



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA

PERSONNEL
DIVISION

THE HEAD

SUBJECT: Comparative evaluation procedure based on qualifications and interview for the award of n. 1 research contract pursuant to Article 22 of Law 240/2010, as amended by Law 79/2022 for the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences - SSD AGRI-02/B - GSD 07/AGRI-02

Having regard to the Decree of the Director of the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences of 06/10/2025, requesting the activation of 1 research contract using the funds of the ECO_PROGETTI_COMPETITIVI_FRANCESCO_ORSINI and ECO_RICERCA_COMMISSIONATA_FRANCESCO_ORSINI projects;

Considered that on 24/06/2025 the Board of Governors approved the request for the activation of the research contracts;

Considered that that the above-mentioned research needs represented by the Department of of Agricultural and Food Sciences can be satisfied by announcing a public selection procedure;

Having regard to the provisions referred to in Article 13 of this notice;

ORDERS

Art. 1 - Purpose

A procedure of comparative evaluation by qualifications and interview is called for the award of n. 1 research contract pursuant to Article 22 of Law 240/2010, as amended by Law 79/2022, in the framework of the project "Development of optical diagnostic systems for the management of mineral nutrition and irrigation in horticultural crops", SSD AGRI-02/B – Vegetable and Ornamental crops, GSD 07/AGRI-02 – AGRONOMY AND FIELD, VEGETABLE, ORNAMENTAL CROPPING SYSTEMS.

The contract is activated on the basis of the request made by the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences of Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna. The contractor's main place of employment will be Bologna.

The contract will last two years. The gross annual salary of the employee for each contract, including the thirteenth month's salary, is equal to € 38.986,47.

Art. 2 – Activities to be performed

Only research activities related to the specific research project, the implementation of which is linked to the signing of a contract, are envisaged. This activity will be carried out under the supervision of a scientific supervisor identified by the Department of Agricultural and Food Sciences in Professor Francesco Orsini.

The time to be dedicated to research project activities is 1720 hours per year. Contractors will coordinate their work in consultation with their Scientific Supervisor regarding the organisational

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aspects of the project. The performance of the research activity must be self-certified on a monthly basis and validated by the Scientific Supervisor.

The activities that each awardee will have to develop are linked to the project: “Development of optical diagnostic systems for the management of mineral nutrition and irrigation in horticultural crops”.

Description of the main research activities entrusted: The research will focus on the main applications of diagnostic tools for the assessment of water and nutritional status in horticultural species. The tests will be carried out both in open air crops and in plants grown in a controlled environment (greenhouse, vertical farm). The main skills required include the cultivation of species of horticultural interest, the use of image analysis techniques (collected both through the use of low-cost manual diagnostic tools and from satellite image inventories), also through the use of machine learning techniques. The areas of intervention concern both high-tech agricultural contexts (e.g. Italian and European), and projects related to the adoption of simplified technologies in agriculture in Mediterranean Africa (e.g. PRIMA FrontAgNexus) and Sub-Saharan Africa (e.g. HorizonInCitisFood).

Objectives of scientific productivity: The objectives of research productivity aim to the publication of at least 4 scientific articles in international journals indexed in ISI/Scopus, concerning the research carried out and consistent with the scientific sector AGRI/02b “Vegetable and Ornamental crops”, to participate in at least 2 national or international scientific conferences and to participate in at least 1 competitive call for national or international research projects (as either principal investigator or researcher).

Art. 3 – Admission requirements

Candidates, including citizens of countries outside the European Union, holding a doctorate or an equivalent qualification obtained in Italy or abroad on the closing date for applications are eligible for selection.

Candidates enrolled in the final year of a doctoral course may also be admitted to the selection, provided that the degree is expected to be obtained by the deadline of six months following the date of publication of this selection notice.

In the case of a PhD obtained abroad, it is necessary to:

1. Attach the decree of academic recognition of the degree (issued pursuant to art. 74 of Presidential Decree no. 382/1980, ex equivalency, or art. 38 of Legislative Decree 165/2001), for those who already possess it by the deadline of the call;
2. Request the University of Bologna, at the application stage, the procedure for the recognition of the foreign degree pursuant to Article 38, paragraph 3.2 of Legislative Decree no. 165/2001. In this case, the candidate undertakes to send the necessary documentation to the following e-mail address apos.contrattidiricerca@unibo.it or certified mail address (scriviunibo@pec.unibo.it) should he/she be successful. The recognition procedure has a maximum duration of 45 days from the delivery of all the necessary documentation to the office;

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3. As a last resort, attach a copy of the receipt for the start of the equivalence procedure, as provided for in art. 38 of Legislative Decree 165/2001. The form for requesting equivalence of foreign qualifications can be found at: [Forms for equivalence of qualifications](#). Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 3 of art. 38 of Legislative Decree 165/2001, as amended by Law 69/2025, the Department of Public Service concludes the recognition procedure only for the winners, who have the obligation, under penalty of forfeiture, to submit a request for recognition within fifteen days of the publication of the final ranking, to the Ministry of University and Research. It is specified that the deadline for concluding the procedure for issuing the provision for recognition of the foreign qualification by the Department of Public Service, upon opinion of the Ministry, is 150 days from the request and is suspended in the event that it is necessary to integrate the documentation. In any case, the provision must be submitted to the Administration before taking up service.

Please note that simple Declarations of Value cannot be attached.

Pending the decision referred to in point 2 or 3, you may take part in the selection on a conditional basis.

For further information on the procedures for the recognition of foreign qualifications, please consult the University's web page regarding the '[Recognition of foreign qualifications](#)'.

This selection procedure is not open to:

- tenured staff of universities, public research organisations and institutions whose postgraduate scientific diploma has been recognised as equivalent to a doctorate, in accordance with Article 74(4) of Presidential Decree No 382 of 11 July 1980;
- those who have held fixed-term assistant professorship contracts pursuant to Article 24 of Law 240 of 2010;
- those who are related, by kinship or affinity up to and including the fourth degree, to a professor of the Departments or the Structure proposing the activation of the contract, or to the Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Governors of the University.

Art. 4 – Application procedure

The application to take part in the selection must be submitted exclusively online via the Pica portal: <https://pica.cineca.it/unibo/>

Call deadline: Thursday July 24 2025 - 12:00 CET.

The application must be submitted together with all the necessary supporting documents.

The following documents must be attached to the online application, preferably in PDF format (other supported formats JPG, BMP, PNG):

1. scan of a valid identity document (max. 10MB);
2. *curriculum vitae* describing the candidate's scientific and professional activities (max. 10MB);
3. any other supporting documents that the candidate considers useful for the evaluation (e.g. list of publications, Master's degrees, postgraduate specialisation courses, scholarships and research contracts, awards and recognitions for research activities, letters of reference, etc.);

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4. the project proposal for carrying out of the research programme for which the position for which you are applying has been activated (max. 30 MB).

The following information is provided to help you submit your project proposal: The research activities will refer to the areas included in the declaration of the scientific disciplinary group 07/AGRI-02 with particular reference to the Scientific Disciplinary Sector 07_AGRI-02 Band currently addressed by the chair of horticulture of the University of Bologna, in the context of recent and current national and international research projects. The project proposal, in line with the project description and the duration of the contract (24 months), must illustrate within a maximum of 15000 characters an experimentation plan (including necessary instrumentation and implementation scheduling), the detailed analytical methodology (sampling plan, laboratory analysis, statistical analysis), a timetable of the activities (field, laboratory, drafting of peer-reviewed publications), a data management plan (formats, metadata, open-access release) and measures for risk mitigation.

Failure to attach the project proposal and/or curriculum vitae will result in the elimination of the candidate from the pre-selection procedure, as he/she will not be able to obtain the minimum score required to proceed to the interview.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that their application contains the following information:

1. name and surname;
2. place and date of birth;
3. nationality;
4. home address;
5. (for Italian citizens) whether they are registered to vote or, if not, the reasons why they are not registered or have been removed from the electoral rolls;
6. a declaration that they have not been convicted of a criminal offence and have no pending criminal proceedings; otherwise, candidates must specify the convictions (date and the judicial authority that issued it) and any pending criminal proceedings. The existence of a previous criminal conviction does not in itself constitute an obstacle to employment, unless it is a conviction for an offence which prevents the establishment of an employment relationship with the public administration as it results in disqualification from holding public office, the inability to conclude a 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, Law no. 97 of 27 March 2001). In other cases, the administration will independently assess the seriousness of the offences committed by the person concerned for the purposes of access to public employment. The purpose of this assessment is to determine whether the element of trust, which constitutes the fundamental condition of the relationship between employer and



- employee, exists and to assess whether the requirements of moral suitability and aptitude to perform the activities of a public employee are met;
7. possession of the qualification required in art. 3 of this announcement with the relevant information or enrolment in the final year of the course of study and the expected date for obtaining the qualification;
 8. to be physically fit for continuous and unconditional service for the employment to which the selection procedure relates;
 9. not permanently employed by the institutions referred to in Article 22(1) of Law 240/2010 (universities, public research organisations and institutions whose postgraduate scientific diploma has been recognised as equivalent to a doctorate in accordance with Article 74(4) of Presidential Decree 382 of 11 July 1980);
 10. that he/she has not held fixed-term assistant professorship contracts pursuant to Article 24 of Law 240 of 2010;
 11. not be related, by kinship or affinity up to and including the fourth degree, to a professor of the Department or Structure requesting the activation of the contract, or to the Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Governors of the University;
 12. to be/not to have been the holder of previous research contracts pursuant to art. 22 of Law 240/2010, as amended by Law 79/2022 and, if so, the months already enjoyed at the date of submission of the application;
 13. the e-mail address chosen for the purpose of communications;
 14. Foreign nationals must also declare that they have a sufficient knowledge of Italian and that they also enjoy civil and political rights in the country of their nationality or origin, or state the reasons why they do not.

The system allows you to save your application in draft mode. The application must be completed and submitted by the deadline, after which the computer system will prevent access to the application and its submission. Applications in "draft" status will not be taken into consideration after the deadline for submitting applications.

The candidate will receive an e-mail confirming the successful submission, which will also contain an identification number that will identify the candidate from that moment on and must be quoted in any further communication. The identification number must also be retained for the purposes of communications from the University, where the name of the recipient of the communication must be omitted for reasons of privacy.

Any changes must be reported immediately to apos.contrattidiricerca@unibo.it.

In the event of technical problems, please contact the Cineca support service, the link to which can be found at the bottom of the Calls for Application webpage <https://pica.cineca.it/unibo/>.

Art. 5 - Applicants' obligations under penalty of exclusion

Candidates will be automatically excluded from the selection procedure in the following cases:



- Failure to comply with the prescribed application submission procedures and deadlines;
- Failure to satisfy the requirement set out in Article 3 of this call for applications.

All applicants will be admitted to the selection procedure. The Administration reserves the right to verify that they meet the conditions for participation. The Administration may decide to exclude a candidate from the selection procedure at any time, even after the interview.

Art. 6 – Selection Board

The Selection Board will be appointed by a resolution of the administration and is made up of three members, professors or assistant professors, with the exception of fixed-term assistant professors (junior), designated by the department that proposed the activation of the contract and belonging to the subject group or, alternatively, the macro-sector for which the procedure is announced or by members of equivalent status if they come from foreign universities or research institutions.

In order to guarantee equal opportunities for men and women in terms of access to employment and treatment at work, as provided for by art. 57 of Legislative Decree no. 165/2001, the members are normally represented by each gender.

The Selection Board appoints a president and a recording secretary among its members.

Notice of the appointment will be published on the of the Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna website.

Art. 7 – Selection procedure

The candidates are evaluated by means of a comparative procedure based on qualifications and an interview, with the aim of verifying that the project proposals correspond to the research projects to be selected and that the candidates have a scientific-professional curriculum suitable for carrying out the research activity that is the subject of the contract.

The final score is the sum of the scores obtained in the evaluation of the project proposal and the scientific-professional curriculum and the score obtained in the interview. A maximum of 100 points will be awarded, of which a maximum of 70 points will be awarded for the preliminary evaluation and a maximum of 30 points for the evaluation of the interview.

The Board will carry out the preliminary comparative evaluation on the basis of the following criteria:

(a) the project proposal submitted by the applicants:

a.1) originality, methodological rigour, clarity and completeness of the project proposal, up to a maximum of 20 points;

a.2) consistency of the project proposal with the research project to be selected, up to a maximum of 20 points;

(b) the scientific-professional curriculum vitae of the applicants:

b.1) relevance of the qualifications to the subject of the research project to be selected, up to a maximum of 5 points;



b.2) consistency of the scientific production and its congruence with the project that is the subject of the call, up to a maximum of 10 points;

b.3) relevance of previous research activities in relation to the research project to be selected, with particular reference to what has been carried out in the three years preceding the publication of the call, (e.g.: scholarships and research contracts, awards and recognitions for research activities, any letters of reference provided by the applicants, etc.), up to a maximum of 15 points.

The Board will give a reasoned opinion and assign a relative score for each individual evaluation criterion. At the end of the pre-selection phase, candidates with a score of 50/70 or more will be invited for an interview.

The interview with the Board will be open to the public and will be conducted electronically using the audio and video teleconferencing tool via the Teams platform (the workstation from which the candidates will participate in the interview must be equipped with a webcam - essential for recognising the candidate, a microphone and headphones and/or speakers).

Notice of the day, time and the list of those admitted to the same is published with at least 15 days' notice on the University website at the page: <https://bandi.unibo.it/ricerca/contratti-ricerca>.

The information published will constitute official notification to all applicants, without any obligation for further communication.

Notice of the publication will be given to the email address indicated by the candidates in the application.

Failure to connect electronically to the interview, on the date and at the established time, or late connection, even if due to force majeure, will be considered as a waiver of participation in the selection.

The notice published also contains the scores obtained in the preliminary evaluation.

The Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna accepts no liability with regard to the email not being received or read. However, it is the candidate's responsibility to keep themselves informed by checking the website of the call for applications for information on the selection.

Candidates attending the interview must bring a valid identification document with them.

EU citizens should bring their passport or an identity document issued by their country of origin.

Non-EU citizens should bring their passport.

The aim of the interview is to assess the feasibility of the project proposal, the scientific maturity and the preparation of the candidates, with particular reference to the project to be selected.

The interview will be conducted in Italian. You will be tested on your knowledge of the foreign language: English.

A score of 21/30 or higher is required to pass the interview. For those who pass both tests, the final score will be the sum of the scores obtained in the assessment of qualifications and in the interview.



Art. 8 – Formulation of the ranking list

At the end of the interviews, the Board will draw up a merit ranking list for each call, taking into account the overall marks awarded to the candidates.

In the event of equal merit, preference will be given to the younger candidate.

The merit ranking list is approved pursuant to an administration resolution and is published on the official Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna online Bulletin. The ranking list is valid for 6 months.

The time limit for appeals starts from the date of publication of this notice, in case the resolution has not been otherwise disclosed.

If the winner of the procedure is a candidate who does not yet have the qualification required for access to the selection, the research contract can be stipulated only after the acquisition of the same qualification, which must occur within six months of the date of publication of this announcement, under penalty of forfeiture.

The candidates who are found suitable at the end of the procedure and do not yet have the required qualification, must acquire this qualification within the same terms, under penalty of forfeiture of the position occupied in the ranking.

Art. 9 - Employment procedure

The winner will be invited to sign an individual contract with a view to entering into a fixed-term employment relationship within the term given by the Administration.

The employment relationship will be governed by the individual contract, by the Regulation on Research Contracts provided for in Article 22 of Law 240/2010, as amended by Law 79/2022, by statutory laws and by EU regulations.

The individual contract specifies the grounds for termination of the contract and the notice periods. In any event, the contract shall be terminated immediately and without notice in the event of the cancellation of the recruitment process to which it is inextricably linked.

The probationary period shall be three months. At the end of this period, unless the employment relationship has been terminated by one of the parties, the employee's service will be confirmed and the entire period worked from the start of the contract will be counted for seniority purposes. Employees of public administrations other than those referred to in Article 22(1) of Law 240/2010 shall be placed on leave for the entire duration of the contract, without salary or social security contributions, or in a position outside their role, if such a position is provided for by the relevant regulations, also without salary or social security contributions.

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

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



Documents and qualifications in other languages must be submitted in the original language, accompanied by an Italian or English translation. The translation must be certified as faithful to the foreign text and may be made by the competent diplomatic or consular representation or by an official translator. In the case of documents required for employment purposes, all deeds and documents written in a foreign language must be accompanied by a certified translation into Italian, which can be made by the competent diplomatic or consular representation or by an official translator.

Art. 11 – Rights and duties of fixed term researcher

Without prejudice to the rights and obligations provided for in the Italian Civil Code with regard to employment relationships, the researcher, by signing this contract, undertakes to carry out the activities described in article 2.

The researcher shall carry out the agreed activities in accordance with the existing hierarchy in the relevant structure and in coordination with the research project.

The researcher will perform the activities in person and may not appoint substitutes.

The researcher shall be covered existing Italian laws concerning maternity, injury and illness.

The researcher undertakes to comply with the provisions of Regulation for research contract, the Regulation on Industrial and Intellectual Property, the Regulation on the Code of Conduct for the Prevention and Combating of Discrimination, Moral and Sexual Harassment and the Discipline of the Confidential Adviser(s) and the University's Code of Ethics and Conduct.

The contractor also undertakes to fulfill the training obligations regarding health and safety at work as well as regarding the protection of personal data, at the same time as starting work and, in any case, no later than 60 days.

Art. 12 – Processing of personal data and Procedure Supervisor

Information on the processing of personal data provided for the purposes of participation in the selection procedure is available at www.unibo.it/privacy (Privacy policy for participants in competitions and selections announced by the University).

The Administrative Procedure Supervisor (RPA) is Michele Menna.

For any further information on the competition procedure, please contact the Personnel Division - Selection and Contracts Sector - University of Bologna - Piazza Verdi n. 3 - Tel. +39 051 2098951 - 2099612; e-mail: apos.contrattidiricerca@unibo.it.

Art. 13 - Regulatory framework

The regulations under which this call for applications is issued are as follows:

- Article 22 of Law No. 240/2010, as amended by Law No. 79 of 29 June 2022, converting, with amendments, Decree Law no. 36 of 30 April 2022;
- Legislative Decree No. 165 of March 30, 2001;
- Presidential Decree No. 445 of December 28, 2000;
- Presidential Decree No. 487 of May 9, 1994;

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- Law No 241 of August 7, 1990;
- Regulation on Research Contracts pursuant to Article 22 of Law 240/2010 as amended by Law 79/2022¹, approved by Rector's Decree no. 493/2025 ref. no. 99679 of March 29, 2025.

Personnel Division Manager
(Dott. Michele Menna)
digitally signed

¹ [Link to the website for documentation on the University regulations](#)