



**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE AWARDING OF 1 RESEARCH GRANT - OPEN SELECTION BASED ON ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS AND ORAL EXAM AT CREA – (COUNCIL FOR AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND ECONOMICS) RESEARCH CENTRE FOR OLIVE, CITRUS AND TREE FRUIT**

**The Director of CREA- Research Centre for Olive, Citrus and Tree Fruit**

**HAVING REGARD** to Legislative Decree n. 454 of October 29<sup>th</sup>, 1999, concerning the "Reorganisation of agricultural research activities as per art. 11 of Law n.59 of March 15<sup>th</sup>, 1997", in particular art. 1, establishing the Council for Agricultural Research - CRA;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Charter of the Centre for Agricultural Research and Economics published on the Official Journal of the Italian Republic, General Series, issue n. 231 of 3.10.2017;

**HAVING REGARD** to Law n. 190/2014 of December 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014 (2015 Stability Law) art. 1, sub 381, which embeds the National Institute of Agricultural Economics INEA into the Council for Agricultural Research CRA, which took the name of "Council for Agricultural Research and Economics";

**HAVING REGARD** to the Decree by the Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies n. 19083 of December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, CREA prot. n. 10230 of March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017, approving the "Plan for the improvement of organisational and financial efficiency aimed at the merging, reduction and rationalisation of CREA structures";

**HAVING REGARD** to resolution n. 18 of the Administrative Council, adopted during its session of 8 March 2019, which nominates the Director General *pro tempore* of the CREA, and the decree n. 27 of 13 March 2019, commencing the appointment of the Director General *pro tempore* of the CREA on 13 March 2019, for a duration of three months, except extensions;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Decree of 18 April 2019 of the Council of Ministers, registered at the Court of Accounts on 6 May 2019, n. 881, nominating Cons. Gian Luca Calvi as Extraordinary Commissioner of the Council for Agricultural Research and Economics;

**HAVING REGARD** to Law n. 240/2010 and, in particular, art. 22, regulating the awarding of research grants by Universities, Institutions and Public research and experimentation centres;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Decree by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2011 n. 102, concerning the determination of the minimum annual amount of research grants awarded according to calls for applications pursuant to art. 22 of Law n. 240 of December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Decree by the Ministry of Education, University and Research of July 09<sup>th</sup>, 2009, concerning the equivalence of university degrees obtained pursuant to former university regulations, to Ministerial Decree n. 509/1999 and to Ministerial Decree n. 270/2004 for participation in open selections;

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**CREA - Research Centre for Olive, Citrus and Tree Fruit**

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**HAVING REGARD** to “Regulations on the awarding of Scholarships, Research Grants, Ph.D. grants and funding of research and educational activities to be carried out abroad”, approved via Provision of the Board of Directors n. 80/2018 of 26.10.2018

**TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION** that pursuant to art. 22 sub 8 of Law n. 240/2010, research grant contracts do not imply any employment relationship between the beneficiary of the grant and the Institution and do not allow access to permanent positions within it;

**HAVING REGARD** to Project “preHLB- Preventing HLB epidemics for ensuring citrus survival in Europe” Grant Agreement NUMBER 817526”, which provides for the possibility to activate educational and training instruments;

**HAVING REGARD** to the official request n. 36085 of 21/11/2019 by Concetta Licciardello, in her quality of scientific coordinator and tutor, requesting the Director of CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit to start a procedure for the awarding of 1 Research grant of the duration of 35 months concerning “Analysis of Citrus and related genera genomes and transcriptomes for the identification and analysis of resistance genes *Candidatus liberibacter* spp.”;

**HAVING REGARD** to the Director’s Provision n. 8 of 15/01/2020 approving the call;

### PROVIDES FOR THE FOLLOWING

#### Art. 1

#### Number of grants

An open selection is called for the awarding of 1 research grant of the duration of 35 months. The selection shall be based on the evaluation of the applicants’ qualifications and the results of an oral exam, according to the following criteria:

Acronym of the project	Topic	University Degree (university regulations prior to Ministerial Decree 509/99)	University Degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/99	University Degree pursuant to Ministerial Decree 270/04	Institution and Tutor
preHLB	“Analysis of Citrus and related genera genomes and transcriptomes for the identification and analysis of resistance genes to <i>Candidatus liberibacter</i> spp.”	Biological Science Agro-industrial Biotechnology Agricultural Science Informatics	Biology (6/S) Agricultural Biotechnology (7/S) Industrial Biotechnology (8/S) Agricultural Science and Technology	Biology (LM-6) Agricultural Biotechnology (LM-7) Industrial Biotechnology (LM-8) Agricultural Science and Technology (LM-69)	Concetta Licciardello CREA OFA (Acireale)

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			(77/S) Informatics (23/S)  or equivalent qualifications	Informatics (LM-18)  Science and technology informatics (LM31)  or equivalent qualifications	
<b>Knowledge and expertise</b>					
<p>Research experience in the framework of molecular biology aimed to structural and functional analysis of genes. Experiences in the management of Next Generation Sequences data.</p> <p>Bioinformatics skills related to search homology, alignments, database queries, use of GBrowser and tools for the identification of structural variants and different types of mutations (SNP, indels).</p> <p>Autonomous ability in using the main scientific equipment of molecular biology, including Real time PCR, capillary sequence analyser, cytofluorometer and high resolution melting.</p> <p>Autonomous ability to elaborate experimental design.</p> <p>PhD and/or research activity on themes linked with the topic of the grant, which have enabled the required skills, whole or in part.</p> <p>A possible previous stay abroad, as well as the attendance of bioinformatics courses during one's training path, will be positively assessed.</p>					

## Art. 2

### Duration, financial conditions and legislative references

The duration of the research grant is 35 months. In any case, the duration of the Research Grant cannot exceed a total of 35 months.

The total amount of the research grant is EUR 61.200,00 (gross), to be issued in instalments at the end of each month. This amount includes INPS (National Welfare Institute) duties to be paid by the research grant beneficiary; it does not include the duties to be paid by the Institution as per art. 2, sub 26 and the following subs of Law n. 335 of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 1995 and subsequent amendments and addenda. The tax benefits provided for by art. 4 of Law n.476 of August 13<sup>th</sup>, 1984 subsequent amendments and addenda are applicable.

All travel expenses, included the ones borne by the research grant beneficiary, shall only be reimbursed upon submission of travel receipts, as per the current rules and regulations.

CREA provides insurance coverage for injury and civil responsibility risks.

The awarding of the research grant is subject to the inclusion of the amounts due into the CREA-Research Centre for olive, citrus and tree fruit budget.

## Art. 3

### General eligibility and compatibility criteria

The selection is open to Italian and foreign citizens who, on the day of the application deadline, meet the following requirements:

- university degree (pursuant to Ministerial Decree 509/99, 270/04 or previous university regulations)
- good knowledge of spoken and written English

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- c) good knowledge of spoken and written Italian (for foreign applicants)
- d) being younger than 35 years of age
- e) not having entered fixed-term contracts, employer-coordinated freelance work contracts, agency-coordinated contracts, professional consultancy and work contracts with CREA
- f) not having been the beneficiary of CREA research grants/scholarships whose duration, if added to the duration of the current research grant, exceeds 35 months. This condition may result in exclusion, because the duration of the research grant cannot be shortened

Academic and professional qualifications obtained abroad must be equivalent to the ones required in Italy and be duly recognised by the Italian competent authorities.

CREA permanent employees and the categories of individuals specified in sub 1 art. 22 of Law 240/2010 are not eligible for participation in the current selection procedure.

The following conditions are not compatible with the awarding of the research grant offered by this call:

- a) being the beneficiary of other scholarships of any nature, grants and other subsidies of a similar nature, except funds provided by national or foreign entities financing complementary research to be carried out abroad, in the field of activity specified by the research grant awarding agreement, at the same time as the research grant provided for by this call
- b) attendance of university courses (3-years or 5-years), grant-supported Ph.D. courses in Italy and abroad; the awarding of the research grant implies unpaid leave from work for the employees of public administration bodies
- c) being a permanent employee of CREA

The selection is open to all applicants: admission is determined according to the requirements mentioned above. These requirements shall be verified by an expert panel whose decision is irrevocable.

CREA may, at any moment, decide to exclude applicants from the selection for failure to meet the specified requirements. Any such decision must be duly justified and shall be notified by registered mail with proof of delivery.

#### Art. 4

##### Application and deadline for submission

The application shall be written on plain paper according to the form provided in **attachment 1** of this call. The application and all relevant qualification certificates and documents may be submitted by hand or registered mail with proof of delivery to **CREA-Research centre for olive, citrus and tree fruit**; alternatively, they may be submitted by certified e-mail ([ofa@pec.crea.gov.it](mailto:ofa@pec.crea.gov.it)), strictly within **30 days** from the date of publication of the call in the Official Journal of the Italian Republic – IV Special Section – Selection procedures. Any delay in submitting the application shall cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

**All applicants shall personally undersign their application; signatures shall not be authenticated. Failure to sign the application may result in exclusion from the selection procedure.**

The date of delivery of applications is proved by:

1. for applications submitted by hand: the stamp and protocol date of the Research Centre
2. for applications submitted by mail: the stamp and date of the post office receiving the application
3. for applications submitted by certified e-mail: the date of reception by the recipient

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**The applicant's name, surname and address and the topic of the research grant application must be written on the envelope containing the application form and related documents.**

CREA-Research Centre for Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit waives any responsibility for any failure in notifying applicants in case the applicant has provided an erroneous or incomplete address, failed to notify any changes of the address provided in the application form or to do so in a timely fashion, or in case of delays by the mail service or other third parties, unpredictable or force majeure events, failure to return the proof of delivery (in case of submission by registered mail).

Applicants shall specify the address of delivery of any notifications regarding the selection procedure in the application form.

The current call and related attachments shall be published in the CREA-Research for Olive, Citrus and Tree fruit of Acireale, Centre official list and shall also be made available on the website of CREA [www.crea.gov.it](http://www.crea.gov.it) in the WORK/TRAINING section.

## **Art. 5**

### **Declarations to be included in the application**

In his/her application, the applicant shall declare under her/his own responsibility (false declarations may result in exclusion from the selection procedure):

- 1) her/his name, surname, place and date of birth, place of residence, domicile for the selection procedure (please specify the ZIP code and, if possible, include your telephone number and e-mail address)
- 2) that he/she has a good knowledge of Italian (foreign citizens)
- 3) that she/he has obtained the academic qualifications required by article 3 of this call. This declaration shall include the day of the awarding, the final score (Italian citizens), the name(s) of the University(ies) where the qualification(s) was(were) obtained. Applicants with qualifications obtained abroad shall specify whether they have been recognised as the equivalent of the qualifications required in Italy as per the relevant international agreements, pursuant to art. 332 of Consolidated Law n. 1592 of 31/12/1993 and as specified by Legislative Decree n. 115/1992
- 4) that she/he has a good knowledge of any additional foreign languages (French, German, or Spanish) and is willing to undergo an additional oral exam
- 5) that she/he has a good knowledge of English
- 6) that she/he has not entered any fixed-term contracts, employer-coordinated freelance work contracts, agency-coordinated contracts, professional consultancy and work contracts with CREA
- 7) that she/he is not the beneficiary of CREA research grants/scholarships whose duration, if added to the duration of the current research grant, exceeds 35 months. This condition may result in exclusion because the duration of the research grant cannot be shortened
- 8) that she/he has not been convicted or found guilty of any criminal offence and is not currently the object of any criminal proceedings (if this is the case, please state the name of the criminal offence and the nature of the pending criminal proceedings)
- 9) that she/ he is (or is not) a permanent employee of the Public Administration
- 10) that she/he shall notify any changes of residence or domicile in a timely fashion
- 11) that she/he authorises the processing of her/his personal data, as per the General Data Protection Regulation di n. 679/2016 – GDPR

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**The applicant shall declare that she/he is aware that false declarations are punishable by law (art. 76 of Presidential Decree 445/2000).** Failure to sign the applications or to include personal data or the required declarations in the application and failure to submit applications by the deadline indicated in Article 4 shall cause exclusion from the selection procedure.

#### **Art. 6**

##### **Documents to be included**

The following documents are to be attached to the application form. Failure to attach these documents **may result in exclusion** from the selection procedure:

- a) a complete photocopy of a valid identification document
- b) the applicant's university degree, with final degree score and the score of each individual exam
- c) qualifications and certificates concerning the applicant's post-university professional scientific activity as a researcher carried out in Italy or abroad
- d) the applicant's scientific and professional curriculum (on plain paper, with date and signature)
- e) publications or articles in press accompanied by a certificate stating acceptance
- f) a list of all documents, qualifications, certificates and publications submitted (**att. 2** with date and signature).

All documents, qualifications and certificates can be submitted as original documents, certified copies or as copies accompanied by a declaration in substitution of attested affidavit (**att. 4**) pursuant to art. 19 and 47 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

If documents, qualifications and certificates are not submitted as original documents or copies, the applicant must submit a personal declaration of certification (**att. 3**) as per art. 46 of Presidential Decree 445/2000.

CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit reserves itself the right to verify that all documents and declarations are true or to request the original documents before entering the research grant contract.

Once the deadline has expired, it will not be possible to replace the qualifications or documents already submitted.

**The application form and the attachments must be duly signed; failure to do so may cause the application to be considered null and void.**

#### **Art. 7**

##### **Expert Panel for the selection and evaluation of applicants and merit rankings**

The members of the Expert Panel shall be appointed via a provision by the Director of the Research Centre funding the research activities (except in the cases provided for by Art. 1, comma 2, par. 2). The Panel is composed of three members: one is selected among the experts registered in the official list of consultants published on the Agency's website and fulfilling the functions of Chairman; another among CREA's permanent employees working as a professional Researcher or Technologist Expert in a different Research Centre from the one where the research grant beneficiary is to work; the third expert is the scientific coordinator of research.

The total score is 30 and scores shall be assigned according to the following criteria:

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- **22 scores** for academic qualifications, to be assigned as follows:

<b>a) university degree final score</b>	<u>max 4 scores</u>
<b>b) publications</b> max 5 publications given by the applicant	<u>max 10 scores</u>
<b>c) qualifications and certificates in the research field:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ph.D.</li> <li>• post-university qualifications and research assignments of at least six months</li> <li>• research grants, scholarships</li> </ul>	<u>max 8 scores</u>

- **8 scores** for the oral exam. The oral exam shall revolve around the subjects related to the research grant. During the exam, the applicant's knowledge of English, basic IT skills, any second languages and Italian (for foreign applicants) shall also be tested. Only applicants who are assigned a minimum score of **6** shall pass the exam.

The criteria for the evaluation of academic qualifications shall be determined by the Panel during their first meeting.

The evaluation of academic qualifications shall precede the oral exam and the English test. The results of the evaluation of academic qualifications shall be published before the date of the oral exam on the Council official site, in the training/work section. The date and place of the oral exam shall also be published on the website.

The publication of the outcomes is to be considered an official notification of exclusion of any applicants due to lack of requirements.

**In order to sit the oral exam, applicants must provide a valid identification document.**

Once the oral exam is complete, the Panel shall draft the merit rankings according to each applicant's total score, which consists of the sum of the score assigned to the academic qualifications and the oral exam score.

The merit rankings shall be officially finalised by the Director of the Centre which has published the call: to this end, in case several applicants have been assigned the same score, the youngest applicant shall be awarded a higher position in the rankings.

The Director of the Centre shall publish the merit rankings on the official website of CREA, in the WORK/TRAINING section.

## Art. 8

### Awarding of the research grant and termination

The Director of the Research Centre which has published the call for application shall verify the procedure has been properly carried out, approve the Panel's proceedings, finalise the merit rankings and officially announce the research grant awardee. The research grant beneficiary shall be officially notified the awarding of the research grant via registered mail with proof of delivery. Within 15 days from the reception of this notification, the awardee of the research grant must provide the **Director of CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit with a declaration of unconditional acceptance of the research grant according to the terms established in this call**, sent via registered mail with proof of delivery.

The research grant is awarded via a private contract entered into by the Director of CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit and the individual selected according to the final merit rankings, who shall be summoned to sign the contract.

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Upon signing, the research grant beneficiary shall:

- 1) officially declare, under her/his own sole responsibility, that for the entire duration of the funding she/he shall not receive any other subsidies of any nature, except funding by national or foreign entities for complementary research activities to be carried out abroad;
- 2) submit the documents certifying unpaid leave from work in case the research grant beneficiary is an employee of a public administration body.

In case the awardee renounces the research grant, the applicants in the following positions of the merit rankings shall be awarded the grant. The merit rankings shall remain valid for the entire duration of the research grant.

Should the awardee fail to officially accept the research grant by the established deadline, her/his right to funding shall be forfeited.

In addition, should the research grant beneficiary fail to start and/or carry out the research activities as per the terms and conditions set forth by the contract, she/he shall lose her/his right to funding. In this case, the contract is to be considered immediately terminated.

The awarding of the research grant shall not, in any case, be considered as an employment contract and it does not imply access to official positions within CREA.

The research grant beneficiary may terminate the contract by giving at least 30 days' notice.

The research grant beneficiary undertakes to comply with the internal rules regulating the activity of CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit.

#### **Art. 9 Interruption and loss of funding**

Funding is suspended in case the research grant beneficiary takes compulsory maternity leave or sick leave exceeding 30 days.

The interruptions mentioned above shall not imply forfeiture of the right to complete the research activities; however, funding shall cease until research is resumed, except in the cases provided for by art. 22, sub 6 of Law 240/2010. In these cases, the duration of the contract is extended by a period corresponding to the period of funding suspension.

If the research grant beneficiary starts carrying out research activities then ceases to do so on a regular and continuous basis for the entire duration of the grant without justifying such behaviour; in case of serious and reiterated breaches of the grant contract conditions or, finally, if the research grant beneficiary proves not suitable for the task, the research grant can be terminated by a provision enacted by the Director of CREA – Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit, upon justified request by the scientific research coordinator (Tutor).

Should the research grant beneficiary become unable to complete the research task for personal reasons and renounce her/his right to funding before completion, she/he shall notify the Director of CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit in a timely fashion.

#### **Art. 10 Research activity and evaluation**

The activities to be carried out by the research grant beneficiary shall be determined according to a plan jointly agreed by the awardee and the person responsible for the research line.

The scientific coordinator ensures that the research activities related to the grant are carried out properly and reports to the Director of the Research Centre on the activities carried out by the beneficiary via a written report to be submitted on an annual basis.

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The research grant beneficiary shall send the scientific coordinator a report on the activities he/she has carried out on an annual basis. The report shall be evaluated by the Director of the Centre, based, among other considerations, on the report by the scientific coordinator.

#### **Art. 11**

##### **Return of documents**

Applicants may request to be returned the submitted documents (all related expenses shall be borne by the applicants themselves) within six months from the publication of the merit rankings. Documents shall be returned unless the Panel's decision is subject to appeal. After six months, the CREA-Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit shall make use of these materials according to its own needs.

#### **Art. 12**

##### **Processing of personal data**

Personal data provided by candidates in their application forms are processed as per the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation n. 679/2016 – GDPR, solely for selection purposes and connected to the awarding of this research grant.

F.TO The Director of CREA  
Research Centre Olive Citrus and Tree Fruit  
(Dott. Paolo Rapisarda)

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