

## Translation of Announcement for 1 research position

at the Neuroscience Area of SISSA

Decree No. 295/2026 dated 02 April 2026

### THE DIRECTOR

Having regard to Law No. 168 of 9 May 1989;  
Having regard to Law No. 241 of 7 August 1990 and all subsequent amendments and additions;  
Having regard to Law No. 413 of 12 October 1993;  
Having regard to Presidential Decree No. 445 dated 28 December 2000;  
Having regard to Legislative Decree No. 165 of 30 March 2001 and all subsequent amendments and additions;  
Having regard to Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of 10 August 2018, which transposes the EU General Data Protection Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR);  
Having regard to Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010;  
Having regard to Law No. 183 of 12 November 2011, and to Art. 15 in particular;  
Having regard to the Statute of SISSA, issued by Directorial Decree No. 40 of 18 January 2012, published in the Official Journal No. 36 dated 13 February 2012, in force since 28 February 2012;  
Having regard to SISSA Directorial Decree No. 121 dated 5 March 2012;  
Having regard to Directorial Decree No. 295 of 21 May 2012, establishing SISSA's scientific Areas;  
Given the Decree No. 639/2024 of 2 May 2024, issued by the Ministry of University and Research, concerning the determination of scientific-disciplinary groups and their descriptions, as well as the streamlining and updating of scientific-disciplinary sectors, and their reassignment to scientific-disciplinary groups, pursuant to Article 15 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010;  
Having regard to Decree-Law No. 45 of 7 April 2025, converted with amendments by Law No. 79 of 5 June 2025, and in particular to Art. 1-bis introducing Articles 22-bis and 22-ter into Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010;  
Having regard to Ministerial Decree No. 592 of 6 August 2025, determining the minimum remuneration for post-doc and research appointment;  
Given the resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate on 23 September 2025 and by the Board of Directors on 30 September 2025;  
Having regard to the SISSA Regulation for the award of post-doc appointments and research appointments pursuant to Art. 22-bis and 22-ter of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, issued by Directorial Decree No. 750/2025 of 1 October 2025;  
Having regard to the resolutions adopted by the Academic Senate and the Board of Directors of SISSA on 20 February 2024 and 27 February 2024 respectively, providing for reimbursement of health insurance costs for foreign research

personnel (EU and non-EU), to be covered either by external funds or by the School, including, where applicable, travel health insurance for relocation to Trieste;

Given D.D. 166/2026 dated 26.02.2026, which authorizes the Human Resources Management and Development Office to urgently initiate the procedure for the award of a research appointment in the Neuroscience Area of SISSA on "Foxg1 gene impact on memorization processes", scientific supervisor: Prof. Antonello Mallamaci;

Given the availability of financial coverage for the abovementioned research position pursuant to Art. 22-bis of Law No. 240/2010, provided by the School funds allocated to the Neuroscience Area;

## DECREES

**Art. 1 - A public selection based on qualifications and interview is hereby announced for 1 post-doc appointment in the research field detailed in Annex 1. Full details, admission requirements and duration are listed in Annex 1.**

Pursuant to Art. 7, par. 1, of the Italian Legislative Decree No. 165/2001, public administration bodies ensure gender equality and equal opportunities, as well as the absence of any form of direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, disability, religious belief and language, affecting access to employment, working conditions and economic treatment, vocational training, career advancement and workplace safety. Public administration bodies also guarantee a working environment characterised by organisational well-being and undertake to detect, counteract and eliminate any kind of moral or psychological violence in the working environment”.

Art. 2 – Eligible candidates must hold a PhD degree or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad and must also meet the additional minimum requirements specified in Annex 1.

Permanent staff members employed on an open-ended basis by universities or public research institutions, as well as individuals who have held fixed-term tenure-track researcher contracts (so-called RTT) pursuant to Art. 24 of Law No. 240/2010, are excluded from applying.

In accordance with Art. 18, paragraph 1, letter (c), of Italian Law No. 240/10, candidates having a family relationship or other degree of kinship or affinity up to and including the 4th degree with the following persons are also excluded from applying:

- Professors belonging to the scientific structure that has requested the research appointment;
- Director of the School;

- Secretary General;
- Members of the Board of Directors.

Post-doc appointments are conferred by means of a private-law contract and do not give rise to any rights regarding access to permanent positions within the awarding institutions, nor may they be counted for the purposes referred to in Article 20 of Legislative Decree No. 75 of 25 May 2017.

Art. 3 – The employment contract, drawn up in written form, shall be signed by the holder of the appointment and by the Director.

The probationary period shall have a duration of one effective month of service.

The employment relationship shall be governed by the individual contract and by the provisions in force concerning tax treatment, social security and welfare coverage applicable to income from dependent employment.

The annual amount of the appointment, as specified in Annex 1, shall be gross of charges borne by the contracting party. Such amount shall be paid to the beneficiary in deferred monthly instalments. The School shall provide insurance coverage against accidents at work and occupational diseases, as well as third-party civil liability insurance, in favour of the holders of the appointments in the performance of their research activities.

Art. 4 – Post-doc appointments may not be combined with any other subordinate employment relationship with public or private entities, with the holding of research grants, or with scholarships or research fellowships of any kind awarded by national or foreign institutions, with the exception of those exclusively aimed at international mobility for research purposes.

The appointment is incompatible with the enrolment in Bachelor's, Master's or single-cycle degree programmes, PhD programmes or medical specialization programmes, in Italy or abroad, and entails unpaid leave for individuals employed by public administrations.

Without prejudice to the foregoing, incompatible activities, activities subject to authorization, and activities freely exercisable are those defined by the Regulations on appointments and external activities for academic staff. Activities subject to authorization shall be assessed and authorized by the relevant scientific structure of affiliation.

Art. 5 – Admission to the public selection procedure for the awarding of the post-doc appointment for the performance of research activities under this call is subject to the fulfilment of the requirements specified in Annex 1.

In the case of academic qualifications obtained abroad, candidates holding a qualification deemed suitable by the Selection Committee, appointed pursuant to Art. 6, shall be admitted, following an assessment of the consistency of the

qualification - on the basis of the relevant study programme - with the requirements set out in Annex 1. Such assessment shall be valid exclusively for the purposes of the present selection procedure. Candidates who already hold an official recognition of the qualification (e.g. a declaration of equivalence or academic recognition) may attach it to their application.

Art. 6 - The Evaluation Committee is appointed by SISSA's Director's Decree upon proposal by the relevant Scientific Structures.

The Committee is normally composed of at least three members, ensuring adequate gender representation, including a Chairperson and a Secretary, selected among professors and researchers from SISSA, universities, national or international research institutions, or experts in the disciplinary fields relevant to the call.

The selection is carried out by the Committee based on the evaluation of the applications duly received, according to the criteria previously established as set forth in the following Table:

Qualification	Evaluation criteria	Score
Academic qualifications (degree, PhD, additional post-graduate diplomas, etc.)	Possession of the qualification, relevance to the research field covered by the contract, score/evaluation achieved	max 20 points
Publications and research (software, databases, patents, etc.)	Quality and relevance for the purpose of the research activity	max 20 points
Other qualifications (professional experience in Italy and abroad, letters of reference if required, relevant technical or experimental skills, etc.)	Quality and relevance for the purpose of the research activity	max 20 points
<b>TOTAL qualifications</b>		<b>max 60 points</b>
<b>Interview</b>		<b>max 40 points</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>max 100 points</b>

Candidates scoring at least 42/60 for their qualifications will be admitted to the interview. Candidates scoring at least 28/40 at the interview will be eligible for the appointment.

The Committee may use telematic tools for collegial work, carrying out the evaluation of qualifications, identifying eligible candidates, formulating the ranking list, and simultaneously drafting the minutes electronically.

The interview is normally conducted in English, but may be held in Italian if this is the mother tongue of the candidate and all members of the Committee. The interview is usually conducted online via video connection, with identity verification at the time of the appointment.

At the conclusion of its work, the Committee shall prepare the minutes containing the evaluation criteria, the overall score of each candidate, and the ranking list. In the event of a tie, preference shall be given to the younger candidate.

The competition documents and the related ranking list shall be approved by a decree of the Director.

The candidate placed in a suitable position in the ranking shall enter into a contract with SISSA regulating the conduct of the research activity pursuant to Art. 22-bis of Law No. 240/2010.

In the event of withdrawal or non-acceptance by the first eligible candidate within the established deadlines, the ranking shall proceed according to an explicit request by the Scientific Supervisor of the position.

Placement in the ranking list does not constitute a title for subsequent evaluation procedures.

**Art.7 - Under penalty of exclusion, the application** for this selection procedure, along with the relevant qualifications held and relevant scientific publications, **shall be submitted online through the electronic application accessible at the following address:** <https://pica.cineca.it/sissa/ipd-fs-neuro-07-2026>.

A valid email address is required for the registration process.

Applicants shall upload all personal and professional data as requested by the application procedure and attach the documents in electronic PDF format. Each attachment may not exceed 30MB.

All fields in the online application form must be filled out. Under penalty of exclusion, the application must contain:

- a curriculum vitae with a complete list of the candidate's scientific and professional activities;
- a valid ID of the candidate, to be uploaded in electronic format.

Candidates accessing the PICA platform using their digital identity (SPID – Public Digital Identity System) will not be required to upload a scan of their personal ID, nor to sign and upload their application.

**Failure to comply with the online application procedure will result in the exclusion of the applicant from the selection.**

Prior to final submission, and within the given deadline for applications submission, the online application procedure allows to modify and save the inserted information in a draft copy. Confirmation of final submission date will be certified by an automatic notification email. Submissions after the given deadline will not be accepted by the system, as the online application procedure won't be accessible.

The online application and submission procedure shall be completed **by 27 April 2026, 11.59 p.m. CEST (Rome time).**

Reference letters shall be uploaded on the PICA platform by the candidate's referees/supervisors by 27 April 2026, 11:59 p.m. CEST (Rome time).

The submission of the online application must be completed and finalized:

- **with the digital signature of the candidate**, by means of smart card, USB token or remote digital signature allowing the applicant to digitally sign electronic documents with a software using a PC or a web portal for Remote Signature, provided by a Certification Service Provider (CSP). Candidates with a smart card or a USB token for digital signature should check the compatibility with the Digital Signature system embedded in our server. In case of compatibility, candidates shall sign the application on the server (e.g. ConFirma);
- **holders of server-incompatible Digital Signature and holders of Remote Digital Signature** who can access a web portal for digitally signing electronic documents shall save the .pdf file generated by the system on their PC. The .pdf file shall not be modified in any way, and it shall be digitally signed in CAdES format: the system will generate a file with .p7m extension. The candidate shall upload the .p7m file on the system. No changes are to be made to the file by the candidates before the Digital Signature, on pain of exclusion from the selection procedure;
- **in case the two above-mentioned options do not apply**, candidates shall save the .pdf file generated by the system on their PC. The .pdf file shall not be modified in any way, on pain of exclusion from the selection procedure. The .pdf shall be printed out, signed on the last page, scanned in .pdf format and uploaded on the system.

For any technical issue regarding the application, candidates may contact the technical support through the link at the bottom of the page: <https://pica.cineca.it/sissa> (“supporto”).

The School will verify that all the statements made in the application and accompanying documentation comply with the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000.

## INTERVIEWS CALENDAR:

**The list of candidates admitted to the interview will be published on the website of SISSA on 8 May 2026 by 2:00 pm CEST (Rome time).**

**Interviews will be held online on 13 May 2026.**

The notice of the interview calendar acts as an official notification.

Art.8 – After a budget verification has been carried out, the selected candidate will be formally notified of the award of the post-doc appointment.

Within 30 days from the start of the research activity at SISSA, Italian and EU candidates and non-EU citizens resident in Italy will have to submit a valid ID and fill out the following documents:

- 1) affidavit attesting birth, citizenship, place of residence and Italian tax code of the applicant;
- 2) affidavit attesting the possession of a University Degree;

Non-EU citizens authorized to sojourn in Italy owing to conventions between Italy and their own country have to submit the same above-mentioned documents.

Non-EU citizens regularly sojourning in Italy may submit an affidavit according to articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree No. 445/2000 exclusively for personal data and events which can be certified and attested by public Italian authorities.

In any other case, the information requested in points 1) and 2) of this article must be notified by means of an affidavit and plain copies of the relevant documents within 30 days from the beginning of the research activity at SISSA. Research fellows are requested to submit certificates and declarations issued by the foreign competent authorities, possibly accompanied by an Italian translation authenticated by the Italian Consulate abroad. The School reserves the right to verify all affidavits.

Should the winner refuse the position, not accept it or fail to submit the above-mentioned documents on time, the research appointment may be offered to the next eligible candidate in the classification list, following the authorization granted by the Director, at the express request of the Area Coordinator or the scientist responsible for the research activity.

The starting date of the appointment shall be agreed with the Area Coordinator or with the scientist responsible for the research project.

**Should the financial coverage not be guaranteed by the funding body, SISSA reserves the right not to activate the research position. The start of the contract will therefore be subject to verification of the necessary financial coverage.**

Art.9 – Holders of post-doc appointments shall carry out the research activities specified in the contract and compatible with the research programs of the relevant Scientific Structure, in coordination with the Scientific Supervisor.

The research activity shall be conducted within the framework of the research project for which the appointment holder has been selected.

The activity may be suspended in the cases provided for by the School's current Regulations concerning the awarding of post-doc and research appointments, including maternity, illness, or other serious personal reasons, according to the procedures set out therein.

A total justified and agreed absence not exceeding thirty days in a year shall not constitute a suspension and shall not be subject to recovery.

Where required by the funding body, the research appointment holder may be asked to complete a time-sheet for reporting purposes only.

Art. 10 – Post-doctoral appointments shall have a minimum duration of one year and may be extended up to a total duration of three years.

The total duration of relationships established with the same individual, relating to the holding of research contracts (Art. 22, Law 240/2010), post-doctoral appointments (Art. 22-bis, Law 240/2010), research appointments (Art. 22-ter, Law 240/2010), and fixed-term tenure-track researcher contracts (Art. 24, Law 240/2010, as amended on 30 June 2022), even if awarded or concluded by different institutions, may not in any case exceed a total of eleven years, whether consecutive or not. For the purposes of this calculation, periods of leave taken for maternity, paternity, or health reasons, in accordance with applicable legislation, shall not be counted.

Any extension of a post-doc appointment may be requested upon a reasoned proposal by the Scientific Supervisor appointed by the School to oversee the research activity under the contract, and shall be subject to an assessment of the work carried out by the appointment holder in relation to the progress of the research project.

The formal procedures for any extension of a post-doc appointment are governed by the School's current Regulations on the awarding of post-doctoral and research appointments.

Art. 11 - Termination of the employment relationship shall occur upon the expiration of the contract term, through withdrawal by either party, or for any other reason provided for under applicable law.

Should the post-doc appointment holder decide to terminate the contract before its natural expiry, they must provide written notice at least 30 days in advance. In the event of failure to give such notice, SISSA shall withhold an amount equivalent to the salary corresponding to the unserved notice period.

The termination of external funding that enabled the activation of the contract shall constitute grounds for withdrawal by the School. In such case, the School is required to provide at least 60 days' notice. Should the School fail to provide the required notice, it shall pay the appointment holder an amount equivalent to the salary corresponding to the unserved notice period.

Art. 12 - The Head of procedures is Dr. Alessandra Lucatello, Chief of the Human Resources Area (e-mail: [contrattiricerca@sissa.it](mailto:contrattiricerca@sissa.it)).

Art.13 – All personal data provided to this Administration shall be processed solely for purposes related to and instrumental to the present procedure, in compliance with the applicable legislation, pursuant to Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, “Personal Data Protection Code”, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of 10 August 2018, “Provisions for the adaptation of national legislation to the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation)”.

THE DIRECTOR  
Prof. Andrea Romanino  
(Italian version signed digitally)



## ANNEX 1

### NEUROSCIENCE AREA

#### Public selection based on qualifications and interview

**Research title:** “Foxg1 gene impact on memorization processes”

Fields of the research activity: The winner of the competitive examination will investigate molecular and neuro-circuitual mechanisms through which the gene subject of interest modulates the building-up of engrams associated to specific, contextualized fear experiences.

Scientific supervisor: prof. Antonello Mallamaci

Members of the research group: Elena Sabina Maftai, Claudia Sgherza, Ayesha Ahsan, Massimo Addesse

Area 05 – Biology

Academic recruitment field: 05/BIOS-08 Molecular biology

Academic discipline: BIOS-08/A Molecular biology

Duration of the appointment: 12 months

All-inclusive gross annual salary, granted in 13 monthly payments: € 28.456,48

#### **Minimum requirements:**

Master's degree in: Neuroscience, Physiology, Biological Sciences, Medicine or related degrees

PhD degree in: Neuroscience, Physiology, Biological Sciences, Medicine or related degrees

**Proven experience in:** Management of mutant murine colonies; generation and use of lentiviral and AAV vectors, in vitro and in vivo, respectively, for precision modulation of gene activity; chemogenetic modulation of neuronal activity in vivo; engram visualization by TRAP2 platform and anti-fos immuno fluorescence; quantification, in situ and in bulk, of gene expression levels, at mRNA and protein levels.

The online application and submission procedure shall be completed **by 27 April 2026, 11.59 p.m. CEST (Rome time).**

**Reference letters** shall be uploaded on the PICA platform by the candidate's referees/supervisors **by 27 April 2026, 11:59 p.m. CEST (Rome time).**

#### **Evaluation criteria:**

Academic qualifications (degree, PhD, additional diplomas): up to 20 points

Published works and other research products: up to 20 points

Other qualifications: up to 20 points

# SISSA

Scuola  
Internazionale  
Superiore di  
Studi Avanzati

TOTAL qualifications: up to 60 points  
Interview: up to 40 points  
TOTAL: up to 100 points

The research activity shall be carried out on behalf of and shall be funded by the School funds allocated to the Neuroscience Area.

Position approved by D.D. 290/2026 d.d. 01.04.2026.

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Area risorse umane  
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