



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE ASSIGNMENT OF No. 1 RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

"Development of regenerative management practices and assessment of the benefits for soil health and biodiversity"

(approved by the Department Council on January 28, 2026 with resolution n. 17 /2026)

www.unipv.eu/site/home/ricerca/borse-di-ricerca.html

A public competition for the awarding of no. 1 research scholarship according with art. 5, para. 3 of the Statuto of the University of Pavia and with the "Regolamento per l'istituzione e il conferimento di borse di studio per attività di ricerca" issued with Rectoral Decree no. 2292-2022 on October 07, 2022.

The research scholarship is designed for Italian or foreign candidates holding a Master's Degree in Agri-Food Sustainability (LM-69) or equivalent, or a foreign degree recognized as equivalent by the Examining Board.

During the selection procedure, the following qualifications and skills will be assessed:

- Experience in floristic analysis and α and β diversity
- Experience in soil sampling methods
- Experience in metagenomic analysis of environmental soil DNA
- Good knowledge of English
- Good knowledge of Microsoft Office and R software
- Management skills in social networks and social media for dissemination
- Any publications
- Documented activity within the University – Part-time/training internship

The research scholarship is assigned to undertake research on the following topic: "Development of regenerative management practices and assessment of the benefits for soil health and biodiversity" to be carried out in accordance with the attached program.

The research will be carried out at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Maura Brusoni. Funding will be provided by the following sources: Demo-Farm Next Vision Project (CUP E47G25000380007).

The grant has a 4 (four) months duration and may be renewable.

The total amount of the research scholarship is €5,000.00 and will be paid in monthly installments.

The application form, written on plain paper using the template attached to this announcement, must **be sent** electronically to the Director of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences of the University of Pavia **by 12:00 noon on February 23rd, 2026**, using one of the following methods:

- a) by certified email to amministrazione-centrale@certunipv.it. The certified email address must be personal, i.e., registered to the candidate applying for the competition, otherwise they will be excluded from the selection process. The email must be sent by 12:00 noon on the deadline date.



b) Alternatively, it is possible to send it by email to the following address: marisa.scottini@unipv.it

The following must be attached to the application: a photocopy of a valid identity document; a photocopy of tax code, a curriculum vitae, duly dated and signed, and self-certification of the degree grade and certification of preferential qualifications by means of an affidavit.

The Examining Board, chaired by the fund holder and composed of two other members appointed by the Council of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, will evaluate the candidates' qualifications, degree grades, curriculum vitae et studiorum, and any other documentation attesting to the candidates' knowledge and experience, and will award the scholarship, at its sole discretion, even after the candidate has undergone an interview, to the candidate ranked first in the list of eligible candidates.

For the comparative evaluation of candidates, the Examining Board will have 100 points at its disposal, 70 of which are reserved for qualifications and 30 for the interview, based on specific criteria defined in the table below:

QUALIFICATION	SCORE
Master's Degree in Agri-Food Sustainability (LM-69) or equivalent	10 POINTS
Experience gained in floristic analysis and α and β diversity	10 POINTS
Experience gained in soil sampling methods	10 POINTS
Experience gained in the metagenomic analysis of environmental soil DNA	10 POINTS
Good knowledge of English	5 POINTS
Good knowledge of Microsoft Office and R software	5 POINTS
Social network and social media management skills for dissemination	5 POINTS
Any publications	5 POINTS
Documented activity within the University – Part-time/training internship	10 POINTS
Oral exam, if necessary	UP TO 30 POINTS, of which: - Discussion of the candidate's qualifications and experience: up to 20 points - Proficiency in the required IT tools: up to 5 points - Proficiency in English: up to 5 points

Candidates who achieve a score above 30 in the evaluation of qualifications will be considered eligible for the interview.

Candidates who obtain an overall score of more than 60/100 will be considered eligible to carry out the activities covered by the grant.



The Director of the Department will approve the documents and confer the research scholarship.

The winner of the selection process must send the Director a specific declaration of acceptance of the grant within 8 days of receiving the letter of award. The right to the grant shall be forfeited by anyone who, within 8 days of receiving the letter of award, has not declared their acceptance or who, despite having accepted the grant, does not demonstrate that they have begun the research activity on the date indicated in the letter. Delays due to serious health reasons or cases of force majeure, duly proven, may be accepted, provided that they are not incompatible with the time frame for carrying out the research that gave rise to the funding. In this case, payment of the scholarship will be made from the date of the actual start of the research activity, without prejudice to the duration of the scholarship itself.

The winner of the scholarship must arrange, at their own expense, accident insurance coverage, in accordance with the guidelines provided by the University.

The grant starts on the first day of the month following the date of the letter of awarding.

Scholarship winners who, after starting their planned research activities, fail to continue them regularly and uninterrupted for the entire duration of the scholarship without justified reason, or who are responsible for serious and repeated breaches, may be declared ineligible for further scholarship benefits.

The awarding of the scholarship does not give rise to the establishment of any employment relationship nor, unless otherwise provided by law, to the recognition of social security or welfare benefits.

The activity and enjoyment of the scholarship may be suspended, by decree of the Director of the Department, during periods of absence due to maternity or serious and documented illness, it being understood that the periods of suspension must be made up in full.

Scholarship winners who have accepted but wish to withdraw before the deadline must immediately notify the Scientific Director and the Department Director in writing.

This is without prejudice to the remuneration paid for the period of use of the grant until the date of withdrawal. In this case, for the remaining period of the grant, there will be no change in the ranking.

At the end of the scholarship period, the scholarship holder must submit a detailed report on the activities carried out to the department that awarded the scholarship, accompanied by the approval of the professor who supervised the research and the holder of the fund from which the scholarship was awarded, if different.

If the research results are published, the scholarship holder must indicate that the research was carried out thanks to a scholarship awarded by the University of Pavia.

The scholarship may be renewed in accordance with the limits set out in Article 4 and in accordance with Article 14 of the Regulations for the establishment and awarding of scholarships for postgraduate research activities.

The scholarships cannot be combined with research grants or any other scholarships awarded for any reason, except for those intended to supplement stays abroad.

The scholarship is incompatible with any permanent employment relationship.

Self-employment or fixed-term employment is compatible with the scholarship only if previously authorized by the Structure Council, subject to the reasoned opinion of the scientific supervisor and verification that the activity does not interfere with the regular performance of scholarship activities.

Application to a Master's Degree program is compatible with the scholarship only if previously authorized by the head of the course of study, subject to obtaining the reasoned opinion of the scientific director.



For the purposes of prohibitions and incompatibilities, upon acceptance of the scholarship, the winner shall make a specific declaration, undertaking to notify the institution of any changes to the information provided, as soon as such changes occur.

The grants cannot be combined with remuneration received for freelance work assigned by the University.

Pursuant to Law No. 79 of June 29, 2022, and the subsequent note from the Ministry of University and Research dated July 8, 2022, only applications from researchers who do not hold a PhD are eligible.

This call for applications will be posted on the University of Pavia online noticeboard: <https://alboufficiale.unipv.it> and on the Transparency Administration Portal page.

The University of Pavia, as data controller (with registered office at C.so Strada Nuova n. 65, 27100 Pavia – certified email address amministrazionecentrale@certunipv.it), will process the personal data provided by candidates for participation in the competition in compliance with the conditions of lawfulness set out in Regulation (EU) 2016/679. Further information on the processing of personal data by the University of Pavia can be found at the following link: <http://privacy.unipv.it/>

Pavia, date and time of the protocol

THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT
Prof. Silvio Seno
DIGITALLY SIGNED DOCUMENT



Research program

- Selection of seed mixes for the creation of plant cover
- Monitoring of cover development (conducting floristic and vegetation surveys and biodiversity analysis)
- Soil sampling before and after cover creation
- Metagenomic analysis of environmental DNA from sampled soils
- Bioinformatic and taxonomic analysis and statistical processing
- Contribution to the organization of demonstration events to disseminate results and good practices according to the principles of regenerative agriculture
- Contribution to informing farmers about the importance of biodiversity and its protection and their role as guardians of the environment.

Research Project

The Communication of the European Commission of February 19, 2025, "A Vision for Agriculture and Food - Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations," outlines the thinking on the future of agriculture and food in Europe and sets out what will be assessed in the next CAP. In line with the Green Deal, the document highlights how nature is intrinsic to agriculture and how farmers are a crucial part of the solution to the issue of protecting and ensuring the resilience of nature, soil, water, air, biodiversity, and the climate. Among the objectives for 2040, the EU future vision is to achieve an agri-food sector that is ready for the challenges of the future, in which agriculture and food contribute to the achievement of the EU climate objectives, ensuring the preservation of soil health and the protection and restoration of biodiversity.

The agri-food sector plays an important role in fighting and reversing environmental degradation and providing important ecosystem services. Environmental sustainability is increasingly becoming a production condition for farmers. The opportunities offered by nature and climate protection can define a constructive agenda for European agriculture.

Achieving good soil health by 2050 is the main objective of the EU Soil Strategy for 2030. Healthy soils are the planet's largest carbon store. This characteristic, together with their ability to absorb water and reduce the risk of flooding and drought, makes soil an indispensable ally in the fight to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Healthy soils therefore complement some of the Union climate and biodiversity objectives, as well as long-term economic objectives.

To achieve these goals, it is essential to provide farmers with useful tools to carry out their activities in a way that respects nature.

In this context, as part of the DEMO-FARM NEXT VISION project, funded by the Lombardy Region D.G. Agriculture, Rural Development Complement of the National Strategic Plan of the CAP 2023-2027, Intervention SRH05, management practices are implemented according to the principles of regenerative agriculture, aimed at helping to halt biodiversity loss, rebuild the ecological network of the agroecosystem, improve ecosystem services, promote soil health, and affirm the central role they play, both in the CAP 2023-2027 and in the future EU vision, the protection of biodiversity and the ecosystem services provided by farms, with particular attention to Natura 2000 areas, and to raise awareness of the fundamental contribution of agriculture as a guardian of biodiversity and the



environment. These objectives will be achieved through the establishment and management of cover crops with a mix of native species. Metagenomic analysis of the soil will make it possible to evaluate the functionality of regenerative management models, demonstrating their effectiveness in helping to halt biodiversity loss, improve ecosystem services, promote soil health, reduce dependence on chemicals, and mitigate climate change by promoting carbon sequestration. The aim is to implement a pool of management actions that provide benefits for nature.