



**Call for n. 1 Short-term Research Fellowship(s) - Ca' Foscari University of Venice– Department of Asian and North African Studies**

(L. 240 del 30 Dicembre 2010, art. 18, DL 19/2012; Regolamento per l'attivazione di borse per attività di ricerca emanato con DR n. 300/2014 del 14/04/2014 e s.m.i.)

**THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**HAVING REGARD TO** the Article 18, paragraph 5, letter f) of Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010, and subsequent amendments and integrations;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the Article 21 quinque of Law No. 241 of August 7, 1990, and subsequent amendments and integrations;

**HAVING REGARD TO** Article 1 bis, paragraph 2, of Decree-Law No. 45 of April 7, 2025, as amended during conversion by Law No. 79 of June 5, 2025, which came into force on June 7, 2025, and which, in Article 4, paragraph 3, of Law No. 210 of July 3, 1998, abolished the favorable tax regime for short-term research fellowships post-graduation, establishing the application of IRPEF and IRAP taxes on such short-term research fellowships;

**RECALLED** the Regulation for the establishment of short-term research fellowships for post-graduate activities pursuant to Article 18 of Law No. 240 of December 30, 2010, issued with Rectoral Decree No. 300/2014 of April 14, 2014, and subsequent amendments and integrations;

**WHEREAS** the tax treatment of short-term research fellowships is subject to the legislation in force at the time of granting. Even if not expressly referred to in this notice, the applicable tax regime will be that provided for by current legislation pro tempore

The present document in English is to be considered as a mere translation of the provisions of the call which is available in Italian at the following [link](#). The text in Italian is the official text of the notice of competition for all legal intents and purposes and, in the event of non-conformity with the present document, it shall prevail.

The Department/Centre of Ca' Foscari University of Venice, having seen the project "Experiencing Transcendence through the Arts - A Comparative Study on Mysticism and the Arts in Contemporary Islam, Buddhism, and Bāul (EXTRA)", CUP H73C25001450007 and the request of Dr. Francesco Piraino, invites applications for a short-term research fellowship lasting **12 months**, with the possibility of renewal within the limits of art. 4 of the Regulations for awarding of University short-term research fellowships. The expected starting date is indicative **2nd March 2026**.

**Abstract:**

Sufi dances between artistic performance and religious practice

The selected researcher will focus on the study of Sufi dances, in particular *samā'*, originally practiced within the Mevlevi Order, which over time has evolved into one of the most recognizable emblems of global Sufism. Once confined to sacred devotion, this practice has been transformed into both a form of cultural heritage and a

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performative art in Turkey, Syria, Egypt, Europe, and the United States. Through this process of artification, the dance has shifted from a devotional framework to an aesthetic and intercultural one, while retaining a reworked spiritual dimension. The research explores the “aesthetic–spiritual threshold”—a liminal zone (Turner, 1969) in which art and mysticism converge. The study investigates the nature, conditions, and vocabularies of this ecstatic experience, as well as the ways in which it is negotiated between art and religion, with particular attention to the contexts of the Maghreb and the Mashreq. The selected candidate must have prior ethnographic experience with these religious movements and practices, as well as the necessary linguistic competencies (Arabic, darja).

**Scientific Supervisor:** Dott. Francesco Piraino.

**Amount:** The amount of the short-term research fellowship is equal to **26.400 €, gross percipient** and will be subject to taxation according to current regulations. It will be paid in bimonthly installments after certification of the regular performance of the activity.

**Deadline for submission of applications: 16th February 2026 at 12:00 (italian time).**

In case the deadline is on Saturdays, Sundays or on holidays it is extended to the first working day thereafter.

**Rules of eligibility - Beneficiaries**

Citizens belonging to European Union member states and non-community citizens in possession of master's degree (or equivalent) and an adequate scientific and professional cv are eligible

Applicants must hold all the requisites within the call deadline. The qualifications will be evaluated by a Commission that examines the eligibility and qualifications of the candidates and makes a merit rank of them.

Skills required (deducible from the CV):

- Prior research experience related to the research topic of the fellowship
- High proficiency in English
- High proficiency in French
- High proficiency in Arabic
- High proficiency in Moroccan Darja

**Any other evaluable qualifications:**

- Publications pertinent to the research topic of the fellowship

**Incompatibility**

The short-term research fellowship may not overlap with:

- other short-term research fellowships granted in any capacity, apart from those granted by national or foreign research institutes in order to integrate with periods abroad the specific activity foreseen by the work plan of the appointed fellow;
- attendance of PhD courses with short-term research fellowship and medical specialization, in Italy and abroad;
- research grants “assegni di ricerca”

Short-term Research Fellowship holders may carry out self-employed work or occasional or permanent collaborations, as long as this is coherent with the ongoing research, upon approval and on the condition that:

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- does not involve a conflict of interest with the specific research activity carried out;
- does not prejudice the university, in relation to the activities carried out.

Subordinate employment contract holders, in addition to obtaining permission by the university, must provide the authorization of their employer.

In the specific case that the subordinate employment contract started prior to the awarding of the fellowship, compatibility with the existing employment will have to be assessed; if the assessment yields a negative result, the Short-term Research Fellowship will not be awarded; in the case of a positive result, the successful candidate will have to provide the authorization of his/her employer within 15 days.

In the event that the subordinate employment contract will start once the fellowship is ongoing, the successful applicant is required to notify this change at least 30 days before the start of the employment contract for an assessment of compatibility; if the assessment is negative, the fellowship will cease by the start of the employment contract; in the event of a positive outcome, the successful applicant must provide the authorization of his/her employer within 15 days.

The awarding of the short-term research fellowship does not imply the establishment of any employment contract, nor does it give rise to any rights of access to positions of employment at the university

**How to apply**

Candidates should submit:

- a) The application form, duly dated and signed. It can be downloaded in the Department webpage [link](#) and in the University webpage [link](#).
- b) Applicants must declare in the application, under their own responsibility:
  - educational qualification held;
  - 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;
  - to be medically fit to discharge his/her duties for the fellowship;
  - that they understand that the short-term research fellowship is not compatible with the positions referred to in Art. 12 of the present Regulations and current legislation;
  - not to have received measures restricting personal freedom at the time of submitting the application;
  - not to have a degree of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with any professor belonging to the department or facility issuing the call or with the Rector, the General Manager or a member of the University Board of Directors and that they are aware of the provisions of the Law no 240/2010, Art. 18, para. 1, letter b);
  - any benefit under L. 104/92.
- c) A CV in European format, duly dated and signed;
- d) A copy of a valid identity document (e.g. Identity Card or Passport).
- e) All documents, qualifications and publications relevant for the selection procedure.

**How to submit your application**

Hard copy of the application can be::

- 1) printed, signed and delivered to Department of Asian and North-African Studies - University Ca' Foscari, Dorsoduro 1686, Campo San Sebastiano, 30123 Venezia (MON – FRI, 9.00 - 19.00).
- 2) sent by registered mail with return receipt to Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia e sull'Africa Mediterranea dell'Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Dorsoduro 1686, Campo San Sebastiano, 30123 Venezia 30123 Venezia (In this case, shall be deemed the date of receipt by the Administration, not later than noon time (12:00 Rome CET), 16th February 2026).
- 3) sent by certified e-mail to [protocollo@pec.unive.it](mailto:protocollo@pec.unive.it), specifying the subject : "DSAAM - Research fellowship - Sufi dances between artistic performance and religious practice".
- 4) sent by e-mail to [ricerca.dsaam@unive.it](mailto:ricerca.dsaam@unive.it), specifying the subject : "DSAAM - Research fellowship - Sufi dances between artistic performance and religious practice". The candidate is responsible for any failure

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to submit the application and its annexes.

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 deadline indicated above cannot be accepted.

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.

**Selection and evaluation procedure**

The selection is made by assessment of the scientific-professional qualifications of the candidates, by a Selection Committee appointed by order of the Director of the research department taking into account, whereas possible, gender balance.

The Commission compiles a ranking and specifies the winning applicant, having regard to the score appointed to experience and qualifications, interview and any other test, as specified by the call. In the event of two or more candidates obtaining the same score at the end of the selection, the younger candidate will be preferred.

**Awarding of the Short-term Research Fellowship**

Having received the selection documents, and at the outcome of the checks, the Director approves, by his own decree, the classification and the selection procedure reports and makes them public.

Notification, including the start date of the short-term research fellowship, shall be sent to the winning candidate.

The winner must accept the short-term research fellowship within seven days of receipt of the written notification referred to above, under penalty of revocation. In the event of withdrawal, the short-term research fellowship shall be awarded to the next available candidate, following the order of the final ranking of merit.

Publication of the results of all the selection phases shall be published in the online University notice board, on the specific Department web page ([link](#)) and on the University website ([link](#)).

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.

**Processing of personal data**

Personal data provided by the candidates in their applications for participation in the selection procedures, are processed pursuant to the legislative decree of June 30th 2003, no. 196 and subsequent amendments and additions and to EU Regulations 2016/679. Comprehensive information on personal data processing can be found here: <https://www.unive.it/pag/36550/>.

**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 dott.ssa Francesca Bernardi, in charge of Department of Asian and North-African Studies.

**Final Provision**

For anything not specified in this call, see the University current regulations regarding the awarding for Short-term Research Fellowship and the current legislation.