



UNIVERSITY FUND FOR RESEARCH YEAR 2025

CALL FOR THE FUNDING OF INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH PROJECTS

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Board of Directors of 20 December 2024, which in the 2025 budget approved the allocation of € 3.000.000 for the funding of scientific research on the project "Fondo di Ateneo per la Ricerca - Gestione bandi interni - Piano strategico triennale 2023 - 2025 (Azione ricerca 3)" (University Research Fund - Management of internal calls for proposals);

CONSIDERING that these resources shall partly be allocated to those sectors that the academic bodies identify as strategic and fundamental for research activities, in line with the three-year Strategic Plan and the Research Policies;

CONSIDERING that the University is enrolled in the National Research Register under final code 000274_UNIV;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Academic Senate of 18 December 2019 appointing the University Research Commission coordinated by Prof. Paolo Pavan and composed of Professors Claudio Baraldi, Graziella Bertocchi, Francesca Fanelli, Stefano Lugli, Cecilia Vernia, Marco Vinceti, Michele Zoli, and Dr. Barbara Rebecchi;

CONSIDERING that the Fondazione di Modena considers Scientific and Technological Research as a relevant sector of intervention, as indicated in the Strategic Steering Document 2024-2027.

HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED the agreement between the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia and the Fondazione di Modena for the financing of scientific research projects, file no. Rep. UNIMORE n. 203/2024 Prot n. 127559 dated 23/05/2024;

HAVING REGARD TO the Rector's note Prot. no. 167971 dated 20/06/2025, which refers to the current regulatory difficulties related to the hiring of new researchers by universities, which have led to a restructuring of the call for applications, in derogation from the provisions of the Programmatic Agreement mentioned in the preceding point.

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Board of Directors of the Fondazione di Modena and the note file no. 326.25.8A dated 25/06/2025 (internal file no. 178139 dated 26/06/2025) with which the Fondazione di Modena communicated that the Board of Directors of the Fondazione has approved the commitment of € 690.000 for the realisation of a joint call for proposals with the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia;

HAVING REGARD TO the proposals put forward by the University Research Committee, which met online on 19/06/2025;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Academic Senate dated 27/06/2025, whereby the proposals of the University Research Committee were approved;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolution of the Board of Directors dated 27/06/2025, whereby the proposals of the University Research Committee were approved;

CONSIDERING that among the various types of activities eligible for funding under the FAR, there are interventions aimed at financing "multi-year interdisciplinary projects on a competitive basis (with anonymous external reviewers)" intended to encourage greater participation in competitive research projects;

CONSIDERING therefore the opportunity to issue, on the basis of the above-mentioned resolutions, the FAR 2025 call for proposals for the funding of interdisciplinary research projects.

DECREES

ART. 1 - SUBJECT

The present decree regulates the procedures for the funding, by the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, of research projects presented by its Professors, Researchers on permanent and temporary contracts ex art.24 L.240/2010 (B) and Tenure Track Researchers (hereinafter referred to as Principal Investigator(s), "PI(s)") through the use of a sum allocated to the funding of scientific research included in the 2024 budget estimate and of the funding made available by the Fondazione di Modena.

The programme aims to finance projects of an innovative and interdisciplinary nature that require the collaboration of several Professors/Researchers, in order to promote the strengthening of the scientific basis of the University.

The programme is divided into three funding lines, each with a specifically dedicated budget:

- UNIMORE Line
- UNIMORE-REGGIO Line
- FOMO line.

Within one year from the end of the programme, a University event will be organised during which the results of the approved projects will be presented.

ART. 2 – PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

Each Professor or Researcher may participate, in any capacity, in only one project and in only one of the funding lines (UNIMORE, UNIMORE-REGGIO or FOMO), under penalty of ineligibility of all the projects in which he/she is included.

PIs of a FAR 2023 and 2024 Interdisciplinary Research project are not allowed to participate in any capacity in this call.

Participation in the UNIMORE-REGGIO Line is allowed only to PIs belonging to Departments with administrative offices in Reggio Emilia.

Participation in the FOMO Line is allowed only to PIs belonging to Departments with administrative offices in Modena. Still with reference to this Line, please also note that PIs and members of the research group must not be in the conditions of incompatibility provided for the Bodies and employees of the Foundation by relevant acts and regulations (Statute, General Regulation, 231 Model, Code of Ethics and Regulation for the resolution of the conflict of interest) available in the "Documentation" section of the website www.fondazionedi Modena.it.

ART. 3 – PROJECT DURATION AND START DATE

All projects must have a duration of 24 months with no possibility of extension, starting from 02/02/2026.

ART. 4 – PROJECT FEATURES

Submitted projects may address topics related to any research field within the three ERC fields (Life Sciences - LS, Physical, Chemical and Engineering Sciences - PE, Social Sciences and Humanities - SH) and should be inspired by the characteristics of projects supported by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (FP HE), with a focus on the Horizon Europe Missions (https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe_en)

Projects funded by the programme must address a specific topic of investigation through an interdisciplinary approach. If publications are envisaged among the research products, at least one of them must be in open access and must be available within the deadline for submitting the results of the funded projects, as set out in art. 1.

Research outputs must include an explicit reference to the funding received, for example the following wording may be used: “This work was supported by the Università di Modena e Reggio Emilia – Fondazione di Modena Project “_____” (indicare titolo) funded by Fondo di Ateneo per la ricerca Anno 2025 - Bando per il finanziamento di progetti di ricerca interdisciplinari”.

For indications on how to publish in open access, please consult the website <https://www.pop.unimore.it/>

The total budgets made available by UNIMORE and FOMO are:

- € 690.000 (including € 30.000 for proposal evaluation) for the UNIMORE line
- € 200.000 for the UNIMORE-REGGIO line
- € 690.000 (including € 30.000 for proposal evaluation) for the FOMO line.

The UNIMORE and FOMO budgets are divided among the three ERC macro-sectors as follows:

ERC macro-sector	UNIMORE Line	UNIMORE-REGGIO line	FOMO line	Total
PE	€ 240.000	€ 80.000	€ 240.000	€ 560.000
LS	€ 240.000	0	€ 240.000	€ 480.000
SH	€ 180.000	€ 120.000	€ 180.000	€ 480.000
Total	€ 660.000	€ 200.000	€ 660.000	€ 1.520.000

Projects will receive a maximum funding per project of:

- € 80.000 for the ERC PE and LS;
- € 60.000 for the ERC SH.

Within the overall budget of the call, for all funding lines (UNIMORE, UNIMORE-REGGIO, and FOMO), and for each ERC macro-sector (PE, LS, SH), at least one project submitted by a Principal Investigator under the age of 40 at the date of publication of the call will be funded. This project will be identified—regardless of its score—based on its ranking among those deemed eligible for funding. If no project with a Principal Investigator under the age of 40 is present in a given ERC ranking list for the relevant funding line, funds will be allocated according to the standard ranking order.

Maternity leave (18 months for each child), parental leave (e.g. paternity leave) and other documented reasons (e.g. long term illness of the PI, more than 90 days) are an exception to the age limits for access to the quota reserved for PIs under the age of 40.

The contribution assigned to the projects deemed worthy of funding shall be entirely managed by the Department to which the PI belongs.

In order to maximize the use of the available budget on the UNIMORE Line, UNIMORE-REGGIO Line, and FOMO Line, any remaining funds in the budget will be combined to finance additional projects that are well placed in the ranking list and meet the characteristics of the call for proposals.

ART. 5 – EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Regardless of the selected Line, projects will be evaluated by anonymous reviewers: projects will be evaluated by a Panel of 3 experts of national and/or international renown, identified from the MUR's REPRISÉ database through an automatic matching procedure that will first associate the ERC subfields and then the CUN keywords (see Art. 10 of this call) indicated at the time of proposal submission. The Research Committee will compare the scores assigned by the three reviewers: the final score will be the arithmetic average of the two scores that are closest to each other, excluding the lowest score if all three scores are equidistant.

Projects with a score equal to or higher than **17/20** will be considered eligible for funding.

Projects eligible for funding will be ranked in three separate lists by ERC fields for the UNIMORE and FOMO lines and in two separate lists by ERC fields for the UNIMORE-REGGIO line. Subject to the reserve for projects submitted by Principal Investigators under the age of 40 as of the date of publication of the call, the projects with the highest score will be funded until the available funds for each line are exhausted. Any unallocated budget within an ERC fields will be used to fund the best remaining projects in the ranking list of another ERC fields.

In case of a tie, the project with the younger PI will be funded. Exceptions in the calculation of age are provided for maternity periods (with the possibility of subtracting 18 months for each child), parental leave (e.g., paternity leave), and other documented reasons (such as long-term illness of the PI exceeding 90 days), with the corresponding period of leave being deducted.

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1) Quality of the research project, up to 10 points

Quality of the research project – scientific merit and innovative nature of the project – with particular regard to:

- a) clarity and relevance of the project objectives;
- b) relevance and originality of the proposed project in the specific scientific area;
- c) adequacy of the proposed methodologies and available instrumentation (where relevant), project coherence;
- d) positioning of the project in relation to the state of the art in the specific scientific area.

2) Composition of the research team, feasibility and adequacy of the project, up to 6 points

Composition of the research team, feasibility and adequacy of the project, scientific merit of the research team, feasibility of the work plan and reasonableness of the funding request, with particular regard to:

- a) Principal Investigator's CV;
- b) ability to carry out the proposed project (qualification and composition of the research group, preliminary data, where relevant);
- c) project organization in relation to the proposed objectives, the time deemed necessary for project completion, and the resources required (equipment, personnel, etc.);
- d) consistency and relevance of the budget plan with the objectives and activities.

3) Impact of the project, up to 4 points

UNIMORE and UNIMORE-REGGIO line projects: Impact of the project, with particular reference, depending on its disciplinary field, to:

- a) challenges that the research addresses in terms of impact on theoretical and/or methodological advancement in the relevant scientific field, or on technological innovation, industrial applications, economic growth, or societal problems, protection of cultural heritage or the environment, also with interdisciplinary approaches;
- b) effectiveness of the research project dissemination activities and its results; project impact on the scientific community and society in light of the objectives defined by the EU's Research and Innovation Framework Program.

FOMO line projects: Impact of the project, with particular reference, depending on its disciplinary field, to:

- a) Evaluation of the potential impact on the territory, also intended as application, enhancement and use of the knowledge produced to contribute to the social, environmental, health, cultural and economic development of the local community;
- b) Given the interdisciplinary approach, estimation of the project's contribution to developing skills and competences in the field of productive innovation processes, cultural, social or environmental promotion within the context of the province of Modena.

Projects, if funded, will have to produce a final scientific report giving an account of the results achieved.

ART. 6 – PROJECT SUBMISSION

The PIs must submit a detailed research project by **12/09/2025 at 5pm**; the project must be written in English, using only the forms provided by the University. The proposal must be submitted exclusively by the project PI through the online platform, accessible with the PI's university credentials, **starting from 30/06/2025**. The date and time of submission of the proposal shall be the date and time of validation and closure of the application by the PI using the online platform. By validating and closing the application, the PI consents to make the project proposal available to the external evaluators, as well as to make the project proposal and the assessments made by the external evaluators available to the members of the University Research Committee, the Senatorial Research Committee and the Fondazione di Modena.

The PI shall send to the National Research Office, by the same deadline, the resolution of approval of the proposal by the Department or a letter of approval by the Director of the Department itself, to be ratified at the first useful meeting of the Council.

Projects that do not comply with the specified forms (in particular, the maximum and minimum character count, the criteria set out in the operating instructions for the management and reporting of projects funded by FAR, the rules for the participation of teaching and research staff, and those submitted after the deadline) will be automatically excluded from evaluation. **Applications submitted via email or through channels other than the one indicated above will not be considered.**

Applicants shall declare, under their own responsibility and under penalty of exclusion from the call, whether their project requires the approval of the Ethics Committee (based on the project's characteristics, it will be submitted to either the Comitato Etico di Area Vasta Emilia Nord or the Comitato Etico di Ateneo per la Ricerca). If a project requiring Ethics Committee is selected and funded, the project activities will begin the day after obtaining approval from the Committee.

ART. 7 - APPROVAL OF PROJECTS AND FUNDING AMOUNT

The Research Commission may fund projects that have been deemed suitable even to a lesser extent than requested, if deemed appropriate. For the FOMO line, based on the outcomes of the external review as communicated by the University, the Board of Directors of the Foundation will decide on the projects to be awarded funding, including the possibility of assigning an amount lower than that requested, if deemed appropriate.

The lists of funded projects will be approved and disclosed by a specific Rectoral Decree.

ART. 8 - PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

The PI is responsible for the scientific management of the project, ensuring its implementation within the timeframe and methods indicated in the application.

For the UNIMORE and UNIMORE-REGGIO lines, all budget items may be reallocated during the implementation phase of the projects without the need for prior authorization from the Research Committee, provided that the objectives defined at the time of project submission are maintained.

For the FOMO line, all budget items may be reallocated during the implementation phase of the projects up to a maximum variation of €2,000 or 20% compared to the initial amount indicated in the application, without the need for prior authorization from the Research Committee or the Fondazione di Modena, provided that the objectives defined at the time of project submission are maintained. Requests for reallocations exceeding the above-mentioned limits and/or percentages must be submitted via email to ricercanazionale@unimore.it and will be subject to evaluation and approval by the Board of Directors of the Fondazione di Modena.

Extension requests will not be accepted.

Within three months from the end of the project, the PI shall submit a detailed scientific report, complying with the specifications set out in the appropriate forms, on the results obtained, the staff employed on the project funds and the scientific communications made.

Together with the scientific report (within three months of the end of the project), the PI must submit the accounts, together with copies of the duly receipted supporting documents. Expenditure must have been incurred within the project duration and paid by the end of the reporting period.

Following the review of the submitted scientific report and financial statement, any unspent budget balances or amounts deemed ineligible must be returned.

Pursuant to the Modena Foundation's Regulations and in line with its general guidelines on evaluation, the grant is awarded subject to the correct completion and submission of the end-of-project report form.

Both the scientific report and the accounting report shall be sent in electronic format to the National Research Office: ricercanazionale@unimore.it.

The project design, management, and reporting shall be carried out in accordance with the operational guidelines provided for projects using FAR funds of the University published at the following link <https://www.ricerca.unimore.it/site/home/ricerca-nazionale/unimore.html>. For any doubts regarding the management of certain expenses, please send a request for clarification to ricercanazionale@unimore.it.

ART. 9 - REQUEST FOR INFORMATION AND FORMS

Clarifications and information may be requested from the Research, Technology Transfer and Third Mission Directorate - National Research Office

Tel.: 059 205 7031 - 6553 - 6675 – 6570 e-mail: ricercanazionale@unimore.it.

This decree is published on the website: <https://www.ricerca.unimore.it/site/home/ricerca-nazionale/unimore/far-fondo-di-ateneo-per-la-ricerca.html>

Useful links:

- [ERC Fields](#)
- [Horizon Europe](#)
- [CUN keywords](#)
- [FOMO Strategic Steering Document 2024-2027](#)

ART.11 - PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE PROCEDURE

In accordance with the provisions of art. 5 of law no. 241 of 7 August 1990, the person responsible for the procedure of this call is Dr. Barbara Rebecchi, National Research Office - Research, Technology Transfer and Third Mission Directorate - University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Via Università, 4 - Modena, email: ricercanazionale@unimore.it

The Rector

Prof. Carlo Adolfo Porro

Allegato 1 – Sfide strategiche FOMO

AREA PERSONA	WELFARE INCLUSIVO	Fondazione di Modena sostiene l'innovazione e il rafforzamento del welfare territoriale attraverso il metodo della co-programmazione, promuovendo la collaborazione tra soggetti pubblici, organizzazioni del terzo settore e soggetti privati, per garantire un sostegno più efficace alle persone in condizioni di vulnerabilità, marginalità e svantaggio. Promuove il contrasto alle disuguaglianze, favorendo l'accesso alle opportunità e ai diritti attraverso interventi innovativi, inclusivi e personalizzati, anche di bassa soglia, al fine di responsabilizzare gli utenti e favorire un loro pieno coinvolgimento nei percorsi d'inclusione. Favorisce il protagonismo dei cittadini, la promozione del volontariato e dell'associazionismo, il coinvolgimento attivo della comunità, in una prospettiva di sostenibilità sociale ed economica e di maggiore coesione sociale, con attenzione alla solidarietà fra territori, a livello regionale, nazionale e internazionale.
	COMUNITA' EDUCANTE	Fondazione di Modena, con lo sguardo rivolto al futuro delle persone e del territorio, promuove nel campo dell'educazione modelli di intervento volti ad arricchire e rendere più efficace l'offerta formativa sul territorio favorendo, al contempo, un impatto su larga scala volto alla coesione sociale. Promuove interventi improntati al rispetto delle differenze e indirizzati al contrasto alle disuguaglianze e alla povertà educativa. Promuove opportunità di crescita e accesso alla conoscenza per tutti gli individui, dall'infanzia all'adolescenza, fino all'inserimento nel mondo del lavoro e lungo l'intero arco della vita, sia attraverso percorsi di apprendimento e partecipazione che con il sostegno alla genitorialità e alle famiglie.
	ABITARE SOCIALE	Fondazione di Modena promuove e sostiene risposte ai bisogni delle persone in situazione di vulnerabilità e disagio abitativo, attraverso modalità diverse e articolate su dimensioni immobiliari, economiche, sociali e sanitarie, rivolte alla piena applicazione dei diritti individuali e collettivi. Favorisce la realizzazione di progetti in cui l'abitare si esprime come opportunità di trasformazione per l'intero territorio secondo principi di sostenibilità sociale e ambientale in una logica di comunità e di prossimità.
	LAVORO DIGNITOSO	Fondazione di Modena promuove opportunità di vita inclusive a favore sia delle persone in condizioni di svantaggio che di tutti i cittadini, mettendo al centro della propria iniziativa il lavoro dignitoso, equo, sicuro, libero e rispettoso dei diritti. Realizza e promuove azioni in stretto raccordo con tutti i soggetti pubblici

		e privati e della società civile, attraverso percorsi e progetti dedicati, in grado di rimuovere ostacoli, accrescere la qualità dell'occupazione, valorizzare ed arricchire le risorse personali e professionali al fine di favorire un efficace progetto di vita per il singolo e ravvivare il tessuto sociale del territorio.
AREA CULTURA	PATRIMONIO DINAMICO	Fondazione di Modena sostiene una concezione dinamica e innovativa del patrimonio culturale, materiale e immateriale, del paesaggio e della sinergia tra le testimonianze del passato e i valori delle comunità, in un'ottica di consapevolezza e crescita sociale. Promuove interventi di conservazione, il turismo e la valorizzazione del territorio, adottando e applicando coerentemente nuove tecnologie. Sostiene un approccio innovativo alla rigenerazione, gestione e fruizione del patrimonio attraverso azioni continuate nel tempo, capaci di tutelare il patrimonio e valorizzare il ruolo attivo della comunità.
	CULTURA CREATIVA	Fondazione di Modena promuove la diffusione della creatività e delle pratiche artistiche nel e del territorio, sostiene e mette in luce le produzioni artistiche e performative delle realtà qui maggiormente radicate. Valorizza l'arte come linguaggio che permetta ai più giovani di comprendere il mondo e di esserne protagonisti anche attraverso incubatori di competenze dove le nuove generazioni possano coltivare e sviluppare i loro talenti. Sostiene il radicamento e la crescita dell'impresa culturale e creativa locale, come un elemento che produce evoluzione e diffusione dei saperi, sviluppo economico e sociale, formazione professionale anche in chiave di nuove competenze digitali. Incentiva la contaminazione e il fare rete tra protagonisti della cultura e del territorio trasformandole in alleanze strategiche
	CULTURA E BENESSERE SOCIALE	Fondazione di Modena sostiene la cultura come strumento fondamentale per una migliore qualità della vita di tutti i cittadini, come risorsa utile ad alimentare coesione sociale, stimolare l'incontro di culture diverse, generare diritti e benessere individuale e collettivo. Favorisce e promuove il ruolo della cultura, come fattore di sviluppo dell'intera comunità, motore essenziale per costruire una nuova cittadinanza attiva e superare le disuguaglianze, sostenendo quelle progettualità culturali capaci di uscire dai luoghi canonici di rappresentazione per aprirsi al territorio e ridurre così le distanze tra i luoghi di cultura e i cittadini, anche quelli più svantaggiati, contribuendo ad allargare i pubblici con il coinvolgimento di tutte le energie sociali e culturali
AREA PIANETA	CITTA' SOSTENIBILI	Fondazione di Modena contribuisce alla sostenibilità dell'ambiente urbano, promuovendo azioni che garantiscono la qualità dell'ambiente e della vita, l'uso sostenibile delle risorse e dell'energia, e accrescono il benessere delle persone. Agisce per restituire una maggiore vivibilità degli spazi urbani in un'ottica di maggiore sostenibilità facilitando l'introduzione di tecnologie innovative e nuove competenze mirate alla mitigazione e all'adattamento agli impatti del cambiamento climatico. Favorisce e promuove l'adozione consapevole di corretti stili di vita e si adopera per migliorare la fruibilità dei servizi di base per i

		cittadini, creando così nuove opportunità di benessere economico, sociale ed ambientale.
	IMPULSO ALLA RICERCA SCIENTIFICA	Fondazione di Modena sostiene progetti di ricerca innovativi, possibilmente interdisciplinari, finalizzati all'avanzamento della conoscenza scientifica e con particolare attenzione alla ricaduta concreta sul territorio sotto il profilo ambientale, sociale, della salute e del lavoro. Contribuisce al progresso scientifico e tecnologico con attenzione a tematiche di respiro europeo e internazionale e promuove l'ingresso dei giovani nella ricerca e l'attrazione di talenti, stimolando l'interazione tra il mondo della ricerca e il mondo del lavoro.
	SVILUPPO SOSTENIBILE	Fondazione di Modena promuove il cambio di paradigma volto a identificare la tutela e la valorizzazione dell'ambiente come opportunità per una rinnovata idea di crescita. Promuove la diffusione di una coscienza ambientale attiva, investendo sui giovani come motori del cambiamento. Favorisce la transizione ecologica e l'emergere di nuove pratiche di economia verde e circolare stimolando la diffusione di nuove competenze e professionalità. Promuove idee e azioni tese a diminuire il divario tra la dimensione locale e quella internazionale e, in linea con la programmazione europea, a favorire l'accesso a nuove professioni rispettose dell'ambiente e capaci di generare cambiamenti necessari e positivi per affrontare le complesse sfide della società.