



FAQ PRIN 2022 - Research Office

This document represents a summary of the answers to the questions asked by Luiss' professors to the Research Office in relation to the PRIN 2022 Call.

What is the call deadline?

Thursday, March 31st, 2022 (3pm).

What is the available budget?

The total budget that can be requested to the MUR amounts to a maximum of € 250.000 per project. This sum - which will be provided by the Ministry at the beginning of the project - does not include the personnel costs foreseen in the budget item A.1, i.e. Professors or Researchers employed by Luiss by means of a permanent contract (*contratto a tempo indeterminato*), for which it is foreseen a contribution (*cofinanziamento*) by the university.

What is the project duration?

The maximum duration of the project is 2 years (it can be extended up to 6 months).

When could we expect an outcome from the application?

It is likely that the results will be published during the second semester of 2022. The project will start within 90 days from the funding admission decree (*Decreto di ammissione al finanziamento*).

I am a Professor/RTD-A/RTD-B under 40 and I wish to apply as PI. Is that possible? In general, are there age limits?

An *ad hoc* financial endowment (30% of the total funding made available by the MUR) is foreseen for proposals led by PIs under the age of 40 on the date of publication of the first [call](#) (25 January 2022). This limit age can be extended up to 18 months for previous maternity leave, parental leave or other documented reasons (e.g. PI long-term illnesses). Besides that, there are no age limits to apply as PI.

How many Research Units does the project need to have in order to be eligible?

Each research group must be formed by at least 2 Research Units belonging to different universities, organizations or institutions. The call does not specify a maximum amount of Research Units, but the number of Units must be proportionate to the project objectives and to implement the necessary activities to achieve them. Furthermore, it is important the abovementioned € 250.000 budget limit for each project.

Who can apply as PI?

Only Full/Associate Professors and RTD-A/B (whose contract does not weigh on funds tied to specific projects, already subject to public funding) can apply as PI. The rule applies even if the Professor/Researcher is part-time and/or not Italian. In this regard, since the proposal requires to indicate the PEC address of both the PI and his/her substitute, it is important to have an active PEC address already at the submission phase.

Who can apply as Responsible of Research Unit?

Only Full/Associate Professors and RTD-A/B (whose contract does not weigh on funds tied to specific projects, already subject to public funding) can apply as Responsible of Research Unit. The rule applies even if the Professor/Researcher is part-time and/or not Italian.

Are there any specifics regarding the proposal?

The proposal must be drafted in English (the Italian version is optional) and submitted by the PI or by the Responsible of the Research Unit (through his/her credentials) by means of the following [link](#).

Can I take part in more than one proposal?

Each Full/Associate Professor or RTD-A/B, regardless of his/her role within the project (either PI or Responsible of Research Unit) or his/her affiliations (e.g. two affiliations to two different Italian universities), can take part in only one proposal. The same rule applies to research fellows and PhD students.

I have already taken part and/or been awarded a project under the PRIN 2020 call. Can I apply to this call?

PRIN 2020 applicants and/or winners (either as PI or Responsible of Research Unit) can apply either as PI, Responsible of Research Unit or join a research team in a proposal on PRIN 2022. The same rule applies to applicants to / winners of previous PRIN projects (e.g. PRIN 2017), even if such projects are still ongoing.

I have a collaboration contract with Luiss. Can I take part in the project?

Owners of collaboration contracts (*co.co.co.*) with the university cannot take part in the project in any form (PI, Responsible of Research Unit, member of research team), in accordance with Annex 2 (section “General criteria”, n.13)

Is there a maximum limit of members in each research unit?

The maximum limit is 11 members (PI / Responsible of the Research Unit + max 10 Professors/Researchers for each Unit). The number of members must be proportionate to the project goals as well as to the activities to be implemented to achieve them.

Can Professors with a fixed-term contract (*Professori Straordinari*) apply as PI or take part in the call?

Since their fixed-term contract is paid with external funds to implement specific projects, it is not possible



for *Professori Straordinari* to take part in the PRIN in any form (PI, Responsible of Research Unit, member of the research team).

Can Professors affiliated to foreign universities take part in the project?

Professors affiliated to foreign universities, even if European, cannot take part in the project in any form (PI, Responsible of Research Unit, member of research team). However, they can be involved as advisors (item D of the budget).

Can Professors and/or Researchers affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres be involved in the Luiss' research unit? At the same time, can Professors and/or Researchers employed by Luiss be involved in research units affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres?

They can be involved in Luiss' research unit only if they are affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres by means of a permanent contract (*contratto a tempo indeterminato*), i.e. Full and Associate Professors. On the contrary, RTD-A/B, research fellows, PhD students or owners of collaboration contracts (*co.co.co.*) with other Italian universities/research centres - such as Assistant Professors, Lecturers or Titolari di Insegnamento - cannot be involved in the Luiss' research unit. The same rule applies inversely: only Full and Associate Professors employed by Luiss can join a research unit affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres, whereas RTD-A/B, research fellows, PhD students and/or owners of collaboration contract (*co.co.co.*) with Luiss cannot join other Research Units.

How many Professors and/or Researchers affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres can be involved in the Luiss' research unit?

There is no limit, neither in terms of numbers nor in terms of valorization of their effort (even though it would be advisable for the Luiss' research unit to include more Luiss' members than Professors and/or Researchers affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres). The only limitation is that their costs cannot exceed 20% of the A.1 budget item (*Personale dipendente a tempo indeterminato*).

Can Professors and/or Researchers affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres have their expenses and missions reimbursed?

(Full Time) Professors and/or Researchers affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres - as for all other members of the Research Unit - can allocate their project-related expenses and missions' costs to the project (as long as they are eligible and coherent with Luiss' policies).

Can I involve a part-time Full/Associate Professor in the Research Unit?

Yes, but only limited to Luiss' affiliation (in terms of efforts and cost).

Can RTDs/research fellows/PhD students be included in Luiss' research unit?

1. As specified in Annex 2, Researchers currently contracted with Luiss' funds cannot allocate their personnel costs to the project. If necessary to determine the Luiss' research unit's working time on the project, it is possible to indicate the working time spent by the above researchers on the project. RTDs/research fellows/PhD students contracted with Luiss' funds can take part in



- project-related activities (e.g. publications, events etc.) and be reimbursed as members of the Research Unit (e.g. missions, etc.).
2. Researchers currently contracted with other (national/European) projects funds cannot neither allocate their personnel costs to the project nor indicate their working time spent on the project, unless an addendum (section A.2.2., n. 2 of the call) to their current contract - through which they specify working time and costs to be allocated to the PRIN project - will be implemented in the 90 days between the funding admission decree (*Decreto di ammissione al finanziamento*) and the beginning of the project. In this case, the working time and costs allocated to the PRIN project cannot be allocated to the other national/European projects the Researchers were already working on. In case the existing contract of the Researcher will expire during the project, but it will be decided to extend it by allocating its costs to the PRIN project, it will be possible to allocate to the project both the Researcher's working time and costs. Also, in this specific case, RTDs/research fellows/PhD students contracted with other (national/European) projects funds can take part in project-related activities (e.g. publications, events etc.) and be reimbursed as members of the research unit (e.g. missions, etc.).
 3. RTDs/research fellows/PhD students employed by or affiliated to other Italian universities/research centres cannot be involved in the Luiss' research unit, since it will not be possible to allocate to the project neither their working time nor their personnel costs.

Can I foresee the recruitment of prospective research fellows on the project?

It is possible to foresee research grants and allocate their costs to the project. Their costs can range from 23.787 euro to 35.000, according to the expertise of the candidate. Since the project duration is 24 months, it is advisable to foresee grants with a maximum duration of 24 months, in order to ensure the execution of selection procedures, which will take place in the 90 days between the funding admission decree (*Decreto di ammissione al finanziamento*) and the beginning of the project.

Can team members change during the implementation of the project?

In case of PI change, it is necessary to indicate already at the application phase a potential substitute (to be selected among Responsibles of other Research Units) meeting the requirements to be PI (e.g. if the PI is under 40, he/she needs to be substituted by a Professor/Researcher under 40 at the publication date of the call, i.e. 25 January 2022). In case of Responsible of Research Unit change, it will be possible for him/her to be substituted without indicating it at the application phase. In case of Research Unit member change, it will be possible to do it without authorization by the MUR.

Can a Professor retiring in 2022 present a proposal?

Yes, both as PI and as Responsible of Research Unit. However, when the Professor will retire, he/she will not be able neither to remain PI (in this case, he/she will be replaced by the substitute PI - to be chosen among Responsibles of other Research Units - indicated at the application phase), nor to take part as Responsible of Research Unit and/or as research team member (it will therefore be necessary to replace him/her).

Can a Professor on unpaid leave (*aspettativa senza assegni*) present or take part in a proposal on the PRIN 2022 call?

It is possible, as long as - in compliance with law n. 240/2010 - the Professor agrees his/her participation with Luiss' relevant bodies and obtains a *nulla osta* for his/her participation to the PRIN 2022 from the new institution.

Is it eventually possible to modify the budget during the project?

It is possible to increase/decrease project items (moving funds to the various items according to the needs), as long as these changes are in line with / will allow to achieve the foreseen project goals. The only limit is the A.1 budget item (*personale dipendente a tempo indeterminato*), which can only be changed up to 20% of its amount. On the contrary, if the overall project costs increase 25% or more during the project (this can only happen in exceptional cases), this deviation needs to be motivated and communicated to the MUR for approval. In case the total cost reported at the end of the project will be higher than the one initially approved by the Ministry, the MUR total financing will remain the same.

Is it eventually possible to modify the members of a research unit during the project?

It is possible and those changes do not need to be communicated to / authorised by the MUR, as long as the members' expertise is in line and appropriate to achieve the project goals. The new research members, in order to take part in the project, need to register their profile at the following [link](#).

Does the call foresee a minimum co-financing?

No, but it is advisable to foresee costs on the budget item A.1 (involvement of Professors or Researchers employed by means of a permanent contract), because this would increase the overhead (budget item B) and can be increased up to 20% during the project. On the contrary, if at the application phase any costs is allocated to budget item A.1, this item cannot be changed during the project.

Are there any rules regarding gender equality and/or interdisciplinarity?

Although the evaluation criteria do not directly refer to gender equality and/or interdisciplinarity, they indeed constitute an added value, both in terms of research teams' composition and project idea.

Ultimately, who can take part/be involved in a Research Unit?

Full/Associate Professors, RTDs, research fellows and PhD students.

Who can be the substitute of the PI?

The substitute of the PI must be a Responsible of another Research Unit. So, in case of a PI under 40, the substitute must also be under 40.

The call states that at least 40% of the funds must be assigned to southern regions. Are there criteria regarding the composition of research units?

In this respect, the MUR stated not only that the 40% target is related to all funds allocated within the PNRR (and therefore not only to the PRIN 2022 call), but also that research units from northern and



southern Italy can compose their teams regardless of their geographical location. In addition, the call does not specify a minimum number of Responsibles of Research Units and/or members of Research Units affiliated to universities/research centres situated in southern Italy. Furthermore, the MUR specified that there will be a single ranking and that meritocracy (and not the involvement of universities/research centres situated in southern Italy) will be the sole element which will be taken into account at the evaluation phase.

Can I involve a research fellow whose contract will expire between the proposal submission and the publication of the funding admission decree (*Decreto di Ammissione al Finanziamento*)?

Researchers whose contract will expire between the proposal submission and the publication of the funding admission decree (*Decreto di Ammissione al Finanziamento*) cannot be involved as members of the Luiss' Research Unit.