



**ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI ASTROFISICA
OSSERVATORIO ASTROFISICO DI ARCETRI**

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**Decreto n. 96
Anno 2016**

Selection procedure based on qualification and possible interview for the awarding of one research fellowship entitled: “Optical turbulence forecast applied to ground-based observations”, Category: A/Post-Doc (in accordance with Article 22, Law 240/2010)

THE DIRECTOR OF INAF ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY OF ARCETRI

Having seen the Statute of the Istituto Nazionale di Astrofisica (INAF), adopted by INAF Administrative Council on 7 March 2011 and entered into force on 1 May 2011;

in accordance with having seen Italian Law n. 240 dated 30 December 2010, Article 22; the INAF Regulations for the awarding of research fellowships approved by INAF Administrative Council on 22 June 2011, Resolution n. 06/11 and subsequent modifications and integrations;

considering it appropriate to issue an announcement of competition for the award of a research fellowship;

given the availability of finance from funds Ob. Fu. 1.05.01.01 and the “MOSE” project Ob. Fu. 1.05.02.18-MOSE-ESO (ref: Elena Masciadri);

DECREES

Art. 1 – Research project

A selection based on titles and qualifications, possibly integrated by an interview, is open to award one research fellowship focused on research activity related to the optical turbulence forecasts applied to the ground-based astronomy and high angular resolution. The granted candidate will join the “Optical Turbulence” research group of Arcetri who is involved in different projects/contracts with a few among the top-class Observatories in the world mainly focused to the forecast of the atmospheric and astroclimatic parameters for the ground-based astronomy supported by Adaptive Optics facilities.

The fellowship is entitled “**Optical turbulence forecast applied to ground-based observations**”, category A/Post-Doc. The candidate will be involved on researches addressing specific topics, more precisely the optical turbulence (OT) forecast in daytime, the possibility to forecast the OT without model calibration and the quantitative estimation of the robustness of the predictive method developed by the OT group. The three topics are all extremely challenging in the field of the OT forecast and crucial for the exploitation of the high angular resolution new generation facilities (Adaptive Optics, Interferometry, etc.) running in night and day time on ground-based telescopes. These studies will permit to involve the candidate in basically all the main projects carried on by the Optical Turbulence research group.



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The successful applicants will perform research under the supervision of Dr. Elena Masciadri, in collaboration with the other members of the research team. The fellowship is co-funded by the Ob. Fu. 1.05.01.01) and the “MOSE” project Ob. Fu. 1.05.02.18-MOSE-ESO (ref: Elena Masciadri).

Art. 2 – Requirements

In order to participate in the selection, applicants must possess the following requirements by the deadline, on penalty of exclusion :

- PhD degree in Astronomy or Physics or Engineering or Applied Mathematics awarded by an Italian or by a foreign University;
- or alternatively
- Degree in Astronomy or Physics or Engineering or Applied Mathematics which would formally entitle to the admission to a doctorate, awarded by an Italian or foreign University together with at least three years of successive documented experience in scientific activities

A good knowledge of the English language is required.

The following knowledge, skills and experience will be considered as preferential qualifications:

- Expertise in atmospheric numerical modeling and in using High Performances Computing Facilities (HPCF);
- Experience in working with atmospheric non-hydrostatic mesoscale models. In order of preference: Meso-Nh, WRF;
- Experience with parallel computing;
- Experience with in intense statistical data analysis;
- Experience and motivation on team working and on activities addressing multidisciplinary topics;
- Knowledge of Fortran 90 programming language, interpreted language such as Matlab and IDL, bash and python language, (web programming languages is appreciated but not fundamental);

Art. 3 – Application procedure

Applications must be submitted in English as closed envelope by “Raccomandata A/R”, authorized carrier (ex. DHL, FedEx, UPS, etc.) or, in person, to the address INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, Largo Enrico Fermi 5, 50125 Firenze (ITALY).

Alternatively, the application can be submitted using PEC (Posta Elettronica Certificata: **no** ordinary e-mail) to the following PEC address: inafoarcetri@pcert.postecert.it

The pec account must be compulsory registered to applicant’s name , on penalty of exclusion from the present call.

Applications are to be submitted by and not after **midday (UT) on April 10, 2017**. Late submissions will not be considered.



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Applications which are not consistent with the attached forms (Annexes 1, 2) or without the applicant's signatures will be excluded from the selection procedure.

The application must be delivered reporting on the envelope or the PEC (Posta Elettronica Certificata) subject "Application for **Optical Turbulence Postdoctoral Fellowship position at INAF-Arcetri – DD. n. 96/2016**".

Aware that false declarations are punishable by law and that the Administration will carry out random checks on their accuracy the applicant must state clearly and precisely in the application, under his/her own responsibility:

- name(s) and surname, date and place of birth, nationality, place of residence and address for correspondence;
- that she/he satisfies all the requirements described in article 2 of this Call;
- that she/he is aware of and is not ineligible under any of the restrictions described in article 4 of this Call.

The lack of any of the above mentioned declarations will determine the exclusion from the selection procedure for incomplete application.

For selection purposes the applicants:

- shall directly state any academic qualifications in the application form (Annex 1); in addition
- EU citizens and non-EU citizens residing outside Italy, if successful, must produce originals or suitably certified copies of academic qualifications obtained outside Italy preferably written/translated into English or French.

The following documents have to be submitted:

- Annex 1 "Application form";
- Annex 2 "Curriculum vitae", signed and dated by the applicant, providing evidence of possession of the titles and the skills required to carry out the research in subject and including a list, if applicable, of grants and fellowships held in the past and a statement of research interests;
- copy of a valid identity document (ID card or passport);
- list of publications;
- any other qualification, working task, research activity for public and private institutions and publications that the applicant deems appropriate to submit.

Applicants should also arrange for two signed letters of reference by persons familiar with her/his work who shall send them directly and within the deadline by e-mail with acknowledgement of receipt to the following address: masciadri@arcetri.astro.it

Applicants are admitted for selection with reservation and may – at any time – be notified of exclusion from the selection procedure for the following reasons:

- submission of the application after the deadline;



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- failure to complete and sign the application form;
- failure to sign the curriculum vitae;
- lack of the copy of a valid identity document;
- lack of the requirements indicated in paragraph 2.

Should the reasons for exclusion be ascertained after completion of the selection procedure the applicant will lose any right deriving from participation in the selection procedure; similar loss will be applied to applicants providing any false statement or document.

INAF accepts no responsibility for lost applications or documents where this is due to the applicant having provided incorrect contact details or having failed or delayed in notifying any changes to these details.

Art. 4 – Ineligibility and incompatibility with other funding

Full professors, associate professors and research staff in Italian universities and employees of Italian research public institutions are all excluded from entering the competition.

The grant cannot be held at the same time with attendance at academic courses as those that formally give access to a doctorate, as well as with attendance at PhD courses with fellowship.

The grant cannot be held contemporarily with other fellowships of whatever kind, except those awarded with the aim of integrating the training or research activity of the fellowship holder through a period spent abroad.

Aggregation of income from working activities, also part-time, carried out continuously is not accepted. Instead, limited self-employed occasional work is compatible with the grant, only if this is not prejudicial to the research activity carried out for INAF. This must be authorized in advance by the Director of INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri.

Retired persons are not eligible for Research fellowship.

Also excluded from participation are any person who has carried out Research fellowships under article 22 of Italian Law 240/2010 for a total period exceeding six years, including extensions, but excluding the periods in which the grant has been held in coincidence with doctoral studies up to

the maximum legal time limit of the course and excluding periods of maternity leave or sick leave, in accordance with current legislation.

Art. 5 – Duration of the Research fellowship

The Research fellowship is expected to begin in **spring time 2017. It has a duration of 12 months.**

The exact initial date could be reasonably delayed if requested by the completion of administrative procedures and/or for the cases mentioned in the art. 10 of this call.

Extensions may be possible depending on performance and funding availability. In accordance with Italian Law n. 240/2011 the duration of the fellowship, inclusive of possible renewal, will not exceed **six** years, excluding periods of maternity leave or sick leave, in accordance with current legislation.

Art. 6 – Host Institution

The fellow will carry out the research at INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri – Largo Enrico Fermi, 5 – 50125 Firenze (Italy).



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Art. 7 – Salary amount

The gross annual salary will be **28000,00** Euro. This amount is net of burdens to be charged to INAF-Arcetri, social charges and health coverage and will be paid in deferred monthly instalments. The fellow will be requested to have a personal accidents insurance for the duration of the fellowship.

Italian fiscal and social security rules will be applied.

During the period of obligatory maternity leave the allowance paid by INPS (Italian National Institute for Social Security) is supplemented by INAF up to the total amount of the grant. The period of obligatory maternity leave will not contribute to the duration of the grant foreseen by the contract.

Art. 8 – Selection Committee and selection procedure

The selection will be performed by a Selection Committee appointed by the Director of INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri and is composed of three members, including the scientist in charge of the project, Dr. Elena Masciadri.

The selection is based on qualifications possibly integrated by an interview. The Selection Committee can establish a short list of the eligible applicants to be interviewed, on the basis of qualifications and documented experience in scientific activities on the specific subject of the research fellowship.

Applicants selected for the interview will be summoned with 15 days notice, containing the individual score for qualifications.

The total ranking score is 100 points, of which 60 points is the maximum score for qualifications and 40 points is the maximum score for the interview.

At the end of the selection procedure the Selection Committee will draw up the ranked list.

The approval decree of the selection procedure and the ranked list will be published on the following website: <http://www.arcetri.astro.it>

Art. 9 – Awarding of the fellowship

The highest ranked candidate will receive written notification of award of the research fellowship. Within 10 days from receipt of the formal notification of the award she/he must provide a formal declaration of acceptance of the research grant. The declaration will also state that she/he is not subject to any of the exclusion conditions listed in article 4 of this Call.

If the candidate does not provide declaration of acceptance within a time limit of 10 days, she/he will surrender his/her entitlement to the research fellowship and it can be awarded to the next ranked candidate.

Under no circumstances the signing of the contract starts a subordinate employment relationship or ensures any rights to access to permanent INAF staff positions

Art. 10 – Fellowship obligations

The holder of the fellowship:



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- will start the research activity at the date due as for the contract at INAF- Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri, unless prevented by force majeure or exceptional circumstances, of which the Director of INAF- Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri must be timely informed;
- will carry out her/his research activities under the supervision of the INAF scientist in charge of the ALTA project, Dr. Elena Masciadri, who will also monitor the fellow's progress;
- is required to issue an activity reports when requested by the director and in any case at the end of the first year. The activity reports will be subject to approval from the scientist in charge of the project and will be transmitted to the Director of INAF-Arcetri. Approval failing, duly reasoned by the scientist in charge, will give INAF-Arcetri the right to terminate the contract;
- is required to send a written note in case of withdrawal, with at least 30 days notice, otherwise INAF-Arcetri is entitled to retain or request the reimbursement of the salary amount corresponding to the notice time-span she/he has failed to send.

The holder of the fellowship who does not carry out her/his research activity regularly without producing justified reasons or lacks repeatedly to fulfil requirements or, according to the evaluation of the local coordinator of the Optical Turbulence research group, Dr. Elena Masciadri, eventually shows evident lack of skills at the planned research activities, will incur the termination of the contract.

Temporary suspensions of the research fellowship are due in case of obligatory maternity leave or in case of illness which lasts longer than one month or to any other serious reason. The reasons for suspending the research fellowship must be proved and certified, and promptly sent to the Director of INAF- Arcetri.

Art. 11 – Proceeding Responsible

The Responsible of this Call proceedings is Dr. Serena Donati (email: donati@arcetri.astro.it)

Art. 12 – Applicable regulation

The INAF-Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri shall abide by provisions in force promoting equal opportunities for women and men, non-discrimination and respect of privacy in processing personal data.

For what not explicitly mentioned in this announcement, the INAF- Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri shall act in compliance with the regulations in force concerning Italian public selection procedures, when applicable by analogy.

The present call will also be published, according with art.8 of INAF rules and regulations on "Assegni di Ricerca", on the INAF- Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri website <http://www.arcetri.astro.it/gare-e-concorsi> and on the INAF website

Firenze, December 12th 2016

Dr. Filippo Mannucci