



UNIVERSITÀ DI PISA

Call Starting@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 Starting Grant 2027** (ERC-2027-StG) call whose publication is expected in July 2026 with deadline in October 2026.

The 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 2027 call, selecting the University of Pisa as the Host Institution. It is not required to be under contract with UNIFI.

Art. 3 – Eligibility criteria

The eligibility criteria are defined in agreement with the guidelines for the ERC-2027-StG:

- researchers are eligible to apply for a Starting Grant immediately after successfully defending their PhD, and at any time within the following 10 year¹.
- researchers who have received a **C score at Step 1** in the ERC StG calls published under the Work Programmes 2025 or 2026 (ERC-2025-StG and ERC-2026-StG respectively) or a **B score at Step 1** of the calls published under the Work Programmes 2026 (ERC-2026-StG) cannot apply to 2027 ERC grant call

In addition, an internal criterium was added: researchers having had access to the support service in the Starting@UNIFI 2025 edition are not eligible to this call. This limitation does not apply to researchers having had access to the service in previous editions.

Art. 4 – How to submit the application and deadline

The applicants are required to submit the CV and the project idea, together with a “Letter of Acknowledgment” 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-StG 2027.

¹ Successful defence of PhD after the 1st January 2017 (inclusive). Extensions of eligibility are possible in the case of maternity, paternity, long term illness, national service, disability, clinical training, major disasters, seeking asylum, gender-based violence or any other form of violence. 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.

The templates for the Letter (Annex 1) and for the CV + project idea (Annex 2) are annexed to this call notice and available at <https://www.unipi.it/en/research/support-and-incentives/ercunipi/startingunipi-2025/>.

All documents must be written in **English** and transformed in **pdf format**.

Applicants are required to register here <https://survey.unipi.it/applicant/starting/index.php>. Registration provides access to the submission wizard, where applicants can fill in the required fields and upload Annexes 1 and 2. Proposals submitted through any other channel will not be accepted.

The deadline for the submission of applications is **21 June 2026 at 11:59 pm**.

Applicants will receive a **confirmation email** acknowledging successful submission, including the **ID** assigned to their proposal, which will be used for future communications.

Art. 5 – Evaluation procedure

Applications to Starting@UNIPi 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 in Life Sciences and the Delegate for research in Social Sciences and Humanities. 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 **maximum 10** proposals eligible for funding will be published on the University's web page dedicated to the call <https://www.unipi.it/en/research/support-and-incentives/ercunipi/startingunipi-2025/>

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/en/research/support-and-incentives/ercunipi/startingunipi-2025/>

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 Acknowledgment template
- Annex 2 –Proposal template + CV