



**Selection procedure nr. IASF-PA/AR/3/2020**

**Subject: Selection procedure nr. IASF-PA/AR/3/2020 based on qualifications and a possible interview for the assignment of 1 research grant entitled: "Accretion and ejection in stellar mass compact objects"**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS  
Institute of Space Astrophysics and Cosmic Physics - Palermo**

**THE DIRECTOR**

- In accordance with** the INAF Statute, approved on 7 March 2011, and effective as of 1 May 2011 May;
- In accordance with** Italian Law n.240 dated 30 December 2010, article 22;
- In accordance with** the INAF Regulations for the award of research fellowships approved by the Administrative Council on 22 June 2011, Resolution n. 06/11 and subsequent modifications and integrations;
- In accordance with** the guidelines for non-permanent staff position recruitment approved by INAF Administrative Council on 30 January 2018;
- In accordance with** the provisional guidelines for the assignment of research grants approved by INAF Administrative Council on 23 March 2018;
- In accordance with** the provisional guidelines for the assignment of research grants approved by INAF Administrative Council on 29 January 2019;
- In accordance with** the request nr. 34/2019 by dr. Melania Del Santo
- Considering** it appropriate to issue an announcement of competition for the award of a research fellowship;

**Given**

the availability of financial resources from fund Ob.Fu. 1.05.04.03.19 “Attività di Studio per la comunità scientifica di Astrofisica delle Alte Energie e Fisica Astroparticellare” – accordo Attuativo ASI – INAF n. 2017-14- H.0 (Proposta 22\_Belloni, rif. Melania Del Santo) – Ch. 1.01.01.01.009 “Research Grants”.

**DECREES****Art. 1****Research project**

A call is open for a selection procedure based on candidates’ qualifications, possibly integrated by an interview, for the assignment of one “Post-Doc” research grant of the duration of one year (possibly extended for a second year). The grant is entitled: “Accretion and ejection in stellar mass compact objects”.

The successful candidate will participate to the scientific activities carried out by the observational astrophysics group at IASF Palermo, focussed on X-ray binary studies. In particular, the activities may include:

- Spectral analysis of X-ray and soft gamma-ray data
- Timing analysis of X-ray data
- Data modelling for the understanding of accretion physics
- Modelling multi-wavelength data for ejection physics study

Research will be carried out at INAF/IASF Palermo (Italy) with the possibility of frequent travels to other members of the consortium or to external companies depending on the needs of the project.

The research grant of this call offers to candidates the opportunity of professional development by giving them the possibility to carry out scientific or technological research within a highly qualifying working environment. The research grant is aimed at the specific project of the call, and is not released with the purpose of meeting staff requirements of the Institute or of the research projects itself, but offers the opportunity to pursue research in the framework of the project to candidates who deem it useful for their own personal journey of professional development.

The activities will be carried out under the supervision of Dr. Melania Del Santo.

**Art. 2****Requirements**

Participation to the selection is reserved to Italian and foreign citizens, holding the following minimum requirements:

Ph.D. degree in Physics or Astronomy, or equivalent degree, issued by an Italian (or foreign) Advanced Studies Institute or University

or

Master degree either in Physics or Astronomy, or equivalent degree issued according to the previous or actual Italian University regulations which would formally entitle to the admission to a doctorate awarded by an Italian or foreign University, together with at least three years of documented experience in scientific or technological activities after the degree.

Candidates presenting qualifications obtained abroad which have not already been declared equivalent to the Italian qualifications, in accordance with current legislation, are assessed by the selection board who can admit them to the selection, under the condition that they attach in the application form a copy of the equivalence request that they have sent to the Italian Ministry of the University. The candidate who is the winner in possession of a qualification obtained abroad that has not been declared equivalent, will receive 60 days from the end of the competition procedures to present the equivalence of the qualification, under penalty of exclusion.

The following knowledge, skills and experience will be considered as preferential qualifications:

- Experience in the high energy astrophysics
- Experience in spectral-timing analysis of X-ray data
- time domain astronomy
- multi-wavelength spectral analysis
- high-resolution X-ray spectroscopy
- theory of accretion onto compact objects and outflows

Good knowledge of the English language is required.

### **Art. 3**

#### **Duration of the Research fellowship**

The Post-Doc research position is expected to start as soon as possible, but no later than 6 November 2020 and has a duration of one year. The fellowship may be renewed for a second year upon performance and funding availability. The exact starting date may be delayed if required for the completion of administrative procedures and/or for the cases mentioned in the art. 10 of this call.

### **Art. 4**

#### **Application procedure**

Applications must be submitted in a closed envelope by:

- authorized courier (ex. DHL, FedEx, UPS etc.) or registered mail with acknowledgement receipt to: IASF Palermo, via Ugo La Malfa 153, 90146, Palermo (Italy)

- PEC account (Certified E-mail) to the following PEC address: [inafiasfpa@pcert.postecert.it](mailto:inafiasfpa@pcert.postecert.it)

It is possible to send the documentation to the PEC address only if you have a Certified E-mail box from one of the operators indicated in the list of the AgID Digital Italy Agency (Presidential Decree n.68 of February 11, 2005);

Moreover, it is mandatory that the PEC account is registered with the applicant's name, on penalty of exclusion from the present call.

**Consider that ordinary e-mail are not accepted.**

Applications must arrive no later 20 March 2020.

Late delivery will not be considered.

Applications that are not consistent with the attached forms (Annexes 1 and 2) or without the applicant's signature will be excluded from the selection procedure.

The application must report on the envelope or in the PEC subject "Selection procedure nr. **IASF-PA/AR/3/2020**".

Aware that false declarations are punishable by law and that the Administration will carry out random checks on their accuracy, the applicants must state clearly and precisely in the application form (Annex 1) under their own responsibility:

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

In the absence of any of the above declarations, the applicant will be excluded from the selection procedure.

For selection purposes the applicants:

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

Applications must include the following documents:

- Annex 1 "Application form" signed and dated by the applicant;
- Annex 2, signed and dated by the applicant;
- Curriculum Vitae, duly signed and dated by the applicant, providing evidence for possession of the requirements and the skills required to carry out the research, and including a list, if applicable, of grants and fellowships held in the past and a statement of research interest;
- List of publications;
- Copy of a valid identity document (ID card or passport);
- Any other qualification, working task, research activity for public and private institutions and publications that the applicant deems appropriate to submit.

**Applications that are not consistent with the attached forms (Annex 1 and 2) or have not been signed by the applicant will be excluded from the selection procedure.**

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

- Submission of the application after the deadline;
- Incomplete and/or unsigned application forms;
- Failure to sign the curriculum vitae;
- Lack of the copy of a valid identity document;
- Lack of the requirements indicated in article 2 of this Call;
- **Application sent via ordinary email address**

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

It is under the responsibility of the applicant to provide correct contact details for communication purposes. INAF accepts no responsibility for any miscommunication that may arise due to inaccurate contact details or if such details are out of date. INAF also denies liability for any problem related to the postal delivery service.

#### **Art. 5**

##### **Ineligibility and incompatibility with other funding**

The grant cannot be awarded to full professors, associate professors or research staff in Italian universities or to employees of public Italian research institutions.

The grant is not compatible with attendance to academic courses as those that formally give access to a doctorate, as well as with attendance to PhD courses with fellowship.

The grant is not compatible 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 permitted. 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. This must be authorized in advance by the Director of INAF-Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo. Retired persons are not eligible for the Research fellowship.

The candidate who does not satisfy the provision of co.9 of article 22 of Italian Law 240/2010 is excluded from the selection.

Upon formally accepting the grant, the successful applicant will issue a declaration that none of the above exclusions apply.

#### **Art. 6**

##### **Host Institution**

The successful fellow will be required to spend a significant fraction of his/her time at INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo – Via Ugo La Malfa n.153 – 90146 Palermo (Italy).

#### **Art. 7**

##### **Salary amount**

The gross annual salary for this grant is **28.000 Euro**. This amount is net of burdens to be charged to INAF/IASF Palermo, social charges and health coverage, and will be paid in deferred monthly instalments. The fellow will be requested to have a personal accidents insurance for the duration of the fellowship.

Italian fiscal and social security rules will be applied.

During the period of mandatory maternity leave the allowance paid by INPS (Italian National Institute for Social Security) is supplemented by INAF up to the total amount of the grant.

The period of mandatory maternity leave will not contribute to the duration of the grant stated in the contract.

## **Art. 8**

### **Selection Committee and selection procedure**

The selection will be performed by a Selection Committee appointed by the Director of INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo, composed by three members, including the scientist in charge of the project.

The selection is based on qualifications, integrated by an interview, if needed. The Selection Committee can establish a short list of eligible applicants to be interviewed, on the basis of titles, qualifications, and documented experience in the scientific or technological activities on the specific subject of the research fellowship. All the stages of the selection procedure (e.g. meetings of Selection Committee, interviews and so on) can be performed also using electronic devices for communications. Applicants selected for the interview will be summoned with a 15-day notice, with the communication of the individual score for qualifications.

The total ranking score is 100 points: a maximum of 70 for titles and qualifications, and a maximum of 30 for the interview (which is not mandatory).

At the end of the selection procedure the Selection Committee will produce a ranked list.

The approval decree of the selection procedure and the ranked list will be published on the following website [www.iasf-palermo.inaf.it](http://www.iasf-palermo.inaf.it)

## **Art. 9**

### **Awarding of the fellowship**

The highest-ranked candidate will receive a written notification for the award of the research fellowship. Within 20 days from receipt of the formal notification of the award he/she must provide a formal declaration of acceptance of the research grant. The declaration will also state that he/she is not subject to any of the exclusion conditions listed in article 5 of this call. In case no declaration is received within 20 days, the candidate is considered as withdrawn and thus excluded. The committee can then move down the ranking and repeat the procedure with the second-ranked candidate, and so on, until the fellowships are accepted.

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

## **Art. 10**

### **Fellowship obligations**

The holder of the fellowship:

- will start the research activity on due date, as for the contract with INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo, unless prevented by force majeure or exceptional

circumstances, of which the Director of INAF - Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo must be timely informed;

- will carry out his/her research activities under the supervision of the Dr. Melania Del Santo, who will also monitor the fellow's progress;
- is required to issue periodical activity reports as established in the contract. The activity reports will be subject to approval by the project supervisor. Approval failing, duly justified by the supervisor, will give INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo the right to terminate the contract;
- is required to send a written note in case of withdrawal, with at least 30 days notice, otherwise INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo is entitled to retain or request the reimbursement of the salary amount corresponding to the notice time-span he/she has failed to send.

The holder of the fellowship who fails in carrying out his/her regular research activity, without producing justified reasons or lacks repeatedly to fulfil requirements or, according to the evaluation of the scientist in charge, eventually shows evident lack of skills at the planned research activities, will incur in the termination of the contract.

Temporary suspensions of the research fellowship are due in case of mandatory 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 - Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo.

#### **Art. 11**

##### **Personal Data**

In accordance with art. 13, paragraph 1 of the Italian Legislative Decree n. 196/2003 and subsequent modifications, personal data provided by the candidates will be used exclusively for the purposes of this selection. Candidates who wish to obtain further information, or to exercise their rights under art. 7 of the above mentioned Legislative Decree, may contact the administration employee in charge for this call.

#### **Art. 12**

##### **Person in charge for the procedure**

The person in charge for the selection procedure relevant to this competition announcement is Dr. Giancarlo Cusumano (e-mail [giancarlo.cusumano@iasf-palermo.inaf.it](mailto:giancarlo.cusumano@iasf-palermo.inaf.it))

#### **Art. 13**

##### **Applicable regulation**

INAF - Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo 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, INAF – Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo shall act in compliance with the regulations in force concerning Italian public selection procedures, when applicable by analogy.

The present call will also be published on the following web sites:

<http://www.inaf.it>

<http://www.iasf-palermo.inaf.it>

Palermo, 20 February 2020

The Director