

NOTICE OF SELECTION FOR THE AWARD OF 3 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS FOR 'SCHOLARS AT RISK'.

Art. 1

Objectives

The University of Milan-Bicocca promotes measures to support members of the scientific community who are facing situations of risk.

'Scholars at risk' are teachers, researchers and PhD/postdoctoral students who work/have worked at higher education institutions and have at least a level 7 qualification according to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).

The 'scholar at risk' category includes:

- (a) persons with refugee status or those seeking asylum in Italy;
- (b) persons whose wellbeing or personal safety is at threat;
- (c) persons whose academic position is at threat or lost.

Risks include:

- physical and psychological violence, including harassment and intimidation;
- previous arrests or threats of arrest;
- denial of civil and educational rights;
- dismissal or suspension from academic activity, or restrictions on freedom of movement for research purposes;
- barriers to participation in conferences or study periods abroad.

Specific risk scenarios include:

- the situation of women in countries where the discriminatory policies of the national or local authorities prohibit their access to secondary and/or higher education. This includes regulations that discriminate against gender and harmful practices that deny access to formal education and advanced learning;
- abuse against scholars who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+);
- hostility, discrimination or unfair treatment based on race, ethnicity, religion or belief;

- local presence of armed conflict according to the ACLED dataset (<https://acleddata.com/>) or the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (<https://ucdp.uu.se/>);

- conscientious objectors to military service (based on the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion as protected by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights) in countries where they risk being prosecuted, arrested or tried by military tribunals;

- repression of demonstrations of freedom of expression and participation resulting in expulsion from their affiliated institutions and/or arrest. By resolution of the Academic Board and the Board of Directors on 05/11/2025 and 18/11/2025 respectively, the implementation of specific measures to support 'Scholars at risk' was approved, for a total of EUR 75,000. Fellowships will last for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 12 months.

Visiting Scholars will be assigned to one of the Departments of the University of Milano-Bicocca, in accordance with the University's Visiting Scholar regulations (as per Rector's Decree no. 3090/2018 of 21 June 2018).

The assignment may begin following confirmation that the Department of International Affairs has accepted the application.

Art. 2

Admission Requirements

To be eligible to engage in the activities detailed in the call for applications, scholars and researchers must fall under one of the categories specified in Article 1 of this Notice. To be considered eligible, candidates must also:

- a) be a beneficiary of temporary protection;
- b) hold a residence permit for asylum / subsidiary protection / political asylum / humanitarian protection / special protection in Italy or in a European Union Member State;
- c) have been recognised as a 'scholar at risk' by Scholars at Risk - SAR or another competent international body (e.g., Scholars Rescue Fund - SRF and Council for At-Risk Academics - CARA) or self-declare as at risk according to the list in Article 1.

Art. 3

Activities and Financial Support

Candidates selected for Visiting Scholar positions will be assigned for a minimum of 3 months up to a maximum of 12 months to carry out research and/or teaching activities on site, following a programme agreed with the host Department, and will be entitled to the following benefits:

- Acquisition of the University's Visiting Scholar status;
- Use of a workspace at the host Department;
- Access to the University Library.

Each 3-month research scholarship amounts to a gross total of EUR 6,250.00. This can be renewed for up to a maximum of 12 months. The host institution may decide to supplement the research scholarship on the basis of its own evaluation and availability. The specific method of payment will be communicated to the beneficiaries.

Art. 4

Application Submissions

Applications are to be put forward by the Department of the University of Milan-Bicocca that will host the Visiting Scholar using exclusively the online form that can be found at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/E47dDT4kwqUCRZaC6>

Applications will be accepted **from the date of publication of the call for applications until February 6th, 2026**. The following documents must be attached to the application in PDF format:

1. Letter of acceptance from the Visiting Scholar;
2. Curriculum Vitae of the Visiting Scholar, with a list of publications from the last 5 years;
3. Photocopy of the Visiting Scholar's valid passport;

4. Description of research activities and length of stay in months;

5. Resolution of the Board or Decree of the Director of the Department of the host university approving the application of the Visiting Scholar and, if applicable, indicating the budget and funding made available to each individual Scholar, where applicable; in the case of several applications, please indicate priority.

All documents must be submitted in English or Italian.

No other form of submission is permitted for applications to participate in the procedure or related documentation.

The Commission reserves the right to request further documentation if it considers it necessary.

Art. 5

Selection Methods and Criteria

Applications received will be evaluated by a special Commission appointed by the University. The Commission will assess the suitability of applications on the basis of the content of Article 1 of this Notice.

Successful applications will be accepted until the available funding is exhausted.

Art. 6

Start of the Research Scholarship

After being notified of being awarded a research scholarship, Visiting Scholars are required to agree on the start date of the Fellowship with the host Department.

If the scholarship is renounced, or if no response is received from the host Department, the Administration reserves the right to reallocate the scholarship, following the order of the ranking list.

During their assignment at the University of Milan-Bicocca, beneficiaries must not hold similar positions at another university or research centre in Italy.

At the end of their assignment at the University, the Visiting Scholar must submit a report on their research and/or teaching activities to the host Department.

Art. 7

Processing of Personal Data

Pursuant to Italian Legislative Decree no. 196 of 30 June 2003 and Regulation (EU) 679/2016, personal data provided to or in any case acquired by the University shall be processed solely for the purpose of this selection and will be carried out by authorised personnel through the processes, including computerised processes, in the manner and to the extent necessary to fulfil the aforementioned purposes. The data will be stored pursuant to the regulations on the retention of administrative documents. The Data Controller is the University of Milan-Bicocca in the person of the Rector, its Legal Representative, with registered office at Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo, 1 - Milan.

The data processing policy, relating to Staff Area processes, is available to view on the dedicated page of the institutional website at www.unimib.it/privacy.

Art. 8

Dispute Resolution

This Notice is also translated into English exclusively for dissemination purposes. Only the Italian version shall be valid for its application and the settlement of all disputes and for all legal effects.

Art. 9

Procedure and Information Officer

The officer responsible for the procedure is Dr Agnese Cofler - Head of the International Affairs Department of the University of Milan-Bicocca.

This Notice, including its annexes, will be available on the University website at <https://www.unimib.it/internazionalizzazione/iniziativa-internazionali/universita-inclusiva> (its publication will be the sole means of notification; no personal communication will be made in writing or by telephone). **The outcome of the selection procedure will be communicated to the beneficiaries and Departments concerned.**

For further information, please contact the International Promotion and Communication Office at refugees@unimib.it.

Art. 10

Final Provisions

The relevant laws and regulations of the University shall apply for all matters not provided for in this Notice.

THE RECTOR

Prof. Marco Emilio Orlandi

(digitally signed pursuant to Article 24 of Italian
Legislative Decree 82/05)