



STARTING GRANT FOR YOUNG RESEARCHERS 2019

INTERNAL CALL FOR PROPOSALS

1. Aim of the Programme

The Academic Senate approved a three-year plan of actions to consolidate the university research initiatives outlined in the Strategic Plan 2017-21. With the intent of strengthening the **autonomy and independence of young researchers**, one of the initiatives promoted for the period 2019-21 is the **Starting Grant for young researchers call**. The aim of the call is to encourage the independent participation of young researchers of the University of Trento (as PI - scientific coordinator or scholarship holder/contract) in competitive research calls, at national, European or international level.

For year 2019, the timing of the call is the following:

- 1st call open from 11th December 2018 to 15th February 2019 at 12:00 a.m.;
- **2nd call open from 11th July 2019 to 30th September 2019 at 12:00 a.m.**

2. Funding and workplan

For the 2019 Starting Grant for young researchers call, the Academic Senate approved a total budget up to **324.000,00 euro**, splitted into two different call. It will cover the costs incurred by the applicant for the preparation of one or more proposals for research funding under competitive calls.

The maximum contribution to each applicant is **up to 15.000,00 euro** (the evaluation Committee will evaluate the congruity of the requested budget with respect to the duration of the plan) and it will be allocated under the following thematic areas:

- Area 1: Humanities;
- Area 2: Science and Technology disciplines, including Psychology.

Researchers will be requested to present **an activity plan**, with related costs, to support the presentation of one or more project proposals to competitive research calls. The duration of the activity plan will be **up to 16 months**. During the funded activity plan, applicants should carry out activities aimed at the preparation and submission of the proposal(s) under competitive calls for research funding. **Any changes in the approved activity plan must be communicated in advance** to the Research Support and Technology Transfer Division. However, changes should not modify the objectives of the proposal approved by the Evaluation Committee. In order to avoid withdrawal of the funding, researchers will also be required to attend some **training activities** organized by the Research Support and Technology Transfer Division.

3. Eligible applicants

Applicants must be young researchers hired by University of Trento with one of the following types of contract:

- **assegnista and/or post-doc collaborator;**
- **fixed-term researcher (RTD - A).**
- **fixed-term researcher (RTD - B) not eligible for the action “Fondo di dotazione iniziale RTD b”.**

The applicant must have **a contract with the University of Trento at the time of submission of the application**. In case of approval of their activity plan, they will have the possibility to **use the funds also in**



the months following the expiration of their contract, within 6 months from the end of their contract with the University.

In the event that a funded applicant signs a work contract with another body, unspent funds will be no longer available. This last rule will also be applicable in the event that the funded applicant is hired by the University of Trento as a fixed term researcher (RTD - B).

Funded applicants under this call will not be eligible for future calls published under this programme.

Therefore, researchers who were selected and accepted the funding under Starting Grant 2018 call are not eligible for this call.

4. Eligible costs and activities

The applicant should demonstrate that the requested budget is necessary for the implementation of the proposed activities aimed at the preparation and submission of research proposals and properly justified.

The budget can foresee the costs for:

- the participation to training courses on how to write competitive proposals and/or infodays on particular calls organized outside the University (registration fee + travel and subsistence);
- the attendance to scientific conferences (both as keynote speaker or participant) on themes relevant to the proposals that the applicant is going to write and submit;
- travel and subsistence to visit other institutions and/or laboratories to create or consolidate collaborations needed for the proposals preparation and submission (e.g. the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Host Institution, even if this is not the University of Trento) or the creation of a consortium with Trento as partner or coordinator;
- the invitation of external experts in order to create or consolidate important collaboration that can be useful in collaborative projects involving the University of Trento;
- research activities for the collection of preliminary data, e.g. consumables, compensation of subjects, access to research infrastructures etc.;
- organization of small workshops to discuss project ideas to be submitted together with external experts (potential partner of the project);
- participation in training activities on-site or abroad organized by the DSRSTT (for example meetings in Brussels at the European Commission);
- consulting services and/or other translation services.

Ineligible costs:

- for staff already hired by the University of Trento;
- for staff to be hired by the University of Trento (including the applicant);
- for lap-tops and/or PC.

All the expenses must be foreseen in the project and in compliance with the internal regulations. In addition the costs must be:

- incurred directly as a result of the project;
- necessary for the achievement of the results of this project (submission of proposal(s));
- in compliance with the principle of sound financial management
- incurred according to accrual basis by the end date of the project.



5. Reporting

Funded applicants will have to submit an intermediate report after 6 months (to be provided within 30 days after the deadline of 6 months) and a final report (to be provided within 2 months after the end of the project). The report should detail:

- a) A description of the expenses incurred for the drafting of the project proposal. In case the amount reported is less than the contribution granted, the unspent amount will be returned to the central budget of the University.
- b) The list of the proposals submitted.

The Research office will send the internal guidelines and forms to report costs to all the awardees of this internal call.

6. Project submission

The projects under this call must be:

- drafted in Italian or English (the applicant can choose between English and Italian)
- drafted using the form here attached
- signed by the applicant and sent in PDF by email at the following e-mail (not PEC) address research.support@unitn.it by:
 - o 15th February 2019 at 12:00 a.m.;
 - o **30th September 2019 at 12:00 a.m.**

Please specify in the email subject: "UniTrento Starting Grant", name e surname of the applicant, department/center.

For further information and/or clarifications, please contact the research offices:

- polo Città: citta.research@unitn.it
- polo Collina: collina.research@unitn.it
- polo Rovereto: rovereto.research@unitn.it

7. Project evaluation

The Academic Senate of the University of Trento will appoint 2 internal Evaluation Committees, one for the Humanities and the other for Science and Technology disciplines including Psychology. The Committees will evaluate the submitted projects and decide about those that will be retained for funding. Evaluation criteria will be approved in the first meeting of the Evaluation Committees.

The projects will be assessed according to the following evaluation criteria:

- the appropriateness of the financial plan to the proposal(s) that the applicant would like to submit (taking into consideration also the type of funding programme) and
- the CV of the applicant.

The list of project proposals selected for funding will be published by 30.11.2019.



8. Public access to documents

The call and all the related documents will be published at the following webpage:
<https://www.unitn.it/node/75960>.

Attachment 1: Proposal Template