

Bando Advanced@UNIFI 2026

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 Advanced Grant 2026** call, to be published the 28 May 2026 with deadline the 27 August 2026. **The applications** will be selected based on the evaluation criteria specified in article 6.

The support will consist in an in-deep and interactive review process of:

- 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 submitting a project proposal for the ERC Advanced Grant 2026 call, having the University of Pisa as the Host Institution.

Art. 3 – Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria are defined in agreement with the guidelines for the ERC Advanced Grant application¹. It is not required that candidates have or have had a contract with the University of Pisa. All candidates are required to submit a Letter of Commitment duly signed by the Director of the Department of the University of Pisa that will host the researcher if he/she is the winner of the ERC-AdG 2026. Attached is the form to be used (**attachment 1**).

Restrictions apply to researchers having had access to the support service in previous ERC@UNIFI initiatives. In particular, researchers having benefited from Advanced@UNIFI 2025 or Consolidator@UNIFI 2025 are not eligible to this call.

Art. 4 – How to submit the application and deadline

Applicants are required to access the submission wizard available at <https://survey.unipi.it/index.php/226677?lang=en> and follow the instructions.

The templates for the Letter of Commitment (Annex 1) and for the CV and project idea (Annex 2), to be uploaded in the submission wizard, are annexed to this call notice and available at: <https://www.unipi.it/ricerca/sostegno-e-incentivi-di-ateneo/ercunipi/advancedunipi-2025-il-bando-per-supportare-la-tua-partecipazione-allerc-adg/>. All documents must be written in **English** and uploaded in **pdf format**.

Proposals received by other means will not be accepted.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **22 April 2026 at 11:59 pm**.

¹ Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are already established research leaders with a recognised track record of research achievements. Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition, and feasibility of their research proposal. An ERC Advanced Grant Principal Investigator is expected to be an active researcher and to have a track record of significant research achievements. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen. No specific criteria apply referring to the date of obtention of the PhD. The ERC AdG PI commit him/herself to spend minimum the 30% of his/her working time on the ERC project and 50% of his/her working time in a Member State or Associated Country to HE.

Art. 5 – Evaluation procedure

The participation applications for the Advanced@UNIFI grant are evaluated by expert reviewers in the scientific areas of the submitted proposals, who are external to the University of Pisa. External experts are called to maintain confidentiality regarding the information pertaining to the proposals that will be subjected to their 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-AdG-2026 call. Proposals reaching a threshold of 70/100 will be selected. Researchers whose proposal has not been selected will receive a brief evaluation report indicating the strengths and weaknesses of both the submitted project idea and the CV.

Art. 7 – Publication of the results

Upon completion of the evaluation process, the list of proposals eligible for funding will be published on the Advanced@unipi page of the University of Pisa website. Up to a maximum of 6 proposals will be retained.

Art. 8 – Publication of the call

This notice and attachments are published in the Research section of the University of Pisa website – <https://www.unipi.it/ricerca/sostegno-e-incentivi-di-ateneo/ercunipi/advancedunipi-2025-il-bando-per-supportare-la-tua-partecipazione-allerc-adg/>.

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 Research Services Department, 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 Research Services Department, 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