

**REGULATION FOR THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH GRANTS,  
PhD GRANTS, AND STUDY VISITS ABROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF EDUCATION  
AND TRAINING**

**(Approved by Board of Directors' Resolution no. 80 of 26 October 2018 and modified by  
Board of Directors' Resolution n.71/2021, approved during its meeting on 14 June, 2021)**

**INDEX**

**TITLE I - Scope and definitions**

**Article 1 - Purpose**

**Article 2 - Definitions**

**TITLE II - Criteria for awarding scholarships**

**Article 3**

3.1 Selection notice

3.2 Types

3.3 Requirements for admission

3.4 Application for admission

3.5 Titles and certificates

3.6 Age limits

3.7 Legal nature of the scholarship

3.8 Examination committee

3.9 Evaluation of candidates

3.0 Final ranking

3.11 Duration and financial provisions

3.12 Interruptions, forfeiture and renouncement of the grant

3.13 Prior notice

3.14 Compatibility with other income

3.15 Performance and evaluation of the activity

3.16 Treatment of personal information

**TITLE III - Criteria for awarding of research grants**

**Article 4**

4.1 Selection notice

4.2 Eligibility requirements

4.3 Age limits

- 4.4 Legal nature of the research grant
- 4.5 Application for admission
- 4.6 Titles and certificates
- 4.7 Examination Committee
- 4.8 Evaluation of applicants
- 4.9 Final ranking
- 4.10 Duration and financial provisions
- 4.11 Interruptions, forfeiture and renouncement of the grant
- 4.12 Performance and evaluation of the activity
- 4.13 Treatment of personal information
- 4.14 Incompatibility
- 4.15 Prior notice

#### **TITLE IV - Criteria for awarding of PhD grants**

##### **Article 5**

- 5.1 Nature
- 5.2 Requirements for admission
- 5.3 Agreements with universities

#### **TITLE V - Grants for study visits of researchers and technologists at research facilities in Italy and abroad**

##### **Article 6**

- 6.1 Scope and purpose
- 6.2 Call for proposals
- 6.3 Duration
- 6.4 Countries and foreign scientific institutions involved in the Programme
- 6.5 Composition of the Selection Committee and criteria for the evaluation of applications
- 6.6 Final scientific report and settlement of costs of stay abroad

# REGULATIONS FOR THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS, RESEARCH GRANTS, PHD GRANTS AND STUDY STAYS ABROAD FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES

## TITLE I SCOPE AND DEFINITIONS

### Article 1 - Purpose

This Regulation has been adopted in accordance with the current national legislation on training tools, namely art. 22 of Law no. 240/2010 (research grants), art. 4 of Law no. 210/1998 as amended by art. 19 of Law no. 240/2010 (PhD scholarships and study visits abroad), as well as in accordance with the Guidelines contained in the European Charter for Researchers, and the CREA Action Plan relating to the Guidelines implementing the European Charter for Researchers.

This Regulation determines the general criteria and eligibility requirements for the awarding of scholarships, research grants, PhDs and study visits financed either by CREA funds dedicated to research activities, or by funds from external national or international institutions and bodies.

In the latter case, the training tools must be explicitly provided for in the research projects and/or research agreements that govern the relationship between the CREA and the funding bodies.

These instruments, which are of mere training purposes, cannot be included in employment contracts.

With this Regulation, the Administration intends to contrast the phenomenon of repeated training by non permanent staff also through the use of training tools which aim at developing and expanding knowledge previously acquired during university studies and translate it into work skills. The total period of use of training tools such as scholarships and research grants, added to the duration of the training tool put out to tender, may not exceed a total of 35 months and is a reason for exclusion as the duration of the research grant/scholarship cannot be reduced. Those who have benefitted from temporary contracts, coordinated and continuous collaboration contracts, professional assignments and work contracts are not admitted to the selections.

### Article 2 - Definitions

For the purposes of this Regulation:

- *Scholarship* means the funding granted to eligible staff with the aim to enable them to continue and complete their post-high school and post-graduate training, through the in-depth study of particular research and/or technological issues. Scholarships are awarded to young high school or university graduates in disciplines related to the field of research covered by the scholarship.
- *research grant* means the payment of grants for collaboration or carrying out research activities;
- *PhD* means a post-graduate university course aimed at providing the skills necessary to carry out, at the CREA facilities, highly qualified research activities;
- *study visit abroad (internship abroad)* means the period of time spent by the person concerned at a foreign institution in order to acquire knowledge useful for the research activity.

**TITLE II**  
**CRITERIA FOR AWARDING SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Article 3**

**3.1 Calls**

1. The scholarships referred to in Art. 1 are awarded by means of selection following public calls based on qualifications and an examination including a compulsory English language test and a possible test of a second language chosen by the candidate from among the languages admitted within the EU (French, German and Spanish).
2. The calls are issued with the Decision of the Director of the Centre holding the funds for carrying out the research activity.
3. The notice must be drawn up in accordance with the module prepared by the Administration and must contain detailed information about:
  - the research project/research programme and the Tutor;
  - the requirements for admission to the selection and the criteria for assessment of qualifications and tests;
  - the annual cost of the scholarship;
  - the specific functions, rights and duties relating to the position;
  - the terms and conditions for submitting applications.
4. The call must be adequately disseminated, also by electronic means, through publication on the website of CREA, and by any other means deemed appropriate, except in the case of details and any forms of publicity requested by the funding bodies.

**3.2 Requirements for admission**

1. Participation in calls for post-graduate scholarships is open to those who have a university degree or higher and who meet any additional requirements that might be specified in the single calls.
2. Participation in calls for high school graduates is open to those who are in possession of a high school degree or equivalent.
3. For foreign citizens, the required degree must be recognised as equivalent in Italy by the competent authority.
4. Calls are open for participation to those citizens who have not benefitted from fixed-term contracts, coordinated and continuous collaboration contracts, professional assignments and work contracts, research grants/scholarships for a period of time that, added to the duration of the scholarship, does not exceed 35 months, as the duration of the scholarship cannot be reduced.

**3.3 Application for admission**

The application for admission to the public calls for the award of the scholarship must be signed by the candidate and is not subject to authentication (art. 39 DPR n. 445/2000).

### **3.4 Titles and certificates**

1. Stated condition, facts and personal qualities of the candidates may be proved by a declaration *in lieu* of certification or by a declaration *in lieu* of affidavit pursuant to and in accordance with the procedures set out in Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and integrations.
2. The declarations *in lieu* have the same temporal validity as the Acts they confirm (art. 48 of Presidential Decree n. 445/2000).
3. Candidates are required to confirm by signature that they are aware that any false declaration will be punished as foreseen by Law (Art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000)

### **3.5. Age limits**

Calls are open to those who, at the date of signature of expiry of the call, have not reached the age of thirty years.

### **3.6 Legal nature of the grant**

The scholarship is aimed solely at the continuation and completion of post-high school and post-graduate training, through the deepening of particular research and/or technological issues and, therefore, the contract with which it is conferred after the selection procedure does not give rise to any claim of employment relationship with the institution, nor to rights in relation to access to the roles of the same, nor to social security or welfare.

### **3.7 Examination Committee**

The Examination Committee for scholarships for post-graduates is appointed with the decision of the Director of the Centre issuing the call and is composed of three members who are experts in the field of research activity to be carried out by the scholarship holder: one chosen from among the experts enrolled in the register published on the website of the CREA, with the function of President; one ordinary CREA staff member having the professional profile of Researcher or Technologist external to the headquarters of the Centre where the fellowship holder, and the Tutor responsible for the research to be carried out. Additional members may be appointed in order to assess the knowledge of the English language and to ascertain the knowledge of basic computer skills and any second foreign language indicated by the candidate.

The Examination Committee for scholarships for high school graduates is appointed by Decision of the Director of the Centre issuing the call and is composed of three members who are experts in the field of the research activity to be carried out by the scholarship holder.

### 3.8 Evaluation of the candidates

1. The selection for scholarships of post-graduate candidates will be made on the basis of titles/qualifications, interviews and tests designed to ascertain the candidates' knowledge of the English language. A total of 30 points can be assigned by the Commission, of which:

- **22 points** for the titles/qualification part, broken down as follows:

<b>a) Degree mark</b>	<b>Max 10</b>
<b>b) Publications</b> <b>Max 3 publications chosen by the candidate</b>	<b>Max 6 points</b>
<b>c) Titles and certificates relating to the research activity, of which:</b> 1. Post-graduate specialisations of more than six months' duration 2. Scholarships, PhD courses 3. Research or professional responsibility of at least 6 months duration	<b>Max 6 points</b>

- **8 points** for the interview. The interview will focus on the subjects covered by the scholarship. During the interview, also the knowledge of basic computer skills, the knowledge of the second foreign language, and, in case of foreign citizens, of the Italian language will be assessed. The interview will be considered as passed with a minimum score of 6 points.

The selection for scholarships of high school graduates will be made on the basis of titles/qualifications, interviews and tests to ascertain the candidate's knowledge of the English language. Criteria and points for evaluation will be indicated in the specific calls.

2. The criteria for the evaluation of titles/qualifications must be defined by the respective Commissions during the first meeting.

3. The evaluation of the qualifications must be completed before the interview and the English test. The results of the evaluation of the titles/qualifications must be made known to the candidates before the interview, by publication on the institutional website of the institution, section "Gare e Concorsi". The date and place of the interview will be indicated on this website as well. Such publication will also have the effect of notification for the purposes of exclusion for lack of possession of the requirements.

### 3.9 Final ranking

1. Once the interviews have been completed, the Commission draws up the merit list on the basis of the overall score obtained, given by the sum of the score attributed to the titles and the score of the interview. The final ranking will be drawn up by the committee. To this end, in the event of a equal merit, preference will be given to the youngest candidate.

2. The Director of the Centre shall verify the regularity of the procedure by approving the documents submitted by the Commission and appointing the successful candidate(s).

3. The Director of the Centre shall publish the list of the final ranking on the CREA website.

4. In the event of renouncement by the selected candidate, the award of scholarship will be offered to the candidate who is placed next in the ranking position.

5. In case of interruption of the scholarship, the final ranking may be used to award the scholarship to the candidate placed next in the ranking after the winner, provided that the remaining period of the scholarship is not less than six months.
6. The final ranking must be published, by the research Centre concerned, on the website of the organisation in the “Gare and concorsi” section.
7. The final ranking will remain in force for the entire duration of the scholarship.

### **3.10 Duration and financial provisions**

1. Scholarships shall have a duration of at least six but not more than 24 months and shall not be renewable or extendable, and in any event the duration established may not exceed the expiry date of the research project under which it is to be carried out.
2. The annual amount of the scholarships, if not expressly provided for by the funding body, shall be determined in the call itself.
3. The total duration of the scholarships offered by CREA may not exceed 35 months, even if not continuous, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 1 of this Regulation.
4. The cost of insurance cover for the risks of accidents and civil liability shall be borne by CREA.

### **3.11 Interruptions, forfeiture and renouncement of the scholarship**

1. The granting of the scholarship will be suspended during the period of maternity leave, or in cases of unavailability due to illness of the holder exceeding two months per year, compared to the duration of the scholarship.
2. The cases referred to in the previous paragraph do not entail loss of the right to complete the scholarship at a later stage. In such cases, the duration of the contract shall be extended by the period of suspension. In any case, the activity will be considered concluded and the grant will be considered to have lapsed at the end of the period provided for or, when the training tool is related to the implementation of a research project, at the end of that period.
3. The assignee who, after having started the planned activity, does not continue it regularly and uninterruptedly for the entire duration without justified reason, or who is responsible for serious and repeated failures or who, finally, proves that he does not possess sufficient aptitude, may be declared disqualified by an order of the Director of the Centre concerned, upon reasoned request by the Tutor of the research.
4. Whether the grantee is unable, for personal reasons, to complete the intended activity and therefore renounces his or her scholarship in advance, he or she shall promptly notify the Director of the centre and the Research Tutor.

### **3.12 Prior Notice**

1. In the event of termination of the contract, the scholarship holder must give a 30 days' notice.
2. In the event of failure of given notice, the Centre shall be entitled to withhold from the recipient of the grant an amount corresponding to his salary for the period of notice not given.

### **3.13 Compatibility with other income**

1. Scholarships under this Regulation may not be combined with other scholarships for any reason whatsoever, except those awarded by national or foreign institutions which may be used to supplement the training or research activities of scholars by stays abroad.
2. The call may also provide, in the presence of adequate financial coverage, a period of partial performance of the activity at an Italian and foreign research institution.

### **3.14 Conduction and evaluation of the activity**

1. The activities covered by the scholarship must be defined in a work plan agreed between the Tutor and the scholarship holder, communicated to the Director of the Center concerned and attached as an integral part of the contract to be concluded with the scholar. The scholar conducts the activity independently, within the limits of the program prepared by the research Tutor, without the need to follow compulsory office hours.
2. In addition to training the scholar, the Tutor must prepare an annual report on the scholar's activity and send it to the Director of the Center to which the scholar refers. The scholar, in turn, is required to submit an annual activity report to the research Tutor, which will also be evaluated on the basis of the Tutor's report.
3. In the event of a negative evaluation of the activity carried out, the Tutor shall send a reasoned report to the Director of the Centre of reference; the latter shall proceed to the acts of competence for the forfeiture of the scholarship as defined in paragraph 3 of art. 3.11.

### **3.15 Treatment of personal information**

1. The personal data transmitted by the candidates together with their applications are processed, pursuant to and for the purposes of the provisions of the General Regulation on Data Protection No. 679/2016 - GDPR, exclusively for the purposes of the selection and any procedures for the award of the training tool.
2. The provision of such data is mandatory for the purposes of assessing the requirements of participation, missing information will lead to the exclusion from the selection process.



**TITLE III**  
**CRITERIA FOR AWARDING OF RESEARCH GRANTS**

**Article 4**

**4.1. Call for proposals**

1. The research grants referred to in Art. 1 are awarded through public selections for qualifications and examinations including a compulsory test of the English language and a possible test of a second language (chosen by the candidate from among the admitted languages: French, German, Spanish).
2. The call is issued by a decision of the Director of the Centre holding the funds relating to the research activity. CREA may publish a single call for proposals relating to several scientific areas or may issue separate calls for proposals relating to specific research programmes; where the latter present a profile of interdisciplinarity with respect to the competencies of several Centres, the call for proposals is issued by the Director General.
3. The call for proposals must be designed in accordance with the scheme drawn up by the Administration and must contain detailed information on:
  - the research project/research programme and scientific research manager;
  - the activities to be carried out within the project;
  - the duration of the grant and any extensions and renewals, if applicable;
  - the requirements for admission to the selection and the criteria for the evaluation of qualifications and tests;
  - the indication of the annual amount to be paid, net of the costs to be borne by the institution;
  - detailed information on the specific functions, rights and duties relating to the position and the financial and social security benefits due;
  - the terms and conditions for the submission of applications.
4. The selection notice must be adequately disseminated, also by electronic means, through the publication on the CREA website and by any other means deemed appropriate, except in the case of details and any forms of publicity requested by the funding bodies. The notices of selection for the award of research grants must also be published in the "Official Gazette of the Italian Republic - Special Series IV - Competitions and Exams", as well as on the website of the European Commission <http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/>

**4.2 Requirements for admission**

1. The research grants provided for by art. 22 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 and subsequent amendments and additions may be awarded to scientists who hold a specialist or Master's degree or a degree in accordance with the old system and a professional scientific curriculum suitable for carrying out research activities, with the exclusion of permanent staff of CREA and other subjects indicated in paragraph 1 of art. 22 of Law 240/2010.
2. Citizens who have not benefitted from fixed-term contracts, coordinated and continuous collaboration contracts, professional assignments, work contracts and who have not benefitted from

contracts for research grants / scholarships for a period of time that, added to the duration of the study grant notice, does not exceed 35 months, as the duration of the grant cannot be reduced.

3. If the degree has been obtained abroad and has not already been recognised in Italy, the equivalence to the degree/specialist/master's degree indicated in the call for applications must be requested from the competent authority. Similarly, where the degree of research doctor has been obtained abroad, equivalence must be declared by the competent authority.

4. Qualifications obtained abroad (degree diploma and any other title) that have not already been recognized in Italy with the required procedure will be accepted with reservation.

5. The admission requirements and any other qualifications must be met on the date of expiry of the selection notice.

### **4.3 Age limits**

The award of a research grant is limited by the candidate's age.

### **4.4 Legal nature of the research grant**

In accordance with the provisions of art. 22, para. 8 of Law no. 240/2010, the contract with which the research grant is awarded does not give rise to any employment relationship with CREA, nor to any rights regarding access to the roles of it.

### **4.5 Application for admission**

The application for admission to public selections for the awarding of research grants must be signed by the candidate and it is not subject to authentication (art. 39 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000).

### **4.6 Titles and certificates**

1. The states, facts and personal qualities of the candidates may be proven by a declaration *in lieu* of certification or by a declaration *in lieu* of affidavit pursuant to and in accordance with the procedures set out in Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and subsequent amendments and integrations.

2. The declarations *in lieu* mentioned in para 1 above have the same temporal validity as the Acts they confirm (art. 48 of Presidential Decree n. 445/2000).

3. Candidates are required to confirm by signature that they are aware that any false declaration will be punished as foreseen by Law (Art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000).

#### 4.7 Examination Committee

The Examination Committee is appointed with the decision of the Director of the Centre holding the funds for carrying out the research activity - except in the cases provided for by Art. 4.1, para. 2, point. 2 - and it is composed of three members: one chosen from among the experts enrolled in the register published on the website of the CREA, with the function of President; one ordinary staff member of CREA with the professional profile of Researcher or Technologist external to the headquarters of the Centre where the assignee will carry out his research, and a scientific responsible (Tutor) for the research to be carried out.

Additional members may be appointed in order to assess the knowledge of the English language, ascertain basic computer skills and the knowledge of any second foreign language indicated by the candidate.

#### 4.8 Evaluation of the candidates

1. The selection will be made on the basis of titles/qualifications, interviews and tests designed to test knowledge of the English language. A total of 30 points can be assigned by the Commission, of which:

- **22 points** for titles/qualifications, divided as follows:

<b>a) Degree mark</b>	<u>Max 4 points</u>
<b>b) Publications</b> max 5 publications chosen by the candidate	<u>Max 10 points</u>
<b>c) Qualifications and certificates, relevant to the field of research for which the selection is made, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PhD</li><li>• Postgraduate qualifications and responsibility in research activity lasting at least six months</li><li>• Research grants, scholarships</li></ul>	<u>Max 8 points</u>

- **8 points** for the interview. The interview will focus on the subjects covered by the research grant. During the interview, the knowledge of basic computer skills and of the second foreign language, if any, will be assessed, as well as the knowledge of the Italian language in case of foreign citizens. The interview will be considered as passed with a minimum score of 6 points.

2. The criteria for the evaluation of qualifications must be defined by the Commission during the first meeting.

3. The evaluation of qualifications must precede the completion of the interview and the English test. The results of the evaluation of the qualifications must be made known before the interview, by publication on the institutional website of the institution, section "Gare e Concorsi". The date and place of the interview will be indicated on this webpage. This publication will have the effect of notification also in view of a candidate's exclusion due to lack of possession of the requirements.

#### **4.9 Final ranking**

1. After the interview, the Commission draws up the merit list on the basis of the overall score obtained by the candidate(s), given by the sum of the points awarded to the titles, the score of the interview and the score of the test of the English language.
2. The Director of the Centre concerned shall verify the regularity of the procedure, approve the documents forwarded by the Commission and appoint the successful candidate(s). In the event of a tie, preference will be given to the youngest candidate.
3. The Director of the Centre shall ensure the publication of the final ranking on the institutional website of the Centre.
4. In the event of renouncement by the selected candidate, the final ranking must be used to award the research grant to the candidate who is placed in the next ranking position.
5. In case of interruption of the research grant, the final ranking may be used to award the research grant to the candidate placed next in the ranking after the winner, provided that the remaining period of the research grant is not less than six months.
6. The final ranking must be published, by the Research Centre concerned, on the CREA website, section "Gare e Concorsi". The data relating to the various stages of the selection procedure will be entered in a special database prepared by the Central Administration.
7. The final ranking will remain in force for the entire duration of the grant.

#### **4.10 Duration and financial provisions**

1. The duration of the research grant shall be within the duration of the research activity in which the recipient is cooperating, subject to a minimum of 12 months and a maximum of 35 months, without prejudice to Article 1 of this Regulation.
2. Research grants shall be renewable, but extensions and renewals shall be allowed only for the completion of the specific research activity for which they have been activated and shall be closely linked to the time constraints of the research project.
3. The total duration of the research grants awarded by CREA, including any renewals or extensions, may not exceed 35 months, excluding the period during which the grant was awarded on the occasion of a research doctorate, up to the maximum legal duration of the relevant course.
4. The total duration of the relationships established with the holders of research grants and contracts as per art. 24 of Law 240/2010 (fixed-term researchers) who have also been with public, private or telematic universities, as well as with the bodies as per art. 22, paragraph 1 of Law 240/2010, with the same subject, may not in any case exceed twelve years, even if not continuous.
5. For the purposes of calculating the duration of the relationships referred to in the previous paragraph, the periods spent on maternity leave or for health purposes according to current legislation shall not be taken into account.
6. Pursuant to the provisions of art. 22, par. 6 of Law 240/2010, the research grants comprise the following:

- a) in tax matters, the provisions of art. 4, Law 476/84 and subsequent amendments and integrations;
- b) in social security matters, those of art. 2, par. 26 and subsequent amendments and integrations;
- c) in the field of social security, the provisions of art. 4, Law 476/84 and subsequent amendments and integrations;
- d) in the field of social security, the provisions of art. 2, par. 2 and subsequent amendments and integrations;
- e) in the field of social security, the provisions of art. 2, par. 3 and subsequent amendments and integrations, Law no. 335/95 and subsequent amendments and integrations;
- c) with regard to compulsory abstention for maternity leave, those referred to in the Ministerial Decree of the Minister of Labour and Social Security of 12 July 2007, published in the Official Gazette no. 247 of 23 October 2007;
- d) with regard to sick leave, art. 1, par. 788, Law no. 296/2006 and subsequent amendments and integrations.

7. The insurance coverage relating to the risks of accidents and civil liability is borne by CREA.

8. The amount of the research grants is determined, in compliance with the minimum amount established by Decree of the Minister of Education, University and Scientific Research, no. 102 of 9 March 2011.

#### **4.11 Interruption, forfeiture and renouncement of the grant**

1. The grant of the research grant is suspended during the period of maternity leave, or in cases of unavailability due to illness of the awardee exceeding thirty days per year.
2. The cases referred to in the previous paragraph shall not entail the loss of the right to complete the research activity but the suspension of the payment of fees until the resumption of the activity. In such cases, the duration of the contract shall be the same as the period of suspension.
3. The activity shall in any case be considered concluded and the grant shall be considered to have lapsed at the end of the period provided for or, where the research activity is related to the implementation of a research project, at the end of that period.
4. The assignee who, after having started the planned activity, does not continue it regularly and uninterruptedly for the entire duration without justified reason, or who is responsible for serious and repeated failures or who, finally, proves that he does not possess sufficient aptitude, may be declared disqualified by an order of the Director of the Centre concerned, upon reasoned request by the Tutor of the research.
5. If, for personal reasons, the assignee is unable to carry out the planned activity and therefore renounces the grant in advance, he shall promptly inform the Director of the Centre concerned and the Tutor for the research.

#### **4.12 Conduction and evaluation of the activity**

1. The holder of the research grant participates in research programmes/projects of the research structures with the assumption of specific responsibilities in the execution of the related technical-scientific activities, in direct collaboration with the Tutor and the other researchers involved.
2. The activities to be covered by the grant must be defined in a work plan agreed between the Tutor and the recipient of the grant.
3. The Tutor shall ensure the proper conduct of the research activity for which the grant is awarded and shall inform the Director of the Centre by means of annual reports on the activity carried out by the recipient.
4. Research grants for projects requiring staff time to be reported must require the grant holder to record the time spent on project activities, for reporting purposes, by means of a timesheet or other suitable tool specified by the administration.
5. The grantee is required to submit an annual report to the scientific director on the activity carried out, which will be evaluated by the Director of the Centre, also on the basis of the report of the Tutor.
6. In the event of a negative evaluation of the activity carried out, the Tutor shall send a reasoned report to the Director of the Centre; the latter shall adopt the acts of competence as defined in paragraph 6 of art. 4.11.
7. Research grants do not give rise to rights of access to the professional roles within the CREA.
8. With regard to any applications for industrial patents or utility models for inventions by the assignee or for participation in inventive activities in collaboration with others during the period of enjoyment of the cheque the grant or in the year following its interruption, ownership of the rights shall lie with the CREA, but the assignee shall be entitled to a fair share of benefits.

#### **4.13 Treatment of personal information**

1. The personal data communicated by the candidates, together with their applications, will be processed, in accordance with and for the purposes of the provisions of the General Regulation on Data Protection No. 679/2016 - GDPR, exclusively for the purposes of the selection and any procedures for the award of the research grant.
2. The provision of such data is mandatory for the purposes of assessing the requirements of participation, missing information will lead to the exclusion from the selection process.

#### **4.14 Incompatibility**

1. Research grants may not be combined with scholarships awarded for any reason whatsoever, with the exception of those awarded by national or foreign institutions with the aim of supplementing the research activity with stays abroad, to be carried out by the recipients of the grants as part of the activity provided for in the granting contract.
2. Entitlement to the research grant is not compatible with the participation by the grantee in specialist courses or Master's degrees or scholarships, in Italy or abroad, and implies placing the grantee, in service with public administrations, on unpaid leave.

3. Research grants may not be awarded to permanent staff of CREA.

#### **4.15 Prior notice**

1. In the event of cancellation of the contract, the holder of the research grant must give a 30 days' notice.
2. In the event of failure of given notice, the Centre shall be entitled to withhold from the recipient of the grant an amount corresponding to his salary for the period of notice not given.

### **TITLE IV CRITERIA FOR AWARDING PHD FELLOWSHIPS**

#### **Article 5**

##### **5.1 Nature**

1. CREA, pursuant to art. 4, paragraphs 3 and 4 of Law 210/1998 as amended by art. 19 of Law 240/2010 may:
  - a) establish or participate in consortia with universities and public and private research institutions of high qualification for the establishment of doctoral research courses;
  - b) make agreements with the University to activate PhD scholarships and scholarships for post-doctoral research activities to be carried out at its research centers.
2. The agreements are stipulated by the President of CREA, after consultation with the Scientific Council.
3. The agreement may provide that CREA will be responsible for financing the PhD fellowship and, in this case, the modalities for the use of the PhD fellowship must be regulated.
4. In the event that CREA enters into agreements with the University, the funding of the PhD fellowship may be charged to external funding bodies or to CREA. The agreements must regulate the timing and methods of carrying out the collaboration activity and the conditions of use of CREA facilities and equipment.

##### **5.2 Requirements for admission**

In the case of grants financed in whole or in part by CREA, the eligibility requirements shall be the same as those laid down in Articles 3.2 and 3.5 of this Regulation.

##### **5.3 Agreements with Universities**

1. Universities which are members of a consortium or have an agreement in place with CREA will publish a specific call for applications for PhD fellowships for the Doctoral Courses of interest to CREA, are responsible for the public selection procedure, taking into account the criteria contained in the agreement stipulated with CREA.

2. In the case of PhD fellowships financed by CREA, the Institution shall designate its own experts for the Teaching Board, as provided for by current legislation. The Conventions must also provide for the involvement of CREA researchers as professors of these PhD courses, as well as the permanence of the PhD students in CREA facilities for a period not less than the portion of funding provided by CREA, net of the periods provided for participation in courses or stays abroad agreed between the parties.

3. The funding of the PhD grant will be provided to the University in accordance with the procedures set out below:

- A first advance of the total amount in order to allow the University to meet the cost commitments arising from the activation of the doctorate;

- the remaining annual rates are paid at the end of each year, subject to analytical reporting of expenses incurred and a scientific report on the activities carried out and the objectives achieved. The documentation in question must be signed by the PhD student, the Tutor and the Administrative Manager;

- Any additional costs incurred compared to those provided for are borne by the University, which is also responsible for any damage to persons and property that may occur during the activity of the PhD student.

4. Once the call referred to in paragraph 1 has been published by the University, CREA will also publish the same call on its own website.

5. Insurance coverage for accident and civil liability risks is provided by the University.

## **TITLE V**

### **SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY VISITS (INTERNSHIPS) OF RESEARCHERS AND TECHNOLOGISTS AT RESEARCH FACILITIES IN ITALY AND ABROAD**

#### **Article 6**

##### **6.1 Scope and purpose**

1. Within the financial resources available and specifically allocated by the Board of Directors, CREA may activate study visits to qualified foreign institutions, aimed at scientific and methodological updating of its Researchers and Technologists in research areas of interest to the Institute.

2. Study visits abroad are reserved to permanent staff of CREA with the professional profile of Researcher and Technologist, level III-I, according to the procedures governed by the respective calls and on the basis of the Programme of scientific activities to be carried out at the host foreign institution presented.

3. No calls for study visits will be issued that are expressly provided for in the research projects financed by bodies external to CREA.

##### **6.2 Call for proposals**

The call for proposals for the award of study visits abroad is issued by the Director General.



### **6.3 Duration**

Internship periods will have a maximum duration of 180 days.

### **6.4 Foreign countries and scientific institutions involved in the Programme**

The foreign institutions that may be involved are Universities and/or foreign scientific and research institutions, public or private, of recognized scientific prestige.

### **6.5 Composition of the Selection Committee and criteria for assessing applications**

1. The Selection Committee is appointed by an act of the Director General and is composed of 3 members, chosen from among the Directors of the Centre, one of whom acts as President of the Commission.
2. The programmes for study visits abroad presented by the candidates will be evaluated according to the following criteria:
  - scientific quality of the candidate's Curriculum Vitae;
  - scientific relevance of the submitted programme;
  - relevance of the submitted programme to the scientific mission of the Center to which the candidate belongs;
  - degree of innovation of the proposed programme;
  - relevance of the expected results in terms of scientific publications and/or patents, and/or plant variety rights.
3. In the event of equal merit, preference will be given to the youngest candidate.

### **6.6 Final scientific report and settlement of subsistence expenses abroad**

1. During the period of the study visit abroad, the staff member will be entitled to the financial treatment defined in the call.
2. At the end of the period of the study visit, the staff member is required to submit a scientific report on the research activity carried out and the results achieved. This report will be submitted to the evaluation of the Selection Committee referred to in art. 5.4, para 1.
3. The approval of the scientific report referred to in the previous paragraph will be subject to compulsory consideration in the case of internal competitions, career progression, etc.
4. A copy of the scientific report will be included in the researcher's personal file.