24 of Law 240/2010;
- permanent staff, employed on a permanent basis, of universities, public research bodies and institutions whose scientific specialization diploma has been recognized as equivalent to the PhD pursuant to Article 74, fourth paragraph, of Presidential Decree no. 382 of 11 July 1980;
- those who have a degree of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with a professor or researcher belonging to the Department proposing the selection or with the Rector, the Director General or a member of the University's Board of Directors;
- have already benefited from Research Assignments referred to in Art. 22-ter of Law 240/2010 as amended by Law no. 79/2022 for a period which, added to the duration of the assignment provided for in the announcement, exceeds a total of 3 years, even if not continuous. For the purposes of the duration of the aforementioned relationships, periods spent on maternity or paternity leave or for health reasons according to current legislation are not relevant.

The total duration of relationships established with holders of positions referred to in Articles 22 - (Research Contracts), 22-bis (Post-doc Assignments), 22-ter (Research Assignments) and contracts referred to in Article 24 (RTT) of Law 240/2010, even with different universities, state, non-state or online, with institutions of higher artistic, musical and dance education, with institutions whose scientific specialization diploma has been recognized as equivalent to the PhD pursuant to Article 74, fourth paragraph, of Presidential Decree no. 382 of 11 July 1980, and with public research bodies may not in any case exceed 11 years, even if not continuous. For the purposes of the duration of the aforementioned relationships, periods spent on maternity or paternity leave or for health reasons according to current legislation are not relevant.

Candidates are admitted to the selection with reserve.

The Structure that issued the announcement may order at any time, by reasoned decree of the Director, the exclusion from the selection for lack of the required requisites.

Art. 3 – Submission of expressions of interest

The expression of interest, as well as the qualifications held, documents, publications and all attachments deemed useful, must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, electronically, using the dedicated application, on the Pica platform page: <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd/>.

The expression of interest form can be completed starting **from 1:00 PM (Italian time) on 28/08/2026 and must be submitted by 1:00 PM (Italian time) on 14/09/2026**.

For registration, completion, signature and submission of the application, candidates must comply with the provisions of the **Guidelines for completing applications - Research Assignments** (Annex 1 - Guidelines), which form an integral and substantial part of this announcement.

The lack of signature and/or identity document is grounds for exclusion from the selection process.

The candidate may also access the procedure for completing the expression of interest through identification via the SPID system (Public Digital Identity System). In this case, it will not be necessary to sign the application form.

The submission of the expression of interest to the Department of General Psychology takes place automatically with the final closure of the online procedure. Therefore, no delivery or shipment of paper material should be carried out.

Candidates whose expressions of interest have not been submitted within the deadline or have been submitted in a manner other than that indicated above are not admitted to the selection.

The expression of interest must be accompanied by:

1. copy of a valid identity document in .pdf format;
2. scientific-professional curriculum vitae in .pdf format;
3. qualifications and publications relevant to the selection;

The expression of interest form is to be considered, for all legal purposes, as a self-certification pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions, with regard to the data contained therein and the attached documents.

Those coming from non-EU countries in possession of a valid residence permit may use substitute declarations according to the procedures provided for EU citizens, if it is a matter of declaring states, facts and personal qualities that can be certified or attested by Italian public entities or if the

production of substitute declarations is made in accordance with international agreements between Italy and the declarant's country of origin.

Those coming from non-EU countries not in possession of a regular residence permit may use the online procedure for uploading qualifications in .pdf format and certificates, issued by the competent authorities of the of their Country of citizenship, accompanied by a translation into Italian authenticated by the Italian consular authority which certifies their conformity to the original. The originals of these documents must be exhibited to the Committee during the interview, where applicable, and in any case, produced to the Structure upon any conferral of the assignment.

Any information or clarification regarding the procedures for submitting expressions of interest may be requested from the Structure (telephone number 0498276375 - email: ricerca.dpg@unipd.it).

For technical issues only, please contact the support service via the link at the bottom of the page: <https://pica.cineca.it/unipd>.

The candidate undertakes to notify any changes to the contact details provided in the expression of interest form.

Art. 4 – Assessment procedure

The assignment will be awarded based on the evaluation of expressions of interest received by the Research Supervisor dr. Maria Loconsole according to the criteria indicated below:

- Excellent knowledge of the main methodologies in comparative psychology and animal learning, including classical conditioning, operant conditioning, and exposure-based learning;
- Experience in designing and conducting behavioural experiments in animals, including binary choice tests, reaction time measures, ethogram construction and analysis, and related behavioural paradigms;
- Demonstrated research experience using the domestic chick as an experimental model;
- Familiarity with behavioural analysis software (e.g., BORIS) and statistical analysis software (e.g., R) will be considered an asset;
- Knowledge of animal care and welfare regulations and best practices, together with the training and experience required to conduct research involving laboratory animals in Italy, preferably avian species (chickens, turkeys, and other aves), will be considered an asset.

The research supervisor identifies the candidates deemed suitable to carry out the planned activities, providing an overall assessment for each of them. For each appointment, among the candidates considered suitable, the Principal Investigator selects the candidate deemed most qualified to perform the relevant activities, providing adequate justification for the choice.

Art. 5 – Safeguard rules

For matters not specified in this announcement, reference is made to the provisions contained in Law no. 240/2010 as subsequently amended and implemented, in the current Regulations for the awarding of Research Assignments pursuant to Art. 22-ter of Law 240/2010 of the University of Padua, and to current legislation.

The Structure reserves the right to verify the accuracy of substitute declarations of certifications or notarial deeds made by candidates pursuant to D.P.R. 445/2000, at any stage of the procedure. If the above-mentioned check reveals the untruthfulness of the content of the declarations, the declarant shall forfeit any benefits resulting from the provision issued on the basis of the untruthful declaration, without prejudice to the provisions of Art. 76 of D.P.R. 445/2000, concerning the penalties provided for by the Criminal code and special laws on the matter.

The person responsible for the procedure is the Administrative Secretary of the Department, dr. Elisa Barzon.

Art. 6 - Processing of personal data

The processing of personal data provided by candidates takes place in compliance with the provisions EU Regulation No. 679 of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR).

The complete privacy policy is available at the following link: <http://www.unipd.it/privacy>

Pursuant to art. 22-ter, paragraph 4, of Law 240/2010, this notice will be published on the Structure's website and on all other websites required by the funding body.

This announcement is also translated into English for informational purposes only; for all legal purposes, only the Italian version is valid.

Padua

The Director of the Department
Prof. Andrea Spoto