
Fscire – Fondazione per le scienze religiose

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2023 Call for Research Fellowships

25 September 2023

FSCIRE invites applications for Postdoctoral Fellowships for the “Giorgio La Pira” Library and Research Centre on the History and Doctrines of Islam (Palermo).

Fellowships

Fellowships are established in accordance with requirements defined by the policy of FSCIRE, the Italian Ministry of University and Research and its donors.

Candidates may thereby apply for one of the following positions:

- **Junior Research Fellow** (1 year, renewable).
Applicants must have obtained their doctorate within the last five years.
The successful candidate will sign a research contract for two years, equivalent to the Italian “Assegno di ricerca junior” (which amounts to a monthly net sum of about € 1,600). The contract defines a research programme in accordance with the research lines of FSCIRE.
- **Senior Research Fellow** (1 year, renewable).
The applicant’s doctoral thesis must have already been published.
The successful candidate will sign a research contract for two years, equivalent to the Italian “Assegno di ricerca senior” (which amounts to a monthly net sum of about € 1,900). The contract defines a research programme in accordance with the research lines of FSCIRE.

All fellowships are residential; successful candidates must live in Palermo. The commitment as a researcher of FSCIRE excludes other commitments. We invite applications from all over the globe, provided that the applicant fluently speaks English. If you are interested in short-term stays, the call for an International Visiting Fellow is always open. For more information, please visit our website.

Research Pipelines

Applications must include a research proposal and should show how they can benefit and enrich the activity of the teams of FSCIRE with front-line research. Applicants may also propose a research programme which fits the main research lines defined by the Scientific Committee, the Secretary and the members of FSCIRE. The current research pipelines include:

- RELIGIOUS PLURALISM. It includes research into the historical, juridical, and theological aspects of the cohabitation of different faiths and of how this is represented;
- PHILOLOGY AND HISTORY OF ISLAM. It includes critical editions of sources within the entire spectrum of Islamic traditions;
- ISLAMIC HISTORY AND DOCTRINES. It includes research into the history of Islamic religious life;
- AFRICAN RELIGIOUS HISTORY. It includes the role of religious communities before and after the colonization era;
- HERMENUTICS OF THE SACRED TEXTS. It requires linguistic ability to study the Qur'an and its interpretations;
- HISTORY OF MARTYRDOM. It includes research in Christian and Islamic context, with a specific interest on the orants killed in places of worship;
- DIGITAL HUMANITIES. It includes research pertaining the relationship between Religious Studies and Technology, within the DH domain, digital editing, metadata and multilingual data management, digitization of historical sources, transcription and transliteration, history of DH, machine vision applied to manuscripts, artwork and writings.

Information about the research conducted by our teams can be found on our website.

How to Apply

Applications should be sent by **20 October 2023** to:

POSTDOC FELLOWSHIP FSCIRE
Via San Vitale 114 – 40125 Bologna (BO), Italy
or to segreteria@fscire.it

Applications **from all countries** are encouraged, and equal opportunities policies are fully implemented.

Applications must include:

1. the specification of the **type of fellowship** (junior/senior) and **research area** chosen by the applicant;
2. a **full CV**;
3. a **research project proposal** (max 10.000 characters including spaces) in English or Italian;
4. a **motivational letter** with the description of the applicant's research interests (max 6.000 characters including spaces), in English or Italian;
5. all **publications** in .pdf format (including the PhD thesis);

6. official certification or self-evaluation of **language skills** both for modern and ancient languages;
7. no more than **three letters of recommendation** from internationally-acknowledged scholars. Please include their contact details.

Candidates must specify whether they are willing to request the **membership** of FSCIRE: it does not change the economic conditions or the general obligations of belonging to a permanent research community, but it includes the **full-time participation** in the life of FSCIRE, which is organised according to the opening hours of the Dossetti Library in Bologna and the La Pira Library in Palermo. The status of member offers the opportunity to participate in FSCIRE's research programmes (including EU-funded and other competitive research projects), the chance to represent FSCIRE on national and international boards or initiatives, teaching opportunities in Italy and abroad, and full rights in terms of the acquisition of books, benefits, and travel funds.

Evaluation Process

Applications are evaluated by a committee of three scholars appointed by the Secretary or the President of FSCIRE.

The research team of FSCIRE may be consulted during the evaluation process, according to their experience.

Applicants may be invited by the Secretary to an interview or meeting (in person or online) during the evaluation process. Expenses will be covered.

The final evaluation of the commission will be approved by the Board of Trustees of FSCIRE.

Regulations and Follow-up

Postdoctoral fellowships will be attributed according to Italian private law and do not amount to a contract as a dependent employee ("lavoro subordinato").

At the time of signing, successful applicants must not be bound by other employment contracts with universities or research centres. Grants and funds – upon approval from the Scientific Committee of FSCIRE and aiming to increase the international experience of fellows – may be accepted and negotiated among institutions.

All fellowships are residential and place great emphasis on the exchange of ideas and on the spirit of community among fellows who live and work in proximity. Fellows are expected to be present during the entire period of their fellowship, except for religious or civil holidays. Longer leaves must be communicated to, and agreed up on, with the Secretary of FSCIRE.

Successful non-EU applicants will be assisted in the procedures for the request of a visa and other permissions.

The fellowship salaries are regulated by art. 4 L. 476/1984 (fiscal treatment), art. 2, c. 26 and ff. L. 335/1995 and following updates, DM MLPS 247/2007 (maternity leave), and art. 1, c. 788 L. 296/2006 (sick leave).

The Scientific Committee and the Secretary of FSCIRE will monitor the scientific results of the projects. The Secretary may ask the Scientific Committee to withdraw or extend the fellowships.