

Subject: Call for applications for the allocation of co-funding grants for PhD scholarships in cotutelle with EC2U Alliance partners

THE RECTOR

- CONSIDERING the University of Pavia "Regulations for PhD courses" issued with Rectoral Decree n. 900 of April 11, 2022 and subsequent modifications and integrations;
- CONSIDERING the Ministerial Decree n. 226 of December 14, 2021;
- CONSIDERING the University of Pavia's participation in the EC2U (European Campus of City-Universities) European Alliance – Grant Agreement No. 101124589;
- CONSIDERING the resolution of the Administrative Council n. 8/2024 of July 23, 2024, allocating resources to the International Relations Office for the launch of research seed grants within the framework of the EC2U Alliance

DECREES

Art. 1

Subject and objectives

The University of Pavia, as a member of the EC2U Alliance (European Campus of City-Universities), is launching a competitive call to award two (2) co-funding grants for PhD positions. These grants are contingent upon the subscription of international joint supervision agreements (cotutelle) with one of the EC2U Alliance universities, with the aim of fostering international collaboration at PhD level, and in particular research synergies and the mobility of students and staff within the Alliance.

The two PhD scholarships – offered as topic-related scholarships tied to the project submitted with the application, as defined under Art. 4 of this call – will be activated for the 42nd cycle (extraordinary call), starting on April 1st, 2027, and will have the same duration as the legal duration of the PhD program to which they are attached. The co-funding amounts covered by this call have an amount of €39,936.30 each. The funding will be drawn from the EC2U_SEEDS funds of the GLOBEC Service Centre.

The amount of the required co-financing contribution varies depending on the duration and type of the PhD program and is specified in the letter of intent templates available at <https://phd.unipv.it/bando-ec2u-42/>.

Co-funding from the EC2U partner university will be considered a preferential factor; however, proposals in which the complementary funding is covered by the proposer's own funds will also be considered for assessment.

In case the co-funding is provided by an EC2U partner university, the partner's share must be paid via a transfer of funds to UNIPV.

The project must mandatorily provide for the subscription of an international joint supervision agreement (cotutelle) with the EC2U partner university, leading to the award of a double degree. The partner university's commitment to establishing this agreement must be guaranteed through the signing of a specific letter of commitment, drafted using the template available at <https://phd.unipv.it/bando-ec2u-42/>.

Art. 2 **Admission requirements**

Applications are invited from professors and researchers affiliated with the University of Pavia.

Art. 3 **Eligible partners**

Projects must be developed in collaboration with professors and researchers affiliated with one of the following universities belonging to the EC2U Alliance:

- Johannes Kepler University Linz (Austria)
- Université de Poitiers (France)
- Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena (Germany)
- Universidade de Coimbra (Portugal)
- Universidad de Salamanca (Spain)
- Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iași (Romania)
- University of Turku (Finland)
- Umeå University (Sweden).

Art. 4 **Research areas**

The research projects submitted by candidates must focus on one of the [7 Virtual Institutes of the EC2U Alliance](#).

The call is open to professors and researchers from all disciplinary fields, provided that the subject of the research falls within the aforementioned areas.

Art. 5 **Application procedure and required documents**

Applications for assignment must be submitted by the deadline of October 16, 2026, by completing the form available at <https://forms.gle/HfqpCfP3NiXnCfUH6>.

Along with their application, applicants must submit the following documents, as pdf files:

1. Research project in English (max. 3,600 characters, spaces and bibliography included), based on the template available at <https://phd.unipv.it/bando-ec2u-42/>. The project must outline the scientific context, the planned methodology, and the schedule for the PhD student's mobility, and must highlight its relevance to the topics of the EC2U Virtual Institutes;
2. Letter of commitment covering the remaining co-funding amount, signed by the legal representative of the partner university (in the case of co-financing from the EC2U partner university) or by the director of the UNIPV department (in the case of co-financing from the proposing professor's funds), drafted using one of the templates available at <https://phd.unipv.it/bando-ec2u-42/>;
3. Letter of commitment, signed by the legal representative of the partner university or their delegate, to sign an individual joint supervision (cotutelle) agreement for the PhD student holding the scholarship, drafted using the template available at <https://phd.unipv.it/bando-ec2u-42/>;
4. Applicant's CV.

Applications submitted in a manner other than that described in art. 5 of this call for applications, lacking the documentation required by art. 5, or submitted by parties not meeting the requirements set out in art. 2, shall be deemed inadmissible and shall not be evaluated.

Art. 6

Selection criteria

Applications will be evaluated by a university committee appointed by a Rectoral decree.

The committee will assign a maximum of 100 points to evaluate applications declared admissible. Applications achieving a minimum score of 60 points will be considered eligible.

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific quality (e.g. originality, feasibility, methodological clarity of the project);
2. Relevance and strategic impact of the project with regard to the topics of the EC2U Virtual Institutes, as set out in Article 4 of this call;
3. scientific profile of the proposer or research group, also demonstrating proven experience in supervising PhD candidates or students;
4. adequacy of available resources (e.g., personnel, infrastructure, and financial resources);
5. Source of the complementary co-financing share.

Art. 7

Ranking

The ranking list will be approved with Rectoral decree and published on the University's official notice board. Successful candidates will also be notified by email regarding the award of the grant and the procedures for acceptance.

Art. 8
Co-funding allocation

Following the publication of the selection results, the co-funding grant covered by this call will be awarded to the top two projects in the ranking. In the event of co-financing by an EC2U university, the proponents of the winning projects will be required to submit – within a reasonable timeframe established and communicated by the Training for Research Unit (UOC Formazione alla Ricerca) – a specific PhD scholarship co-financing agreement; this agreement must be drafted using the template available at <https://phd.unipv.it/bando-ec2u-42/> and signed by the legal representative of the co-financing university.

In the absence of a signed agreement, the winner will be deemed to have waived the award, and the co-funding grant will be assigned to the next eligible applicant in the ranking order.

Art. 9
Contact information

The manager of the administrative procedure is Mr Andrea Carini, Head of the Research and Training for Research Unit.

For information regarding this call for applications and the administrative management of PhD scholarships and joint supervision agreements, please contact phd@unipv.it, tel. 0382 985983-4327.

For support in managing relationships with EC2U partners and for clarifications regarding the Virtual Institutes, candidates can contact ec2u.localcoordinators@unipv.it (GLOBEC EC2U Office).

Pavia, register date

The Rector
Prof. Alessandro Reali
digitally signed document