



UNIVERSITÀ  
DI PARMA

Date of publication of the call on the web: 17 December 2025

Application deadline: 31 January 2026

**CALL FOR THE AWARD OF TWO RESEARCH GRANTS**

**GIVEN THAT**

- the University of Parma pursues a strategy of internationalization in accordance with the European Union (EU) policies in the educational field, and aims to strengthen the opportunities for cooperation with higher education institutions in low-income countries with a view of reciprocal advantage;
- the strengthening of education and research at university level can significantly contribute to the social and economic development of low-income countries and, at the same time, this type of collaboration offers at the researchers of the University of Parma opportunities to pave the way to new research questions and to define new application contexts;
- the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition of the University of Parma has among its possibilities of intervention to promote research activities in collaboration with public or private, national and international, institutions.

**HAVING REGARD TO** art. 18 par. 5 of Law 240/2010;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the University of Parma Regulations for the awarding of post-graduate research grants (Decree of the Rector n. 1134/2025 of the 26/06/2025);

**HAVING REGARD TO** the request by Prof. Eleonora Carini of July 14<sup>th</sup> 2025, with which she proposes the activation of n. 2 research grants as per form below;

**HAVING REGARD TO** the resolution of the Council of the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition of July 14<sup>th</sup> 2025, which approves the activation of no. 2 research grants and the issuing of the relevant call for applications;

**HAVING REGARDS** to the Decree of the President of the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition n.23/2025, which approves the Call for the award of two research grants;

**A selection procedure is hereby launched for the awarding of**

**No. 2 Research Grant as specified below**

<b>Title of the Research Project:</b>
Food Security: Valorization of African Food Sources
<b>Themes of the Research Project:</b>
Valorization of African food sources to improve their functionality in terms of technological/sensory/nutritional/microbiological/safety and authenticity



<b>Academic supervisor of the Project:</b>							
Prof. Eleonora Carini				E-Mail: eleonora.carini@unipr.it			
<b>Relevant project(s) with the availability of funds to cover the full cost of the grant:</b>							
CARINI_E_ECO_NN_SSAN							
<b>Organization where the scholar will work:</b>							
School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition and Food Laboratories of the Department of Food and Drug							
<b>Requirements for application:</b>							
<p>Bachelor's or Master's degree or PhD student (who does not receive any type of fellowship) in the food field at one of the following universities:</p> <p>Université Mohammed V Rabat (MAROCCO)  Ines-Ruhengeri - Institute of Applied Sciences (RWANDA)  University of Rwanda (RWANDA)  Université Cheikh Anta Diop De Dakar (SENEGAL)  Hawassa University (ETIOPIA)  Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) – KENYA  Hope Africa University (Université Espoir d'Afrique) – BURUNDI  Univwersité des Grandes - Lacs - BURUNDI  Université de Ngozi – BURUNDI  University of Burundi – BURUNDI</p> <p>Preferential degrees: Master's Degree (MSc – MPhil) in Food Science and Technology; PhD in the Food Science field.</p>							
<b>Any specific qualifications or skills required:</b>							
At least B2 English level							
<b>Duration of the grant:</b>							
10 months							
From April 2026							
<b>Sum of and arrangements for disbursement:</b>							
€ 18.000 each grant (gross amount)				Deferred monthly installment			
<b>Method of selection of the scholarship holder, based on:</b>			Qualifications <input type="checkbox"/> Qualifications and interview <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Score attribution:</b>							
Qualifications	5/100	CV	10/100	Further qualifications	55/100	Interview	30/100

A candidate will be eligible to win a grant only with an overall score of at least: 60/100.
<b>PLEASE NOTE:</b>
<p>The selection procedure will be composed of an assessment of the qualifications first and of online interview afterwards.</p> <p>Only those candidates that obtained a score of <b>at least 45/100</b> during the assessment of qualifications will be admitted to the second phase of the selection.</p> <p>The interviews will be carried out via the <b>Teams platform</b> and the candidates admitted will receive direct communication by the School Secretariat, providing indication concerning date, time and link for the videocall.</p>
<b>Publication of this call:</b>
<p>This call will be published at: <a href="http://www.advancedstudies.unipr.it/en/">http://www.advancedstudies.unipr.it/en/</a> and on the University's website, Research - Competitions and selections - Scholarships.</p> <p>All the documents relating to the call will be published at the same webpage.</p>

<b>Administrative Secretariat of the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition:</b>
Person in charge for the procedure: Elena Marenghi
Address: P.le San Francesco, 3 – 43121 Parma
Phone: +39 0521 906380
E-mail: <a href="mailto:advancedstudies@unipr.it">advancedstudies@unipr.it</a>
P.E.C. (Italian certified mailing system): <a href="mailto:protocollo.sssalnut@unipr.it">protocollo.sssalnut@unipr.it</a>
Time and date for the submission of application: 31 <sup>th</sup> January, 2026

## CANDIDATES

Candidates with qualifications attained abroad must enclose an official translation in Italian of the degree, with legalization and Declaration of Value by the Italian Diplomatic Representation in the country issuing the qualification, or the Certificate issued by CIMEA (Centro Informazioni Mobilità Equivalenze Accademiche) (Statement of Comparability).

Participation in the selection procedures is not permitted to those related by blood or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree or married, to a member of the Board of this grant, or to the Rector, the General Manager or a member of the Board of Directors of the University.

The eligibility requirements must be met by the application deadline.

Candidates are admitted to the selection process in order to verify that they meet the requirements established by law and by the terms of this call.

The School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition may, at any time, by a reasoned decision of its President, exclude candidates from the selection process if the prescribed requirements are not met.

Foreign citizens must comply with the regulations governing the stay of foreigners in Italy by presenting themselves within eight days of entering Italy at the Questura of Parma to apply for a residence permit.

Once awarded the Research Grant and, consequently, the commencement of the research activity, the scholar must obtain a residence permit and submit the relative document to the Administrative Secretariat of the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition of the University of Parma.

Candidates with disability, in accordance with Law n. 104 of 5/2/1992, must make an explicit request in relation to their handicap concerning the support needed for the interview.

#### **APPLICATION PROCEDURE**

The application form (**Attachment 1**) must state, under the candidate's own responsibility: surname and first name, date and place of birth, nationality, place of residence, address for selection purposes, telephone number and e-mail address, academic qualifications.

Applications delivered or received after the selection deadline will not be accepted.

#### **Applications must include, under penalty of exclusion:**

1. **Concept note of the research project** (max 1 Word page, font size 12, line-spacing 1, page margins 2X2X2X2 cm) that the candidate **intends to carry out at the University of Parma** reporting clearly the objectives, the methodology and expected results. The research project will have to fall in the African Food Sources Valorization field, and it will have to develop transversally among two or more the following areas: food technology, human nutrition, food microbiology, food safety and authenticity. The research activities that may be carried out in the laboratories of the University of Parma will concern:
  - Proximate composition
  - Physico-chemical characterization of raw materials, semi-finished and final products also at constant shelf-life conditions (rheology by means of Texture Analyzer, Viscosimeter and Rheometer; color; image analysis; thermal properties with Differential Scanning Calorimetry and Dynamic Mechanical Analysis; WHC, OHC, Swelling Power, <sup>1</sup>H molecular mobility with NMR Relaxometry)
  - Sensory evaluation [discriminant, preference, acceptance, and consumer (Check All That Apply) testing]
  - Mass spectrometry (GC-MS e LC-MS/MS), optical spectrometry
  - Microbiology characterization (plates count, selective, elective media mimicking the food environment), optical microscopy, Culture-independent such as fluorescence microscopy, impedometric analysis (with BacTrac 4300), PCR
  - Endemic deficiencies assessment of the population to which the food resources are intended; nutritional evaluation of the food resources analyzed, also in relation to the consumption

occasions and eating habits of the population under study; optimization of the diet that includes the use of the food resources analyzed.

2. **A curriculum vitae indicating possession of the requirements necessary for the performance of the assignment in question** to be published in the "Transparent Administration" section of the University of Parma website, without any personal data that is not strictly necessary (therefore it must not contain data such as addresses and contact details, email, telephone numbers, photograph) and not signed. As it is attached to the application and forms an integral part of it, its date and authorship will be deduced from the application itself.
3. Copies of relevant academic publications and/or thesis proving the required academic qualifications;
4. If the candidate is a PhD student who does not receive any type of fellowship by their University, they must provide a document issued by the University attesting it;
5. **Scanned copy of the degree**, that can be:
  - a) Title (both high school diploma and bachelor's degree) accompanied by an official translation in Italian, with legalization and Declaration of Value by the Italian Diplomatic Representation in the country issuing the qualification,
  - or
  - b) Certificate issued by CIMEA (Statement of Comparability), following the instructions at the web page: <http://www.cimea.it/en/servizi/attestati-di-comparabilita-e-certificazione-dei-titoli/attestati-di-comparabilita-e-di-verifica-dei-titoli-diplome.aspx>
6. **Photocopy of a valid identification**.

Applications (**attachment 1**), accompanied by the qualifications relevant to the selection, must be submitted by the deadline indicated in the following ways:

- Electronic transmission by e-mail to the address [advancedstudies@unipr.it](mailto:advancedstudies@unipr.it)

The date of application is recorded and can be inferred by the date on which the submission was sent.

Late applications will not be considered. It will also not be possible, once the deadline has expired, to amend certificates and/or documents already submitted.

The Administration assumes no liability in any case attributable to third parties, unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure.

For any information of an administrative nature, please contact the Administrative Secretariat: [advancedstudies@unipr.it](mailto:advancedstudies@unipr.it)

For information on the progress of the selection, please contact the professor responsible for the project by e-mail: [leonora.carini@unipr.it](mailto:leonora.carini@unipr.it)

## **SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The Selection Committee will be appointed pursuant to art. 6 of the University of Parma Regulations for the allocation of research grants. The Committee composition and the evaluation criteria will be published prior to any interview in accordance with the procedures set out in this call for applications. The Committee will conduct a comparative assessment of the candidates and establish the ranking of eligible candidates and the winners. All the information above will be published online on the webpage specified in the summary table.

## **AWARD OF THE GRANT**

The grant is awarded upon written acceptance by the winners. In case of non-acceptance or withdrawal, the grant will be offered to the next candidate in the ranking.

## **RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF THE GRANT HOLDER**

The research activities for which the grant is awarded must be carried out within the host structure of the University of Parma, or outside the University if authorized, on the chosen subject as indicated on this call, following the guidelines of the Academic Director and the Director of the hosting structure, and in accordance with the University's current rules, including health and safety regulations.

If during the research grant period the conditions foreseen for the use of the grant are no longer met, the holder must immediately inform the President of the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition.

The grant-holder is also obliged to promptly inform the President of the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition in the event of interruption of the grant or its termination.

The grant does not in any way imply an employment relationship either with the University or with the funding body.

The grant cannot be combined with other grants of any kind, except those granted by Italian or foreign institutions to supplement the activities of the grant-holder by means of stays abroad. It cannot be cumulated with research grants and it is incompatible with public employment contracts, including the terms laid down in the contract, without prejudice to the possibility of the grant-holder being placed on unpaid leave.

The Administration reserves the right to ask candidates to submit original copies of the qualifications and certifications declared and relevant to the selection in question.

For any matters not specified in the present call, reference is made to the regulations contained in the University of Parma's Regulations for the awarding of research grants, as well as to other Italian ministerial provisions issued on the matter and in any case to the Italian current legislation.

## **INFORMATION ON THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA**

### **SUBJECTS OF DATA PROCESSING**

The holder of the data is the University of Parma, with its head office in via Università 12, 43121 Parma, Italy - Tel. +39 0521 902111 - email: [protocollo@pec.unipr.it](mailto:protocollo@pec.unipr.it)

The Data Protection Officer can be contacted by sending an email to the following address: [dpo@unipr.it](mailto:dpo@unipr.it); [dpo@pec.unipr.it](mailto:dpo@pec.unipr.it)

### **PURPOSE AND METHOD OF PROCESSING**

The data provided is processed by the University of Parma, in its capacity as Data Holder, for institutional purposes, such as the performance of administrative, teaching and research activities.

The processing is necessary for the pursuit of its institutional purpose, pursuant to art. 6 of the EU Regulation on the protection of personal data n. 679/2016 (hereinafter, for brevity, GDPR), and in compliance with the



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general principles of transparency, correctness and non-excessive for specific, explicit, legitimate purposes, in a manner relevant to the processing, respecting the principles of data minimization, accuracy, storage limitation, integrity and confidentiality, responsibility.

The data collected will be recorded, processed and stored for the time strictly necessary to achieve the purposes for which they were collected.

Personal data will be collected by the University of Parma and may be communicated for research and/or statistical purposes to external parties acting on its behalf.

The data will be processed with the aid of electronic instruments; the computer systems are equipped with measures to prevent data loss, illicit or incorrect use and unauthorized access.

#### **NATURE OF THE PROVISION OF DATA AND CONSEQUENCES OF A REFUSAL TO ANSWER**

The provision of data for the purposes referred to in the preceding paragraph is essential for the performance of the institutional purpose. The University of Parma will not be able to provide any service if the above data will not be provided.

#### **RIGHTS OF THE INTERESTED PARTY**

As a Data Subject, you have the right (Articles 15, 16, 17, 18, and 21 of the GDPR) to ask the data controller to confirm the existence or otherwise of your personal data, to access such data, to know the source of the data, to obtain the restriction of processing, the updating, rectification or erasure of the data and the right to object to processing on any particular grounds.

The interested party also has the right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority: Garante Privacy ([www.garanteprivacy.it](http://www.garanteprivacy.it)).

#### **PUBLICATION OF THIS SELECTION PROCEDURE**

This call will be made public on the University's website, Calls for the assignment of research grants <https://www.unipr.it/en/borse-di-ricerca> and on the School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition's website, Calls <https://www.advancedstudies.unipr.it/en/news/calls/37/>

President of the  
School of Advanced Studies on Food and Nutrition  
Prof.ssa Eleonora Carini

Autograph signature replaced by a printed signature pursuant to art. 3,  
paragraph 2, of Legislative Decree no. 39/93