

# Fondo Istituzionale per la Ricerca (FIR) Call 2024 Innovative and Interdisciplinary Research Projects

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## 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](mailto:servizio.ricerca@usi.ch)

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

### **3. Call for innovative and interdisciplinary Research Projects**

#### **3.1. Objectives**

In line with USI's strategic planning, the aim of this call is to support the development of innovative and interdisciplinary research projects with a special focus on sustainability – broadly defined as research contributing to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals<sup>1</sup> – to initiate new research lines that could receive external funding. The FIR contribution is intended as seed money to start these initiatives.

#### **3.2. Eligible applicants**

PIs and co-PIs who meet the criteria for submitting SNSF project funding. The PI employment must be secured during the entire duration of the project according to USI employment regulations.

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

#### **3.3. Funding and duration**

Up to CHF 100,000 for 12 months. Eligible costs:

- Research personnel costs (the PI(s) salary is not covered);
- Networking and workshop activities costs.

Substantial co-funding is required from the hosting institute/faculty from the corporate budget or third-party funds.

#### **3.4. Application procedure**

Application documents must include:

- Application form;
- Requested budget Excel form;
- CV of the PIs (max. 2 pages);
- List of PI's publications (limited to the past 5 years)<sup>2</sup>;
- Scientific description (8 pages).

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

#### **3.5. Evaluation Criteria**

- Scientific quality of the proposed project.
- Track record of the PIs in the respective proposal field.
- Contribution to the development of sustainability research at USI.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration.
- Prospects for the sustainability of the research and for acquiring additional funds.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

<sup>2</sup> The publication list should be structured as follows:

1. Peer-reviewed articles (original publications)
2. Reviews
3. Monographs
4. Book contributions
5. Other pertinent publications

- Contribution by the host institute

### **3.6. Evaluation Procedure**

The evaluation procedure takes place in two phases. First, applications are peer-reviewed by external evaluators. Then, each application is 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 external peer-review, the assessment 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.

### **3.7. 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