

Bando Bicocca Starting Grant – Edition 2026

1) Purpose and Objectives

The University of Milano-Bicocca has established the Bicocca Starting Grant Call intended for holders of type A or B research fellowships, research contracts, and post-doc assignments of the University, with the objective of supporting the career path of young female and male researchers by encouraging the submission of individual project proposals, with UniMiB as host institution within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon Europe”.

The Bicocca Starting Grant call is open to those who hold the aforementioned contractual forms and possess the requirements referred to in the subsequent paragraph 3).

2) Financial endowment and maximum fundable amount

The call, entirely funded by the University of Milano-Bicocca, has a total endowment of 210,000.00 euros. There are 14 grants available, each with a maximum value of 15,000.00 euros.

3) Eligible subjects and participation requirements

- a) Applications may be submitted by female and male holders of Type A or B Research Fellowships, research contracts, and post-doc assignments (hereinafter referred to as applicants), in service at the University of Milano-Bicocca who, at the deadline date of the call, have a decree approving the acts or an active contract with a remaining contractual validity of at least 10 months.
- b) The requirement in point a) is increased by a corresponding number of months (or fractions of a month) of maternity or paternity leave, taken by the female and male candidates or for other causes established by current legislation.
- c) Applicants must attach to their application a declaration from the Director of the Department of affiliation authorizing participation in the call.

4) Fundable projects

The Bicocca Starting Grant call - 2026 edition aims to finance activities functional to supporting the preparation and submission by young female and male researchers of individual project proposals, with UniMiB as host institution within the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation “Horizon Europe”.

In particular, applications for funding may be submitted to support project proposals in response to the following calls issued under the Horizon Europe programme:

- ERC starting grant
- ERC consolidator grant

- Marie Skłodowska Curie - Postdoctoral Fellowships.

The projects must have a maximum duration of 12 months and will be managed by the Service Centres to which the applicant belongs.

The start of the activity is set for 01/09/2026.

Under penalty of revocation of the funding, the young female and male researchers must submit a project under the programmes covered by the funding within 15 months from the start date of the project.

5) Eligible expenses

The funding can be used to cover the following expense items, strictly connected to the purposes of the call:

- Consulting services and/or professional performances provided by entities or legal subjects expert in project design, grant writing, and scientific writing;
- Research missions and participation in congresses and conferences;
- Participation in training activities directly correlated to topics inherent to European project design, with particular attention to ERC and MSCA programmes, including any travel and accommodation expenses. Expenses for enrollment in postgraduate or master's degree courses, 1st and 2nd level university Masters are excluded;
- Carrying out research activities aimed at and strictly correlated to the preparation of the project proposal, up to a maximum value of 30% of the funding, including costs, by way of example, to support the purchase of consumables, scientific software, and related user licenses.

6) Terms of submission of the application

Proposals must be submitted through the following Google form. The application must be filled out using the forms prepared by the Grant Office and Tender Sector and available at the following link:

<https://www.unimib.it/ricerca/finanziamenti-e-partnership/finanziamenti-alla-ricerca/finanziamenti-ateneo/bicocca-starting-grant-edizione-2026>

Each proposal will consist of the following parts:

- Presentation and CV of the applicant: aimed at gathering information on experiences and career;
- Technical part, containing the description of the following points: Main elements of the research idea on which you intend to work; Plan of activities functional to support the preparation of the project proposal and plan of the related expected costs.

The deadline for submission of applications is set for July 10, 2026.

The submission of incomplete documentation or documentation not adhering to the above will result in automatic exclusion from the call.

7) Evaluation of proposals and ranking list

The evaluation of the proposals will be carried out by a specific Committee appointed by the Rector, which will draw up the proposed ranking list with the relative allocation on the basis of the criteria reported below. The members of the Committee must sign a declaration relating to the absence of conflicts of interest with the candidates.

The evaluation criteria for the proposals are:

- i) Qualification and experience of the applicant: 20 ptt
- ii) Quality of the proposed research idea: 20 pt
- iii) Activity plan and expenditure plan: 20 pt

In particular, for criterion i) each applicant must also indicate the three best research products present in the IRIS BOA database (scientific publications, patents, conference communications, monographs, etc.). The number of three products is to be considered mandatory, a number of products lower than three will lead to automatic exclusion.

The approval of the ranking list is ordered by provision of the Rector.

Proposals that achieve a minimum score of 40 points will be eligible for funding. Funding will be granted to projects successfully placed in the top positions of the ranking list, in order of the score obtained during the evaluation phase.

8) Monitoring of implementation and final evaluation of projects

At the end of the activities, the applicant must submit a report on the activities carried out which also includes a specific indication of the call in which they intend to participate/have participated and a financial reporting of the costs incurred. The report and the financial reporting will be subject to evaluation by the same Committee for the evaluation of proposals appointed by the Rector.

9) Procedure Manager and checks

The Procedure Manager is Dr. Andrea Riccio, Head of Research and Third Mission Area. The Central Audit Unit may arrange sample checks on the use of the contributions granted.

THE RECTOR
Prof. Marco Emilio Orlandi
(Digitally signed ex art. 24, D.Lgs. 82/05)