

Bicocca Starting Grants call for proposals – 2023 Edition

1) Aim and objectives

The University of Milano-Bicocca established the Bicocca Starting Grants Call for proposals for type A or B Research fellows “Assegnisti di Ricerca” holders, with the aim of fostering the career path of young researchers, supporting interdisciplinary and intersectoral research, and promoting the collaboration between University departments.

The Bicocca Starting Grants call is open to all Research fellows holding the admission criteria of the following paragraph 3).

2) Financial contribution and maximum grant amount

The call, entirely funded by the University of Milano-Bicocca, has a total budget of 480,000 euros.

A maximum of 8 contributions are available, each with a maximum amount of 60,000 euros.

3) Eligible applicants and participation requirements

- a) Applications may be submitted by holders of a Type A or B Research fellowship in office at the University of Milano-Bicocca, who by 31 December 2022 must have had obtained the PhD or a specialization diploma at least 24 months earlier and no longer than 60 months earlier (in case of two degrees the most favourable term for the candidate applies).
- b) In case the applicant benefitted from maternity or paternity leave or a leave granted on any of the other grounds foreseen by current legislation, the leave months enjoyed on those grounds are added up to the minimum and maximum months indicated above.
- c) Each project must foresee a team of applicants exclusively made of Research fellows of the University of Milano-Bicocca and a minimum of two Research fellows belonging to at least two distinct departments. The team is coordinated by one of the Research fellows who takes on the role of Principal Investigator.
- d) The requirement referred to in letter a) above must be met by all team members.
- e) The Research fellows must be working at the University for the whole duration of the project to benefit from the grant. In case of loss of this requirement, the project may continue until at least one of the applicants holds a Research fellowship.
- f) Each Research fellow must be authorized by his/her Scientific supervisor (Head of Department), with a specific authorization completed and signed.

4) Eligible projects

The "Bicocca starting grants - 2023 edition" call for proposals finances projects linked to one or more of the following topics, which refer to the major areas of research and innovation and the related articulations of the National Research Program 2021-2027, namely:

- a) Health
 - i) General topics;
 - ii) Pharmaceutical and pharmacological technologies;
 - iii) Biotechnology;
 - iv) Technologies for health.
- b) Humanistic Culture, Creativity, Social Transformations, Inclusive Society
 - i) Cultural heritage;
 - ii) Historical, literary and artistic disciplines;
 - iii) Antiquities;
 - iv) Creativity, design and Made in Italy;
 - v) Social transformations and inclusive societies.
- c) Security for social systems
 - i) Security of structures, infrastructures and networks;
 - ii) Security of natural systems;
 - iii) Cybersecurity.
- d) Digital, Industry, Aerospace
 - i) Digital transition – i4.0;
 - ii) High performance computing and big data;
 - iii) Artificial intelligence;
 - iv) Robotics;
 - v) Quantum Technologies;
 - vi) Innovation for the manufacturing industry;
 - vii) Aerospace.
- e) Climate, Energy, Sustainable Mobility
 - i) Sustainable mobility;
 - ii) Climate change, mitigation and adaptation;
 - iii) Industrial energy;
 - iv) Environmental energy.
- f) Food products, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture, environment
 - i) Green technologies;
 - ii) Food science and technology;
 - iii) Bioindustry for the bioeconomy;
 - iv) Knowledge and sustainable management of agricultural and forestry systems;
 - v) Knowledge, technological innovation and sustainable management of marine ecosystems.

Co-planning with the IRCCS Foundation 'Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta' on the topic of Health/ Technologies for health

Following the 'Public notice of expression of interest for the selection of public and private non-profit entities for financial support and/or collaboration in joint research projects' (prot.n.0156540 of 04/03/2023), the IRCCS Foundation Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta has expressed its interest in co-planning a project related to the Health theme entitled: '*Data Science analysis in neuroscience*', which pertains to the underlying Health Technologies sub-theme.

When submitting the application, the Research fellows who intend to present a project related to the theme Health/Health technologies will be asked if they intend to co-plan a project coherent with the title '*Data Science analysis in neuroscience*' in collaboration with the IRCCS Foundation 'Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta'. The proposal submitted must therefore be consistent with this title.

A delegate of the IRCCS Foundation 'Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta' may also be part of the Commission that will evaluate the proposals of the Research fellows on the issue of Health/Health technologies, having expressed an interest in collaborating on a joint project. The selected research project will be co-planned with the IRCCS Foundation 'Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta'.

5) General features of the projects

The projects must be interdisciplinary.

The funding can be used to cover the following cost items, strictly connected to the research activities:

- a) costs related to the recruitment of personnel (bursaries; fellowships) with the exclusion of the salary of the applicant research fellows;
- b) purchase of inventory material/small equipment;
- c) purchase of consumables;
- d) travel, including travel abroad for research activities in collaboration with international research institutions, participation in schools, conferences, short stays, international events, provided that they are strictly connected to the research activities;
- e) any consultancy and purchase of services, where the acquisition of the external service is strictly necessary for the implementation of the project;
- f) other costs (costs strictly necessary for the implementation of the project, not strictly attributable to the cost items listed above).

The duration of the projects is 12 months. The projects will be managed by the Service centres to which the Research fellows belong.

The project start date is 02.01.2024.

The project end date is 31.12.2024.

6) Submission of the application

Proposals must be submitted by the PI using the following [google form - PI](#) and by all Research fellows involved in the same project, each using the following [google form - Participant](#).

The main application (of the PI) must be completed on the forms made available at: <https://www.unimib.it/ricerca/finanziamenti-alla-ricerca/finanziamenti-ateneo> and must be complete of all attachments required.

The deadline for submitting the applications is 29.09.2023 h. 18.00.

The submission of incomplete or inconsistent documentation will result in the automatic exclusion from the call for proposals.

7) Proposals evaluation and final ranking

The evaluation of the proposals will be carried out by a multidisciplinary Commission specifically appointed by the University Rector. Based on the criteria listed below, the Commission will draw up a ranking proposal and the related allocation proposal. The members of the Commission will undersign a declaration on the absence of conflicts of interest with the applicants.

The evaluation criteria of the proposals are:

- i) Scientific quality of the project proposal: 30 pt
- ii) Quality of the team: 30 pt
- iii) Scientific, social, economic impact of the project proposal: 30 pt
- iv) Expenditure plan and sustainability of the research activities irrespective of the funding granted by the University, also in relation to other sources of funding: 10 pt.

The quality of the team, referred to in letter ii), is assessed on the basis of the three best products indicated by each participant and uploaded on the IRIS BOA database (scientific publications, patents, conference proceedings, monographs, etc.).

The final ranking is approved by the Rector by decree.

Proposals achieving a minimum score of 60 points will be eligible for funding. The funding will be granted to projects usefully placed in the top positions of the ranking, based on the ranking order obtained during the evaluation phase.

8) Monitoring of the implementation and final evaluation of the projects

An intermediate monitoring of the scientific activities will be carried out during the project. Such intermediate monitoring is aimed at verifying the state of implementation, the stage of the activities with respect to the planned schedule, the objectives achieved and any discrepancies in the performance of the activities and the achievement of the expected objectives.

At the end of the project activities, the proposing team will present a scientific report on the activities carried out and the objectives achieved, and a financial statement of the costs incurred, including a description of the sustainability of the project. The scientific report and financial statement will be evaluated by the same Commission for the evaluation of the proposals appointed by the Rector.

During the final evaluation, provided that the eligibility requirements on the applicant and the project are respected, the Commission may propose to the Rector to fund an additional year of activity for a maximum of 4 projects, based on the scientific relevance of the activities carried out (50%) and the team's ability to keep the project sustainable irrespective of the funding granted by the University, notably through the presentation of new funding applications to third parties to pursue the research (50%).

9) Person in charge of the administrative procedure and controls

The person in charge of the administrative procedure is Dr. Andrea Riccio, Head of the Research & Third Mission Area. The Central audit unit may carry out random checks on the use of the funding granted.



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

THE RECTOR

Professor Giovanna Iannantuoni
(digitally signed pursuant Art. 24, D.Lgs. 82/05)