

Translation of Announcement for 1 research position

at the Physics Area of SISSA
Decree No. 373 dated 5 May 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 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, and to Art. 22 in particular, as amended by Law No. 79 of 29 June 2002 and subsequent amendment and additions;
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 SISSA Regulation for the award of research contracts pursuant to Art. 22 of L.30 .12.2010, no. 240, as amended by L. 29.06.2022 no. 79, issued by Directorial Decree No. 180/2025 of 07.03.2025;
Having regard to the resolution adopted by the Board of Directors at its meeting of 08.07.2025, in accordance with the favourable opinion expressed by the Academic Senate at its meeting of 27.06.2025, providing for the granting of a one-off contribution to holders of research contracts coming from abroad (EU or non-EU countries);
Having regard to the resolution of the Physics Area Council dated 16 April 2026, requesting a public selection procedure for the award of no. 1 research contract focusing on "Statistical and mathematical models of activity in distributed brain circuits" scientific supervisor dr. Francesca Mastrogiuseppe;

Having regard to the resolution of the Board of Directors dated 30 April 2026, based on the assent granted by the Academic Senate on 28 April 2026, authorizing the public selection procedure for the award of no. 1 research contract pursuant to Art. 22 of Law No. 240/10;

Having established the availability of funds to cover the expenditure for the above mentioned research position, guaranteed by the Project funded by the Simons Foundation under the Transition to Independence Faculty Award, Title: "Mechanisms of learning and computation in mesoscopic cortical networks" (SFI-AN-NC-GB-Independence Faculty-00024187) – Dr. Francesca Mastrogiuseppe (UGOV code: R_ALTR_INT_FISI_Mastrogiuseppe_1159, CUP: G93C26000290007);

DECREES

Art. 1 - A public selection based on qualifications is hereby announced for 1 research contract 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 characterized by organizational 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 be in possession of a scientific-professional curriculum which enables them to carry out research activity and meet the further requirements specified in Annex 1.

Personnel with permanent positions in Italian universities, public research and experimentation institutions, ENEA (Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development), ASI (Italian Space Agency) or institutions which award scientific degrees equivalent to PhD, in accordance with art. 74, par. 4 of the Italian Presidential Decree No. 382 dated 11.07.80, are excluded from applying.

In accordance with art. 18 of the Italian Law No. 240/10, candidates having a family relationship or other degree of kinship up to the 4th degree with the following persons are also excluded from applying:

- SISSA Professors belonging to the Area that requested the position;
- Director of SISSA;
- Secretary General of SISSA;



- Member of the Board of Directors of SISSA.

This research position is awarded through a private law contract which does not give any right to be employed by universities, pursuant to Art. 22, par.1, of the Italian Law No. 240/2010.

Art.3 – The contract is drawn up in writing and undersigned by the contractor and the Director.

The employment relationship is for a two-year term, is governed by the individual contract and the current provisions regarding tax, welfare and social security treatment provided for employment income.

The annual amount of the contract, stated in Annex 1, is gross per year and includes charges to be paid by the contractor. The salary shall be paid in monthly arrears. The School shall provide insurance coverage against accidents in the workplace, occupational diseases and for third-party liability.

Art.4 – Research contracts cannot be held simultaneously with any other subordinate employment contract with public and private entities, including part-time and fixed-term employment. They are not compatible with research grants at any University or public research institution, nor with scholarships or research grants awarded by national or foreign institutions, except those exclusively aimed at international mobility for research purposes.

Research contracts are not compatible with the attendance of bachelor, master's, PhD programs, or specialization courses in the medical area, in Italy or abroad. Government employees must be given unpaid leave for the entire duration of the contract.

Notwithstanding all of the above, allowed activities and incompatible activities that are subject to authorization are defined in the Regulations for External Assignments and Activities for Academic Staff. Activities subject to authorization are evaluated and authorized by the Area of affiliation.

Art. 5 – Admission to the public selection procedure for the awarding of the research contract of 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 examining board is appointed by decree of the Director of SISSA, upon a proposal of the relevant Area Council. It comprises at least three members, of which one shall act as President and one as Secretary. The members of the examining board shall be chosen among professors and researchers of SISSA, other research institutions and universities, or among experts in the subjects referred to in this announcement.

The evaluation criteria are agreed upon in advance, and are summarized in the following Table:

Qualification	Evaluation criteria	Maximum score
University degree (MS, PhD, further degrees etc.)	Relevance for the purpose of the research activity	20 points
Publications and research (software, databases, patents, etc.)	Quality and relevance for the purpose of the research activity	30 points
Other qualifications (professional experience, reference letters - if required, other relevant skills, etc.)	Quality and relevance for the purpose of the research activity	10 points
TOTAL		100 points

A candidate is eligible if s/he scores at least 42/60.

The examining board may use video conferencing tools to evaluate the applications, identify suitable candidates, draw up the ranking list and draft the minutes in electronic format.

At the end of the evaluations the examining board will draw up a report, including the evaluation criteria, the total mark obtained by each candidate and a ranking of the eligible candidates. The interview, if required, is usually held online, through a video connection that can ensure adequate recognition of the identity of the candidates, to be verified at the start of the contract.

The minutes of the selection procedure and the ranking are approved by Directorial Decree.

The first eligible candidate will undertake a research contract with SISSA in accordance with Italian Law No. 240/10, Art. 22, as amended by Law No. 79 of 29.06.2022.

Being in the ranking does not give any right in other selection 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/cdr-fe-fisi-14-2026>.

A valid email address is required for the registration process.

Applicants shall upload all personal and professional data as requested by the application procedure. 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 May 2026, 11.59 p.m. (Rome time)**.

Reference letters shall be uploaded on the PICA platform by the candidate's referees/supervisors by 29 May 2026, 11:59 p.m. (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.

Art.8 – After a budget verification has been carried out, the selected candidate will be formally notified of the award of the research fellowship.

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;
- 3) affidavit of the actual or expected date of Ph.D. award. Under the law, the Ph.D. degree has to be awarded within six months from the publication of this notice.

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 fellowship 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 fellowship 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 research contracts undertake to carry out the research activity as foreseen in this Announcement and in accordance with the research program of the Area. The research activity is carried out following the instructions of the scientific supervisor.

At the end of the second year, contract holders are required to submit a report on their research activity to the relevant Area Council, with the aim of closing the research program and/or for the purpose of a possible renewal or extension of the contract.

Art.10 – The total duration of research contracts, held at one or more Universities or institutions, must not exceed 5 years for each researcher. To this end, the periods of absence due to maternity leave or state of illness are not taken into account.

The renewal or extension of the research contract, if applicable, shall be requested upon the reasoned proposal of the designated scientific supervisor, after an evaluation of the research activity carried out by the contract holder on the research project and the progress of the program itself. The request must be approved by the scientist responsible for the funds covering the cost of the position, and subsequently approved by the relevant Area Council, the Academic Senate of the School and, as far as financial coverage is concerned, by the Board of Directors.

Art. 11 - Termination of employment occurs upon expiry of the contract or withdrawal of one of the parties. If the selection procedure is revoked, the contract is terminated in any case.

Fellowship holders wishing to resign must give an advance notice of at least 30 days, in which case no penalty shall be applied by SISSA. Failure to do so shall result in a penalty involving the recovery or the failure to pay the salary for the period of notice not given.

SISSA shall reserve the right to terminate the contract if the external funding becomes unavailable. In this case SISSA shall give the fellowship holder at least a 60 days' notice. Failure to do so shall result in the payment to the research fellowship holder of an amount equal to the period of notice not given.

The compulsory advance notice shall not be applied during the trial period.

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

Art.13 – All matters regarding data processing and protection are in accordance with the Italian Legislative Decree No. 196/2003 dated 30.06.2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 dated 10.08.2018, that transposes Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). All the data provided to this administration will be processed for the sole purposes connected with and instrumental to the selection procedure and the eventual drawing up and management of the contract.

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

ANNEX 1

PHYSICS AREA

Public selection based on qualifications

Research title: Statistical and mathematical models of activity in distributed brain circuits

Fields of the research activity: Theoretical and Computational Neuroscience, High-Dimensional Statistics, Information Theory, Dynamical Systems, Recurrent Neural Networks.

Scientific supervisor: Dr. Francesca Mastrogiuseppe

Members of the research group: Roberto Trotta, Guido Sanguinetti, Alessandro Laio, Sebastian Goldt

Area 02 - Physics

Academic recruitment field: 02/PHYS-06 - Physics for life sciences, environment, and cultural heritage, physics education and history of physics

Academic discipline: PHYS-06/A - Physics for Life Sciences, Environment, and Cultural Heritage

All-inclusive gross annual salary, granted in 13 monthly payments: € 34.400,00

Minimum requirements:

Master's degree in: Mathematics, Physics, Data Science, Statistics or related degrees

PhD degree in: Mathematics, Physics, Data Science, Statistics or related degrees

Proven experience: Experience in statistical tools (based on: dynamical systems, information theory, dimensionality reduction) for the analysis of high-dimensional data from single-cell neural recordings. Experience in mathematical models of brain circuits.

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

Reference letters shall be uploaded on the PICA platform by the candidate's referees/supervisors by 29 May 2026, 11:59 p.m. (Rome time).

Evaluation criteria:

University degrees: up to 20 points

Published works and other research products: up to 30 points

Other qualifications: up to 10 points

TOTAL: up to 60 points

The research activity shall be carried out on behalf of and shall be funded by the Project funded by the Simons Foundation under the Transition to Independence

Faculty Award, Title: “Mechanisms of learning and computation in mesoscopic cortical networks” (SFI-AN-NC-GB-Independence Faculty-00024187) – Dr. Francesca Mastrogiuseppe (UGOV code: R_ALTR_INT_FISI_Mastrogiuseppe_1159, CUP: G93C26000290007).

A contribution towards relocation expenses in Trieste is envisioned for the successful candidate if resident abroad (in the EU or outside the EU). The costs will be covered by the Project funded by the Simons Foundation under the Transition to Independence Faculty Award, Title: “Mechanisms of learning and computation in mesoscopic cortical networks” (SFI-AN-NC-GB-Independence Faculty-00024187) – Dr. Francesca Mastrogiuseppe (UGOV code: R_ALTR_INT_FISI_Mastrogiuseppe_1159, CUP: G93C26000290007).

Position approved by:
Physics Area Council on 16.04.2026
Academic Senate on 28.04.2026
Board of Directors on 30.04.2026