



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR SPECIFIC PROJECT
Call for applications to research fellowships for specific research programmes pursuant to art. 7 of the Regulations on research fellowships awarding

CA' FOSCARI UNIVERSITY OF VENICE
EUROPEAN CENTRE FOR LIVING TECHNOLOGY

The Director of the ECLT Centre

- HAVING REGARD TO the law December of 30th 2010, no. 240 and in particular art. 18 and 22 "assegni di ricerca" [research fellowships];
- HAVING REGARD TO the DM of March 9th 2011 no. 102, registered at the Corte dei Conti [National Audit Office] on May 13th 2011;
- HAVING REGARD TO the MIUR [Ministry of Education, University and Research] note, reg. no. 583 of 08.04.2011;
- HAVING REGARD TO the DLgs of January 9th 2008, no. 17;
- HAVING REGARD TO the law of August 7th 1990, no. 241 and subsequent amendments and additions;
- HAVING REGARD TO the D.P.R. of December 28th 2000, no. 445, "Testo Unico delle disposizioni legislative e regolamentari in materia di documentazione amministrativa" [Consolidation Act of the legislative and regulatory provisions concerning administrative documentation];
- HAVING REGARD TO the DLgs of June 30th 2003, no. 196 and subsequent amendments and additions;
- HAVING REGARD TO the DLgs. of April 4th 2006 no.198 "Codice delle pari opportunità tra uomo e donna, pursuant to art.6 the law of November 28th 2005 no.246" and subsequent amendments and additions [equal opportunities for men and women];
- HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of Ca' Foscari University of Venice;
- HAVING REGARD TO the REGOLAMENTO PER IL CONFERIMENTO DEGLI ASSEGNI DI RICERCA [REGULATIONS ON RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AWARDING] issued under D.R. n. 1/2017 and subsequent amendments and additions;
- HAVING REGARD TO the need to guarantee equal treatment for all candidates of a nationality other than the Italian one who in this period of health emergency may not be able to take the interview in presence and the opportunity to reduce travel on the national territory, the interview will be held electronically;
- IN VIEW OF the resolution of the ECLT Council of 21/12/2019 establishing the research programmes for awarding of the fellowships;
- HAVING REGARD TO the fact that this announcement was already been published previously, but the candidates who submitted the application during the assessment of the qualifications had not exceeded the minimum threshold, i.e. a score equal to or greater than 42 points out of 60, to be admitted to the oral exam;
- HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Director of the ECLT Centre, Rep. 89/2020, Prot. n. 50243 of 22/09/2020 containing declaration of financial backing for the entire duration of the fellowship and the expense commitment no. 2021 providing financial guarantee of the first yearly instalment of € 35.000,00 charged to budget item A.C.03.01.01.01; "Reliable and Explainable Adversarial Machine Learning (REXlearn)", CUP: H74I17000080003.

establishes the following:

Art. 1 – Scope

1. A public selection is announced to award **1 research fellowship** lasting 12 months, with the possibility of renewal within the limits of art. 2 of the Regulations on university research fellowship awarding, which will be subject to a specific contract.

The expected starting date is by November 2020.

The research fellowship amounts to Euro 28.496,99 per year gross to the recipient, net of the expenses to be sustained by the Provider. The amount may be subject to adjustment in the event of variations in the law.

2. The research fellowship is awarded for the purpose of collaboration with the following research programme of the ECLT Centre:

- **Title: Countering evasion attacks in adversarial machine learning**
- **scientific disciplinary sector: INF/01**
- **scientific coordinator and tutor: Prof. Marcello Pelillo**
- **Co-tutor: Dott. Sebastiano Vascon**
- **duration: 12 months**
- **abstract**
- The project aims at developing unsupervised and semi-supervised machine learning models based on game theory and related approaches to counter evasion attacks, namely attacks that manipulate input data to evade a trained classifier at test time. The work will be done within the MIUR-funded project “REXlearn: Reliable and Explainable Adversarial Machine Learning”.

3. The selection aims to ascertain the scientific-professional requirements deemed necessary to carry out the above research activities.

Art. 2 – Requirements for participation in the selection procedure

1. Citizens belonging to European Union member states and non-community citizens in possession of the following qualifications may take part in the selection:

degree (study course of no less than 4 years, established by the academic regulations prior to the DM of November 3rd 2009, no. 509), specialist degree (art. 3, par. 1, letter b), DM of November 3rd 2009, no. 509), master's degree (art. 3, par. 1, letter b), DM of October 22nd 2004, no. 270) in Computer science, Computer Engineering and appropriate scientific-professional curriculum for the research.

2. Qualifications obtained abroad will be examined by the Committee, in accordance with the following article 4, which may consider them as being equivalent for the purposes of admission, without prejudice to the current legislation (for further information see <http://cis.cimea.it/estero/>).

3. Candidates must be in possession of the requirements at the deadline established by this selection procedure announcement (see art. 3, par. 2).

4. The following are not eligible for fellowships and are therefore **automatically excluded from participation in the selection procedure**: persons who have a degree of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with a professor belonging to the department or to the facility issuing the call for applications, or with the Vice Chancellor, the Director-General or a member of the University Board of Directors.

5. The following are not eligible for fellowships: permanent employees of the universities, public research institutions and administrations, the National Council for New Technology, Energy and the Environment (ENEA) and the Italian Space Agency (ASI), institutions whose scientific specialisation diploma has been recognised equivalent to the title of PhD in accordance with article 74, fourth paragraph, of the Presidential Decree of July 11th 1980, no. 382, in accordance with the relative budget availability.

6. Private employees cannot be grant holders, even if part-time employed.

7. Candidates are admitted to the selection conditionally; the University will exclude, by motivated provision, candidates who are lacking the prescribed requirements. Said provision is notified to the concerned party by registered letter with recorded delivery or by telegram on the request of the concerned party.

8. In any case the grant will be awarded having regard to the art. 18 of the regulation on the research fellowship.

Art. 3 – Application for participation in the selection and deadline

1. In order to participate in the selection procedure, the candidate must submit an application with all the required documents in accordance with the Regulations on research fellowship awarding and the following paragraphs.

2. Applications, together with all the required documentation, have to be submitted exclusively online at the following webpage:

<https://apps.unive.it/domandeconcorso-en/accesso/eclt22092020rexlearn>

not later than **15 October 2020 noon time (12:00 Rome CET)**. In case the deadline is on Saturdays, Sundays or on holidays it is extended to the first working day thereafter.

The call for proposals is published on the University webpages ([link](#)), on the website of the Ministry of Higher Education and Research ([link](#)) as well as on the European Union web page ([link](#)).

3. The application form together with compulsory declarations are available on the University website ([link](#)).

4. The candidate, after the uploading, will receive a submission number and an e-mail acknowledging receipt of his/her application. The candidate if necessary could access the procedures for updating any data and materials through the link and submission number provided in the e-mail, in any case any updates must be made no later than the deadline, i.e. **15 October 2020 noon time (12:00 Rome CET)**.

5. Please note that the University can be contacted for any support needs by the candidate until 24 hours prior to the deadline. For further information please contact the **European Centre for Living Technology (ECLT)**, email: eclt@unive.it, tel. +39 041/2347549.

6. Please note that in case of a high number of applications and / or weight of the materials loaded by the candidates the system might become slower. Therefore, it is suggested not to start the process close to the deadline.

7. Incomplete applications, those without the required data and the compulsory attachments will not be taken into consideration. Furthermore, the applications which, for any reason, reach this University beyond the term specified in paragraph 2 cannot be accepted.

8. With the exception of the provisions of art. 6, all communications concerning the public selections announced hereunder are sent to the concerned parties by certified email, registered mail with recorded delivery, or telegram.

9. In the application the candidate must declare his/her surname and first name, date and place of birth, taxpayer's code and residence, in addition to:

- a) the title of the fellowship;
- b) the scientific disciplinary sectors;
- c) the possession of specialist / master's degree / degree obtained under the system prior/previous to the University reform. Candidates in possession of an educational qualification obtained abroad must also specify whether, under the current laws, it has been declared equivalent to the qualification required by this call (see art. 2, for further information see also <http://cis.cimea.it/estero/>). The candidate must specify the University where the qualification was obtained, the date on which it was acquired and the marks achieved in the final examination;
- d) the possession of a PhD, with the date on which it was obtained and the University where the course was held. Candidates in possession of a qualification obtained abroad must also specify whether, under the current laws, it has been declared equivalent to the Italian qualification (for further information see also <http://cis.cimea.it/estero/>);
- e) nationality;
- f) to be fit for the fellowship;
- g) whether he/she received a PhD grant;
- h) whether he/she has already received a research fellowship under art. 22 of law no. 240/2010;
- i) whether he/she has already held contracts under art. 24 of law no. 240/2010;
- j) his/her presentation of an individual proposal such as Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships /ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar, having passed all the evaluation thresholds;
- k) the conclusion of a Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions - Individual Fellowships /ERC Starting Grants/FIRB (Italian Fund for basic research investments)/SIR (Scientific Young Independence Research) or similar funded projects;
- l) the possession of a residence permit valid at the deadline of the call for applications, in case he/she is a non-European citizen residing in Italy;
- m) the consciousness that awarding of the fellowship is not compatible with the positions referred to in art. 11, with the exception of the provisions of the Regulations on university research fellowships awarding and the current legislation;
- n) the preference of the foreign language/s in which to be tested during the interview, if art. 5 of this call offers a choice of foreign languages;
- o) the possession of the evaluation criteria listed in art. 5;
- p) any other item specifically required in articles 2, 3 and 5;
- q) disabled candidates, in accordance with the law of February 5th 1992 no. 104 and subsequent amendments and additions, shall make a specific request in relation to their disability, concerning any aids they require in order to take any tests and sit the interview.

10. Lack of the declaration/s in accordance with letters **c)** and **d)** of the previous paragraph, will result in exclusion from the selection.

11. The application must contain the email and/or '*Posta Elettronica Certificata*' (certified email) address, if possessed, and the address elected by the candidate for the purposes of the selection. Any variation must be promptly notified to the Department/Centre to which the application has been addressed.

12. The University accepts no liability in the event of the recipient being untraceable or dispersion of the communications due to inaccurate indication of the domicile by the candidate, failure or delay in communication of variation of domicile or causes not depending on the University, or for any postal, telegraphic or telematic error or those attributable to third parties, chance events or force majeure.

13. The declarations made in the application shall be considered issued in accordance with the DPR no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments, by candidates entitled to use the simplified administrative certifications permitted by the above decree.

14. Candidates **must enclose** with their application:

- a) a scanned copy of any valid identification document;
- b) a motivation letter (max 1 page) along with their scientific-professional curriculum, both to be enclosed as a one single .pdf file. The curriculum vitae must be signed, specifying the educational qualification possessed for the purposes of the application and a detailed description of the candidate's scientific-professional qualifications; a declaration must be appended in the footnote of the curriculum, pursuant to the Italian DPR 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and additions, that the information provided corresponds to the truth. Moreover, the candidates have to consent to the use of their personal data for the purposes of this selection procedure pursuant to the Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003;
- c) the attachments called "obligations and understanding" and "participation and compatibility";

15. Other attachments:

- a) Declaration on availability to held the interview in remote (Link) to be send via email at the following address: eclt@unive.it
- b) a list of the candidate's scientific publications;
- c) declaration to fulfil the additional evaluation criteria listed in art. 5 according the scheme "preferential criteria";
- d) any other item specifically required in articles 2, 3 and 5;
- e) signed reference letters.

16. The same procedure established in the previous paragraphs for Italian citizens should be applied to citizens of the European Union. Citizens of countries not belonging to the European Union, regularly residing in Italy, can use the self-certifications established by the DPR no. 445/2000 limited to the countries, personal qualities and facts that can be certified or attested by Italian public bodies, with the exception of the special provisions contained in the legislation and regulations concerning immigration and the status of foreigners.

17. Citizens of countries not belonging to the European Union authorised to reside in the territory of the Country can use the aforementioned self-certifications if the same are produced under international agreements between Italy and the country of origin of the declarant.

18. The University performs sample checks on the truthfulness of the declarations made by the candidates in the applications and in the curriculum, reserving the right to request the original copies of the publications indicated in the application. If the above check reveals that the content of the declaration is not true, the Declarant will forfeit any benefits conferred on the basis of the untruthful declaration, without prejudice to the provisions of the criminal code and relevant special legislation.

Art. 4 – Selection Committee

1. A Selection Committee is purposely appointed in accordance with art. 9 of the Regulations, to award the research fellowships.

2. Prior to examination of the applications, the Committee determines the general criteria for evaluation of the scientific-professional qualifications required for participation in the selection, the possible preliminary tests, the interview and the evaluation criteria described in articles 2 and 5, with regard to their specific relevance to the research activity subject of this call and establishes, for each type of qualification, the score to be attributed, in accordance to the evaluation grid defined by the Regulations on Research Fellowship Awarding (see att. B).

3. The selection reports will be approved by decree of the Director of Centre and made public as established by art. 10 par. 5 of the Regulations on Research Fellowship Awarding.

Art. 5 – Assessment procedure

1. The selection is made by assessment of the scientific and professional qualifications, the curriculum vitae and scientific production of the candidates, followed by an interview.

Considering the current health emergency situation and in implementation of the DPCM of March 8, 2020 and subsequent acts, the interview will take place electronically.

2. Candidates are admitted to the interview on the basis of the assessment of their scientific-professional qualifications. The interview aims to assess the candidates' skills and expertise on the following subjects:

- *Basic machine learning techniques*
- *Basic adversarial techniques*
- *Deep learning platforms*
- *Assessment of knowledge of the Italian language;*
- *Assessment of knowledge of the English language.*

3. Candidates whose qualifications are judged to be insufficient by the Selection Committee, in accordance with the previous art. 4, are excluded from the interview. The candidate must reach a minimum threshold of 42/60.

4. Exclusion is justified in detail in the selection reports which can be accessed in accordance with law 241/90, and as established also in the subsequent art. 8.

5. In addition to the publications, the following qualifications are considered as evaluation criteria:

- a. holding a PhD;
- b. having completed the attendance of a PhD programme, although not having yet obtained the PhD title;
- c. specialisation diplomas and attendance certificates at post-graduate specialisation courses, obtained both in Italy or abroad, documented research activity in public and private organisations with contracts, study grants or assignments both in Italy and abroad;

Art. 6 – Selection and ranking

1. The classification and consequent identification of the successful candidate will be made by The Selection Committee, which can award a total of 100 points, as established by the Regulations on research fellowship awarding (see Annex B), to be allocated as follows:

- Qualifications (including publications and other tests) up to 60 points;
- Interview up to 40 points.

2. Candidates are admitted to the interview if assessment of the qualifications and results in a score equal to or greater than 42/60.

3. The interview will be held in any case on **21 October 2020**. The interview will be held in remote.

The list of candidates admitted to the interview and the schedule will be published **by 19 October 2020**.

4. Publication of the above calendar and of the shortlisted candidates constitutes notification to all intents and purposes of the call for applications. Shortlisted candidates are therefore required to report, with valid identification document, without any notice, to the venue indicated, on the day and at the time specified in the public notice ([link](#)).

5. Absence of the candidates at the interview will be considered to all intents and purposes as a withdrawal from the selection, whatever the cause.

6. The interview is held publicly. Candidates are deemed to have passed the interview if they reach a minimum score of 28/40.

7. Candidates are considered suitable for the specific research activity if the sum of the points assigned to the qualifications (and to any further tests) and to the interview is **equal to or greater than 70/100**.

8. On the basis of the scores attributed, the Committee draws up a merit ranking list in accordance to art. 10 of the Regulations on Research Fellowship Awarding.

9. In the event of two or more candidates obtaining the same score at the end of the selection, the younger candidate will be preferred.

Art. 7 – Awarding of the research fellowship

1. Having received the selection documents, the Director approves, by his own decree, the ranking list and the selection procedure reports and makes them public according to the procedures specified in the following art. 8.

2. The Director of the Centre where the research programme will be conducted, awards the research fellowship to the winner of the selection procedure, subject to ascertainment of the prescribed requirements.

3. The latter shall accept the award within 7 days from receipt of the communication by signing the relative contract, which will establish the terms of and procedures for the collaboration and allocation of the grant, within the terms set in article 1.

4. The research fellowship can be renewed, subject to the necessary financial backing, in the manner and under the terms established by articles 2, 13 and 21 of the Regulations on research fellowship awarding.

Art. 8 – Publication of the selection procedure

1. Publication of the results of all the selection phases is ensured by affixing a notice at the premises of the ECLT Centre, in the provided spaces, with indication of the scores assigned to the qualifications (to any tests) and to the interview and the final classification. The selection documents are made public also on the University website and on the other web pages as established by the current regulations.

2. Access to the selection documents is guaranteed pursuant to the law of August 7th 1990, no. 241 and subsequent amendments and additions and relative internal implementation regulation.

Art. 9 – Activity of the research fellow

1. During the whole research period, the activity of the research fellow is conducted at the Centre awarding the fellowship, except for external missions envisaged by the research project and/or those the tutor or the Centre Director have authorised in advance, as established in art. 13 of the Regulations on Research Fellowship Awarding.

2. The activity of the research fellow is conducted independently and without set working times, solely within the limits of the research programme and the indications provided by the research coordinator, who will act as tutor without prejudice to art. 13 of the Regulations on Research Fellowship Awarding.

3. The activity of the research fellow in no way constitutes a subordinate working relationship and does not give rise to rights in respect of access to permanent employment at the University.

4. The research fellow must arrange for his/her social security and welfare obligations. Also, he/she is to register on <https://loginmiur.cineca.it/>, and implement U-GOV scientific publications' list. He has to follow the University Regulations, specifically this notice, the Regulation concerning intellectual property, issued by D.R. n. 351/2012, June 28th 2012 and subsequent amendments and additions, the University ethical code, the public administration code of conduct, in accordance with art. 54, d.l. 165 March 30th 2001.

Art. 10 – Intellectual property, patentability and confidentiality

1. The legal and economic aspects relative to protection and exploitation of all the results of the research will be established by the contract stipulated with the winning candidate/s. Specifically, in compliance with the current legislation and the rules of the University concerning patents and industrial property D. R. n. 351/2012, June 28th 2012 and subsequent amendments and additions, and without prejudice to legislation in force, all the research results will be considered as property of the University; the latter will be able to exploit, use and/or publish such results, without prejudice to the inventor's moral rights.

2. The University Regulations (e.g. see art. 17 of the Regulations on research fellowship awarding), and the current laws will apply to all matters not covered in this call about the Intellectual property, patentability and confidentiality.

Art. 11 – Incompatibility – Ban on accumulation – Suspension of activity

1. Research fellows can hold teaching contracts within the University and can be part of the examining committees as experts in their subject, having regard to art. 4 of the regulations on research fellowship awarding.

2. The research fellowship may not be accumulated with study grants awarded for any reason, except for those awarded by national or foreign institutions for stays abroad in order to integrate the research activity of the research fellow.

3. The research fellowship is not compatible with participation in degree courses, specialist or master's degree, PhD with grant or medical specialisation, in Italy or abroad, and entails extended unpaid leave

for public administration employees, even if part-time employed, without prejudice to the provisions contained in the laws concerning the appointment of paid assignments to full-time civil servants.

4. The research fellow may accept self-employed work or occasional or continuous collaboration, compatibly with the existing research activity and subject to authorisation by the Centre, on condition that the activity does not involve conflict of interest with the specific research activity carried out by the research fellow and does not damage the University, without prejudice to the provisions of the Regulations on research fellowship awarding, and any normative adaptations.

5. The research activity and the grant may be suspended due to compulsory military service, compulsory maternity leave and parental leave, serious illness or difficult family issues and study grants awarded by national or foreign institutions permitted by the current regulations and not directly linked to the research programme funded, for a maximum of 1 year; in this case the entire duration of the research fellowship grant is not reduced due to the above suspensions.

6. An overall period of justified absence of less than thirty days in one year does not constitute suspension and consequently does not have to be made up.

7. The research fellows, with the exclusion of those who are simultaneously holders of teaching contracts within the University, can attend PhD courses without grant, also as supernumeraries, subject to passing of the entrance tests.

8. The research fellow may take part in University research groups and projects, whatever the funding body.

Art. 12 – Method of control and assessment of research fellow activity

1. Without prejudice to the provisions of par. 2 of this article, the research fellow is required to report on his/her research activity whenever requested to do so by the tutor. For said purpose the research fellow may be required to keep a diary-register in which he/she periodically notes the state of progress of the research programme, except for art. 13 provisions within the Regulations.

2. The research fellow is required to present to the Centre, at the end of the tenure period and in any case at the end of each year, in the case of a grant lasting several years, a written report on the research activity conducted also for the purpose of adjustment of the amount of the research fellowship grant where scheduled by the contract according to the preceding art. 7. In the report, the research fellow shall accurately and thoroughly detail the research methods applied and achievement of the results, even though they might not be partial results, with reference to the specific programme in which he/she collaborates with, also for the purpose of renewal of the grant if necessary, except for art. 13 provisions within the Regulations.

3. At the end of his/her research activity, the research fellow is required to provide the Centre with:

Public seminar on the results obtained.

4. The report, together with the opinion of the tutor on the appropriateness of the research methods applied and the validity of the results achieved, is submitted for examination to the Council of the Department or the body responsible.

5. In the event of a negative assessment, the Council of the Centre or the body responsible, having consulted the research fellow, can propose revocation of the grant. Early termination of the collaboration in the research activity is decided by the Council of the Department or the body responsible.

6. At the end of the grant, the above report shall describe accurately and thoroughly the research methods applied and achievement of the goals set by the research programme, also for the purpose of renewal of the grant if necessary.

7. Collaboration in the research activity may be terminated early in cases of serious and documented non-fulfilment of the requirements by the research fellow as notified by the tutor or by the Council of the department or body responsible. Likewise, the University is entitled to take any legal action to protect its interests and assets.

Art. 13 – Taxation, social security and insurance

1. In respect of taxation, the grants are subject to the provisions of art. 4 of the law of August 13th 1984, no. 476 and subsequent amendments and additions, and in respect of social security, those of art. 2, paragraphs 26 and following of the law August 8th 1995, no. 335 and subsequent amendments and additions.

2. The grants in this call are subject, in respect of compulsory maternity leave, to the provisions of the decree of the Ministry of Employment and Social Security of July 12th 2007, published in the Official Gazette no. 247 of October 23rd 2007.

3. During the period of compulsory maternity leave, the benefit paid by INPS (National Social Security Institute) in accordance with article 5 of the above decree of July 12th 2007 is integrated up to the entire amount of the research grant by the body responsible for administration and management of the grant.

4. The grants pertaining to this call for applications are subject, in respect of sick leave, to article 1, paragraph 788, of the law of December 27th 2006, no. 296, and subsequent amendments and additions.

5. The financial aspects of the research grants are regulated by the ministerial notes no. 2867 of December 15th 1997 and no. 523 of March 12th 1998; the remuneration, in the light of the resolution no. 17/E of the Ministry of Finance, ref. no. 2000/30703 of February 22nd 2000, comes under the category of incomes equated to those of subordinate employment since they fall within the scope of art. 50 (ex art. 47), par. 1, letters c) and c)-bis of the DPR no. 917 of December 22nd 1986 and subsequent amendments in the matter of 'Tax Consolidation Act'.

6. The University provides insurance cover for accidents and third party liability for the research grant holders during their research activity.

Art. 14 – Processing of personal information

The personal information provided by the candidates in their applications for participation in the selection procedure, pursuant to the legislative decree of June 30th 2003, no. 196 and subsequent amendments and additions, will be processed exclusively for the purposes of management of this procedure and any other procedure for attribution of the grants in question.

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Art. 15 – Person in charge of the procedure

Pursuant to the provisions of art. 5 of the law of August 7th 1990, no. 241 and subsequent amendments and additions, the person in charge of the administrative procedure for this selection is Roberta D'Argenio, Administrative Secretary of the European Centre for Living Technology.

Art. 16 – Final provisions

The University Regulations and the current legislation will apply to all matters not covered in the following call.

Venice, 22 September 2020

Signed
The Director of the ECLT Centre
Prof. Achille Giacometti