



Università
Ca' Foscari
Venezia

Dipartimento di Studi sull'Asia
e sull'Africa Mediterranea

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Settore Ricerca/MC

Call for n. 1 Short-term Research Fellowship - 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 quinquies 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 agreement between Italian Buddhist Union - UBI and University Ca' Foscari of Venice, Department of Asian and North-African Studies, rep. 89/2026, prot. 91650 dated 01/04/2026, CUP H73C26000190007, and the request of Dr. Chiara Bellini, invites applications for a short-term research fellowship lasting **11 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 **15th June 2026**.

Abstract:

Beyond Exoticism: Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist Art in Italian Museums—Between History, Collecting Practices, and New Museological Approaches, Across Memory and Decoloniality

The project aims to map and conduct a systematic scholarly study of Tibetan and Himalayan collections held in Italian museums, many of which remain unpublished or lack critical documentation. Through a decolonial approach, the research seeks to reconstruct the history of collecting practices and the trajectories through which these artefacts arrived in Italy, while addressing the ethical issues of restitution and cultural ownership.

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The primary objective is the creation of an archive intended as a preparatory step towards the potential future development of a multilingual virtual museum (Italian, Tibetan, English), conceived as a form of “epistemic restitution” to both source communities and the scholarly community. The project is designed as a replicable methodological model for the valorisation of the broader Buddhist heritage in Italy (including China, Japan, and Southeast Asia), addressing a significant documentary gap and fostering informed intercultural dialogue.

OBJECTIVES

- To map and document collections of Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist art held in Italian museums, including lesser-known and under-researched collections.
- To investigate the historical relationships between Italy and Tibet, Nepal, Ladakh, and Bhutan through the study of collectors, missionaries, and scholars.
- To decolonise the study of Himalayan art and culture by reconstructing the history of collections, their historical contexts, and the trajectories of objects to Italy.
- To develop a preliminary archive to support the future creation of a virtual museum, accessible online in Italian, Tibetan, and other international languages, including detailed object records.
- To support Italian museums in the cataloguing and valorisation of their collections, particularly where detailed records or online databases are lacking.
- To contribute to the debate on restitution and repatriation by proposing a model for global accessibility to artistic heritage.

EXPECTED RESULTS

- A preliminary catalogue of Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist artworks held in Italian museums.
- An updated mapping of collections, with particular attention to smaller institutions (ethnographic and missionary museums).
- An initial phase of planning for the digitisation of images and object descriptions.
- The definition of guidelines for the development of the virtual museum.
- The preparation of a scholarly dossier to support applications for European or national research funding.

Scientific Supervisor: Dr. Chiara Bellini..

Amount: The amount of the short-term research fellowship is equal to **18.850 €**, 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: 25th May 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):

- Previous research activity related to the research fellowship topic.

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- Academic background in Indological and Tibetological studies.
- Experience in archiving and database management.
- High proficiency of at least one Asian language relevant to the research project, among the following: Hindi, Sanskrit, Tibetan.
- Good proficiency in English.
- Native-level proficiency in Italian.
- Experience in organizing conferences and seminars.

Any other evaluable qualifications:

- PhD, preferably in Indological and Tibetological studies.

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:

- 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;

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- 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), 25th May 2026).
- 3) sent by certified e-mail to protocollo@pec.unive.it, specifying the subject : “DSAAM - Research fellowship - Beyond Exoticism: Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist Art in Italian Museums—Between History, Collecting Practices, and New Museological Approaches. Across Memory and Decoloniality”.
- 4) sent by e-mail to ricerca.dsaam@unive.it, specifying the subject : “DSAAM - Research fellowship - Beyond Exoticism: Tibetan and Himalayan Buddhist Art in Italian Museums—Between History, Collecting Practices, and New Museological Approaches. Across Memory and Decoloniality”. The candidate is responsible for any failure 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.