



**POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863**

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD to the participation of the Politecnico di Milano in the IDEA League network;

HAVING REGARD to the *Fellowship Exchange Programme* proposed by IDEA League to strengthen the collaboration between researchers from partner institutions;

HAVING VERIFIED the availability of financial resources

HEREBY ORDERS:

the issuing of this Call for Applications for Research Funds for visiting periods at IDEA League partner institutions.

Art. 1 – Eligibility requirements

Eligible applicants must belong to one of the following categories:

- Research contract holder (holder of *Contratto di Ricerca* or *Incarico Post-Doc*)
- Fixed-term researcher (RTDa); Tenure-track researcher (RTT) or equivalent former position (RTDb)
- Associate Professor (PA)

who obtained their first PhD (or equivalent) on or after 1 January 2017.

Art. 2 - Project Description

This Call is issued to award research grants aimed at fostering strong IDEA League research collaborations through research exchanges between researchers at IDEA League partner institutions. The IDEA League is a strategic alliance between five leading European universities of science and technology: RWTH Aachen, Chalmers UoT, TU Delft, Politecnico di Milano, ETH Zurich.

Funding is intended for researchers from IDEA League institutions who wish to spend visiting research periods at other IDEA League partner institutions.

Each university manages the grants awarded to its researchers autonomously, by identifying the necessary resources and defining the internal processes for resource allocation.

All faculty members and researchers of the Politecnico di Milano who obtained their first PhD (or equivalent) on or after 1 January 2017 are eligible to apply for this call. The latest date for obtaining the PhD can be extended by the duration of justified absences for appropriately documented reasons such as illness, injury, parental leave, and inactivity due to serious family reasons. In the case of mandatory maternity leave, the eligibility period can be extended by 18 months for each child born after the PhD was obtained and within seven years prior to the call's date. The applicant's affiliation with Politecnico di Milano must remain valid



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throughout the visiting period. If the affiliation ends before or during the visit, the visiting period may not start or, if already underway, must terminate accordingly.

The maximum funding available is EUR 5,000 per month, for visiting periods that meet the following requirements:

- the overall duration of the visiting periods must be between 3 and 6 months;
- visiting periods must take place between 1 October 2026 and 30 September 2027;
- visiting periods may be split, with the condition that the total visiting period at each partner, even if spread over several intervals, must have a minimum duration of one month;
- researchers who have received funding under previous IDEA League calls may receive support for a cumulative maximum of six months of visiting activity.

The total budget available under this Call is EUR 150,000.

For more information see <https://idealeague.org/academicstaff-2/fellowships/>.

Art. 3 – Submission of Applications

Applicants must define a research project involving the most suitable IDEA League partner(s), possibly building on existing contacts and collaborations involving shared research laboratories, infrastructures, and/or other early-career IDEA League researchers who may benefit from similar funding at their home institutions.

The application for participation in the selection must be submitted exclusively through the online form <https://forms.office.com/e/FMChsM6BA8>, a facsimile of which is annexed to this Call for Applications (Annex 1), together with a template of the project description (Annex 2).

All applications must be completed and sent, under penalty of inadmissibility, **by noon (Italian time) of Wednesday, 1 July 2026**.

In submitting the application, the applicant must provide the following information for evaluation:

- research project (brief description), with particular reference to the added value provided by the proposed collaboration. Applicants subject to reporting constraints must specify the compatibility of the research topics proposed for their visiting period and the funding project;
- narrative academic profile. Applicants are required to provide a narrative academic profile. This profile should highlight the quality, originality, and impact of the applicant's main contributions. In line with CoARA principles and ERC evaluation practices, applicants should not include quantitative metrics (e.g. H-index, journal impact factors), as these will not be considered in the evaluation;
- description of visiting periods;
- motivation letter;
- letter or e-mail of acceptance/invitation from the hosting faculty member of the IDEA League partner, with explicit reference to the shared research project/interest.

The personal data requested will be processed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679.

The applicant, before completing the application, must confirm that he/she has read the policy relating to the processing of personal data for administrative processes which can be found on the Politecnico's website:

<https://www.polimi.it/en/privacy>.



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The applicant is also required to consent to the processing of personal data for the purpose of verifying eligibility requirements and enabling the Selection Board to carry out the evaluation procedure.

The Selection Board responsible for evaluating applications shall be appointed by Rectoral Decree. The Selection Board shall draw up a merit ranking based on the evaluation criteria defined jointly with colleagues from the IDEA League partners. Research funds shall be allocated within the limits of the available budget. The following elements of merit will be considered in the selection:

- quality and originality of key contributions;
- evidence of collaborative capacity, in particular with researchers from the hosting institutions, requesting equivalent funding from their universities to visit the Politecnico di Milano;
- potential for future ERC / competitive funding;
- maturity and feasibility of the proposed research and collaboration plan;
- interdisciplinarity of the proposed research project.

Priority will be given to applications whose research projects and visiting plans involve at least three IDEA League partner institutions, including Politecnico di Milano and at least two hosting institutions.

In the case of equal merit, preference shall be given to ensuring gender balance, the greatest thematic distribution of the funded research projects, and finally, applicants who have obtained their PhD degree most recently.

The Selection Board also reserves the right not to allocate all available funds.

Art. 4 – Grant acceptance and research fund management

The selected candidates will be informed **starting from Thursday 23 July 2026**, and a formal acceptance of the grant will be required. The assigned research grant can be used to cover the following expenses: travel and subsistence expenses for visits to IDEA League partner institutions; purchase of materials needed for funded research to be used in the collaboration; expenses supporting publications resulting from the funded joint research, with the expense share inversely proportional to the number of authors; expenses to cover registration fees for conferences organized at the hosting institution.

Any changes to the visiting program declared in the application must be motivated and communicated to the Politecnico di Milano Research Office. Failure to approve the requested changes will result in a cut in the research fund equal to the funding for the months not covered as stated in the application. Should the researcher fail to meet the above conditions, or should the visiting period abroad be cancelled for unforeseen reasons, or should the visiting period end earlier than originally planned, the researcher will only be able to count on the corresponding part of the fund granted.

Researchers participating in the programme may be featured on the IDEA League website and on Politecnico di Milano communication channels for promotional purposes. Therefore, by participating, applicants consent to the processing of their data for promotional purposes. The monitoring of the initiative will include verification of the existence of joint publications / research products related to the supported collaboration and/or the emergence of joint initiatives (organisation of workshops / participation in calls for applications).



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Prof. Donatella Sciuto



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IDEA League Fellowship Programme - Annex 1

Fac-simile of the application form, to be accessed at the link <https://forms.office.com/e/FMChsM6BA8>

IDEA League Fellowship Programme

Form to submit an application for the IDEA League Fellowship Programme, supporting visiting periods in IDEA League partner institutions.

Deadline for submission: noon (Italian time), Monday 1st July 2026

1. Applicant: (Name Surname)
2. POLIMI Department:
3. PhD defence (date):
4. Position: [Res Contract / PostDoc / RTD-a, RTD-b, RTT, PA, other]
5. Academic discipline sector (SSD, settore scientifico-disciplinare):
6. Research Field (Keywords):
7. Hosting Institution(s):
8. Visiting period(s) | plan:
9. Upload Research Project and Narrative Academic Profile (brief description, 1 file, max 5 pages, 10 MB).
For the **Research Project**, highlight the added value provided by the proposed collaboration.
Candidates subject to reporting constraints must explicitly specify the compatibility of the proposed research with the funding project.
For the **Narrative Academic Profile**, highlight:
(A) Key scientific contributions (max 5; for each contribution: short description (max 150 words), role of the applicant, why it is important for the field);
(B) Contribution to research development & collaboration (max 300 words): building collaborations, interdisciplinarity, role in teams / networks;
(C) Contributions beyond publications (max 200 words): datasets, software, patents, outreach / knowledge transfer, mentoring (PhD, MSc);
(D) Career trajectory & context (max 200 words): key career choices, mobility, possible career breaks;
(E) Selected outputs (max 10; can include non-publication outputs)
(F) Future research trajectory (max 150 words).
A template for the description can be downloaded from the [following link](#) (see Annex 2)
10. Upload Motivation Letter (1 file, max 10MB)
11. Upload acceptance letter / email from each hosting partner (explicit reference must be made to the proposed research) (max 4 files, 10MB each)
12. The personal data requested will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679.



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I declare I have read the information relating to the processing of personal data in administrative processes, which can be consulted on the University website: <https://www.polimi.it/en/privacy>
I express consent to the processing of data aimed at verifying the call requirements and the completion of the related selection procedure by the admission commission: Yes/No



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IDEA League Fellowship Programme - Annex 2

IDEA League Fellowships 2026/2027 – Template of the research proposal
(Maximum length: 5 pages, 11pt font, to be uploaded by noon on 01.07.2026 when submitting the application form)

Candidate: [Name / Surname]
Position: [Res Contract / PostDoc position / RTDa / RTDb / RTT / PA]
Academic discipline sector (SSD):
PhD defence (date):
Department:

Host information
Institution(s):
Department(s):
Hosting faculty member(s):
Visiting plan (schedule):

Research title:

Objectives and motivation of the proposed research

.....

Methods and techniques used in the research

.....

Added value of the collaboration

.....

Shared research infrastructure (if any) in the hosting institution:

.....

Expected output of the collaboration (e.g. joint papers; joint proposals; joint PhDs, ...)

.....

Narrative Academic Profile

(A) Key scientific contributions (max 5; for each contribution: short description (max 150 words), role of the applicant, why it is important for the field, including evidence of originality/independence);

.....

(B) Contribution to research development & collaboration (max 300 words): building collaborations, interdisciplinarity, role in teams / networks;

.....

(C) Contributions beyond publications (max 200 words): datasets, software, patents, outreach / knowledge transfer, mentoring (PhD, MSc);

.....

(D) Career trajectory & context (max 200 words): key career choices, mobility, possible career breaks;



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.....

(E) Selected outputs (max 10, directly supporting the key contributions above; can include non-publication outputs)

.....

(F) Future research trajectory (max 150 words)

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