

Call for the selection of 2 research contracts

The University of Pisa announces public selection procedures for the award of 2 research contracts in accordance with Article 22 of Law 240/2010 as set out in Annex A) to this call, in which the information sheets indicating the reference structure, the description of the research project, the specific responsibility within the project and the functions to be performed, as well as the scientific disciplinary area and information on the interview, are provided.

Deadline for submitting the application: 7 august 2025 at 1.00 p.m.

Contract duration: 24 months

All-inclusive annual administrative gross amount: € 40.000,00

Admission requirements:

- A PhD or medical specialisation degree.

Students enrolled in the third year of a PhD programme or in the final year of a postgraduate medical specialisation programme are also eligible to apply, provided they obtain their degree within six months from the publication date of the selection notice. Failure to meet this requirement candidates will lose the right to be awarded the research contract.

Documents to be attached:

The application must include:

- a) A research development project related to the research project specified for the selection in Annex A);
- b) A comprehensive scientific-professional curriculum containing all the necessary elements for assessing prior research activities and any relevant work experiences, in connection with the content of the research project under consideration (specifically indicating: date/duration, place of completion, etc.);
- c) For individuals with a foreign doctoral degree, an equivalence decree or determination; if the candidate already holds one, a copy of the foreign doctoral degree or a suitable certification issued by the foreign institution, confirming the components, duration, and activities of the doctoral programme undertaken to achieve the doctoral degree;
- d) Additional documents that the candidate deems useful for the selection purposes;
- e) Publications that the candidate considers relevant for the selection, considering the maximum number set for the selection, as indicated in Annex A), with a list signed by the candidate;
- f) Photocopies of the tax code and a current valid identification document.

Candidates must submit the publications they intend to present exclusively in PDF format through the dedicated section of the online procedure.

Each publication shall not exceed 30 megabytes.

Publications not enclosed with the application will not be considered by the Selection Board. Lists with links to texts are not allowed as a replacement for publications.

Applications

Applications must be submitted online only, using the following link: <https://pica.cineca.it/unipi/> or shall be invalid. An e-mail inbox is required to login and complete the application.

Candidates can login into PICA platform using the digital identifier SPID (Sistema Pubblico d'Identità Digitale - Public Digital Identity System), selecting the University of Pisa among the available Institutions.

If candidates have no SPID, they can request it according to the procedures set forth on the website www.spid.gov.it.

Candidates can also login with the credentials issued directly by PICA platform (please note: in order to apply online, the system requires an e-mail inbox for self-registration), with their LOGINMIUR, REPRIS or REFEREES account.

Applicants should provide all the required data and upload all documents in PDF format.

The system allows saving an application draft within the application deadline, recording the online application's date and sending a receipt with an automatic reply. After the deadline, the system will not allow login nor application submission.

Each application will be assigned a unique identification number to be referred to in all subsequent communications, along with the selection code provided by the application form.

Under penalty of exclusion, the application shall be valid only if including all the required data, the copy of a valid ID and:

- if submitted without accessing with digital identifier SPID, the applicant's signature is compulsorily required;
- If submitted by accessing with digital identifier SPID, the application will be automatically processed by the system and the applicant's signature is not required.

Applicants undertake to promptly communicate in writing any variations of what declared in the application form.

The communication shall be edited in PDF format, signed and forwarded to the Rector of the University of Pisa by the Italian certified e-mail system address (P.E.C. Posta Elettronica Certificata): protocollo@pec.unipi.it or emailed to concorsi_contratti@unipi.it , within the application's submission deadline.

An applicant's valid identification document shall be annexed.

For further information on application submission, please refer to concorsi_contratti@unipi.it.

For technical problems support only, please click on the bottom link available at <https://pica.cineca.it/unipi>.

Selection procedure:

For the selection under Annex A) the Director of the Department appoints a Selection Board consisting of the head of the research project and two other members.

Candidates are assessed comparatively on the basis of the following elements:

- a) Quality, originality and innovativeness of the research development project, with reference to the research project under consideration;
- b) Relevance and significance of the research activities previously carried out, as well as any work experience, in relation to the contents of the research project subject to the selection, in addition to documented qualifications (such as, for example, grade point average, postgraduate diplomas, any contracts, scholarships, conference presentations, and other documented qualifications);
- c) Quality, originality and innovativeness of the attached publications, as well as their relevance to the research project under consideration;
- d) An interview aimed at assessing the knowledge of the basic subjects of the scientific disciplinary sector to which the subject of the research project belongs, the suitability for carrying out the research activity under the contract and for the implementation of the research project, as well as the evaluation of knowledge of the English language and/or other languages relevant to the research (as reported in the Annex A). During the interview, the Selection Board also assesses the knowledge of the Italian language for foreign candidates.

The Selection Board has 100 points available for the comparative evaluation of the candidates: 60 points can be allocated for the criteria mentioned above under a), b) and c), and 40 points for the interview.

The Selection Board may stipulate a minimum score below which eligibility cannot be awarded.

Candidates are summoned for the interview on the day and time specified in the Annex A) for the procedure.

Failure to attend an interview by a candidate is considered an explicit indication of their intention to withdraw from the selection process.

Applicants for this selection are required to consult the University website at <https://bandi.unipi.it/public/Bandi?type=COR> (on the selection procedure page) during the two days preceding the date set for the interview.

On the University website (<https://bandi.unipi.it/public/Bandi?type=COR>), in the section dedicated to the procedure, the following will be published:

- Assessment scores for criteria a), b) and c);
- The list of candidates admitted to the interview;
- Practical instructions for carrying out the interview and/or any details should the interview be rescheduled;
- The procedure approval decree and the merit ranking that takes into account the scores achieved by the candidates.

The prospective doctoral or postgraduate student may only enter into a contract after obtaining a doctoral or postgraduate medical degree. In the event that the PhD candidate or postgraduate student fails to obtain the degree within six months from the publication date of the selection notice, they will lose the right to be awarded the research contract.

Please note that the English version is given as a matter of courtesy, for the only purpose of information. It cannot be legally used in the event of a dispute or a claim arising from the interpretation of this translation and concerning the contents, a possible uncertainty, contradiction, or discrepancy. Should this occur, the Italian version of the call should prevail as the only valid. For full Italian text see: <https://bandi.unipi.it/public/Bandi?type=COR> (on the selection procedure page).

Selection code - CDR_bio_2025_2_1

No. of positions 1

Department of Biology

**GSD 05/BIOS-08 “Molecular Biology”
SSD BIOS-08/A “Molecular Biology”**

CUP: I53C24003130001

Head of the Research Project

Prof.ssa Vittoria Raffa

Research Project:

Neurons Engineered with MagnEto-Switches: a tool for Shaping the nervous system

The NEMESIS project aims to develop an inducible macromolecular switch capable of generating mechanical forces in specific neuronal domains. This stimulus induces signal transduction (mechanotransduction), which promotes axonal elongation and synaptic maturation. The project seeks to validate this switch in an in vivo model and to elucidate the signal transduction pathways that regulate this process.

Specific responsibilities within the project and functions to be performed:

The fellow will be involved in WP3 in clarifying the molecular mechanisms underlying mechanotransduction. Biophysical methods for generating intramolecular forces will be required to study the molecular response evoked by mechanical stimuli. Preliminary studies highlight microtubules as potential centers of signal transduction. The fellow will conduct biophysical studies on single-molecule dynamics in order to characterize microtubule behavior and their interactions with other proteins. These studies require biophysical expertise in fluorescence microscopy techniques that allow observation of biological and chemical events at the molecular level (e.g., protein binding, molecular diffusion, assembly of macromolecular complexes), as well as skills in data analysis. These experiments will be conducted both in vitro and in cellular models. The cellular models include primary neurons, organotypic models, and neurons differentiated from progenitor cells. The fellow will supervise the work of PhD students and will participate in dissemination activities related to the project results. They will also take part in general laboratory management tasks related to experimental activities.

Maximum number of publications that candidates may submit, including the doctoral thesis, if submitted: 4

Language skills:

English language

Date, time and mode of the interview:

8 september 2025 at 11.00 in telematic mode

Selection code - CDR_bio_2025_2_2

No. of positions 1

Department of Biology

GSD 05/BIOS-08 "Molecular Biology"
SSD BIOS-08/A "Molecular Biology"

CUP: I53C24003130001

Head of the Research Project

Prof.ssa Vittoria Raffa

Research Project:

Neurons Engineered with MagnEto-Switches: a tool for Shaping the nervous system

The NEMESIS project aims to develop an inducible macromolecular switch capable of generating mechanical forces in specific neuronal domains. This stimulus induces signal transduction (mechanotransduction), which promotes axonal elongation and synaptic maturation. The project seeks to validate this switch in an in vivo model and to elucidate the signal transduction pathways that regulate this process.

Specific responsibilities within the project and functions to be performed:

The fellow will be involved, within the scope of WP1, in the development of the macromolecular switch. Specifically, the development of this switch will require molecular biology approaches for the design and construction of genetic constructs. Its validation will also involve the development of vectors for the production of recombinant proteins and their expression in primary neurons or neurons derived from progenitor cells. These methodologies will also be employed to conduct loss- or gain-of-function studies, in order to validate the molecular targets involved.

Within WP3, the fellow will be engaged in studying the modulation of gene expression in response to mechanical stimuli. Expertise in molecular biology is required to carry out omics studies, with particular reference to both classical bioinformatic techniques (transcriptomics) and more advanced approaches (spatial transcriptomics, 3D chromatin capture).

The fellow will supervise the work of PhD students and will contribute to the dissemination and communication of the project results. Additionally, they will participate in the general laboratory management tasks related to the experimental activities.

Maximum number of publications that candidates may submit, including the doctoral thesis, if submitted: 4

Language skills:

English language

Date, time and mode of the interview:

8 september 2025 at 12.00 in telematic mode