

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE AWARDING OF 1 RESEARCH GRANT - OPEN
SELECTION BASED ON ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND ORAL EXAM AT CREA
(COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ECONOMICS) - RESEARCH CENTRE
FOR CEREAL AND INDUSTRIAL CROPS
CODE: ASS-CI_BANDO-05-2021**

The Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops

HAVING REGARD to Legislative Decree n. 454 of October 29th, 1999, concerning the "Reorganisation of agricultural research activities as per art. 11 of Law n.59 of March 15th, 1997", in particular art. 1, establishing the Council for Agricultural Research - CRA;

HAVING REGARD to Law n. 190/2014 of December 23rd, 2014 (2015 Stability Law) art. 1, sub 381, which embeds the National Institute of Agricultural Economics INEA into the Council for Agricultural Research CRA, which took the name of "Council for Agricultural Research and Economics";

HAVING REGARD to the Commissioner's decree with which, starting from 3 July 2015, it indicates that the abbreviation of the public authority to be used for the abbreviated representation is "CREA";

HAVING REGARD to the Decree by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies n. 19083 of December 30th, 2016, CREA prot. n. 10230 of March 14th, 2017, approving the "Plan for the improvement of organisational and financial efficiency aimed at the merging, reduction and rationalisation of CREA structures";

HAVING REGARD to the Commissioner's decree n. 57 of April 6th, 2017, with which the establishment, starting from 1 May 2017, of the new twelve CREA research centers as provided for in the aforementioned was arranged "Plan for the improvement of organisational and financial efficiency aimed at the merging, reduction and rationalisation of CREA structures";

HAVING REGARD to the Charter of the Centre for Agricultural Research and Economics published on the Official Journal of the Italian Republic, General Series, issue n. 231 of 3.10.2017;

HAVING REGARD to the Commissioner's decrees n. 72 and n. 73 of June 10th, 2020, with which the "Administration and Accounting Regulations" and the "Organization and Functioning Regulations" of CREA were issued, approved by MIPAAF respectively with notes prot. N. 6032 and 6033 of May 29th, 2020;

HAVING REGARD to the Commissioner Decree of September 17th, 2020, no. 130, and of October 23th, 2020, no. 145, with which dr. Stefano Vaccari, respectively, was appointed Director General of CREA and the effective date of the assignment was set for 1 Novembre 2020;

HAVING REGARD to the Decree of the President of the Republic dated 28 December 2020, with which prof. Carlo Gaudio was appointed President of CREA for a four-year period;

HAVING REGARD to Law n. 240/2010 and, in particular, art. 22, regulating the awarding of research grants by Universities, Institutions and Public research and experimentation centres;

HAVING REGARD to the Decree by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of March 9th, 2011, n. 102, concerning the determination of the minimum annual amount of research grants awarded according to calls for applications pursuant to art. 22 of Law n. 240 of December 30th, 2010;

HAVING REGARD to the Decree by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of July 09th, 2009, concerning the equivalence of university degrees obtained pursuant to former university regulations, to Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999 and to Ministerial Decree n. 270/2004 for participation in open selections;

HAVING REGARD to "Regulations on the awarding of Scholarships, Research Grants, Ph.D. grants and funding of research and educational activities to be carried out abroad", approved by resolution of the Board of Directors of CREA n. 80/2018 of 26.10.2018, as amended by resolution of the Board of Directors of CREA n. 71/2021 of 14.06.2021;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that pursuant to art. 22 sub 8 of Law n. 240/2010, research grant contracts do not imply any employment relationship between the beneficiary of the grant and the Institution and do not allow access to permanent positions within it;

HAVING REGARD to Project LEGUBIOCER" (PSR Campania 2014 / 2020 - CUP B68H19005230009, deadline 25.12.2022), which provides for the possibility to activate a research grant;

HAVING REGARD to the request of 15.09.2021 by Mr. Ernesto Lahoz, as tutor of the project indicated, requesting the Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops to start a procedure for the awarding of 1 research grant of the duration of 12 months concerning *"Use of antagonistic microorganisms and registered molecules for the implementation of the biological defense of wheat"*;

HAVING REGARD to the Director's Provision no. 944 of 30.09.2021 approving the call;

PROVIDES FOR THE FOLLOWING

Art. 1

Number of grants

An open selection is called for the awarding of 1 research grant. The selection shall be based on the evaluation of the applicants' qualifications and the results of an oral exam, according to the following criteria:

Acronym of the project	Topic	University Degree (university regulations prior to Ministerial Decree 509/99)	University Degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/99	University Degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04	Institution and Tutor
LEGUBIOCER	Use of antagonistic microorganisms and registered molecules for the implementation of the biological defense of wheat	Environmental sciences Agricultural sciences and technologies Agricultural sciences Agri-food sciences and technologies Agro-industrial biotechnology Biological sciences or equivalent qualifications	Sciences and technologies for environment and the territory Agricultural sciences and technologies Agro-zootechnical sciences and technologies Agri-food sciences and technologies Agricultural biotechnology Industrial biotechnology Biology Human nutrition sciences	Sciences and technologies for environment and the territory Agricultural sciences and technologies Zootechnical sciences and animal technologies Agri-food sciences and technologies Agricultural biotechnology Industrial biotechnology Biology Human nutrition sciences	CREA Caserta (Italy) Dr. Ernesto Lahoz

Knowledge and expertise

- Molecular recognition and characterization of toxin-producing pathogenic fungi in wheat and their antagonistic microorganisms.
- Fundamentals and principles of agroecological defense. Relationship between use of useful microorganisms and biological characteristics of soils.
- Definition and management of experimental designs in laboratory, greenhouse and field conditions before processing the data collected in excel.
- Knowledge of statistics applied in agriculture and biology for the processing of experimental data.
- Ability to process written texts both for the production of project reports and for the drafting of scientific articles in Italian and / or English.
- Basic computer knowledge.
- Written and spoken English language. Any other language chosen by the candidate between French, German and Spanish.

Art. 2

Duration, financial conditions and legislative references

The duration of the research grant is 12(twelve)=== months.

The total amount of the research grant is EUR 20,187.00 (gross), to be issued in instalments at the end of each month. This amount includes INPS (National Welfare Institute) duties to be paid by the research grant beneficiary; it does not include the duties to be paid by the Institution as per art. 2, sub 26 and the following subs of Law n. 335 of August 8th, 1995 and subsequent amendments and addenda. The tax benefits provided for by art. 4 of Law n.476 of August 13th, 1984 subsequent amendments and addenda are applicable.

All travel expenses, included the ones borne by the research grant beneficiary, shall only be reimbursed upon submission of travel receipts, as per the current rules and regulations.

CREA provides insurance coverage for injury and civil responsibility risks.

The awarding of the research grant is subject to the inclusion of the amounts due into the CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops budget.

Art. 3

General eligibility and compatibility criteria

The selection is open to Italian and foreign citizens who, on the day of the application deadline, meet the following requirements:

1. university degree (pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/99, 270/04 or previous university regulations);
2. good knowledge of spoken and written English;
3. possible knowledge of a second foreign language (besides the English one) to be chosen between French, German and Spanish.

Those who participate in the selection can participate:

1. not having entered fixed-term contracts, employer-coordinated freelance work contracts, agency-coordinated contracts, professional consultancy and work contracts with CREA;
2. not having been the beneficiary of CREA research grants/scholarships whose duration, if added to the duration of the current research grant, exceeds 35 months. This condition may result in exclusion, because the duration of the research grant cannot be shortened.

Academic and professional qualifications obtained abroad must be equivalent to the ones required in Italy and be duly recognised by the Italian competent authorities.

CREA permanent employees and the categories of individuals specified in sub 1 art. 22 of Law 240/2010 are not eligible for participation in the current selection procedure.

The following conditions are not compatible with the awarding of the research grant offered by this call:

- a) being the beneficiary of other scholarships of any nature, grants and other subsidies of a similar nature, except funds provided by national or foreign entities financing complementary research to be carried out abroad, in the field of activity specified by the research grant awarding agreement, at the same time as the research grant provided for by this call;
- b) attendance of university courses (3-years or 5-years), grant-supported Ph.D. courses in Italy and abroad; the awarding of the research grant implies unpaid leave from work for the employees of public administration bodies.

The selection is open to all applicants: admission is determined according to the requirements mentioned above. These requirements shall be verified by an expert panel whose decision is irrevocable.

CREA may, at any moment, decide to exclude applicants from the selection for failure to meet the specified requirements.

Art. 4

Application and deadline for submission

The application shall be written on plain paper according to the form provided in **attachment 1** of this call. The application and all relevant qualification certificates and documents may only be submitted by certified e-mail (ci@pec.crea.gov.it) to **CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops - Via Torrino 2 - Caserta (Italy)**, strictly within **30 days** from the date of publication of the call in the Official Journal of the Italian Republic – IV Special Section – Selection procedures. Any delay in submitting the application shall cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

The subject of the certified e-mail must bear the following indication: "Research grant LEGUBIOCER Code ASS-CI_BANDO-05-2021".

The requests and declarations sent according to the aforementioned method will be valid if made according to one of the following methods, pursuant to art. 65 of Legislative Decree of 7 March 2005, no. 82 (Digital Administration Code – CAD):

- application with digital signature;
- application with handwritten signature on paper, in full and legible form, with a copy of a valid identity document. The signed application and the copy of document must be scanned separately in pdf format and sent via certified e-mail. The application digitally signed or autographed, as specified above, can be sent by the candidate through his / her PEC certified e-mail box (own digital home), provided that the relative access credentials have been issued after identification of the owner and this is certified by the system manager in the message or in an attachment. In this case, the transmission constitutes an election of special domicile pursuant to article 47 of the Civil Code. The application may also be sent from a PEC address of another subject, provided that the relative access credentials have been issued after identification of the owner and this is certified by the system manager in the message or in an attachment. Applications sent from an e-mail address other than a PEC address and those received using methods other than those indicated in the announcement will not be accepted.

In the application for admission, candidates must indicate the address and their ordinary e-mail address to which to forward the communications relating to this selection.

Candidates are recommended to follow the following guidelines;

- the attached documents are allowed in pdf format only; each attachment can have a maximum size of 30MB (MegaByte) and all attachments can have a maximum overall size of 100MB (MegaByte), measured after their possible compression;
- attachments and application can be compressed. The use of the following compressed formats is allowed, as long as they contain files in the format specified in the previous point and without a password: - .zip - .rar. The maximum size of the e-mail sent, including attachments, allowed by the CREA computer system is 100 Megabytes. Any inconvenience in the delivery of certified e-mails determined by the exceeding of the maximum allowed message size will be attributable exclusively to the candidate who therefore cannot raise any exceptions in this regard.

CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops waives any responsibility for any failure in notifying applicants in case the applicant has provided an erroneous or incomplete address, failed to notify any changes of the address provided in the application form or to do so in a timely fashion.

The current call and related attachments shall be published in the CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops Centre official list and shall also be made available on the website of CREA, www.crea.gov.it, Calls for tenders / Competition notices - Scholarships and research grants.

Art. 5

Declarations to be included in the application

In his/her application, the applicant shall declare under her/his own responsibility (false declarations may result in exclusion from the selection procedure):

- 1) her/his name, surname, place and date of birth, place of residence, domicile for the selection procedure (please specify the ZIP code and include your telephone number and e-mail address);
- 2) the possession of Italian citizenship or of one of the other States recognized;
- 3) that she/he has obtained the academic qualifications required by article 3 of this call. This declaration shall include the day of the awarding, the final score, the name(s) of the University(ies) where the qualification(s) was(were) obtained;
- 4) that she/he has a good knowledge of English;
- 5) that she/he has a good knowledge of any additional foreign languages (French, German, or Spanish) and is willing to undergo an additional oral exam;
- 6) that she/he has not entered any fixed-term contracts, employer-coordinated freelance work contracts, agency-coordinated contracts, professional consultancy and work contracts with CREA;
- 7) that she/he is not the beneficiary of CREA research grants/scholarships whose duration, if added to the duration of the current research grant, exceeds 35 months. This condition may result in exclusion because the duration of the research grant cannot be shortened;
- 8) that she/he has not been convicted or found guilty of any criminal offence and is not currently the object of any criminal proceedings (if this is the case, please state the name of the criminal offence and the nature of the pending criminal proceedings);
- 9) that she/ he is (or is not) a permanent employee of the Public Administration;
- 10) that she/he shall notify any changes of residence or domicile in a timely fashion;
- 11) that she/he authorises the processing of her/his personal data, as per the General Data Protection Regulation di n. 679/2016 - GDPR.

The applicant shall declare that she/he is aware that false declarations are punishable by law (art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000). Failure to sign the applications or to include personal data or the required declarations in the application and failure to submit applications by the deadline indicated in Article 4 shall cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

Art. 6 Documents to be included

The following documents are to be attached to the application form. Failure to attach these documents **may result in exclusion** from the selection procedure:

- a) a complete photocopy of a valid identification document;
- b) the applicant's university degree with final degree score;
- c) qualifications and certificates concerning the applicant's post-university professional scientific activity as a researcher carried out in Italy or abroad;
- d) the applicant's scientific and professional curriculum (on plain paper, with date and signature);
- e) publications or articles in press accompanied by a certificate stating acceptance;
- f) a list of all qualifications, certificates and publications submitted (**att. 2** with date and signature).

All documents, qualifications and certificates can be submitted as original documents, certified copies or as copies accompanied by a declaration in substitution of attested affidavit (**att. 4**) pursuant to art. 19 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

If documents, qualifications and certificates are not submitted as original documents or copies, the applicant must submit a personal declaration of certification (**att. 3**) as per art. 46 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

The declaration of possessions of the qualifications, pursuant to art. 46 of Presidential Decree 445/2000, can also be made explicit in the scientific-professional curriculum. In the absence of a complete declaration of all the

qualifications (att. 3), or of a declaration included in the curriculum, the qualifications included only in curriculum cannot be evaluated.

CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops reserves itself the right to verify that all documents and declarations are true or to request the original documents before entering the research grant contract.

Once the deadline has expired, it will not be possible to replace the qualifications or documents already submitted.

The application form and the attachments must be duly signed; failure to do so may cause the application to be considered null and void.

Art. 7

Expert Panel for the selection and evaluation of applicants and merit rankings

The members of the Expert Panel shall be appointed via a provision by the Director of the Research Centre funding the research activities (except in the cases provided for by Art. 1, comma 2, par. 2). The Panel is composed of three members: one is selected among the experts registered in the official list of consultants published on the Agency's website and fulfilling the functions of Chairman; another among CREA's permanent employees working as a professional Researcher or Technologist Expert in a different Research Centre from the one where the research grant beneficiary is to work; the third expert is the scientific coordinator of research.

The total score is 30 and scores shall be assigned according to the following criteria:

- **22 scores** for academic qualifications, to be assigned as follows:

a) university degree final score	<u>max 4 scores</u>
b) publications max 5 publications given by the applicant	<u>max 10 scores</u>
c) qualifications and certificates in the research field: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ph.D.• post-university qualifications and research assignments of at least six months• research grants, scholarships• other titles	<u>max 8 scores</u>

- **8 scores** for the oral exam. The oral exam shall revolve around the subjects related to the research grant. During the exam, the applicant's knowledge of English, basic IT skills, any second languages shall also be tested. Only applicants who are assigned a minimum score of **6** shall pass the exam.

The criteria for the evaluation of academic qualifications shall be determined by the Panel during their first meeting.

The evaluation of academic qualifications shall precede the oral exam and the English test. The results of the evaluation of academic qualifications shall be published before the date of the oral exam on the Council official site, in Competition notices. The date and place of the oral exam shall also be published on the website.

The publication of the outcomes is to be considered an official notification of exclusion of any applicants due to lack of requirements.

In order to sit the oral exam, applicants must provide a valid identification document.

The oral exam will take place in presence at the CREA headquarters in Caserta; furthermore, as the epidemiological emergency from Covid-19 continues, it can be carried out, for all

candidates without distinction, electronically, as the CREA specification "Telematic competition selections", through the use of the Microsoft Teams platform.

Once the oral exam is complete, the Panel shall draft the merit rankings according to each applicant's total score, which consists of the sum of the score assigned to the academic qualifications and the oral exam score.

The merit rankings shall be officially finalised by the Director of the Centre which has published the call: to this end, in case several applicants have been assigned the same score, the youngest applicant shall be awarded a higher position in the rankings.

The Director of the Centre shall publish the merit rankings on the official website of CREA, www.crea.gov.it, Calls for tenders / Competition notices - Scholarships and research grants.

Art. 8

Awarding of the research grant and termination

The Director of the Research Centre which has published the call for application shall verify the procedure has been properly carried out, approve the Panel's proceedings, finalise the merit rankings and officially announce the research grant awardee. The research grant beneficiary shall be officially notified the awarding of the research grant via registered mail with proof of delivery or by certified electronic mail.

Within 15 days from the reception of this notification, the awardee of the research grant must provide the **Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops with a declaration of unconditional acceptance of the research grant according to the terms established in this call**, sent via registered mail with proof of delivery or by certified electronic mail.

The research grant is awarded via a private contract entered into by the Director of CREA-Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops and the individual selected according to the final merit rankings, who shall be summoned to sign the contract.

Upon signing, the research grant beneficiary shall:

- 1) officially declare, under her/his own sole responsibility, that for the entire duration of the funding she/he shall not receive any other subsidies of any nature, except funding by national or foreign entities for complementary research activities to be carried out abroad;
- 2) submit the documents certifying unpaid leave from work in case the research grant beneficiary is an employee of a public administration body.

In case the awardee renounces the research grant, the applicants in the following positions of the merit rankings shall be awarded the grant. The merit rankings shall remain valid for the entire duration of the research grant.

Should the awardee fail to officially accept the research grant by the established deadline, her/his right to funding shall be forfeited.

In addition, should the research grant beneficiary fail to start and/or carry out the research activities as per the terms and conditions set forth by the contract, she/he shall lose her/his right to funding. In this case, the contract is to be considered immediately terminated.

The awarding of the research grant shall not, in any case, be considered as an employment contract and it does not imply access to official positions within CREA.

The research grant beneficiary may terminate the contract by giving at least 30 days' notice.

The research grant beneficiary undertakes to comply with the internal rules regulating the activity of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops.

Art. 9

Interruption and loss of funding

1. Funding is suspended in case the research grant beneficiary takes compulsory maternity leave or sick leave exceeding 30 days.
2. The interruptions mentioned above shall not imply forfeiture of the right to complete the research activities; however, funding shall cease until research is resumed, except in the

cases provided for by art. 22, sub 6 of Law 240/2010. In these cases, the duration of the contract is extended by a period corresponding to the period of funding suspension.

3. If the research grant beneficiary starts carrying out research activities then ceases to do so on a regular and continuous basis for the entire duration of the grant without justifying such behaviour; in case of serious and reiterated breaches of the grant contract conditions or, finally, if the research grant beneficiary proves not suitable for the task, the research grant can be terminated by a provision enacted by the Director of CREA – Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops, upon justified request by the scientific research coordinator (Tutor).
4. Should the research grant beneficiary become unable to complete the research task for personal reasons and renounce her/his right to funding before completion, she/he shall notify the Director of CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops and research tutor in a timely fashion.

Art. 10

Research activity and evaluation

The activities to be carried out by the research grant beneficiary shall be determined according to a plan jointly agreed by the awardee and the person responsible for the research line.

The scientific coordinator ensures that the research activities related to the grant are carried out properly and reports to the Director of the Research Centre on the activities carried out by the beneficiary.

The research grant beneficiary shall send the scientific coordinator a report on the activities he/she has carried out on an annual basis. The report shall be evaluated by the Director of the Centre, based, among other considerations, on the information by the scientific coordinator.

Art. 11

Return of documents

Applicants may request to be returned the submitted documents (all related expenses shall be borne by the applicants themselves) within six months from the publication of the merit rankings. Documents shall be returned unless the Panel's decision is subject to appeal. After six months, the CREA - Research Centre for Cereal and Industrial Crops shall make use of these materials according to its own needs.

Art. 12

Processing of personal data

Personal data provided by candidates in their application forms are processed as per the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation n. 679/2016 - GDPR, solely for selection purposes and connected to the awarding of this research grant.

The Director of CREA - Research Centre
for Cereal and Industrial Crops
(*prof. Nicola Pecchioni*)

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