



Università
degli Studi di
Messina

UNIVERSITY OF MESSINA

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS – VISITING RESEARCHER 2026

THE RECTOR

WHEREAS the internationalization of Italian universities is considered a strategic objective by the Ministry of University and Research (MUR), in line with the commitments undertaken within the Bologna Process and the guidelines of the European Commission;

HAVING REGARD TO the Statute of the University of Messina (UniME), issued by Rectoral Decree No. 1244 on May 14, 2012, amended by Rectoral Decree No. 3429 on December 30, 2014, and published in the Official Gazette – General Series No. 8 on January 12, 2015;

HAVING REGARD TO the Regulation on teaching and research activities of Visiting Professors and Researchers, which, among other things, regulates the selection process and the stay at UniME's academic and scientific facilities for highly qualified professors, researchers, and experts from non-Italian universities, research institutions, or higher education organizations, who are invited to carry out teaching and/or research activities at UniME, issued by Rectoral Decree No. 1155 on May 4, 2020;

WHEREAS the Regulation governing business travel of teaching staff and technical-administrative personnel, issued by Rector's Decree No. 1278, Prot. No. 69364 of May 15, 2025;

CONSIDERING that the ability to attract highly qualified professors, researchers, and experts from non-Italian universities, research institutions, or higher education organizations to carry out teaching or research activities at UniME contributes to promoting the university's cultural and scientific development at an international level;

HAVING REGARD TO the University Unified Budget Forecast for 2026/2027;

HAVING REGARD TO the availability of financial resources under CA.04.41.10.11, Project VISITING_RESEARCHER_2026_27;

HAVING REGARD TO the resolutions of the Academic Senate, rep. no. 61 – protocol no. 46859 of 09/04/2026, and of the Board of Directors, rep. no. 78 – protocol no. 47119 of 09/04/2026, approving the issuance of this call.

HEREBY DECREES

Article 1 – Purpose of the Call

1. A selection procedure is launched to support the mobility of scholars or experts with high scientific qualifications affiliated with non-Italian universities, research institutions, or higher education organizations. These scholars will carry out joint research activities at UniME as Visiting Researchers during the academic year 2026/27.

Article 2 – Definitions, Eligibility, and General Requirements

1. The “Proposing Department Member” refers to a UniME Professor or Researcher submitting an application to invite a Visiting Researcher to carry out joint research



activities at a UniME Department. Each Proposing Department Member may submit only one application under this call.

2. The “Visiting Researcher” (VR) is a scholar or expert of high scientific qualification invited to engage in research collaboration with UniME scholars within a UniME Department.
3. The “Hosting Structure” refers to the UniME Department where the Visiting Researcher will carry out their activities. In the case of interdisciplinary research activities, multiple hosting departments may be involved.
4. Visiting Researcher positions cannot be granted to retired Department members or researchers. Applications from individuals who are retired at the time of application submission will not be considered. The position will also not be granted to retired Department during their visit at UniME.
5. Individuals who are already beneficiaries of a Visiting position at other universities for the same period are not eligible for funding.

Article 3 – Type and Duration of the Visit

1. Under this call, the minimum stay for Visiting Researchers (VR) is 30 consecutive days. For VRs working in Italian CUN areas 06-07 (Life and Health Sciences and Veterinary Sciences, respectively), the minimum stay is 10 consecutive days. Travel days are not included in the duration of the visit.
2. The VR’s activities will consist of joint research collaboration with UniME scholars.
3. Visits must take place between October 1, 2026, and July 31, 2027, on a continuous basis at a UniME Department.
4. The VR is entitled to the rights and responsibilities outlined in Article 5 of the “Regulation on Teaching and Research Activities of Visiting Professors and Researchers.”
5. Upon arrival, the VR must demonstrate that they possess valid health insurance and third-party liability insurance (RCT) that are valid in Italy for the entire duration of their stay.

Article 4 – Application Procedure and Deadline

1. The VR application must be submitted by one or more UniME Proposing Department Members to their Department, using the attached form (Annex 1.b). If the VR’s activities involve multiple departments, the application (Annex 1.b) must be accompanied by resolutions from all involved departments.
2. The Department Council will assess the quality and impact of the proposed research before deciding on the application and financial support for the VR. If the Department Council cannot meet in time, the application may be approved by a Director’s Decree, subject to later ratification.



3. The Department must submit all VR applications via the electronic protocol system “Titulus” (classification III/14) under a single protocol entry, with the subject line “Visiting Researcher 2026 Call: Submission of Applications.” Applications must be submitted to the International Cooperation Unit – D.A. Research and Internationalization by 11:59 PM on the 30th day following the publication of this call.
4. In the event that the request is accepted, the proponent will ensure that adequate spaces and equipment for carrying out the planned activities, access to IT resources, and libraries are provided at the hosting facility. The International Cooperation Unit will handle logistical assistance and support for the entry procedures.

Article 5 – Selection Committee and Evaluation Criteria

1. Applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by Rectoral Decree.
2. The Committee will assess applications submitted in accordance with the procedures and deadlines outlined in Article 4 of this call, based on the criteria outlined in Article 3 of the “Regulation on Teaching and Research Activities of Visiting Professors and Researchers,” assigning scores as specified in Annex 1.b:
 - a) The applicant’s and scientific profile.
 - b) The scientific rationale provided by the requesting department, based on the research activities proposed and their potential interdisciplinary impact.
 - c) The type of visit.
 - d) The VR’s participation in national or international projects with UniME Department, Erasmus agreements, or institutional cooperation agreements.
 - e) Whether this is the VR’s first visit to UniME.
3. The Committee will compile a ranking of all applications reviewed, with the corresponding scores assigned and without the possibility of tied rankings, awarding financial support to eligible applications until the available funds are exhausted. The ranking established by the Committee will be approved by Rectoral Decree.
4. The Committee reserves the right to allocate a lower number of grants than the available budget if the submitted applications do not meet the required standards of excellence. If the funds allocated for teaching activities are not fully assigned, the Committee may allocate some or all of these additional resources to finance applications and research activities pursuant to Article 1, paragraph 1 of the Visiting Professor 2026 Call.

Article 6 – Notification and Acceptance

1. The final ranking will be published on the UniME website: <https://www.unime.it/bandi-e-concorsi>.
2. The International Cooperation Unit will notify the VR of their selection and funding amount.
3. The VR must accept the funding via email within 15 days, specifying their preferred tax regime.



4. In the event of withdrawal or inability to undertake the visit, the proposing professor must promptly inform the International Cooperation Unit, which will proceed with the possible reassignment of the funding to the next eligible candidate on the ranking list, within the limits of the available budget. If the VR ranking is fully exhausted, any unallocated funds resulting from a withdrawal may be used to fund eligible candidates from the approved ranking for the Visiting Professor 2026 Call.

Art. 7 – Entry and stay in Italy

1. It is the responsibility of the VP to obtain the visa and any other authorization required to carry out the mobility period in Italy and to receive the financial contribution referred to in Art. 8 of this call. In this regard, it should be noted that for candidates who are non-EU citizens, the time required for visa issuance by the competent Consulates may be long. Candidates are therefore advised to plan the visa application well in advance, taking into account the time needed to obtain the required documentation. The main information regarding visas and the required documentation is available at <https://vistoperitalia.esteri.it/> and on the website of the competent Italian Consulate.
2. Further information regarding all the procedures necessary for carrying out the mobility period will be provided by the International Cooperation Unit.

Article 8 – Financial Support

1. The financial support is granted as reimbursement:
 - Up to €2,700 for VRs from non-European countries.
 - Up to €2,100 for VRs from European countries.
2. The payments, charged to the funds allocated for this purpose by the Board of Directors, are provided as reimbursement of expenses (airfare, public transportation, meals, accommodation), upon submission of appropriate supporting receipts for the expenses incurred, in accordance with the procedures set out in Art. 9 below.

Article 9 – Payment

1. Payment will be made in a single installment after submission of an activity report and supporting documents. The payment of the funding to the VR will be made in a single installment upon completion of the activity and following the submission to the Department(s) where the visit took place, of the activity log and a final report that thoroughly outlines the activity carried out. The Department(s) will ensure that this documentation is forwarded to the International Cooperation Unit of the Department of Administrative Scientific Research and Internationalization, to the Department of Organization and Human Resources Management, and to the Department of Administrative Budget and Finance for the disbursement of the contribution.
2. Payments will be processed the month following the end of the VR's activities via bank transfer. No advance payments will be made.



3. The expense reimbursement must be fully documented, following the procedures outlined in Articles 7-9 of the Regulations for Missions of Teaching and Administrative Staff and in compliance with current national legislation. As of January 1, 2025, reimbursements for expenses related to meals, accommodation, travel, and transport using non-scheduled public services (e.g., taxis and chauffeur-driven rentals) incurred during business trips or missions will not be considered taxable income, provided that payments are made via bank transfer, postal transfer, or other traceable payment methods as per Article 23 of Legislative Decree No. 241/1997 (Article 1, paragraphs 81-86, "Measures on Expense Traceability," Law No. 207/2024).

Article 10 – Data Protection

1. Pursuant to Article 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR), the University will process personal data exclusively for institutional purposes and for carrying out the selection procedure.
2. The Data Controller is the University of Messina, Piazza S. Pugliatti No. 1, 98122 Messina, email: protocollo@pec.unime.it.
3. Data processing will be conducted in paper and/or electronic format, by authorized personnel, ensuring compliance with lawfulness, fairness, transparency, adequacy, relevance, and necessity principles.
4. Data may be shared with other entities as required by applicable law.
5. Data will be retained only for the time necessary to complete the selection process and comply with legal obligations.
6. Candidates may exercise their rights under Articles 15 et seq. of the GDPR by contacting the Data Protection Officer at rpd@unime.it.
7. The full Privacy Policy is available at: <https://www.unime.it/privacy-e-cookie-policy>.

Article 11 – Responsible Officer

1. The responsible officer for this procedure is Dr. Simona Fazio (simona.fazio@unime.it, Tel. +39 090-6768613).
2. For further information regarding this call, please contact visiting@unime.it.

Article 12 – Final Provisions

1. For any matters not expressly specified in this Call, reference shall be made to the applicable legislation in force, to the Regulation governing the teaching and research activities of Visiting Professors and Researchers (Rector's Decree No. 1155 of May 4, 2020), available at the following link: <https://www.unime.it/sites/default/files/2022-07/Regolamento%20visiting.pdf>, to Presidential Decree No. 62/2013 containing the "Regulation laying down the Code of Conduct for public employees," to the "Code of Conduct adopted by the University," as well as to the provisions set out in the "Code of Ethics," published at the following link: <https://archivio.unime.it/it/ateneo/amministrazione/normativa/codice-di-comportamento-dei-dipendenti-pubblici>, and to the Regulation governing business travel of teaching and technical-administrative staff pursuant to Rector's Decree No. 1278 of May 15, 2025, available at the following link:



- [https://www.unime.it/sites/default/files/2025-05/Regolamento%20missioni%20personale%20docente%20e%20tecnico-amministrativo .pdf](https://www.unime.it/sites/default/files/2025-05/Regolamento%20missioni%20personale%20docente%20e%20tecnico-amministrativo.pdf), as well as to the applicable tax legislation.
2. This Call, including all attachments, is published on the Official University Register at:
<https://www.unime.it/it/ateneo/amministrazione/albo-online>
<https://www.unime.it/bandi-e-concorsi>
 3. By submitting an application, the Visiting Professor candidate fully accepts the provisions contained in this Call and in the relevant regulations. Participation in the selection process implies prior consent to the release of submitted documents and competition records in the event of requests from other applicants, in accordance with the applicable regulations on access to official documents.

THE RECTOR
(Prof. Giovanna Spatari)