UNIBS TOWARDS NEW RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES
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FOCUS ON ERC

Edited by the Servizio Ricerca e Trasferimento Tecnologico (Research and Technology Transfer Service) with the financial contribution of Fondazione Cariplo (Cariplo Foundation) and the Lombardy Region as part of the NOW ERC programme.

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INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this brochure is to offer potential foreign researchers, who intend to move to Italy to undertake research activities, a brief description of the University of Brescia and of the research project presentation procedure, an overview of the funding opportunities for research in Italy, as well as reference to calls for proposals by the European Research Council (ERC) that envisage project transfer and relative funding.

In this way, we hope to create a simple and practical tool to attract successful ERC applicants or, more generally, researchers who operate abroad, including by means of information with regard to transfer to Italy (internal application procedures, permits to stay, tax and insurance systems) and, at the same time, to assist young researchers at our university to apply for ERC calls for proposals.
UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA

The University of Brescia was officially established in 1982, building on previous courses given by the nearby Universities of Milan, Milan Polytechnic, and University of Parma. When it was founded, the University combined three Schools: Economics, Engineering, and Medicine. The School of Law was added in 1996. As a result, since November 1, 2012, the University of Brescia comprises eight departments.

THE CITY OF BRESCIA

Dating back to the Roman period, Brescia (originally Brixia), and its province lie almost at the heart of the Po Valley, between Milan and Venice, enclosed by three lakes: Lake Garda, Lake Idro and Lake Iseo. In 2016, Brescia had a population of about 200,000 inhabitants. The town is served by an excellent bus and subway system and a motorway and railway network; distances to Milan and Verona are 92 km and 67 km respectively. The nearest airports are Montichiari (VBS), Verona (VRN), Bergamo (BGY), Milan Malpensa (MXP), Milan Linate (LIN), and Venice (VCE).

The University of Brescia offers a wide range of educational programmes, with Bachelor and Master of Science (MSc) degrees, postgraduate technical courses, specialisation schools and Ph.D. programmes in most areas: business and economics, engineering and technology, law, medicine and surgery, dentistry. The University of Brescia is an important university in a city of art and culture (recognized by UNESCO) with an excellent quality of life, in one of the most important industrial and productive regions in Italy. The University of Brescia provides high quality services to its students, including international students, including: counselling services, scholarships, grants, tutoring, computer and multimedia rooms, wireless zones, libraries, on-line services, laboratories and centres of advanced scientific research. Moreover, it offers: accommodation services, dining halls, cultural activities and sports facilities, Italian language courses for foreign students.
### THE UNIVERSITY IN NUMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Educational and scientific areas</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Bachelor’s degree courses (3 years)</td>
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<td>Specialised degree or combined Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree courses</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Master’s degree courses</td>
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<td>Master courses</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Schools of specialisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>PhD courses administered by the University</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Study centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>545</td>
<td>Full Professors, Associate Professors and Research Fellows</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>183</td>
<td>Students enrolled on PhD courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>180</td>
<td>Research grants</td>
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<td>497</td>
<td>Technical-administrative personnel</td>
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<tr>
<td>14,371</td>
<td>Students enrolled in the A.Y. 2016-2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,829</td>
<td>Students enrolled in the first year of Bachelor’s degree and combined Bachelor’s and Master’s Degree courses for the A.Y. 2016-2017</td>
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</table>
OUR DEPARTMENTS

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT
The Department of Economics and Management (DEM) combines different subject fields that share common research interests and integrated educational activities. The DEM carries out research and teaching activities focused on the complexity of the economic trends. These activities combine the analysis of macroeconomic and microeconomic elements of the general economic background and the study of business management, enterprise organisational structures, as well as strategic planning.


Address: via San Faustino 74B - 25122 Brescia BS • Email: dem@cert.unibs.it

DEPARTMENT OF LAW
Established in 2012 as a continuation of the former Department of Legal Sciences, the Department of Law (DiGi) is committed to excellence in research and teaching in higher education.

The research and teaching carried out at the department cover all areas of legal knowledge and range from Constitutional, Administrative and Fiscal Law to Civil, Commercial and Labour Law, Criminal Law, Criminal and Civil Procedure, International and European Law, Canonical and Ecclesiastical Law, Roman Law, Comparative Law, Legal History and Jurisprudence. Moreover, the department hosts the Specialisation School for Legal Professions, organises a Ph.D. programme in Business and Law.

Finally, it is worth mentioning the organisation of the International Summer School and the development of the first Italian course in Clinical Legal Education within the framework of the Single-cycle programme in Law.

Address: via San Faustino 41 / via delle Battaglie 58 - 25122 Brescia BS • Email: digi@cert.unibs.it

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL, ENVIRONMENTAL, ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS
The department of Civil, Environmental, Architectural Engineering and Mathematics (DICATAM) is home to a total of about 70 academic members. Research is carried out on architecture, restoration of historical and modern buildings, building technology, structural analysis and design, seismic engineering, seismology, structural...
mechanics, geotechnical engineering, transportation, environmental engineering and waste management, fluid mechanics, hydraulic structures and hydrology, partial differential equations, mathematical models, numerical methods, algebraic and geometrical structures. The Department has hydraulics, geotechnical and structural laboratories with testing machines and facilities allowing the performance of a great number of tests. The Department has also an official testing materials laboratory, authorized by the Italian ministry of infrastructures and public works. The Department offers undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in Civil Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Architectural Engineering as well as an international programme on Civil and Environmental Engineering for Italian and foreign students, with all courses taught in English. In addition, the Department offers a Ph.D programme, about forty Ph.D. students are currently enrolled in it. The Department also includes four specific research centres. The Department has several international research and teaching collaborations.  

Address: via Branze 43 - 25123 Brescia BS • Email: dicatam@cert.unibs.it

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION ENGINEERING
The Department of Information Engineering (DII) was established in the academic year 1982/83, in conjunction with the foundation of the University of Brescia. Over the years, the department, has consolidated its role and image as a unique environment for conducting multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary studies and research for Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), including fundamental research, and it is now called the Department of Information Engineering (DII). The department’s main competences are in the following fields: Automation, Electromagnetic fields, Electronics, Physics of Fundamental Interaction, Information Technology, Electric and Electronic Measurements, Condensed Matter Physics and Telecommunications. Research is undertaken within several research and development laboratories and aims to improve both fundamental and application oriented research.  

Address: via Branze 38 - 25123 Brescia BS • Email: dii@cert.unibs.it

DEPARTMENT OF MECHANICAL AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING
The Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering (DIMI) of the University of Brescia includes more than 75 professors and researchers, divided into 18 research groups: Acoustics, Thermodynamics Engineering and Thermal Sciences, Applied Mechanics, Automotive, Chemistry for Technologies, Control Systems, Design and Methods for Industrial Engineering, Economic and Managerial Engineering, Energy Conversion Systems with
Numerical Fluid- and Gas- Dynamics, Fundamental and Applied Nuclear Physics, Industrial Systems Engineering, Intellectual Property Law and Management, Measurements, Machine Design, Mathematical Analysis, Metallurgy, Science and Technology of Materials, Sociology of Economic and Work Processes, Technologies and Manufacturing Systems. The main research projects are developed in an international context. More than 100 research agreements are active with European and extra-European institutions and companies and this trend is continuously increasing. There are 17 scientific laboratories in which staff members, research fellows, and PhD students work on basic and applied research. Patent applications are also filed on a regular basis.

DIMI is also part of the Lombardy Regional network “Questio” for technology transfer.

About 500 new students enroll each year in the undergraduate, graduate and PhD courses offered by the Department, that also awards double degrees in cooperation with other academic institutions.

**Address:** via Branze 38 - 25123 Brescia BS • **Email:** dimi@cert.unibs.it

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**DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR AND TRANSLATIONAL MEDICINE**

The Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine (DMMT) includes more than 70 professors and researchers and encompasses different areas of basic research, diagnostics, translational and clinical medicine. Their interests span from Agri-food, Biochemistry, Biology and Genetics, Clinical Biochemistry, General Pathology, General Surgery, Histology, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology, Pathological Anatomy, Pharmacology, to Physics and Statistics. The Department hosts multiple research facilities (such as electronic, confocal and multiphoton microscopy, a cryogenic bank, a laboratory for the handling of genetically modified micro-organisms, zebrafish husbandry, etc.) and technological platforms for Next Generation Sequencing and proteomics. The general goal of the activities carried out in the Department is to improve the understanding of the causes of human diseases and to develop therapeutic and preventive medicine in order to contribute to a better lifestyle and environment for future generations.

**Address:** viale Europa 11 - 25123 Brescia BS • **Email:** dmmt@cert.unibs.it

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**DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL AND EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCES**

The aim of the Department of Clinical and Experimental Sciences (DSCS) is the implementation of the principles of modern academic medicine being involved in all the scientific and teaching aspects of numerous clinical areas, related to diseases that are in continuous epidemiological and clinical evolution. They include cardio and cerebrovascular, oncological and haematological, respiratory, endocrine and metabolic, neurodegenerative, infectious and psychiatric diseases. In fact, these currently represent the main causes of fatal and non-fatal events
and will be even more common and important in future years. Crosscutting research on these themes and the study of disease mechanisms at a molecular level are key strengths of the department. In the department, clinical trials are conducted with both industries and non-commercial partners, where insights from basic science are translated into novel diagnostic technologies and medical treatments.

Address: viale Europa 11 - 25123 Brescia BS • Email: dscs@cert.unibs.it

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICAL AND SURGICAL SPECIALTIES, RADIOLOGICAL SCIENCES, AND PUBLIC HEALTH

The Department of Medical and Surgical Specialties, Radiological Sciences, and Public Health (DSMC) encompasses Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine, Public Health Medicine in addition to the medical specialisations of Cardiology, Nephrology and Medical Oncology. It also includes Audiology, Dentistry, Radiology, Radiation Oncology, and Nuclear Medicine in addition to several surgical specialisations, including Neurosurgery, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics and Traumatology, Otorhinolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Urology. The focus of this department is to refine the evaluation and prevention of professional and environmental risk factors, diagnostic algorithmic processes, and therapeutic strategies for different acute and chronic diseases (oncologic and non-oncologic).

Programmes also include an evaluation of the ensuing disabilities after treatment, assessment of patient's social integration, and guidelines for follow-up.

This aim is to improve overall health care and, in general, lifestyle and environment.

Address: viale Europa 11 - 25123 Brescia BS • Email: dsmc@cert.unibs.it
National Funding Opportunities

The planning of national research is developed mainly under the National Research Plan (PNR), in line with European priorities, which favour the enhancement of human capital and applied research. National funding is awarded through dedicated Funding Programmes, the majority of which are managed by the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR). MIUR is supported in its activities by other ministries that dedicate resources to research in their fields of expertise; in particular, the Ministry of Economic Development and the Ministry of Health.

Ministry of Education, Universities and Research, MIUR

Web: www.miur.gov.it
MIUR organises funding for scientific research projects via two main paths of project funding: PRIN (Research Projects of National Interest) calls for proposals and FIRB (Basic Research Support) and Future in Research calls for proposals.

PRIN – Research Projects of National Interest (Progetti di Ricerca di Interesse Nazionale)

Web: prin.miur.it
PRIN involve free and autonomous research proposals, with no obligation to refer to predefined central themes. PRIN favour proposals combining various areas of expertise and contributions from different universities. The projects envisage the involvement of a National Scientific Manager, who coordinates the heads of the local research units, which are guaranteed broad independence of management. Funding applications can be made by teachers and researchers (associates and non), working at Italian universities. The administrative management of ministerial contributions is very flexible, insofar as no close relation is required between the estimated costs and those recorded upon final balance.

FIRB – Basic Research Support (Sostegno alla Ricerca di Base)

Web: futuroinricerca.miur.it
The Basic Research Investment Fund (FIRB, Fondo per gli investimenti della ricerca di base), instituted by the
2001 Finance Law and managed by MIUR, aims to increase basic research by involving enterprises and private bodies in creating projects and allocating greater space to young researchers. By means of the financial resources of the FIRB, MIUR provides support for:

- **highly scientific or technological basic research projects, including those of international significance;**
- **strategic development projects for pervasive and multisector technologies;**
- **improvement projects for large-scale infrastructures of public or public/private research;**
- **proposals for the establishment, improvement and network installation of public or private centres of high-level scientific qualification, including on an international scale.**

To this end, Basic Research is defined as activities that aim to broaden scientific and technical knowledge not connected to specific and immediate industrial or commercial objectives.

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**

**Web:** [www.salute.gov.it](http://www.salute.gov.it)

The Ministry of Health offers two main courses of action with regard to clinical and basic research:

**Calls for Proposals in Targeted Research**

In the clinical and biomedical fields, in order to provide incentives towards quality and competitiveness of national biomedical research via Good Research Practice, and in order to ensure positive outcomes in supporting citizens with new treatments and therapeutic possibilities. There are courses of action devoted to senior researchers, specific courses devoted to young researchers and areas devoted to Italian researchers residing abroad. There is also funding intended for the improvement or creation of research groups.

The projects are presented via DIs (Destinatari Istituzionali, Destination Institutions; bodies that operate within the health sector), which undertake the role of leading bodies.

**Current Research Funding**

This type of funding is set up via the 3-year planning of the institutional projects of national research bodies.

**MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, MISE**

**Web:** [www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it](http://www.sviluppoeconomico.gov.it)

MISE operates under the national operational programme, Imprese e competitività (Enterprises and Competitiveness), in favour of large research and development projects in the information technology and electronic communication sectors and for the implementation of the Italian Digital Agenda and as part of specific fields promoting “sustainable industry” in less well-developed regions.
The regional policy is the European Union’s principal investment policy in support of the creation of employment, competitiveness among enterprises, economic growth, sustainable development and the improvement of citizens’ quality of life. The Lombardy Region sets up numerous calls for proposals intended for private enterprises and public and private research bodies, often in partnership to promote research, innovation and experimental development. Participation in the calls for proposals is undertaken via an online platform, ‘SIAGE’, set up specifically for this purpose.

The implementation of regional policy is carried out via two main funds, which apply within the PORs (Piani Operativi Regionali, Regional Operational Plan), the regional form of the PNR on a national level:

- **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)**
  
  Web: [www.fesr.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.fesr.regione.lombardia.it)

  The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is one of the structural funds of the European Union. It is the main tool of its regional policy intended to rebalance the principal inequalities among regions by funding the development and structural adaptation of declining and underdeveloped regional economies.

- **European Social Fund (ESF)**
  
  Web: [www.fesr.regione.lombardia.it](http://www.fesr.regione.lombardia.it)

  The ESF invests in people, focusing in particular on combatting social exclusion and improving training and employment opportunities. Therefore, the fund targets in particular the unemployed, entrepreneurs and aspiring entrepreneurs and people who require professional training or retraining.

## FUNDING FROM REPRESENTATIVE CHARITIES

On a national level, significant contributions to research, including in collaboration with public bodies, are made by non-profit foundations that operate in the region; the University of Brescia benefits in particular from substantial and important research contributions made by the leading charities of reference.
FONDAZIONE CARIPLO

Web: www.fondazionecariplo.it

Fondazione Cariplo (Cariplo Foundation) is a charitable body that allocates grants to tertiary sector organisations for the creation of social projects. Fondazione Cariplo operates in four areas: Environment, Art and Culture, Scientific Research, Social Services. Grants are awarded mainly via calls for proposals that are published annually. Fondazione Cariplo makes available its own economic and design resources to help non-profit bodies to create initiatives of public interest. In addition, in planning its course of action, the foundation focuses on anticipating the needs of the community.

The projects are proposed via a platform made available by the foundation, subject to accreditation. The Research Service carries out profiling of the researcher, upon request.

ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER LA RICERCA SUL CANCRO (AIRC)

Web: www.airc.it

Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC, Italian Association for Cancer Research) is a private, non-profit body, whose main activity consists of collecting and issuing funds towards progress in oncological research and providing the public with correct information on the subject.

AIRC follows a dual course of action: on the one hand, it supports progress in research by funding projects of excellence; on the other hand, it provides the public with information on recommended lifestyles and new cancer diagnostics and therapies.

One of the objectives of the association is to breed a new generation of scientists who devote themselves to cancer research in our country, supported via multi-year programmes (Investigator Grants and Special Programmes), which offer them secure and constant support throughout the long path that leads to significant scientific results.
FONDAZIONE TELETHON

Web: www.telethon.it

Fondazione Telethon (Telethon Foundation) funds a limited number of research projects (either single or multicentre) in basic or clinical research aimed at discovering therapies for genetic diseases. Research proposals may only be submitted by investigators working either in public or private Italian non-profit research institutions.

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH FUNDING

The university funds independently research programmes, study grants, research grants, both by allocating a share of ministerial funds and by drawing on other sources of public and private funding. Within a general framework that remains difficult, the university has confirmed its openness towards public and private external partnerships able to attract new funding and managing, at the same time, to seize opportunities that arrive from the leading reference charities (Fondazione Cariplo, AIRC, Fondazione Telethon).

UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA

Research and Technological Transfer Service

More than 27 Milions of € of founding for research project in 2012-2016 (in K€)

- **1.733**  Extra-european bodies
- **10.000**  Italian public bodies
- **1.495**  Cariplo Foundation
- **1.495**  Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC)
- **3.740**  Italian private bodies
- **7.285**  European Union
From 2015 to 2016, the university invested over € 19 million in research.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scientific partnerships (including research grants)</td>
<td>5.460.580,28</td>
<td>5.222.480,30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientific publications and submission fees</td>
<td>150.672,35</td>
<td>170.340,14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science events</td>
<td>42.387,44</td>
<td>29.951,10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research trips</td>
<td>1.082.995,66</td>
<td>1.126.505,29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Equipment</td>
<td>825.161,97</td>
<td>723.318,27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>2.204.714</td>
<td>2.174.868,65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.766.511,7</strong></td>
<td><strong>9.447.463,75</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The quality of scientific production at our university is also proven by the high-level scientific publications.

UNIVERSITY OF BRESCIA
Research and Technological Transfer Service
OPENBS (Open Archive UniBS) counts about 47.000 publications

- Journal’s articles
- Presentation in conference
- Book’s Chapters
- Other types of publication in journal
- Other types of publication
- Monography
- Editorships
- Other types of publication in book
- Patents
GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTING NATIONAL PROJECTS

The University promotes all forms of research, giving all teachers and researchers the opportunity to express their scientific knowledge through the presentation of research projects, in collaboration with other bodies and with the business community.

Project presentation requires the careful analysis of the various calls for proposals put forward by funding bodies, including by means of rigorous scouting, such as, for example, the calls for proposals by the Lombardy Region, foundations, the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Economic Development and other ministries.

INTERNAL PROJECT PRESENTATION PROCEDURES

The Research and Technology Transfer Service promotes national and international research by broadcasting, via the university website and via email notification, the notices and calls for proposals issued by the funding bodies and provides administrative and accounting support for competition procedures, both during application and during project management.
FIRST STEP – PUBLICATION OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The call for proposals includes accounting information for correct budget preparation, with the entries for the expected costs and the percentage of co-funding for the university. After viewing the call for proposals, the teacher/researcher must send formal notification to his/her department of his/her desire to present a project and must obtain approval from the Department Board, governing body of the department itself.

This notification must include all the information contained in the call for proposals and, in particular:

- reference of the call for proposals in question
- project title
- details of leading body and partners
- name of the scientific project manager for the University of Brescia
- total budget for the university, in the case of expected co-funding by the university, how funding will be covered: with structured staff expenses (in euro), with funds requested from the university (in this case, a copy of the application for funding to the Rector with total sum requested in euro must be attached) or with teacher/researcher funds
- indication of the necessity to sign a partnership agreement and a letter of intent for the constitution of a Temporary Association for carrying out the project.

ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENTS

The departments involved in the presentation of the projects must send the resolution of the Department Board to the Research and Technology Transfer Service, with indication of the main dates of the project, the title, the name of the scientific project manager for the university, any Italian and/or foreign partners and the project budget.

FULFILMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The teachers/researchers must send an abstract of the project and the final budget, drafted according to the rules of the call for proposals and in compliance with university regulations, to the Research Service. During the presentation step, it may be requested that a partnership agreement be drafted between those participating in the research; in this case, the agreement must be reviewed by the Research Service before being signed by the Rector.

It is to be noted that drafting of the agreement must include focus on the legal aspects and the management of intellectual and industrial property.
STEPS SUBSEQUENT TO PROJECT PRESENTATION

The Research and Technology Transfer Service supervises any publication of rankings, providing prompt notification. Following successful application for funding, the researcher must send the application results to the department which submits a funding acceptance order containing all the project details to the Research and Technology Transfer Service.

Upon receipt of the department’s acceptance order, the University Board of Governors approves the funding and the Research Service communicates the approval to the financing body and possible partners.

ACCOUNTING AND AUDITS

Project accounting will generally be undertaken within the departments. The department administration is also responsible for the procurement procedures for the supply of goods and services, as well as the project staff selection procedures.

Where an internal audit is required, the department must prepare and send the accounting documents so that the Research Service may undertake the audit as established by the individual call proposals.
THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC) PROGRAMME

Horizon 2020 is the new framework programme for innovation and research put forward by the European Union for the seven year period 2014-2020, combining in a single framework of reference and with a single set of rules, the funding issued in the past by the Seventh Framework Programme, by the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme and by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). Horizon 2020 is structured into three pillars, to which are added four horizontal programmes:

**EXCELLENT SCIENCE**
- **European Research Council**
  Frontier research by the best individual teams
- **Future and Emerging Technologies**
  Collaborative research to open new fields of innovation
- **Marie Sklodowska Curie actions**
  Opportunities for training and career development

**INDUSTRIAL LEADERSHIP**
- **Leadership in enabling and industrial technologies**
  ITC, nanotechnologies, materials, biotechnologies, manufacturing, space
- **Access to risk finance**
  Leveraging private finance and venture capital for research and innovation
- **Innovation in SMEs**
  Fostering all forms of innovation in all types of SMEs

**SOCIETAL CHALLENGES**
- **Health, demographic change and wellbeing**
- **Food security, sustainable agriculture, marine and maritime research & the bioeconomy**
- **Secure, clean and efficient energy**
- **Smart, green and integrated transport**
- **Climate action, environment resource efficiency and raw materials**
- **Inclusive, innovative and reflective societies**
- **Security society**

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**European institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**
- **Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation**
- **Science with and for society**
- **Joint Research Center (JRC)**
- **EURATOM**
The first pillar, Excellence Science, has the objective of increasing the quality of the European scientific base, supporting the best ideas, promoting the growth of talent in Europe, providing researchers with access to the best research infrastructures and making Europe an attractive place for the best researchers in the world.

This pillar consists of four programmes:

- European Research Council (ERC)
- Future and Emerging Technologies (FET)
- Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions (MSCA)
- Research Infrastructure (RI)

The European Research Council (ERC) is the EU body that funds researchers of excellence of all ages and nationalities who intend to undertake pioneering research in the member states of the EU or associated countries. The ERC – whose independence is guaranteed by the European Commission – is made up of a Scientific Council and an Executive Agency (ERCEA). The Scientific Council is the governing body of the ERC, defining the scientific strategies, financing tools and methods of assessment; the ERCEA, on the other hand, implements and applies these strategies in the operational management of the ERC activities.

The main objective of the ERC is to support Excellence, improving the dynamism and creativity of pioneering European research. The strategic objective is to support high risk research projects conducted by Principal Investigators (PIs) with important international curricula. The projects will be funded based on the project ideas presented by the researchers, in all scientific fields, without predefined topics and evaluated based on the sole criterion of scientific excellence.

In summary, the ERC intends to:

- support the work of the best European researchers in all scientific, technical and academic fields and to place excellence at the heart of European research;
- promote pioneering research implemented entirely upon the initiative of researchers, with a bottom-up approach.

Proposals involving various disciplinary fields and pioneering project that involve new and emerging applications and fields, introducing unconventional and innovative approaches, are encouraged.

**Web:** [erc.europa.eu](http://erc.europa.eu)
PREPARATION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

PUBLICATION OF CALLS FOR PROPOSALS
All the calls for proposals pertinent to the Horizon 2020 programme are published by the European Commission on the Participant Portal.

Web: ec.europa.eu

It is important, in particular, to:
• ensure fulfilment of the programme requirements;
• pay attention to the date and time of the call for proposals deadline.

WRITING THE PROJECT PROPOSAL
The project idea must be based on the following premises:
• it must include a high degree of innovation as compared to previously funded research;
• it must be capable of achieving results on both a national and European level.

Therefore, it is important to gather relevant information, both on projects already funded by the European Commission and on those who are already working on the theme of the intended project idea, so as to present in an effective manner an innovative idea that involves leading world experts on that particular theme.

Furthermore, you must be able to identify and interpret the calls for proposals, be flexible and know how to align the specific proposal to the requirements set out by the Commission. A formal grant application may be drafted perfectly but, if it fails to meet exactly the requirements of the call for proposals, it will not stand up against other more tailored proposals. Preparation of the financial aspects of a proposal is crucial. When the proposals are assessed, a great deal of importance is given to the drafting of the balance sheet and related aspects. The budget is an integral part of the proposal and of any contract with the Commission and, therefore, it must be drawn up with focus on the allocation of the resources necessary to complete the work. Therefore, it is essential that all the costs to be borne during the course of the project are identified precisely and in detail. To this regard, the university Research and Technology Transfer Service offers timely and precise support to the staff who intend to submit a project proposal. The illustrative part of the project and the description of the work required for a positive outcome must be described in detail and it is essential that the person drafting the proposal has a good understanding of the technical subject matter of the project.
REGISTRATION AND SUBMISSION OF A PROJECT PROPOSAL

The project proposal must be sent electronically via the online system provided by the Participant Portal. Once the topic and funding scheme of interest have been selected by the Participant Portal, click on “Start submission” to begin proposal registration.

To access all the Participant Portal functions, each person must have a personal ECAS (European Commission Authentication Service) account, which is strictly confidential.

Creating a personal account is easy and free: click on “Register” on the Participant Portal homepage and then fill in the fields with the required information.

Part A can be completed either online or offline via a fillable PDF form. For Part B, it is best to download and work directly on the template in Word format.

WARNING: Part B must then be uploaded to the system in PDF format.

Part B2 of the proposal is the actual scientific project. Part B2 must include a more detailed description of the scientific, technical and academic aspects of the proposal, demonstrating the breakthrough nature of the research, its potential impact and the research methodology. Indication must be made of the time that will be devoted to the project and the cost of the research.

PROPOSAL EVALUATION

Within the ERC programme, proposals are evaluated based on the sole criterion of scientific excellence by international commissions of experts inter pares of proven recognition, selected directly by the Council on the basis of excellence, which may be supported remotely by independent experts.

The criterion of scientific excellence takes into consideration various aspects: the innovative nature of the project proposal, the ambition and feasibility of the research project, the intellectual capacity, creativity and commitment of the researcher, irrespective of sex, age, nationality and institution of association of the applicant.

The experts inter pares have the task of assessing and allocating a score to the proposal. Proposals deemed to be above a minimum level of required quality are entered into a rankings list.
NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS

The network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is a structure recognised by the European Commission, called upon to provide information and support with regard to various aspects of the European Research and Development programmes, and is present in all the member states, Horizon 2020 associated countries and third countries. In Italy, it is the Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea (APRE; Agency for the Promotion of European Research) that brings together all the National Contact Points.

APRE is a non-profit research association that has worked for over twenty five years, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Universities and Research (MIUR), to provide its associates, as well as enterprises, public and private bodies and natural persons, with information, support and assistance in participating in programmes and initiatives of national and European collaboration (with particular reference, today, to Horizon 2020) in the field of Research, Technological Development and Innovation and of the transfer of research results.

The Italian NCPs relative to the ERC programme can be found here:
www.apre.it/ricerca-europea/horizon-2020/excellent-science/european-research-council/contatti/

WHAT SUPPORT DOES THE RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER SERVICE OFFER?

The Research and Technology Transfer Service will offer all possible support in presenting an ERC funding application, offering ad hoc advice for the applicant, specific training and definition of the project idea.

In addition, it will facilitate networking, with access to extra-European networks, and the proposal review stage, including via the support of APRE National Contact Points.

It will also supply administrative and management support, including via the support of the associated departments. The Research Service will provide support in negotiating and stipulating contracts with the European Commission, maintaining a continuously interactive relationship with European bodies.

The project will also be continuously monitored via internal audits, in order to ensure it is carried out correctly.

In the event that the project gives rise to patents, the Research Service will take care of the preliminary administrative procedures relating to the registration and maintenance of national and international patents, offering, in addition, support in the patent licensing procedures. The Research Service will also take care of the preliminary administrative procedures relating to the constitution and maintenance of any spin-offs.
PRACTICAL INFORMATION

VISA

EU CITIZENS

If you are a European Union (EU)/European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss citizen, you are allowed to travel to Italy without any formalities. A valid ID card or passport is required.

NON-EU CITIZENS

If you are a non-EU/EEA citizen, you need to apply for a visa (commonly referred to in official literature as “entry clearance”) before you leave the country where you live to travel to Italy.

You can apply for a visa at your nearest Italian Embassy or Consulate.

You can apply for three types of visa depending on your personal situation:

• Uniform Schengen Visa (USV): visa valid for access, transit or short stay (up to 90 days) in Italy and in other Schengen countries. The USV issued by diplomatic – consular missions of other Schengen countries, grants entry to Italy.

• National Visa (NV): a long-term entry visa (valid for more than 90 days) which grants access to stay for long periods. It allows free circulation within other member states for a maximum period of 90 days in any six-month period.

• Visa for scientific research purposes: researchers from third countries selected by either private or public research institutions recognised in the official list published by the Ministry for Universities and Research are entitled to apply for this kind of long-stay visa (more than 90 days). Researchers can obtain the visa only within the framework of a Hosting Agreement made with one of these official research institutions.

Please, visit the following website to find out what you need to enter Italy:

www.esteri.it/mae/en/ministero/servizi/stranieri/ingressosoggiornoinitalia/visto_ingresso/
PERMIT TO STAY

If you are a non-EU citizen, you are allowed to stay in Italy for up to 3 months and, in this case, you don’t need to apply for a Permit to Stay.

Foreign nationals – i.e. non-EU citizens - may enter Italy provided that they hold both a valid passport and, if required, an entry visa issued in their country of origin.

As soon as foreign nationals enter Italy, they should apply for a permit to stay based on the same motivations specified on their entry visa.

A permit to stay is not required for business, tourism, short visits or study, provided that the stay does not exceed 3 months.

EU citizens do not need a permit to stay to stay in Italy.

How to apply for a permit to stay within 8 working days from arrival in Italy:

Collect the permit to stay application pack at the Post office nearest to you.

To obtain the issue of a permit to stay you need:
• the application form;
• your valid passport or any other equivalent travel document bearing an entry visa, if required;
• a photocopy of your passport or another valid travel document bearing an entry visa, if required;
• a recent and identical passport-size photograph;
• a €16.00 electronic revenue stamp;
• documents supporting your request for the type of permit to stay you are applying for.

If you are already in Italy and your permit to stay is close to its expiry date, you must apply for renewal according to the following deadlines:
• 90 days before expiry date if your permit to stay is valid for 2 years;
• 60 days before expiry date if your permit to stay is valid for 1 year;
• 30 days before expiry date in all other cases.
The validity of your permit to stay is the same as that indicated on your visa, i.e.:

- Up to 6 months for seasonal work or up to 9 months for seasonal work in the specific sectors requiring this extension;
- Up to 1 year if you are attending a duly documented study course or a vocational training course;
- Up to 2 years for self-employment, open-ended employment and family reunification.

If you are planning to come to Italy for short visits, business, tourism or study for a period not exceeding 3 months, you are not required to apply for a permit to stay.

**TAX CODE**

In Italy, the tax code is used as a form of citizen identification for all situations, not just those of a fiscal nature, involving the Italian public authorities and other administrations.

The tax code is issued by the Italian Revenue Agency (*Agenzia delle Entrate*).

To sign a contract in Italy, or open a bank account, you must apply for this code.

You can file your application at one of the following addresses:

- Italian consular offices in your country of residence;
- Any local office of the Revenue Agency in Italy;

Upon application, EU/EEA citizens must hold a valid ID card.

Non-EU/EEA citizens must bring a valid passport, a valid visa and a copy of both of these.

The documentation must also prove the legitimacy of the applicant’s presence in Italy.

The tax code is issued immediately and it is free of charge.

The International Relations and Mobility Unity can provide you with your tax code before your travel to Italy.

As soon as you receive your visa, please contact: daniela.cagiada@unibs.it and brunella.guatta@unibs.it.

You will have to send us the completed personal application form found at the link below, along with a scanned copy of your passport and your visa.
MEDICAL INSURANCE AND NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE

EU CITIZENS

You are entitled to obtain a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) through your local health authority, which facilitates access to emergency and medical treatment that may prove necessary during a temporary stay (less than 3 months) in another EU country.

For periods exceeding 3 months, registration with the Italian National Health Service (Servizio Sanitario Nazionale, SSN) is compulsory for teachers with an employment contract.

Application must be submitted to the Local Health Authority (Azienda Sanitaria Locale – ASL) according to the area of residence.

There are no fees and the Italian Health Insurance Card (Tessera Sanitaria) will be issued immediately and free of charge by the ASL.

It will cover the same period as the duration of the teacher’s contract.

The Italian Health Insurance Card, which includes the tax code issued by the Italian Revenue Agency, is strictly personal and allows the holder to obtain health services in countries within the European Union.

Registration with the Italian National Health Service (SSN) guarantees:

• consultation with general practitioners (including paediatricians); however, payment of a small fee (ticket) for visits and medical examinations with specialists is required;
• hospitalisation;
• access to day hospitals in specialist medical departments (dermatology, ophthalmology, etc.);
• pharmaceutical assistance (prescriptions and refunds on purchase);
• access to blood tests and other tests.
NON-EU CITIZENS

The application for a visa and permit to stay requires evidence of the ability to cover health risks.

These resources can include:
• the purchase of a private health insurance policy in your home country also valid in Italy. Before departure, a copy of the policy validated by an Italian Embassy or Consulate must be acquired;
• the purchase of a private insurance policy issued by a national insurance company.

Registration with the Italian National Health Service can be undertaken via application at a Local Health Authority (ASL).

ITALIAN TAX SYSTEM

The Italian tax system is managed by the Italian Inland Revenue at national level, while taxes are levied at national, regional and municipal level and can be grouped into two main categories:
• Direct taxes, such as those on personal income (known as IRPEF - Imposta sul Reddito delle Persone Fisiche), on business income (IRES - Imposta sul Reddito delle Società) and regional taxes on production activities (IRAP – Imposta Regionale sulle Attività Produttive);
• Indirect taxes, such as those on goods, services or imports (IVA – Imposta sul Valore Aggiunto, equivalent to VAT), on real estate (IMU – Imposta Municipale sugli Immobili).

Along with the main taxes, which are applied at national level, there are also local taxes, (e.g. TASI – Tributo per i servizi indivisibili; Tax on Indivisible Services).

The tax year runs from 1 January to 31 December; All workers are subject to taxation on their income or other benefits. The amount of taxes to be paid varies according to the type and duration of the work contract. In general, income tax is deducted at source by employers on the basis of the estimated annual income. The tax balance due is calculated at the end of each year.

In general, basic tax depends on the type of contract (work contract, fellowship and so on).
BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AGAINST DOUBLE TAXATION

If you have your permanent residence in a country that signed an agreement with Italy against double taxation, you may request to pay taxes in your country of residence.

You must provide proof of the actual payment of the taxes in your country of residence.

To do so, please find form D, to be completed by the tax authority of your country, at the following address:
http://www.agenziaentrate.gov.it/wps/file/Nsilib/Nsi/Documentazione/Fiscalita+internazionale/Modulistica+fiscale+internazionale+(provvedimento+del+10+luglio+2013)/Cover+page+forms+ABCDEF/Cover+PAGE_ABCDEF.pdf

Please bear in mind you need to have three original copies of this document:
• one is for you
• one is for the tax authority of your country (the tax administration of the country of residence)
• one is for the office of the University of Brescia that will pay your salary

INCOME TAX RETURN

Taxpayers must submit a tax return (dichiarazione dei redditi) each year by the end of April in order to claim their income and tax deductible expenses (i.e. medical and particular educational expenses, health insurance, etc.) using the 730 Form (Modulo 730).
ACCOMMODATION

You can find University residences at the following address: https://goo.gl/LShNka

Address: Residence Contrada Pozzo Dell’Olmo

Located in the heart of the historical centre of Brescia and recently renovated, this residence is used as guesthouse for visitors of the University of Brescia.

It consists of 10 apartments with kitchen, bedroom, bathroom and small living room.

You can book this and other accommodation offered by our University, located next to the department of Engineering or Medicine or in the centre of Brescia.

We can also provide you with accommodation at the Collegio Universitario Luigi Lucchini

Web: www.collegiounibs.it/international

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