

Subject: Public selection procedure for the recruitment of 1 fixed-term researcher position with full-time commitment under Article 24, paragraph 3, letter a) of Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010 (prior to the reform introduced by Law No. 79 of June 29, 2022), funded by the resources allocated to the National Plan for Supplementary Investments to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, in relation to the "DARE-Digital Lifelong Prevention" Project Initiative.

THE DIRECTOR

- Considering** Regulation (EU) No. 2021/241 of 12/02/2021, establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility;
- Considering** the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), approved by the ECOFIN Council Decision on July 13, 2021, notified to Italy by the General Secretariat of the Council with note LT161/21 on July 14, 2021;
- Considering** the decree of the Minister of Economy and Finance of July 15, 2021, allocating resources to the Ministry of University and Research for "Research Initiatives for Innovative Technologies in the Health and Care Sector";
- Considering** Directorial Decree No. 931 of June 6, 2022, which issued the Call for Granting Funding for Research Initiatives for Innovative Technologies in the Health and Care Sector, funded by the resources provided for in the National Plan for Supplementary Investments (PNC) to the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, as identified by Decree-Law No. 59 of May 6, 2021, converted, with amendments, by Law No. 10 of July 1, 2021;
- Considering** Directorial Decree No. 1511 of September 30, 2022, which approved the ranking of submitted Initiative proposals, with the University of Bologna ranked 3rd for the DARE Initiative - Digital Lifelong Prevention - PCN0000002 - CUP B53C22006450001;
- Considering** Directorial Decree prot. No. 1985, which grants the benefits to the PNC_0000002 initiative named "DARE - Digital Lifelong Prevention" proposed by Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna;
- Referring to** the notice published in the Official Gazette - 4th special series of January 2nd, 2024, in which the University of Bologna issued a selection notice for the assignment of one fixed-term research contract under Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010, Art. 24, paragraph 3, letter a) (prior to the reform introduced by Law No. 79 of June 29, 2022), funded by the resources of the National Plan for Supplementary Investments (PNC) to the PNRR;
- Referring to** the provisions of Article 13 of this notice;

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- Recalling** the resolution of the Council of the Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati" – STAT dated April 20, 2023, requesting the activation of a fixed-term researcher position of type a) (Junior);
- Recalling** the Decree of the Director of the Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati" – STAT No. 147 dated May 10, 2023, wherein essential information for the issuance of the announcement has been provided;
- In view** of the resolution of the Board of Directors on May 30, 2023, approving the activation requests mentioned above;
- Considering** that the teaching and research needs highlighted by the Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati" – STAT can be addressed through the issuance of a selection procedure

HEREBY STATES

Art. 1 – Purpose

A competitive evaluation procedure based on qualifications and public discussion is hereby announced for the recruitment of one fixed-term researcher position under Article 24, paragraph 3, letter a) (junior) of Law No. 240/2010 (prior to the reform introduced by Law No. 79 of June 29, 2022), Sector competition reference 13/D1 - Statistics, Scientific sector SECS-S/01 - Statistics.

The job is activated for the needs of research and study of the Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati" - STAT of the Alma Mater Studiorum - University di Bologna.

Serving primarily at the Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati" - STAT, in Bologna.

The contract shall last three years. An annual gross total amount equal to € 36.840,00 will be corresponded to the researcher. The annual increase in this amount will be calculated according to the existing procedure for non-contracted personnel.

The contracts will be funded by the resources allocated to the National Plan for Supplementary Investments (PNC) to the PNRR.

Art. 2 – Activities to be performed

The contract includes 350 hours of supplementary teaching and assistance to students, for each academic year covered by the contract. The contract shall schedule 60 hours of teaching on annual basis.

Concerning the provisions of art. 10 of the Reg. regarding fixed term researchers, issued by Rectoral Decree no. 344 of March 29th 2011 and amendments, the researcher's activities must be linked to the development of the project: "Statistical learning methods for digital prevention".

The research activities will be mainly targeted at developing and applying statistical learning methods to digital prevention efforts. More specifically, the planned activity and analyses relate to:

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1. Estimation and validation of predictive models using supervised classification techniques, such as decision trees, random forests, neural networks and novel strategies based on quantiles to identify individuals at risk of developing preventable health conditions.
2. Exploration and clustering of digital health data using unsupervised classification techniques, such as k-means clustering, hierarchical clustering, and mixture models, to identify patterns and subgroups of individuals with distinct risk factors or health behaviors.
3. Integration of supervised and unsupervised classification methods to improve the precision and personalization of digital prevention strategies, and their evaluation using cross-validation strategies in simulated and real data.

The scientific outputs of the researcher to be delivered within the 3 years will be targeted at the publication of two journal articles and two working papers on relevant subjects in relation to the research project topic.

Art. 3 – Admission requirements

The selection is open to applicants, including those who come from non-EU countries, in possession of PhD or equivalent qualification obtained in Italy or abroad.

In any case, applicants must be in possession of qualification at the date of the deadline for the submission of applications to the present selection.

In case of a Ph.D. obtained abroad, it is necessary to attach the decree of academic recognition of the degree (so-called decree of equivalence, as provided for by Article 74 of Presidential Decree No. 382/1980). This requirement applies to those who already possess it. Alternatively, the recognition decision of the degree for the purpose of participating in competitions for researcher positions in universities and public research institutions must be provided, in accordance with Legislative Decree No. 206/2007 - amended by Legislative Decree No. 15/2016 (for EU degrees) - and Presidential Decree No. 394/99, Article 49 (for non-EU degrees). In the meantime, before the competent authorities issue the recognition decision, it is possible to submit the receipt confirming the submission of the recognition request.

For more information on the procedures for the recognition of foreign degrees, it is recommended to consult the university's web page regarding "Non-academic recognition to participate in researcher competitions" at the following address: <https://www.unibo.it/en/teaching/enrolment-transfers-and-degrees/recognition-of-a-foreign-degree-1>.

In any case, the proof of the equivalence of the foreign qualification must be produced to the administration prior to beginning service and, anyhow, within 180 days from the publication of the approval decree of the procedure on the official university bulletin, otherwise the exclusion from the position of winning candidate occurs.

Applications from professors, associate professors, or researchers with tenure will not be accepted, even if the applicant is not in service.

The selection is not open to any persons who are related by blood up to the fourth degree, to a professor working in the Department that proposed the activation of the single contract, or to the Rector, Director General or a member of the Board of Governors of the University.

Furthermore, the selection is not open to anyone who has had research fellowship or fixed-term researcher contracts at the University of Bologna or any other state-funded, private-funded or distance-learning Italian university pursuant to articles 22 and 24 of Italian Law 240/2010, or with any other body listed in paragraph 1 of Art. 22 of Italian Law 240/2010 for a period which, summed to the foreseen duration of this contract, exceeds a total of 12 years, even if not consecutive. For the purposes of the duration of the above-described periods, in compliance with the laws in force any periods of maternity or sick leave shall not be calculated.

State employees may on unpaid leave for the entire duration of the contract, thus occupying a non-tenure position without pay or social security contributions, in cases where such a position is allowed by the structure of origin, likewise without pay or social security contributions.

Art. 4 – Application procedure

The submission of the applications for participation in the selections must be made exclusively via electronic procedure by accessing the following link:

<https://personale.unibo.it>

Call deadline: January 18th, 2024 at 12:00 (noon, Italian Time).

The application must be submitted at the same time with the insertion of all the attached documentation required.

The following documents shall be enclosed to the electronic application form (preferably files:

PDF, other supported files: JPG, BMP, PNG):

1. identification document scanned (10MB max);
2. curriculum vitae with indication of the scientific-professional activity (10MB max);
3. reference letters, if any. Letters can be submitted directly by the candidate uploading it during the application, in case of possession (10MB max), or can be submitted by the referee. In this case candidates should provide the referee e-mail address. When the application is closed, the system will send an automatic request to the referee, referring to the candidate and the procedure. The referee must submit his letter through the link into the e-mail. At this address he/she will upload his/her letter by the application deadline in order to be considered as part of the candidate's application.
4. scientific publications (other supported files are TIFF and PS, 20MB max each document) which are already printed at the date of the call of application deadline, or scientific publications accepted for printed, together with the editor acceptance letter. While uploading each document will be asked to indicate the title, the authors' names, the editor, the year of publication. Optional information are the month, the ISBN code, the DOI code, the booklet number.

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Pursuant to Ministerial Decree 243/11, the PhD thesis is considered a publication, and thus if presented by the candidate it shall be included in the maximum number indicated (12 publications).

While applying, applicants shall declare under their own responsibility:

1. surname and name;
2. place and date of birth;
3. citizenship;
4. residence address;
5. (if Italian citizens) registration to electoral rolls. If any, the reasons why he/she is not registered or cancelled from them;
6. that there have not been any criminal proceeding against them or current criminal proceedings; otherwise, applicants shall specify the proceedings against them (the date of the measure and the judicial authority that issued it) and pending penal proceedings. The existence of a previous criminal conviction is not in itself an impediment to hiring, unless it is a conviction for a crime that prevents the establishment of the employment relationship with the public administration as it derives from the interdiction from public office, or the inability to contract with the public administration, or the termination of the employment relationship (articles 28, 29, 32-ter, 32-quater, 32-quinquies of the Criminal Code, articles 3,4, 5, L. 97 of March 27, 2001). In other cases, the Administration will ascertain the gravity of the criminally relevant facts committed by the person concerned, for the purposes of access to public employment. This check is carried out with the aim of ascertaining the existence of the fiduciary element which constitutes the fundamental prerequisite of the relationship between employer and worker, as well as for the purpose of assessing the existence of the requisites of moral suitability and aptitude to carry out activities as a public employee;
7. to have or not to have benefited of non-voluntary leave periods due to maternity/paternity compulsory abstention or for serious health reasons, indicating the periods in case
8. possession of the qualification required pursuant to Art. 3 of this call for application and the mark obtained, if any;
9. to be fit to the employment the selection refers to;
10. that they are not, nor have been, professors, associate professors or researchers with tenure, even if not in service;
11. that they are not related by blood up to the fourth degree, to any professor working in the Department that proposed the activation of the single contract, or to the Rector, Director General or a member of the Board of Governors of the University of Bologna;
12. elected e-mail address for the purpose of the participation in this contest;
13. Foreign citizens shall also declare to have a proper knowledge of Italian and to enjoy civil and political rights also in their origin countries or the reasons for loss of enjoyment.

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Any modification shall be timely communicated to the “Ricercatori a tempo determinato” Office (apos.ricercatoritempodeterminato@unibo.it).

In case of technical problems, contact the support: assistenza.cesia@unibo.it.

Art. 5 – Applicants’ obligations

The penalty of exclusion from the selection shall apply in the following cases:

- Non compliance with the terms and procedures for submitting the application form indicated in article 4 of this call for applications;
- Lack of the qualification required to participate in the selection indicated in each attachment.

All applicants shall be admitted to the contest and the Administration reserves the right to check that they actually are in possession of the requirements necessary to apply for the selections; the Administration may, at any time and even after the exams, order the exclusion from the selection hereto.

Art. 6 – Selection Board

The Selection Board will be appointed upon administration resolution and is composed of three full or associate professors belonging to the competition Scientific sector or, alternatively, to the same competition macro-sector for which the procedure is announced or of equivalent role in the case of components not coming from national universities, identified by the Department that proposed the activation of the contract.

Two of the members, external to the University, are drawn with the methods provided by the art. 8-bis of the “Regolamento per la disciplina delle chiamate dei Professori di Prima e Seconda fascia” in application of articles 18 and 24 of the Law 240/2010 issued with DR 977/2013 and s.m. A third component is identified by the Department Council among the professors inside or outside the University. As envisaged by art. 57 of Legislative Decree 165/2001, in order to guarantee equal opportunities between men and women for the access to work and work treatment, generally, at least one member is female.

The Commission appoints a president and a recording secretary between their members.

Notice of the appointment of the Selection Board will be published on Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna website.

Art. 7 – Selection procedure

The selection procedure is carried out by the Board after a preliminary evaluation of each candidate’s qualifications, curriculum and scientific production, including the doctoral thesis, according to the criterion identified by the MUIR in D.M. 243/2011.

The candidates chosen in the preliminary evaluation based on their comparative merits - between 10 and 20% of the number of applicants and not less than 6 - will then be called for interview. The interview will consist of a discussion of the candidate’s qualifications and scientific production and may take the form of a seminar open to the public. If the total number of candidates is 6 or less all candidates will be interviewed.

Any reference letters produced by the candidates will also be considered.

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The discussion will take place in English.

The discussion with the Commission will be carried out in public form and will take place starting from February 5th, 2024, in presence or electronically using the audio and video teleconferencing tool via the Teams platform (the workstation from which candidates will take the interview must be equipped with a webcam - essential for the recognition of the candidate - microphone and headphones and/or audio speakers).

Notice of the day, time and methods of conducting the public discussion (whether in presence or electronically via Teams) as well as the list of admitted candidates will be published at least 20 days before the discussion on the University website at: <https://bandi.unibo.it/docenti/rtd>.

The publication on the University website will constitute official notification to all applicants, without any obligation for any further communication.

The publication will be communicated by e-mail to the address indicated by the candidates in the application.

The Alma Mater Studiorum - University of Bologna does not assume any responsibility for the non-receipt or the not-read of the e-mail. It is up to candidates to keep themselves informed by consulting the University website page to find necessary information about selection.

Candidates attending the interview must bring a valid identification document with them. EU citizens shall bring their passport or an identity document issued by their country of origin. Non-EU citizens shall bring their passport.

Art. 8 – Individuation of the winner and recruitment

After the exams, the Board proceeds to identify the winner. On equal merits, priority will be defined according to the date of birth and the youngest one shall precede.

The procedure's acts are approved pursuant to an administration resolution and will be published in Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna Official Bulletin.

The terms to raise any appeal shall start from the date of publication of said notice, in case the resolution has not been otherwise disclosed.

In case of the winner's withdrawal, the candidate who obtained the highest overall score after the winner will be called.

The Department of Statistical Sciences "Paolo Fortunati" - STAT, will propose recruitment by a majority vote of the professors and associate professors of the Department and approved by the Board of Governors. The Department will also propose the date of commencement of employment contract.

Art. 9 – Employment procedures

Following the conclusion of the recruitment procedure referred to in art. 8, the winner will be asked to sign a fixed-term contract of full-time employment.

The employment relationship is governed by a personal contract, statutory laws and EC regulations.

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The personal contract shall specify any reasons for which it might be terminated, as well as the relevant periods of notice. In any case the contract will be terminated immediately and without notice in the event of the cancellation of the recruitment procedure to which it is inalienably linked. The trial period shall last three months. At the end of the period, unless the employment relationship has been terminated by either of the parties, the employee is confirmed for service and the whole period worked from the beginning of the contract shall be calculated for seniority purposes.

Art. 10 – Documentation required for the participation in the public selection and for hiring purposes

For the purpose of participating in the public selection, publications, documents and qualifications in English, French, German, and Spanish may be submitted in their original language.

However, scientific publications related to the subject area of the competition, in the case of selection procedures in language-related fields, may also be submitted in their original language. Documents and qualifications in other languages must be presented in their original language, accompanied by a certified translation in Italian or English.

The translation must be certified as faithful to the foreign text and can be carried out by the competent diplomatic or consular representation or by an official translator. As for the documentation required for employment purposes, any acts or documents drafted in a foreign language must be accompanied by a certified translation into Italian, faithful to the foreign text, which can be carried out by the competent diplomatic or consular representation or by an official translator.

Art. 11 – Rights and duties of a researcher with a fixed-term contract of employment

In accordance with the rights and duties of public employees prescribed by the Italian civil code, on signing the contract the researcher will be expected to perform all those activities mentioned mentioned in Art. 2.

These activities will be carried out in respect of the existing hierarchy and in coordination with existing programmes and research projects.

The researcher will perform the requested activities in person, substitution is not permitted.

Existing Italian laws concerning maternity, injury and illness will be applied.

The researcher undertakes to fulfill the obligations of conduct prescribed by the code of conduct, issued by DPR 62/2013.

Art. 12 – Processing of personal data and person in charge for the contest

Information about the processing of personal data (provided during the application process) are available at the link: www.unibo.it/privacy (Notice for participants in contests and selections published by the University).

The person in charge of the contest is Mr. Michele Menna.

For further information, please contact: “Ricercatori a tempo determinato” Office of Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna – Piazza Verdi n. 3 - Tel. +39 051 2099980 – 2098958 - 2098972,

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Fax 051 2086163; e-mail: apos.ricercatoritempodeterminato@unibo.it; Gianfranco Raffaelli is the person in charge of the office.

Art. 13 – Reference Regulations

The present notice is issued based on the following regulations:

- Art. 24 of Law no. 240 dated December 30th, 2010;
- D.P.R. (Decree of the President of the Republic) no. 445 dated December 28th, 2000;
- Leg. Decree no. 165 dated March 30th, 2001;
- Law 241/1990;
- Regulation for fixed-term researchers of Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, (link: http://www.normateneo.unibo.it/NormAteneo/Regolamento_ricercatori_a_tempo_determinato.htm).

For the Director of Area del Personale
f.to digitalmente Giovanni Longo

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