



The University of Pisa announces public selection procedures for the award of 1 postdoctoral position in accordance with Article 22 bis of Law 240/2010 as set out in Annex A) to this call, in which the information sheets indicating the reference structure, the specific responsibility within the position 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: 29th July 2026 at 1.00 p.m.

Contract duration: 12 months

Annual administrative gross amount: 41.031,28

Admission requirements:

- A PhD or medical specialisation degree. Candidates who fail to meet this requirement will lose the right to be awarded the postdoctoral position.

Documents to be attached:

The application must include:

- a) A comprehensive scientific-professional curriculum containing all the necessary elements for assessing prior activities and any relevant work experiences, in connection with the content of the position under consideration (specifically indicating: date/duration, place of completion, etc.);
- b) 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. Documents issued in a foreign language other than French, English, German and Spanish, must be accompanied by a certified Italian translation that conforms with the original text, drawn up by the competent diplomatic or consular representation, or by an official translator.
- c) Additional documents that the candidate deems useful for the selection purposes;
- d) 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;
- e) 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 do not have SPID, they can request it in accordance with 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 must 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 or 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 by accessing the system without the digital identifier SPID/CIE, the applicant's signature is mandatory;
- If submitted by accessing the system 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 must 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_incarichi@unipi.it , within the application's submission deadline.

An applicant's valid identification document must be attached.

For further information on application submission, please refer to concorsi_incarichi@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 position and two other members.

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

- a) Relevance and significance of the activities previously carried out, as well as any work experience, in relation to the contents of the position to the selection, in addition to documented qualifications (such as, for example, degree grade, postgraduate diplomas, any contracts, scholarships, conference presentations, and other documented qualifications);
- b) Quality, originality and innovativeness of the attached publications, as well as their relevance to the position under consideration;
- c) An interview aimed at assessing the knowledge of the basic subjects of the scientific disciplinary sector to which the subject of the position belongs, the suitability for carrying out the activity under the position, as well as the evaluation of knowledge of the English language and/or other languages relevant to the research (as reported in 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) and b), 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=IPDOC> (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=IPDOC>), in the section dedicated to the procedure, the following will be published:

- Assessment scores for criteria a) and b);
- 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.

Please note that the English version is provided for courtesy and information purposes only. 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 sole legally binding text. For the full Italian version see: <https://bandi.unipi.it/public/Bandi?type=IPDOC> (on the selection procedure page).

Selection code post-doc_fil2026_1

Department of Philology, Literature and Linguistics

**GSD 10/GLOT-01 - Theories and history of languages
SSD GLOT-01/A - Historical and General Linguistics**

**Supervisor of the appointee's activities:
Prof. Alessandro Lenci**

Title of the activities covered by the appointment:

Development of a RAG System for Efficient and Effective Access to Large Multimodal Data Collections

Activities to be carried out (covered by the appointment):

European public service media produce an enormous amount of content every day, including news broadcasts, documentaries, podcasts, educational programs, and more. The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) collects a large portion of this content through its News Pilot / Digital News and Data Hub platform, which processes more than 3,000 news stories per day (approximately one-third of which include audio or video) and has accumulated nearly 5 million articles.

Building on this secure and trusted archive, the EBU has developed NEO, a chatbot that enables journalists and citizens to explore European news through natural language conversations. At present, NEO is a text-to-text system: it processes text and generates textual responses. This represents a significant limitation for public broadcasters, whose distinctive value lies precisely in their rich audiovisual content.

The new research project aims to transform NEO into a truly multimodal system, capable of both understanding and interacting through multiple modalities, including text, audio, and video. The core concept behind this evolution is that of "liquid content": information no longer exists in a single fixed form but can fluidly adapt across different formats. The project's objective is to enable content to flow seamlessly between media formats, allowing users to access information wherever they are and in the form that best suits their specific context and needs.

Specific responsibility relating to the activities of the appointment and functions to be performed:

The project will be developed in progressive stages, each introducing a new capability:

1. Enhanced multimodal retrieval and reasoning. The system will leverage enriched transcripts—including speaker identification and attribution—to incorporate audio and video content into its retrieval and reasoning processes.
2. Multimodal response generation. NEO will be able to answer users using the format that best matches their query, such as text enriched with embedded video clips, automatically generated podcasts, or short video summaries combining synthetic narration with verbatim quotations from speakers.
3. Expansion beyond news. The system will extend beyond news reporting to cover the full range of public service media content, including documentaries, conferences, and cultural, educational, and lifestyle programming.

The initial working language will be English, while multilingual support and automatic translation will be integrated into the user experience from the outset.

The project's success will be evaluated according to three key criteria:

- The absence of AI hallucinations.
- Deep content understanding that is meaningful and accurate from a human perspective.
- High-quality user experience.

To support evaluation at scale, the project will rely extensively on LLM-as-a-Judge protocols, using advanced large language models to monitor and assess the quality and performance of the system.

Maximum number of publications that candidates may submit, including the doctoral thesis, if submitted: 5

Language skills:
English language

Date, time and mode of the interview:

31st August 2026 at 10:00 am in telematic mode

The interview will be conducted in Italian