



UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA

CALL "Research & Mobility"

The Rector

- IN VIEW of the Statute of the University of Messina;
- CONSIDERING the strategic objective of the University of Messina to increase the internationalisation in all its aspects;
- IN VIEW of the law n. 240/2010 that has among its objectives to incentivize the quality and the efficiency of the academic system;
- CONSIDERING that the adoption of initiatives aimed at the internationalization in order to get a wider and more consistent international projection of the University is an objective of the 2016-2018 triennial planning, as deliberated by the Administration Board during the session on January 29th, 2016;
- IN VIEW of the resolution of the Academic Senate on October 18th, 2017 and the resolution of the Administration Board on October 18th, 2017 that approve and authorize the issue of the Call denominated "**Research & Mobility**" (**R&M**) **2017** and attached reporting guidelines;
- IN VIEW of the Unique Balance Sheet of the University, Accounting Practice 2016, that presents the necessary budget covering on CA.04.46.03.01 in the UA.00.C001.DA02.

DECREES

the emanation of the following **R&M** Call

Art. 1 Object & definitions

The present **R&M** call regulates the funding procedures of the University of Messina, of integrated research, education and mobility projects with the purpose to foster the strengthening of the international dimension of the University, even in view of the creation of possible *networks* of international cooperation and so as to get a more efficient participation at the European funding opportunities.

For this purpose, the **R&M** programme aims to finance projects that for their complexity and nature require the collaboration between the University of Messina and at least a foreign *partner* University.

The steering principles of the **R&M** programme are:

- high scientific quality of the project;
- high educational quality of the project;
- high scientific quality of the foreign *partner*.

For the purpose of this Call, it is intended:

- for “University”, the University of Messina;
- for “professor”, the professor and/or the researcher, even with a fixed-term contract, belonging to the University of Messina or to a partner University;
- for “partner University”, the foreign University where professors who will collaborate to the education and research project of this call belong to;
- for “scientific coordinator” (SC), the professor who has the task of coordinating the activities of the project, assuming all the relative scientific, organizational and financial responsibilities.
- for “selection Committee” (CdS), the *panel* composed of three experts, designed by the Academic Senate by 30 days from the deadline of this call, for assessing the proposals.

Art. 2 ***Budget and areas of interest***

The present call intends to fund research and education projects for a total of € 450.000,00. The project proposals can face themes related to the following three research macro-sectors as determined by the European Research Council (ERC): LS – Life sciences, PE – Physical sciences and engineering; SH – Social sciences and Humanities.

The available funding will be divided among the three macro-sectors as follows:

- LS - Life sciences: € 150.000,00, according to the memorandum of understanding agreed with A.O.U.;
- PE - Physical sciences and engineering: € 150.000,00;
- SH - Social sciences and Humanities: € 150.000,00.

The funds assigned to each project cannot be less than € 50.000,00 and more than € 75.000,00.

It is admitted that, for supplementary activities regarding the project, explicitly declared in it, the research group can co-finance such research and educational activities with personal funds.

Art. 3 **Duration and renewal**

The proposed research projects must be of one year's length. It is possible to renew for one additional year on the basis of obtained educational and research results, as well as the quality of the research and educational project proposed for the following year.

The SC can request an extension of one year, in the case the research and educational results have not been entirely achieved and without a further increase in cost for the University. In such a case, the extension/renewal request will be assessed by Academic Senate and by the Administration Board for the possible financial coverage.

Art. 4 Eligibility criteria

Each project must be proposed by a SC that leads an International research group. The CS must be a professor of the University of Messina.

The international research group must be composed of a minimum of 5 professors, including the SC of the University and foreign professors belonging either to a partner University classified among the first 100 Universities according to the “Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities”, 2016 edition (<http://www.shanghairanking.com/index.html>) or classified among the first 100 Universities of the same ranking related to the reference macro-sector (SCI, ENG, LIFE, MED, SOC) associated to the project proposal according to the second level ERC sector.

In order to participate to the R&M call, the group of professors must satisfy the requirements related to the indicators of the ANVUR guidelines for the accreditation of PhD headquarters and courses, attached with the MIUR note prot. n. 11677 on April 14th, 2017.

Project proposals must integrate both research and international educational activities. The project must involve at least 3 PhD students afferent to doctoral courses held at the University of Messina. The mobility of the members of the research group must have an overall duration of no less than 5 months. The mobility of PhD students and doctors under training of the medical area must have the overall duration of not less than 18 months.

Art. 5 Incompatibility

Each professor can participate at only one research project. The Rector, the vice Rectors, the Rector's delegates, the members of the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors as well as participants of projects funded within the same programme in the last year with whichever role are excluded for the participation to this Call.

Furthermore, participants, with whichever role, of projects funded by the R&M 2015 that did not concluded the project by the official deadline or that obtained the extension are excluded.

Art. 6 Characteristics of the project proposal

The proposal, written in English language according to web form available on the IT platform accessible through the University's web site (<https://code.unime.it/rm2017>), must contain the following information:

- a) project title;
- b) ERC sector/s and subsectors;
- c) collaboration scheme to be signed by the partner University or the agreement on single activities;
- d) name of the SC of the project and his/her *curriculum vitae*;
- e) the SC's participation and/or coordination of national and international research projects and the relative budget;
- f) list of the members of the research group;
- g) description of the project according to the template attached on the IT platform (<https://code.unime.it/rm2017>);
- h) the overall financial plan of the project articulated in macro-items on the IT platform (<https://code.unime.it/rm2017>).

Art. 7 Characteristics of the Scientific Coordinator

The position of SC can be held by structured professors of the University of Messina on condition that his/her employment with the University is not interrupted before the deadline established by the project.

Art. 8 Composition of the research group

Though not part of the group, the following subjects can cooperate with the members of the research group, according to art. 4, and in full right participate in the development of the project.

- technical employees of the University of Messina specifically engaged in research work;
- research assistants and doctors under training of the University of Messina;

In addition, without burden in any case on the project funds , the following subjects can also participate:

- professors and researchers structured in other Italian or foreign Universities;
- non-university researchers from Research institutions.

The above mentioned personnel must be specified in the project proposal. The member/s of the research group coming from *partner* Universities can, under conditions and according to the procedures established in the specific University regulations, request the title of Visiting professor/researcher without further costs for the finances of the University.

Art. 9
Presentation of applications

The application for funding request, written in the English language, must be presented by the SC, penalty the exclusion, within 70 days from the date of publication exclusively online and according to the template attached at the link <https://code.unime.it/rm2017>.

Art. 10
Procedure of evaluation of projects

1. The evaluation of projects will be made exclusively through peer review procedures. Each project, according to discipline, sector and keyword filled-in in the web application form, is automatically associated to one of the 3 CdS designated by the Academic Senate for each ERC macro-sector within 30 days from the project proposal submission deadline.
2. Two of the three CdS members must be experts that have not previously engaged in employment of any nature with the University. CdS members will be designated on the basis of their scientific competences and their publication record coherent for the examination of the specific research proposal.
3. For all designed referees who will have concluded the assessment it will be a total budget of € 3.000,00. It will be envisaged a wage of € 100 for each assessment that will be carried out.
4. Information on the evaluation of projects will be opportunely publicized on the University's website.

Art. 11
Criteria for the evaluation of projects

Each project proposal will be assessed, individually, by at least three reviewers, who each one will be able to assign a maximum score of 55 points, distributed according to the following criteria:

1. Scientific and innovative relevance of the project in reference to the international characteristics of the scientific research (up to 10 points).
2. Scientific quality of the SC and consistency of the research group with the project idea (up to 5 points).
3. Feasibility, economic adequacy and innovation of the project (up to 5 points).
4. Interdisciplinary nature of the research group, quality and coherence of the project with the proposed research (up to 5 points).
5. Collaboration with the *partner* Universities that are classified between the first 100 Universities of the 'Shanghai Academic Ranking of World Universities' (<http://www.shanghairanking.com/index.html>) (up to 25 points assigned according to the following table):

position	score
1 - 25	25
26 - 50	10
51 - 75	5
>= 76	0

With the purpose to promote as much as possible the international members of research groups, as further points it is attributed a bonus of 5 points to the research group that includes among its members at least 3 foreign professors belonging to Universities included in the “World op 100 Universities of the Academic Shangai Ranking” in the main second level ERC sector.

Art. 12 Reporting

Reporting must be done according to the guideline attached to this Call.

Art. 13 Responsibility of procedures

The procedures of this Call are treated by the Organizational Unit “Scientific Research” and are concluded, with a notice to selected applicants within 5 months from the deadline for the presentation of projects.

The Rector
(Prof. Pietro Navarra)

The responsible of the
Administrative Procedure
Ing. Giuseppe Bonanno