

SUBJECT: Public call for two research and training fellowships on “Data Journalism” at the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Natural Sciences and Humanities (ILAS) of SISSA. Scientific Supervisor: Prof. Roberto Trotta

THE DIRECTOR

Considered:

- Law No. 398 of 30 November 1989, “Regulations on university scholarships”;
- Law No. 240/2010, in particular Art. 18, paragraph 5, and subsequent amendments;
- Law No. 79 of 6 June 2025, Art. 1-bis, which modifies the taxation regime of the scholarships referred to in this notice;
- Art. 14, new paragraph 6-vicies-ter of Decree-Law No. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted into Law No. 79 of 29 June 2022;
- The Statute of SISSA issued by D.D. No. 40 dated 18 January 2012 and published in the Official Gazette No. 36 of 13 February 2012;
- D.D. No. 988 dated 27 November 2023, which issued the “Regulations of the International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) for the awarding of research and training fellowships”;
- The request submitted by Prof. Roberto Trotta, protocol No. 25792 -III/12 dated 1 August 2025;
- Having verified the financial coverage,

HEREBY ANNOUNCES

Art. 1 A public selection procedure is announced for the awarding of two research and training fellowships on “Data Journalism” at the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Natural Sciences and Humanities (ILAS) of SISSA, under the scientific supervision of Prof. Roberto Trotta. The admission requirements, deadlines, and procedures are specified in the attached call for applications, which constitutes an integral part of this decree.

The Director

Prof. Andrea Romanino

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PUBLIC CALL FOR SELECTION

The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) of Trieste announces a selection procedure based on the evaluation of curricula for the award of two fellowships for research and advanced training in “Data Journalism” at the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Natural Sciences and Humanities (ILAS), under the scientific supervision of Prof. Roberto Trotta.

Duration and Start Date:

Each fellowship will last six months, starting from December 2025.

Eligibility Criteria:

By the application deadline, candidates must:

- Be entitled to full civil and political rights.
- Declare that they have no criminal convictions, are not subject to preventive measures, and are not currently under criminal investigation. Otherwise, candidates must disclose such information for the Committee’s consideration.
- Hold a bachelor’s degree (or equivalent foreign qualification) in one of the following fields: Mathematical and Computer Sciences, Physical Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Earth Sciences, Biological Sciences, Medical Sciences, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Industrial and Information Engineering, Classical, Philological, Literary and Historical-Artistic Studies, Historical, Philosophical, Pedagogical and Psychological Sciences, Legal Sciences, Economic and Statistical Sciences, Political and Social Sciences.
- Have proven experience, knowledge, or professional skills relevant to the proposed field of investigation.
- Have demonstrated experience in data-driven investigative journalism, documented by published work in news outlets, websites, or other widely distributed communication channels.
- Have a minimum English language level of B2.

Required Documents:

In the “Attachments” section of the application, candidates must upload an original investigative proposal (written in Italian or English), with a maximum length of 4,500 characters including spaces. The proposal must include:

- Title and short pitch (max. 500 characters)
- Context and hypothesis: why this investigation matters and the central hypothesis (max. 700 characters)
- Investigative method: how the investigation will be conducted (max. 700 characters)
- Expected output: description of the intended editorial product(s) for dissemination, which may be in any language but must include at least one version in English or Italian. The description should also include a project

timeline. Where possible, producing intermediate outputs (e.g. articles, blog posts, podcasts) is encouraged (max. 700 characters)

- Target audience and expected impact: a brief description of the intended audience and the investigation's expected impact (max. 700 characters)
- Expected collaboration with SISSA researchers: description of the desired type of data science expertise (e.g. data analysis, machine learning, statistical analysis, data acquisition) needed for the project (max. 1,200 characters)

Applicants must also attach a curriculum vitae including representative examples of their investigative or journalistic work (with web links where applicable).

All journalistic work must adhere to the principles of accuracy, impartiality, legality, and independence.

Research Activity:

The fellowships aim to promote investigative journalism supported by scientific methods, particularly through the use of data mining and artificial intelligence techniques for data acquisition, selection, and interpretation. Projects may address issues of public interest, such as: science, health, or environmental topics requiring investigative attention; ethical and social implications of artificial intelligence; or the impact of AI in specific domains (science, society, politics, etc.).

Host institution:

The research activities will take place at the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Natural Sciences and Humanities (ILAS) of SISSA, under the supervision of Prof. Roberto Trotta.

Application procedure:

Applicants must submit their application via the online platform:

<https://pica.cineca.it/sissa/borsa-ricercaeperfezionamento-trotta-ilas2/>

no later than 1:00 p.m. (CET) on 17 November 2025.

Selection Committee:

The Selection Committee, composed of three experts in the relevant fields, will be appointed by Director's Decree in accordance with Article 5 of the SISSA Regulations for the Award of Research and Advanced Training Fellowships (D.D. No. 988 of 27 November 2023). Gender balance will be ensured where possible.

Evaluation Procedure:

The selection will be conducted through comparative evaluation of candidates' curricula, qualifications, and investigative proposals.

Evaluation Criteria (maximum 30 points):

Curriculum vitae and previous experience (max. 10 points)

Quality and relevance of the investigative proposal (max. 10 points)
Alignment of proposed research topics with SISSA's activities (max. 10 points)

Results:

At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the Committee will identify the successful candidates and rank all eligible applicants, indicating the scores awarded. The final results will be approved by Director's Decree and published on the SISSA website. The outcome of the evaluation does not constitute a certification of eligibility.

Fellowship Amount and Payment:

Each fellowship will award a monthly gross amount of €1,920.00 (€2,083.20 total institutional cost). Payments will be made monthly, in arrears.

Financial coverage is provided by the fund:

A_MIUR_STRD_DM1644_SISSA_Direttore_1047,
CUP: G93C23001030001, €2,083.20 institutional cost,
CA 04.46.05.11 – "Other study grants."

In accordance with Legislative Decree No. 196/2003, as amended, and EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), applicants are informed that all personal data provided will be processed exclusively for purposes related to this procedure, in compliance with applicable regulations.

For further information, please contact:
SISSA Educational and Students Office
e- mail: ilas@sisssa.it

THE DIRECTOR
Prof. Andrea Romanino
(digitally signed)

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