

# The Minister of University and Research

(Courtesy translation)

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** Chap. 1694 of the forecast budget of the Ministry for the financial year 2022, 2023 and 2024 assigned to the operational costs of universities and university consortiums;

**CONSIDERING** the art. 6 of the ministerial decree n. 581 of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, regarding the criteria for the distribution of funds to universities for the year 2022, registered at the National Audit Office on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022, Reg. 1968, art. 7 of the ministerial decree n. 809 of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023, relating to the criteria for the distribution of the ordinary funding fund for universities for the year 2023, registered at the National Audit Office on 21<sup>th</sup> July 2023, Regulation 2088 and art. 8 of the ministerial decree n. 1170 of 07<sup>th</sup> August 2024, relating to the criteria for the distribution of the ordinary funding fund for universities for the year 2024, registered at the National Audit Office on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Reg. 2400, with which, for each financial year, 8.500.000 euro are allocated to the continuation of the Programme “Rita Levi Montalcini for young researchers” for young Italian and foreign scholars and experts, in possession of a doctoral degree or equivalent position for less than six years, and employed permanently abroad in research or teaching activities for at least three years. The Programme is aimed at supporting research programmes offered autonomously by Italian universities, through contracts foreseen by art. 24, paragraph 3 of the Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, no. 240, on the basis of criteria and methodologies defined by Ministerial decree;

**CONSIDERING** Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, n. 240 – as amended by article 14 of the legislative decree of 30 April 2022, n. 36, converted with amendments by law 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022 n 79, and in particular the following paragraphs of the art. 24, *Temporary Researchers*:

3. The fixed-term university researcher contract has a total duration of six years and is not renewable. The awarding of the contract is incompatible with any other employment relationship subordinated to public or private entities, with research contracts subscribed with other universities or public research bodies, with doctoral scholarships and in general with any scholarship of any kind awarded by national or foreign institutions, except in the case where this is aimed at international mobility for research reasons. For the duration of the relationship established with the contract holder, periods spent on maternity or paternity leave or leave for health reasons according to current legislation are not counted, at the request of the contract holder.

4) The contracts referred to in paragraph 3 may provide for full-time or part-time contracts. The overall annual commitment to carry out teaching activities, supplementary teaching and student services is equal to 350 hours for the full-time regime and 200 hours for the part-time regime.

5) Within the resources available for recruitment planning, from the end of the third year and for each of the subsequent years of duration of the contract, upon request of the interested party, the University evaluates the holder of the contract who has obtained the national scientific qualification referred to in the art. 16, for the enrollment as Associated Professor, pursuant to article 18, paragraph 1, letter e). The evaluation takes place in accordance with the internationally recognized quality standards, identified with specific university regulations within the criteria established by decree of the Minister. The procedure is advertised on the university website. In the event of a positive outcome of the evaluation, the contract holder is recruited as Associated professor. The recruitment planning referred to in art. 18, paragraph 2, ensures the availability of the necessary resources in the event of a positive outcome of the evaluation procedure.

5-bis the evaluation referred to in paragraph 5 provides, in any case, carrying out of an test of teaching skills within the scientific-disciplinary group of reference.

**CONSIDERING** that for the holders of the contracts referred to in paragraph 3 of the art. 24 of law 30 December 2010, n. 240, the gross annual salary is equal to the initial salary which is raised up to the researcher confirmed full-time gross annual salary to a maximum of 30 percent;

**CONSIDERING** to update the provisions of art. 6 of the ministerial decree. n. 581 of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and to the art. 7 of the ministerial decree n. 809 of 07<sup>th</sup> July 2023 so that the duration of the feasible research programs is aligned with the

duration of the contracts referred to the art. 24, paragraph 3, of law number 240/2010 as amended by art. 14 of legislative decree no. 36/2022;

**CONSIDERING** art. 29, paragraph 7, of the law of December 30<sup>th</sup> 2010, no. 240, which, amending article 1, paragraph 9, of law no. 230 of 2005, gives to the Minister of Education, University and Research, having consulted the National Quality Assurance Agency for University and Research and the National University Council, the task to identify the research programmes financed by the European Union or by the Ministry of Education, University and Research, whose winners may be directly hired to the roles of full professors, associate professor or temporary researcher by the Universities;

**CONSIDERING** the art. 2, paragraph 1, letter a) of the ministerial decree 919 of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2022, entitled "Identification of high-level research programs, financed by the EU or by the Ministry of Education, University and Research", referred to in the art. 1, paragraph 9, of law 4<sup>th</sup> November 2005, number 230, and subsequent amendments, which states that the winners of the Programme for young researchers "Rita Levi Montalcini", for the implementation of the programme itself, will be directly hired to the role of temporary researchers as defined by article 24, paragraph 3, of the Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010 no. 240;

**HAVING TO** define the procedures for submitting the applications, for the selection of proposals and for the payment of the available resources pursuant to art. 6 of the ministerial decree n. 581 of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, of article 7 of the ministerial decree n. 809 of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and art. 8 of the ministerial decree n. 1170 of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024;

## STATES

### ART. 1

1.The programme for the recruitment of young researchers following art. 6, of the ministerial decree number no. 581 of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022 of article 7 of the ministerial decree n. 809 of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and art. 8 of the ministerial decree n. 1170 of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024, concerns scholars of all nationalities who have been awarded a Doctoral degree or equivalent and who are carrying out teaching or post-doc research activities abroad from at least three years.

2.Therefore, under penalty of exclusion, applicants should be in possession of both of the following requirements:

- a) Scholars who have been awarded their doctoral Degree, or equivalent, after the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 and by the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. The awarding date corresponds to the date of the final exam, as stated in the art. 6, paragraph 3, of the Ministerial Decree no. 224 of the 30<sup>th</sup> of April 1999 or to the date of the final public discussion of the approved thesis according to the art. 8, paragraph 6, of the Ministerial Decree, no. 45 of 8<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The limit of the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 may be anticipated in cases of maternity or paternity leave, for serious and documented illness and for national service (military or civil service) of a period equal to the suspension of the PhD programme, issued by the university, for the before mentioned reasons, as foreseen by the art. 6, paragraph 2 of the above mentioned Ministerial Decree no. 224/1999 as well as the internal university regulations for research doctorates referred to in art. 5 of the ministerial decree 8 February 2013, n. 45, provided however that, in this case, the achievement of the title of research doctorate, or equivalent, cannot be prior to 30 April 2015;
- b) Scholars who, at the date of the application submission, have been permanently and continuously employed abroad for at least three years in teaching or research activities in qualified universities or research institutions. The term "permanently" refers to an active and continuous commitment, of at least 30 months within the three years. The activities realized abroad on the basis of study grants or sponsorships obtained in Italy cannot be included as part of the three years period conducted abroad. During the three years previous to the submission of the application, **the scholars must not have covered any formal position at a university or other bodies/institutions, within the territory of the Italian State (such as temporary researchers, research fellowships, contracts, doctorates, or enrollment in doctorate programme in co-tutorship with foreign universities and research centers, beneficiaries of study grants).**

### ART. 2

1. Based on the availability referred to in the art. 6 of the ministerial decree 581 of 24<sup>th</sup> June 2022, pursuant to art. 7 of the ministerial decree n. 809 of 7<sup>th</sup> July 2023 and pursuant to art. 8 of the ministerial decree n. 1170 of 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024, are advertised 54 fixed-term researcher positions (full-time), pursuant to art. 24, paragraph 3, of law 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, n. 240.

### **ART. 3**

1. Applications must be submitted, with reference to those Universities that have declared their availability to take part in the call, exclusively via Internet on the MUR-CINECA website (<https://bandomontalcini.mur.gov.it> – login Giovani Ricercatori), within and not later than thirty days from the publication of the present Decree in the Official Journal. Applications must include:

- curriculum vitae of the applicant;
- list of scientific publications;
- a publication realized during the previous three years;
- self-certification, or certification, as foreseen by the art. 3 of the decree of the President of the Italian Republic n. 445/2000, of continuous residence abroad, in a position involving teaching or research activities for at least three years at the date of the application submission and with a maximum interruption period of up to 6 months, together with the declaration that any formal position at a university or other bodies/institutions has not been covered in the same period within the territory of the Italian State, according to the art. 1, paragraph 2 of the present decree;
- the research programme, with a maximum duration of six years, which must specify: the context of the research, the foreseen methodology, the foreseen results and different stages of the programme; the cost of the research which must be directly correlated with the activity of the scholar at the institution where the programme will be conducted;
- name, institution and email address of two foreign experts, who will provide each a confidential recommendation letter;
- indication, in order of preference, of five state universities - with the exception of those that have declared their unwillingness to accept the researchers who should won the present call -, including special institutions, where the applicant intends to conduct the research activity. The list of institutions will be communicated to the Committee foreseen at art. 4, once the final classification by merit is completed;
- self-certification, or certification, under the art. 3 of the decree of the President of the Italian Republic n. 445/2000, of the possible period of suspension of the PhD course as foreseen by art. 1, paragraph 2 of the present decree;
- copy of the title of PhD, in the case of a doctorate degree obtained abroad, accompanied by the documentation certifying the equivalence with the Italian doctorate degree in accordance to the current regulations. In the case of non-availability at the time of submission of the application, such documentation must be produced at the time of acceptance by the successful candidate in accordance with article 4 of this Decree.

### **ART. 4**

1. The selection of applications is entrusted to a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Italian University Rectors' Conference, and four scholars of high scientific and internationally recognized profile, nominated by the Minister, with the task of expressing motivated evaluations of the scientific qualifications of the candidates and the scientific profile of the research projects. When needed, the Committee makes use of competent anonymous reviewers for the assessment of applications. The allocation of available places is based on the number of applications, the quality of the candidates and the relevance of the projects.

2. Upon completion of the assessment stage, the Committee classifies, according to lists of priorities distinguished by general area, all the applications that are positively assessed and proposes to the Ministry those to be funded in relation to the available resources.

3. The lists of priorities and the resulting list of the 54 selected applications is approved by the Minister and published on the Ministry web site. Subsequently the Ministry contacts the selected candidates, who are asked to confirm their acceptance within 30 days. It is possible, in exceptional cases and following a corresponding request with specific reasons, within the aforementioned period of 30 days, to indicate, as first choice, a university location other than the five previously identified, as well as change the order of preference of the Institutions indicated at the time of the application

4. Subsequently, the Ministry contacts the institutions, taking into account the order of preference indicated by the selected candidates.

5. Within 45 days, the above mentioned institutions must send to the Ministry the resolution of the Administrative Board including the commitment to sign a contract according to the art. 24, paragraph 3) letter b) of the Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, no. 240, and the commitment of the university department to provide adequate resources and support the research or, alternatively, the statement of non acceptance of the selected candidate.

6. The winners subscribe the contract and take service at the university within 8 months following the resolution of the Administrative Board.

7. In cases of non-acceptance of a contract, of failure to take service by a winner, or in the case of non-acceptance by any of the five universities indicated by the winner in the order expressed in the application, the winner is declared dismissed. In this case, the other candidates in the list of priorities will be consulted in order of classification within the 12 months following the publication of the same list of priorities on the Ministerial web site.

8. The Ministry will also provide funds for the cost considered admissible for the execution of the research programme, which must not include costs resulting from the utilization of external personnel.

9. The contract agreed with the university regulates the exclusive full time employment of the researcher at the university pursuant to the Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, no. 240 as noted in premise. If, during the course of the contract, the researcher becomes the winner of other research programs, an *addendum* to the contract will be required which, in any case, may not lead to an increase in remuneration but only to a reshaping of the commitment to the project, however the commitment must stay at least equal to 70% of the total. This amendment must be communicated to the Ministry which, at the end of the contract, will proceed with the recovery of any sums (part of the cost of the contract) reported in other research projects.

## **ART. 5**

1. The Ministry, following the subscription of the contract, transfers to the university the entire sum agreed for the conduction of the research activity and for the payment of the salary to the researcher involved, determined as 120 percent of the salary for a confirmed full time researcher, as foreseen by art. 24, paragraph 8, of the Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, no. 240. In cases of anticipated termination of the contract, the Ministry will recover the remaining funds from the university through the operational fund.

## **ART. 6**

1. Within 90 days before the end of each year of the contract, the researcher will present a detailed report on the research conducted during the period of reference, and a final report upon termination of the contract to the university department at which they conduct their research activity. The abovementioned final report, together with the evaluation by the department, will be forwarded to the Ministry within 30 days. At the end of the contract the department is also requested to present to the Ministry a financial report of the project.

2. According to art. 24, paragraph 5, of the Law of 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010, no. 240, concerning the resources available for multiannual planning, the university, starting from the conclusion of the third year of the contract, will assess whether the contract holder has achieved scientific habilitation foreseen by article 16 of Law 240 of 2010, for the purposes of nomination as associate professor according to article 18, paragraph 1, letter e), of the same Law. In cases of a positive

assessment, the contract holder, upon termination of the contract, is employed as an associate professor. The assessment will be conducted in compliance with internationally acknowledged quality standards identified in a specific university regulation in line with criteria stipulated by the Ministerial Decree 4<sup>th</sup> August 2011 no. 344. In these cases, the Ministry will recover the remaining funds from the university through the operational fund.

3. The Ministry, taking into account the results of the previous calls of the Programme for young researchers “Rita Levi Montalcini”, monitors the outcomes of the recruitment of researchers according to the present decree, in the twelve months following the end of their contracts, also in order to verify the efficacy of this instrument to pursue quality and attractiveness objectives of the university system and in preparation of the adoption of next calls of the programme.

#### **ART. 7**

1.No financial burdens are foreseen on the forecast budget of the Ministry of University and Research in relation to the operation of the Committee as per art. 4.

#### **ART. 8**

1.Pursuant to Legislative Decree no. 196/2003 and to EU Regulation 679/2016, the Ministry of University and Research – Directorate General of Higher Education Institutions, Largo Antonio Ruberti, 1, 00153 Rome is the controller of personal data provided by the candidates to the Programme “Rita Levi Montalcini for young researchers”. These data are collected, for the purposes of managing the proposals presented by the scholars, by the data controllers, through the consortium CINECA, via Magnanelli n. 6/3 40033, Casalecchio di Reno, according to the methods provided by this decree. The person responsible for the processing of personal data is identified in CINECA Director.

2.The provision of data is mandatory for the evaluation of the candidates for the purpose of identifying the 54 winning subjects referred to in Articles 2 and 4 of this decree and for the management of the relative procedures.

3.The aforementioned information is disseminated exclusively in the cases and in the manner prescribed by this decree.

4.Interested parties may assert their rights under the Legislative Decree n. 196/2003 and EU Regulation 679/2016 with respect to the subjects mentioned above.

#### **ART. 9**

The Ministry reserves the right to request additional information from researchers hired under this legal provision, should they contribute, according to the principle of additionality, to the achievement of the targets connected to the PNRR.

This decree will be sent to the National Audit Office for prior checking of legitimacy and to the competent office for prior checking of accounting regularity, as well as published in the Official Gazette and on the Ministry's website

THE MINISTER  
*Sen. Anna Maria Bernini*