



Call for the selection of 1 research contract

The University of Pisa announces public selection procedures for the award of 1 research contract 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: 26th June 2026 at 1.00 p.m.

Contract duration: 24 months

All-inclusive annual administrative gross amount: € 48.000

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) or Carta d'Identità Elettronica (CIE), 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 or www.cartaidentita.interno.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, REPRISE 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/CIE, the applicant's signature is compulsorily required;
- If submitted by accessing with digital identifier SPID/CIE, 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).

Department of Civilizations and Forms of Knowledge

**GSD 10/STAA-01 Ancient and modern cultures and languages of Africa and western and Central Asia
SSD STAA-01/J “History of Islamic Countries”**

**GSD 11/SDEA-01 - Demoethnoanthropological Sciences
SSD SDEA-01/A - Demoethnoanthropological Sciences**

**Project LIMBO
CUP I53C25002230001**

**Head of the Research Project
Prof.ssa Renata Pepicelli**

Research Project:

Gender and Agency in Radicalization Processes: The Case of the Islamic State

This research project is part of the activities of the project LIMBO - Lives in Motion: Belonging and Otherness. Women, Minors, and Statelessness in the Context of Radicalization, funded by the FIS 3 program, which analyzes the role of women and minors within the jihadist group known as the Islamic State. This study - which examines the intersections between radicalization and agency - focuses on the experiences of women and minors, with a particular emphasis on their experiences in refugee and internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Syria and Iraq. The research aims to critically assess the life trajectories of women and minors affiliated with the organization, as well as the structural and legal obstacles to their reintegration into their countries of origin. The case studies to be examined are Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Tunisia for the Arab region, and France and the United Kingdom for Europe.

The main research questions revolve around several interconnected thematic axes. First, the study examines how the Islamic State’s interpretation of the concepts of jihad and hijra challenges classical readings of women’s roles in radical movements, opening new perspectives on their involvement.

Another area of investigation concerns the ways in which women affiliated with the organization describe their paths to radicalization, with a particular focus on their subjective experiences, emotions, and the sociopolitical conditions that influenced their exposure to and adoption of jihadist ideology and practices. The research also focuses on minors before and after the collapse of the so-called Islamic State, exploring their lived experiences, memories, and perspectives.

In this context, particular emphasis is placed on studying the impact of revocation of citizenship and the ban on returning to their countries of origin, analyzing how statelessness shapes the life experiences of women and minors.

Finally, the study compares self-representations with media representations and dominant political narratives.

Specific responsibilities within the project and functions to be performed:

The researcher must demonstrate interdisciplinary expertise in the social sciences and humanities, with experience in studying women’s participation in jihadist movements and in analyzing forms of agency in radicalization and deradicalization processes, with a specific focus on the South-West Asia and North Africa (SWANA) region in comparison with the European context. The researcher must also be able to analyze gender as a central interpretive category for the study of prevention, counter-terrorism, demobilization, and reintegration, with reference to the project’s country cases. The researcher must demonstrate solid skills in the critical analysis of narratives, public and media representations, and self-representations of individuals involved in jihadist mobilization networks. Proven experience in the use of qualitative methodologies, such as semi-structured interviews, discourse analysis, and/or analysis of media and digital content, is required, with particular attention to the ethical aspects of research in sensitive contexts.

Preferred qualifications include a solid knowledge of the SWANA region, field research experience in the project’s country cases, in-depth knowledge of relevant political and social trajectories, a proven ability to analyze texts and primary sources, as well as a solid knowledge of the scholarly literature on political violence, terrorism, and radicalization processes. Knowledge of Arabic and/or the Arabic dialects of the project’s country cases and/or French is viewed favorably.

The researcher will contribute to research activities and the production of scientific publications and outputs, working in an interdisciplinary context.

Maximum number of publications that candidates may submit, including the doctoral thesis, if submitted: 6

Language skills:

English Language

Date, time and mode of the interview:

27 July 2026 ore 4 pm in telematic mode