



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

Call Starting@UNIPi

Art. 1 – Purpose and object of the call

The University of Pisa offers a **support service** to researchers interested in presenting proposals for the **ERC Starting Grant 2026** call whose publication is expected on July 2025 with deadline in October 2025. **The applicants** will be selected, **in maximum number of 10**, based on the evaluation criteria specified in article 6.

Support will consist of an extensive and interactive review process on:

- CV and scientific profile of the PI
- project idea and its presentation

and will be carried out by a consultancy agency selected by the University of Pisa in collaboration with the Research Development Unit.

Art. 2 – Recipients of the call

The applicants are researchers, of any nationality, interested in presenting a project proposal for the ERC Starting Grant 2025 call, selecting the University of Pisa as the Host Institution. It is not required to be under contract with UNIPi.

Art. 3 – Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria are defined in agreement with the guidelines for the ERC Starting Grant application¹. In addition, a **Letter of acknowledgment** duly **signed by the Director of the Department** of the University of Pisa that will host the researcher funded with the ERC-StG 2026 grant. Attached is the form to be used (**attachment 1**).

Art. 4 – How to submit the application and deadline

Applicants must send their **CV** and their **project idea** (to be filled in using attachment 2), together with the Letter of acknowledgment referred to in art. 3, by email to starting@unipi.it. All documents must be written in **English** and sent in **pdf format**.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **Sunday 8 June 2025 at 11.59 pm** (the date of sending the mail will prevail).

Art. 5 – Evaluation procedure

¹ Researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD, a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal. Cut-off dates: Successful defence of PhD between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2023 (inclusive). Extensions of eligibility are possible in several cases. In the case of maternity, paternity, long term illness, national service, clinical training, or due to a natural disaster or seeking asylum. PhD defence date: the reference date is the certified date of the successful defence (and not award) of the PhD. Whenever the PhD certificate does not show the PhD defence date, applicants should provide a written confirmation from the awarding institution stating the said date.

Applications to participate in the Starting@UNIFI call will be reviewed by an Evaluation Committee, coordinated by the Vice-Chancellor for the Promotion of Research (representative for the PE domain) and also composed of the Delegate for research promotion in Life Sciences (for the LS domain) and the Delegate for research promotion in Social Sciences and Humanities (for the SSH domain). The Committee may be supported by expert evaluators in the scientific areas of the submitted proposals.

The members of the Committee and the experts are obliged to maintain the confidentiality of information relating to the proposals that will be submitted to them for evaluation.

Art. 6 – Evaluation criteria

Project ideas will be evaluated based on the sole criterion of scientific excellence for a maximum score of 80/100. Up to a maximum of 20/100 points will be assigned to the candidate's profile that has to be in line with the requirements of the ERC-StG-2026 call. Proposals reaching a threshold of 70/100 will be selected.

Art. 7 – Publication of the results

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the list of proposals eligible for funding (up to a maximum of 10) will be published on the University's web page dedicated to the call

<https://www.unipi.it/index.php/support-for-researchers/item/25343-starting-unipi-the-call-to-support-your-application-for-the-erc-starting-grant>

Art. 8 – Publication of the call

This notice and attachments are published on the University's web page dedicated to the call –

<https://www.unipi.it/index.php/support-for-researchers/item/25343-starting-unipi-the-call-to-support-your-application-for-the-erc-starting-grant>

Art. 9 – Person in charge of the call

According to Art. 5 of the Italian Law of August 7th, 1990, n. 241, the person in charge for the present call is Dr. Mauro Bellandi, Director of the Direzione Ricerca e Valorizzazione delle Conoscenze, University of Pisa - Lungarno Pacinotti, 44 - Pisa, e-mail mauro.bellandi@unipi.it.

Art. 10 – Personal data

The processing of personal data is governed by Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of April 27, 2016 "General Data Protection Regulation" published in the Official Gazette of July 4, 2016, by Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003 "Personal Data Protection Code," published in the Official Gazette of July 29, 2003, and by University of Pisa Personal Data Protection Regulations issued by Rector's Decree No. 866/2019 of May 27, 2019.

Personal data will be processed solely for the purposes of this call for proposals.

The Direzione Ricerca e Valorizzazione delle Conoscenze, the members of the evaluation committee and the experts agree not to disclose the contents of project proposals to third parties and to protect the confidentiality of everything stated therein.

Annexes

- Annex 1 - Letter of Commitment template
- Annex 2 – Proposal template