

Fondo Istituzionale per la Ricerca (FIR) Call 2024 Doctoral schools

Introduction

The *Fondo Istituzionale per la Ricerca* (USI Institutional Research Fund, hereinafter referred to as “FIR”), aims to support structuring and strategic research activities at USI.

The FIR 2024 call focuses on:

- Supporting early-stage postdoctoral researchers (with a PhD degree) to enable them becoming scientifically independent.
- Supporting doctoral schools.
- Supporting innovative and interdisciplinary projects with particular reference to sustainability.

Call deadline for proposals submission: **30.09.2024 at 17:00 CET**.

Contact for enquiries: servizio.ricerca@usi.ch

The Rectorate strongly encourages the USI community to apply for these calls.

2. Call for Doctoral Schools

2.1. Objectives

The aim of this call is to strengthen doctoral training, particularly with a range of courses and other activities to develop the skills of doctoral students.

2.2. Eligible Applicants

USI institutes and faculties, possibly in cooperation with institutes from other universities. The PI(s) must be eligible to supervise PhD students.

2.3. Funding and duration

Up to CHF 100,000 for 36 months.

Eligible costs:

- Organization of doctoral courses: fees, travel and accommodation costs.
- Networking events for doctoral students: travel and accommodation costs.

Coordination costs must be borne by the institute managing the school. Participation of non-USI doctoral students is possible, but at their own expense.

Since the call is entirely funded by the USI FIR, it is open exclusively to USI institutes, excluding affiliated entities.

2.4. Evaluation Criteria

- Consistency with USI's strategic research areas.
- Scientific quality of the proposed program (scientific committee, speakers, etc.).
- Number of doctoral students involved.
- Project's capacity to continue after the funding period.
- Contribution to the creation of soft skills and cross-disciplinary competencies.

2.5. Application procedure

Application documents must include:

- Application form;
- Requested budget Excel form;
- Doctoral school project description, indicating the educational objectives, planned activity program, number of participants (internal and external), and school management methods.
- Letters of support from the awarding faculties.
- CV(s) of the main applicant(s);

Please send your complete application in one single PDF file to servizio.ricerca@usi.ch by the 30.09.2024 at 17:00.

2.6. Evaluation Procedure

Applications are assessed by 2 members of the Research Commission, acting as referees and co-referees. Applications are then discussed during the plenary meeting of the Research Commission. On the basis of the assessments of the 2 referees and the plenary discussion, the Research Commission ranks the applications and submits a proposal to the Rectorate.

The final decision is taken by the Rectorate. Results are communicated to the applicants by end of January 2025.

2.7. Timeline of the call

Deadline of the call: 30.09.2024

Communication of decisions: end of January 2025

Earliest start: 01.02.2025

Latest start: 1 year after the decision date