



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: 15th July 2026 at 1.00 p.m.

Contract duration: 24 months

All-inclusive annual administrative gross amount: € 50.000

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).

Selection code - CDR_inginf2026_9

Department of Information Engineering

GSD 09/IINF-01 "Electronics"
SSD IINF-01/A "Electronics"

Project BRIC 2025 - CUP D13C25002230005

Head of the Research Project
Prof. Giuseppe Barillaro

Research project:

Mycotoxins in the Food Supply Chain in Relation to Apple Storage and Processing: Biomonitoring through Omics Techniques and Nanobiosensors

The project aims to develop an innovative and multidisciplinary approach for monitoring mycotoxigenic fungi and mycotoxins along the apple supply chain, with particular focus on storage and industrial processing stages. Fungal contamination represents a major issue for both product quality and the health of workers and consumers due to the possible production of toxic mycotoxins such as patulin and mycophenolic acid. The project will integrate advanced microbiological and omics techniques (culturomics and NGS metagenomics) with chromatographic analytical methods and the development of biodegradable multimodal nanobiosensors for the rapid detection of mycotoxins in food matrices and biofluids. The sensors will be validated directly in real matrices from the apple processing chain, such as juices and apple-derived products, with the goal of developing portable, sensitive devices suitable for in-line industrial monitoring. In parallel, the project will investigate fungal resistance to sanitizers commonly used in food-processing environments, evaluating their effects on mycotoxin production and identifying more sustainable alternatives. Expected outcomes include new biomonitoring protocols, guidelines for workplace safety, and innovative sensing platforms with high technological transfer potential, opening opportunities for applications in other agri-food and biomedical sectors.

Specific responsibilities within the project and functions to be performed:

Main responsibilities:

- Define and optimize molecular recognition and optical transduction strategies for the detection of priority mycotoxins (e.g., patulin and mycophenolic acid) in liquid matrices from the apple production chain and in saliva.
- Design synthetic reference matrices for sensor calibration and investigate the effects of the physicochemical properties of real matrices (e.g., pH, sugar content, polyphenols, ionic strength, and biological interferences) on sensor performance.
- Design and fabricate multimodal nanobiosensors based on resonant optical architectures, integrating fluorophores and specific bioreceptors (antibodies and/or aptamers).
- Develop and optimize surface functionalization protocols and optical interrogation methods based on reflectance and fluorescence signals.
- Characterize device performance in terms of sensitivity, limit of detection, specificity, stability, response time, reproducibility, and reusability.
- Validate the nanobiosensors using real apple-derived matrices (juices and industrial products) and synthetic saliva, benchmarking the results against established analytical reference methods (HPLC and LC-MS).
- Coordinate the integration of sensor development, optical characterization, and analytical validation activities, ensuring the technological transferability of the developed platforms toward industrial applications and occupational biomonitoring.
- Support the dissemination of scientific results and the valorization of the developed technologies through peer-reviewed publications, industrial collaborations, and potential technology transfer activities.

Maximum number of publications that candidates may submit, including the doctoral thesis, if submitted: 8

Language skills:

English language

Date, time and mode of the interview:

30th July 2026 at 9.30 am in presence at the Department of Information Engineering - Via Caruso, 16 - Pisa