

DD. 64/2019

Subject: Selection procedure by qualifications and possible interview for the assignment of one post-doc fellowship entitled “Study of isolated and binary neutron stars with strong magnetic field”.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS
Istituto di Astrofisica e Fisica Cosmica di Milano**

The Director

- ***In accordance with*** Law n.183/2003;
- ***In accordance with*** Law n. 240 dated December 30, 2010 and its art. 22 in particular;
- ***In accordance with*** “Disciplinare di Organizzazione e Funzionamento dell’INAF” approved by INAF Administrative Council on June 21, 2012;
- ***In accordance with*** “Regolamento sull’amministrazione, sulla contabilità e sull’attività contrattuale dell’INAF” as published in “Supplemento Ordinario” n. 185 of the “Gazzetta Ufficiale” 300 published on 23.12.2004;
- ***In accordance with*** Law 102, march 9, 2011;
- ***In accordance with*** the Provisions for the assignment of research grants approved by INAF Administrative Council on June 22, 2011;
- ***In accordance with*** Law febbraio 27, 2015 n. 11, art.6 c.2bis;
- ***In accordance with*** INAF statute approved by INAF Administrative Council on 25/05/2018 and applicable since 24/09/2018
- ***In accordance with*** the guidelines for non-permanent staff position recruitment approved by INAF Administrative Council on January 30, 2018;
- ***In accordance with*** the provisional guidelines for the assignment of research grants approved by INAF Administrative Council on January 29, 2019;
- ***In accordance with*** “The national program for post-doc fellowships” approved by INAF Administrative Council on October 19, 2018;
- ***Ascertained*** that financial coverage of the grant amounting to 34.390,00 euro has been provided, with assigned funds to Budget 2019 to all’Ob.Fu 1.05.01.83.04 “UnIAM – Unifying Isolated and Accreting Magnetars” - Cap. 1.03.02.99.999.01

DETERMINES

The offered fellowship aims at offering the opportunity to carry out scientific research in a highly qualified environment. This fellowship, although finalized to the funding project, is not meant to cover lack of personnel, and allows/encourages the fellow to carry out research activities aimed at developing professional skills.



Art. 1- Research Project

A call is open for a selection procedure on the basis of candidates' qualifications, possibly integrated by an interview, for the assignment of one "Post Doctoral" position of the duration of two years, entitled: "Study of isolated and binary neutron stars with strong magnetic field".

The research fellow will be involved in the "UnIAM (Unifying Isolated and Accreting Magnetars)" PRIN-MIUR 2017 project.

In particular, the successful candidate will work on one or more of the following topics:

- Systematic spectral and variability analysis and interpretation of archival and proprietary X-ray data on different classes of neutron stars
- Modelling of spin-period evolution and study of accretion properties of Ultra Luminous X-ray Pulsars
- Search for magnetar-like manifestations in all classes of isolated and binary neutron stars
- Characterization of the thermal emission from radio pulsars and other isolated neutron stars

Further questions on the scientific project can be addressed to Sandro Mereghetti (email: sandro.mereghetti@inaf.it).

The fellowship will last for two years. The fellowship is extendable by one other year, subject to the availability of funds.

Art. 2 – Requirements for participation

Participation to the selection is reserved to Italian and foreign citizens holding the following minimum requirements (to be held at the appointment starting date):

- PhD degree either in Physics, Astrophysics or Astronomy, or equivalent degree, (equivalence will be assessed by the selection committee according to criteria defined for the purpose of the selection procedure
OR
- Master degree (or 2nd level *Laurea* degree if issued by an Italian University) issued according to the previous Italian University regulations or Degree (2[^] level) either in Physics, Astrophysics or Astronomy, together with a minimum of 3 years of subsequent documented experience in scientific or technological activities.

Preference will be given to candidates with:

- experience in the analysis and interpretation of X-ray and/or gamma-ray data of compact relativistic objects
- programming skills

The following qualification will be considered a plus:

- Experience in analysis of data at other wavelengths

Art. 3 – Application

Applications must be submitted in English or Italian, by e-mail with acknowledgement of receipt to the following email address: inafiasfmi@pcert.postecert.it.

Applications must be submitted by and not after November 25, 2019. Later submissions will not be considered.

Applications that are not consistent with the attached form (Annex 1) or without the applicant's signatures will be excluded from the selection procedure.

The application must be submitted with the e-mail subject: "Application for: Research grant **Study of isolated and binary neutron stars with strong magnetic field**".

Aware that false declarations are punishable by law and that the Administration will carry out random checks on their accuracy, the applicant must state clearly and precisely in the application, under his/her own responsibility:

- name(s) and surname, date and place of birth, nationality, place of residence and address for correspondence;
- that s/he satisfies all the requirements described in article 2 of this Call;
- that s/he is aware of and is not ineligible under any of the restrictions described in article 4 of this Call.

The lack of any of the above mentioned declarations will determine the exclusion from the selection procedure for incomplete application.

For selection purposes the applicants:

- shall directly state any academic qualifications in the application form (Annex 1)

in addition

- non-EU citizens residing outside Italy, if successful, must produce originals or suitably certified copies of academic qualifications obtained outside Italy.

The following documents have to be submitted:

1. Annex 1 "Application form";
2. Annex 2 "Curriculum vitae", **signed and dated** by the applicant, providing evidence of possession of the titles and the skills required to carry out the research and including a list, if applicable, of grants and fellowships held in the past;
3. copy of a valid identity document (ID card or passport);
4. list of publications;
5. Brief summary of past research activity;
6. Any other qualification the candidate wishes to submit

Applicants are admitted to the selection with reserve and may – at any time – be notified of exclusion from the selection procedure for the following reasons:

- submission of the application after the deadline;
- incomplete and/or unsigned application form;
- unsigned curriculum vitae;
- lack of the copy of a valid identity document;
- lack of the requirements indicated in paragraph 2.

Should the reasons for exclusion be ascertained after completion of the selection procedure, the applicant will lose any right deriving from participation in the selection procedure; the same will apply to applicants providing any false statement or document.

INAF accepts no responsibility for lost applications or documents where this is due to the applicant having provided incorrect contact details or having failed or delayed in notifying any changes to these details.

Art. 4 – Ineligibility and incompatibility with other funding

Full professors, associate professors and “ricercatori” in Italian universities and employees of Italian research public institutions are all excluded from the competition.

The grant cannot be held at the same time with attendance at academic courses as those that formally give access to a PhD, as well as with attendance at PhD courses with fellowship. For employees of the Italian Public Administration (Italian State) compulsory unpaid leave of absence is foreseen.

The grant cannot be held contemporarily with other fellowships of whatever kind, except those awarded with the aim of integrating the training or research activity of the fellowship holder through a period spent abroad.

Aggregation of income from working activities, also part-time, carried out continuously is not accepted. Instead, limited self-employed occasional work is compatible with the grant, only if this is not prejudicial to the research activity carried out for INAF. The Director of INAF-IASF Milano must authorize this in advance.

Retired persons are not eligible for Research fellowship.

Also excluded from participation are any applicants who carried out Research fellowships under article 22 of Italian Law 240/2010 for a total period exceeding six years, as amended by Law 11/2015, including extensions, but excluding the periods in which the grant was held in coincidence with doctoral studies up to the maximum legal time limit of the course, and excluding periods of maternity leave or sick leave, in accordance with current legislation. When formally accepting the grant, the successful candidate will issue a declaration of absence of inadmissible cumulating of grants/fellowships.

Art. 5 – Duration of the Research fellowship

The Research fellowship is expected to begin between February 1st , 2020 and March 1st , 2020.

The exact initial date could be reasonably delayed if requested by the completion of administrative procedures and/or for the cases mentioned in art. 10 of this call.

The grant is for two years, extendable by another year. The extension of the fellowship will be subject to availability of funds.

Art. 6 – Host Institution

The research fellow will carry out research at INAF/IASFMI under the supervision of Dr. Sandro Mereghetti.

Art. 7 – Salary amount

The grant is worth 28,000.00 (twenty-eight -thousand) Euros gross per year. This amount is net of burdens to be charged to INAF-IASF Milano and will be paid in deferred monthly instalments.

Applicable fiscal rules are the provisions of art. n. 4 of Italian law n. 476/1984 and subsequent modifications and integrations. Applicable social security rules are art. n. 2, paragraph 26 and following paragraphs of the Italian law n. 335/1995 and subsequent modifications and integrations. Applicable rules for obligatory maternity leave are provided in the Decree of the Ministry of Labour and Social Security dated 12 July 2007, published in the “Gazzetta Ufficiale” n. 247 dated 23



October 2007. Applicable rules for sick leave are provided by art. n. 1, paragraph n. 788 of Italian law n. 296 dated 27 December 2006 and subsequent modifications. During the period of obligatory maternity leave the allowance paid by INPS (Italian national institute for social security) according to art. n. 5 of the above Decree dated 12 July 2007 is supplemented by INAF up to the total amount of the grant. The period of obligatory maternity leave will not contribute to the duration of the grant foreseen by the contract.

As for third party liability, the grant holder will be covered by insurance policy drawn up by INAF. This insurance policy will not cover the civil liability of the grant holder towards INAF.

The grant holder must draw up at his/her expenses an insurance policy against accidents at work.

Art. 8 – Selection Committee and selection procedure

A Selection Committee appointed by the Director of INAF-IASF Milano will perform the selection of candidates.

The Selection Committee is composed of three members from both Italian and foreign research staff, including also University staff, with expertise in the research field of the position offered in this announcement, and will include the principal investigator of the project. According to the law in force, the composition of the Selection Committee should comply, when possible, with gender balance. The president of the Selection Committee is nominated in the appointment decree and is chosen between the Committee members. In the decree the Selection Committee Secretary is also appointed.

The selection is based on qualifications possibly integrated by an interview. To be admitted to the interview, candidates must exhibit their identity documents.

The Selection Committee can establish a short list of the eligible applicants to be interviewed, on the basis of qualifications and documented experience in scientific or technological activities on the specific subject of the research fellowship. All the stages of the selection procedure can be performed also using electronic devices for the communications. Interviews will be conducted in person. In exceptional cases, the Selection Committee can decide to conduct remote interviews through video calls.

Applicants selected for the interview will be informed with a minimum of 15 days notice by e-mail with acknowledgement of receipt, containing the individual score for qualifications.

The total ranking score is 100 points, of which 70 points is the maximum score for qualifications and 30 points is the maximum score for the interview. The candidate must have a minimum score of 50 points for qualifications to be eligible.

At the end of the selection procedure the Selection Committee will draw up the ranked list.

The approval decree of the selection procedure and the ranked list will be published on the following website: www.iasf-milano.inaf.it.

Art. 9 – Awarding of the fellowship

The highest ranked candidate will receive written notification of award of the research fellowship.

Within 10 days from receipt of the formal notification of the award s/he must provide a formal declaration of acceptance of the research grant. The declaration will also state that s/he is not subject to any of the exclusion conditions listed in article 4 of this Call.

If the candidate does not provide the declaration of acceptance within a time limit of 10 days, s/he will lose her/his entitlement to the research fellowship, which can be awarded to the next ranked candidate.

Under no circumstances the signing of the contract starts a subordinate employment relationship or ensures any rights to access to permanent INAF staff positions.

Art. 10 – Fellowship obligations

The holder of the fellowship:

1. must start the research activity at the date due as per the contract at INAF-IASF Milano, unless prevented by *force majeure* or exceptional circumstances, of which the Director of INAF-IASFMI must be timely informed;
2. will carry out her/his research activity under the supervision of the project scientific responsible, dr. Sandro Mereghetti who will also monitor the fellow's activity progress;
3. is required to issue an activity report every year. The activity report will be subject to approval from the scientific responsible and will be transmitted to the Director of INAF-IASFMI. Approval failing, duly reasoned by the scientific responsible, will give INAF-IASFMI the right to terminate the contract;
4. is required to send a written note in case of withdrawal, with at least 30 days notice, otherwise the INAF-IASF Milano is entitled to retain or request the reimbursement of the salary amount corresponding to the period of not notified.

The holder of the fellowship who does not carry out her/his research activity regularly without producing justified reasons or lacks repeatedly to fulfil requirements or, according to the evaluation of the scientific responsible, dr. Sandro Mereghetti, eventually shows evident lack of skills at the planned research activities, will incur the termination of the contract.

Temporary suspensions of the research fellowship are due in case of obligatory maternity leave or in case of illness lasting longer than one month or to any other serious reason. The reasons for suspending the research fellowship must be proved and certified, and promptly sent to the Director of INAF-IASFMI.

Art. 11 - Proceedings Responsible

In accordance with Art. 8, paragraph 3 of INAF Provisions on the assignment of research grants, Patrizia Allocchio is the responsible of the competition proceedings relevant to this competition announcement (e-mail patrizia.allocchio@inaf.it).

Art. 12 – Applicable regulation

IASF Milano shall abide by provisions in force promoting equal opportunities for women and men, non-discrimination and respect of privacy in processing personal data.

For what not explicitly mentioned in this announcement, IASF Milano will act in compliance with the regulations in force concerning public selection procedures, when applicable by analogy.

Art. 13 – Information under articles 13 and 14 G.D.P.R. 2016/679

The European Regulation 2016/679 (G.D.P.R.) enforces the protection of personal data and the free disclosure of said personal data information. In accordance with said regulation, processing of your personal data will be marked to principles of accuracy, legality, transparency and protection of your privacy and related rights.

Your personal data will be treated exclusively for those purposes highly connected and functional to this announcement

Personal data processing will be carried out by means of printed or electronical tools from



controller and from authorized people with observance of any protection tool to grant the privacy and security of your personal data as well as the processing in an accurate and complete manner.

Milano, 24 October 2019

Director
Dott.ssa Bianca Garilli