

**The University of Trento (UniTrento) announces
the European Research Council (ERC) - Seal of Excellence
Internal Call for Expression of Interest 2025 – 26**

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1. Aim of the Action

The initiative is promoted within the framework of the 2022-2027 University Strategic Plan, in particular of the Action aimed at strengthening the research quality of individual researchers. The Action will offer an 18-month research grant to UniTrento researchers who:

- i. have submitted a project proposal to the Horizon Europe ERC – Starting Grant (StG), Consolidator Grant (CoG) or Advanced Grant (AdG) with UniTrento as host institution,
- ii. have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation and
- iii. could not be funded due to a lack of budget.

The 18-months grant will be aimed at starting or implementing the research activity of the submitted ERC project proposal, in order to re-submit the ERC project proposal with UniTrento acting as Host Institution. The contribution for each research grant will be equal to 50.000 € for StG, 80.000 € for CoG and 80.000 € for AdG, for a maximum of two grants allocated per year (one ERC StG and one among ERC CoG and ERC AdG). The Action will be proposed for 2 years through this call for Expression of interests.

2. Funding

The ERC_Seal of Excellence 2025-26 funding is aimed at covering some research expenses related to the research activity of the submitted ERC project proposal. The budget allocated to this program is max 130.000 Euro per year, for a maximum of two grants allocated per year, divided as follows:

- 50.000 euro for max 1 Starting Grant per year
- 80.000 euro for max 1 Consolidator or Advanced grant per year

The amount of the contribution is to be understood as a lump sum payment.

The funding will be suspended in case of termination of the employment contract with the University of Trento.

The PIs should submit to UniTrento an expression of interest indicating how they will use the amount allocated in max 18 months (or until the ERC approval of the project).

3. Eligible applicants

The internal selection is addressed to UniTrento researchers who hold an employment contract with the University of Trento in force at the deadline of the call and within the whole duration of the grant as:

- Professors or Assistant Professors;
- Fixed term researchers (including new post-doc contract and tenure track researchers);
- Assegni di ricerca (in this case the Head of the Department/Centre will be asked to be in charge of the internal fund).

Also eligible researchers should meet the requirements provided for in the UniTrento Regulation no. 8 of 10 January 2018 as amended with Rectoral Decree no. 293 of 31 March 2025 “Regolamento per il reclutamento e la progressione di carriera di professori e di ricercatori e per il conferimento degli assegni di ricerca di cui all'art. 22, l. 240/2010”.

For 2025 internal call for Expression of Interest: PIs who applied to the ERC – Starting Grant (StG) call 2025, Consolidator Grant (CoG) call 2024 or Advanced Grant (AdG) call 2024 with UniTrento as Host Institution and have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation.

For 2026 internal call for Expression of Interest: PIs who applied to the ERC – Starting Grant (StG) call 2026, Consolidator Grant (CoG) call 2025 or Advanced Grant (AdG) call 2025 with UniTrento as Host Institution and have been scored A at the end of step 2 of the evaluation.

3.1. Incompatibility

This grant is not compatible with other grants received because of the results obtained for the same proposal under ERC call.

The PI that receives or has received an individual grant that requires a 100% commitment (e.g. MSCA PF) or a grant for the same proposal/activities cannot participate or accept this UniTrento grant.

The UniTrento contribution can be used until the contract with UniTrento is in place (see art. 3 for the eligible type of contracts). The PI must notify the University of Trento without delay of any new position or contract or fellowship he/she has obtained in other legal

entities. If the PI gets a position or signs an employment contract or a fellowship with another legal entity, the project will be terminated; unspent funds will be no longer available, and a final report will be requested by the University.

4. Eligible costs

All costs must be in compliance with the internal regulations, they must be:

- directly attributed to the project;
- necessary for the achievement of the results of the project (resubmission of ERC proposal);
- in compliance with the principles of sound financial management;
- incurred according to accrual basis by the end date of the project.

5. Proposal Submission

Proposals under this call must be drafted in English using the form attached to the call.

The proposal should include:

- a motivation letter and the updated CV of the PI;
- a letter or email indicating the Head of the Department/Centre internal support.

The applications must be sent in PDF by email at the following e-mail address:

research.support@unitn.it within the following deadline:

- Call 2025: October 1st, 2025 at noon;
- Call 2026: October 1st, 2026 at noon.

Please specify in the email subject: UniTrento ERC SOE - name and surname of the applicant - department/center name.

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

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

6. Evaluation procedure

The University of Trento will appoint an internal Evaluation Committee composed by at least three University Professors, one for each ERC sector. The Commission will evaluate the motivation letter and the CV of the applicant and will decide the number of grants to be funded according to the available budget. The secretary of the Committee will be identified

among the staff of the Directorate of Research Services and Valorisation. The Directorate of Research Services and Valorization will communicate the outcome of the assessment within 45 days after the call deadline.

7. Reporting

Funded applicants will have to submit a final report within 30 days after the end of the project, that should detail the activities developed and the corresponding expenses incurred.

8. Public access to documents

The call and all the related documents will be published on [Bandi interni](#) webpage.

9. Personal data

Personal data processed by the University of Trento in the management of this call will be treated in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation or 'GDPR'), national legislation (Legislative Decree June 30, 2003, No. 196, Code on the protection of personal data), and the guidelines and practices established by the Data Protection Authority and the European Data Protection Board. The University's Privacy Statement is available in the Application Form (attachment 1 of the call).

Attachment 1: Application form