

Via A. Gabelli 63 - 35121 Padova
C.F. 80006480281 - P.IVA 00742430283

For legal purposes refer only to the Italian version of the Call. This translated version is intended only for a better comprehension.

Rec. n. 5217 dated 29.10.2025

University of Padova – Department of Molecular Medicine

**Selection announcement for the awarding of 01 post graduate research fellowship entitled
“SARS-CoV-2 epidemiology, genomics and phylogeny: identification and characterization of
circulating viral variants which are clinically relevant for public health”**

Candidates shall also refer to the forms and documentation related to the selection announcement available at the links hereunder:

<https://www.medicinamolecolare.unipd.it/> under the section “Bandi”

<https://www.unipd.it/borse-di-ricerca>

Having regard to par. 4 of Art. 80 of the University's “Regolamento di Ateneo per l'amministrazione, la finanza e la contabilità” (Regulations Governing Administration, Finance, and Accounting) and “Regolamento delle borse per lo svolgimento di attività di ricerca”, (Regulations Governing Research Fellowships) a selection announcement for qualifications and interview has been published for the awarding of **no. 01 post graduate research fellowship** at the Department of Molecular Medicine, under the supervision of the Research Project Supervisor, **Prof. Stefano Toppo**.

The research fellowship shall last for **4 months**.

The research fellowship shall be for a **gross total amount of € 6.452,00** (the tax and social security treatment of research fellowships is subject to the specific legal regulations in force at the time of the payment) and it is financed by the research project PRIN Bando MIUR 2020 n. 2020XFNCP7 titled "Genomic epidemiology and phylogenesis of SARS-CoV-2 in Italy" (codice CUP: C95F22000580001), for which Prof. Stefano Toppo is responsible, and it will be paid in deferred monthly instalments.

The Research Fellowship Holder must carry out the following research activity: The research project aims to develop, validate, and apply innovative computational methodologies for the analysis of viral evolution based on large genomic datasets, with particular focus on SARS-CoV-2 as a case study. The planned activities pursue three main objectives: (i) ensuring the quality of viral datasets

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through the development and refinement of filtering pipelines; (ii) exploiting data-driven approaches to reliably reconstruct evolutionary dynamics, while reducing reliance on hypothetical models; (iii) assessing the impact of different genomic surveillance strategies on evolutionary reconstruction, with the aim of proposing methodological guidelines. The implementation of these activities will yield a set of simulations and comparative analyses that will illustrate how data quality and sampling strategy influence our ability to interpret the evolutionary history of the virus.

Admission requirements

Master's degree in Biotechnology, Bioengineering or related fields (The eligibility of qualifications awarded abroad will be verified by the Selection Committee)

Required skills:

- English knowledge;
- Computer skills: experience using Linux command line, Python, R, ash, HPC cluster environment with SLURM queueing system for managing complex jobs.

Consideration will be given to:

- Scientific publications;
- Documented relevant study and research activities.

Incompatibility

The fellowships within this announcement may not be combined with:

- other research grants;
- fellowships of any other kind, except for those awarded by national or foreign institutes to integrate, with periods abroad, the specific research activities required by this announcement.

In the case of self-employed, employed or parasubordinate employed, compatibility shall be determined by the Research Project Supervisor.

Research Fellowship Holder may not have family or kinship relationships up to the fourth degree with lecturers or researchers working at the Department elected as "Research Base", or with Rector, or Director General, or a member of the University Board of Governors.

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Procedures for submission of application form:

The deadline for submitting the application form is **November 13th 2025 at 01:00 p.m.**

The application must be filled out using only the form available on the Department of Molecular Medicine webpage at the link <https://www.medicinamolecolare.unipd.it/> under the section "Bandi", and it can be submitted as follows:

1) delivered in person to Segreteria Amministrativa del Dipartimento di Medicina Molecolare, via U. Bassi 58/b, room nr. 70 (3rd floor North Complesso Vallisneri) - 35131 Padova, on the following days: Monday – Friday from 09:00 to 13:00;

2) posted by registered mail with advice of receipt to the following address: Segreteria Amministrativa del Dipartimento di Medicina Molecolare, via U. Bassi 58/b (3rd floor North, Complesso Vallisneri) - 35131 Padova. Should the application be sent by registered letter, the postmark will not be accepted as evidence of meeting the application deadline. The date of receipt will be considered. Therefore, the application must reach the office before the deadline of this selection announcement.

3) sent by certified e-mail (PEC) to dipartimento.medicinamolecolare@pec.unipd.it

The envelope or subject heading of the email must indicate the following: "Selection Announcement for the Awarding of Research Fellowship - *"insert the title of the research fellowship and the name of the Research Project Supervisor"* at the Department of Molecular Medicine.

The application must include:

- a) a dated and signed Europass CV, available at the links indicated on the selection announcement;
- b) a photocopy of a valid identity document (Identity Card or Passport);
- c) any other document, qualification or publication useful for the selection process (for instance the copy of the thesis);
- d) the substitutive declaration of certification (made in order to declare the conformity of a document to the original) dated and signed, available on the web page of the Department <https://www.medicinamolecolare.unipd.it/> under the section "Bandi" referring to the specific call.

Selection procedure

Candidates' applications shall be evaluated by a Selection Committee that will be

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nominated in accordance with the "Regulations Governing Research Fellowships," on the basis of their qualifications and interview.

Prior to assessing candidates, the Selection Committee shall establish the maximum score, criteria and the procedure to be used in evaluating qualifications, any minimum score for admission to the interview, the methods and criteria for the interview.

If the Selection Committee considers the qualifications as sufficient to evaluate the candidates' eligibility, it can decide not to hold interviews.

The interview is scheduled for November 18th 2025 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom multimedia platform.

Candidates must expressly indicate, in the application form, that they agree to use the multimedia option to take the oral test and must ensure that the device is equipped with a functioning webcam - essential to verify the identity of the candidate - and has a microphone and headphones/speakers.

The oral tests, including remote tests, are public.

On **November 17th 2025** the link to the Zoom platform, useful for the selection interview, will be communicated by the Administrative Secretariat of the Department to the candidates via email to the email address stated in the application form.

Candidates who do not show up for the interview for any reason whatsoever shall be excluded from selection.

Any changes will be communicated via email to applicants to the email address provided in the application.

At the end of the selection process, the Selection Committee shall send the report to the Head of the Department for approval.

After verifying the legality of the deeds, the Head of Department shall approve by decree the ranking order and the awarding of the research fellowship.

The administrative office of the Department that issued the selection announcement shall notify the successful candidate.

The winner must accept the award within ten days of notification. Otherwise, the winner shall forfeit the right to the research fellowship. In case of renunciation, the fellowship will be awarded to the next eligible candidate, according to the ranking order.

The ranking order will be published on the Department's web page at the following address

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<https://www.medicinamolecolare.unipd.it/> and on the University's website.

Return of Documents and Publications

Any documents and publications sent to the University can be returned at the applicant's expense after two months from the completion of the selection process, subject to any ongoing litigation.

Processing of personal data

The processing of personal data provided by the candidates will be done in accordance with the provisions of EU Regulation 27.04.2016 no. 679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR).

Competitors' personal data will be processed, in paper or computer form, for the purposes of this procedure and the possible award of the grant.

The provision and collection of data are mandatory for the purposes of participation in the selection process and, if sensitive data are involved, they are carried out in accordance with Law 68/1999 and Law 104/1992.

The full information on the processing of personal data is available at the following link:

<http://www.unipd.it/privacy>

The person responsible for administrative proceedings

In accordance with Art. 5 of Law no. 241 dated 7 August 1990, the person responsible for the selection process (RPA) is Dr. Edda Fassari, Secretary of the Department of Molecular Medicine, e-mail: direzione.medicinamolecolare@unipd.it - Tel. n. 049 8276719. For any clarification or information regarding the call, write to the following email address: direzione.medicinamolecolare@unipd.it.

Final provisions

For anything not specified in this selection announcement, see the University of Padova's current regulations regarding the awarding for research fellowships.