



The University of Pisa announces public selection procedures for the award of 1 research assignment in accordance with Article 22 ter 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 assignment (tutor) and the functions to be performed, as well as the scientific disciplinary area, are provided.

Deadline for submitting the application: 15th September 2026 at 1 p.m.

Contract duration: 32 months

All-inclusive annual administrative gross amount: € 28.000

Admission requirements:

- Master's Degree obtained no more than six years prior to the application deadline (pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 270/2004, or specialist degrees awarded pursuant to Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999, and degree diplomas awarded under the regulations in force prior to Ministerial Decree no. 509/1999, deemed equivalent to the above-mentioned Master's Degrees pursuant to the Interministerial Decree of 9 July 2009). Only candidates holding a master's degree obtained no more than six years prior to the application deadline are eligible to apply. Candidates who fail to meet this requirement will lose the right to be awarded the research assignment.

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 assignment under consideration (specifically indicating: date/duration, place of completion, etc.);
- b) A Master's Degree. Candidates holding a foreign master degree must submit the documents and elements useful for the assessment of equivalence to be carried out by the selection board; 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 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 by accessing the system without the SPID/CIE digital identifier, the applicant's signature is mandatory;
- If submitted by accessing with the SPID/CIE digital identifier, 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 assignment 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 assignment 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 assignment under consideration;

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

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

Applicants for this selection are required to consult the University website at <https://bandi.unipi.it/public/Bandi?type=IRIC> (on the selection procedure page).

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

- Assessment scores for criteria a) and b);
- 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=IRIC> (on the selection procedure page).

Selection code inc-ric_med2026_2

Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine

GSD 06/MEDS-05 Internal Medicine - 06/MEDS-02 Experimental Medicine, Pathophysiology and Clinical Pathology

SSD MEDS-05/A Internal Medicine - MEDS-02/A Experimental Medicine and Pathophysiology

Project FOREUM Career Grant 111

**Supervisor of the appointee's activities (tutor):
Dott.ssa Valentina Pucino**

Title of the activities covered by the appointment:

Investigating fibroblast/macrophage crosstalk via lactate in rheumatoid arthritis

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

The collaborator will be involved in carrying out experimental research activities within the project "Investigating fibroblast/macrophage crosstalk via lactate in rheumatoid arthritis" (Forum 111), under the supervision of Prof. Valentina Pucino.

The planned activities include:

Primary cell cultures of synovial fibroblasts and macrophages from patients affected by rheumatoid arthritis; Establishment and optimization of co-culture assays to study fibroblast/macrophage interactions mediated by lactate;

Application of molecular biology techniques and cell culture methods (Western blot, qPCR, ELISA, flow cytometry, immunofluorescence);

Analysis of data from cellular metabolism studies and inflammatory signaling pathways;

Transcriptomic and metabolomic data analysis;

Contribution to the preparation of scientific reports, conference presentations, and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

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

A postdoctoral experience in immunology and/or cell biology is required, with proven expertise in the following areas:

- Documented experience in laboratory techniques for the study of immunology and inflammation (primary cell cultures, flow cytometry, molecular biology techniques);
- Familiarity with in vitro models of autoimmune diseases, preferably rheumatoid arthritis or related rheumatological disorders;
- Knowledge of metabolic reprogramming mechanisms in immune cells;
- Processing of transcriptomic (RNA-seq, single-cell RNA-seq) and/or proteomic data;
- Use of bioinformatics pipelines and statistical tools (R, Python, or equivalents);

Ability to work independently, aptitude for working in a multidisciplinary team, and a good command of scientific English.

Maximum number of publications that candidates may submit, including the doctoral thesis, if submitted: 2

Language skills:

English language