



*Il Ministro dell'Istruzione dell'Università e della Ricerca*

*The Ministry of Education and Research*

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** Chap. 1694 of the forecast budget outgoings of the present Ministry for the financial year 2010 assigned to the running of universities and university consortiums;

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** Ministerial Decree no. 71 of 16/04/2012 regarding the criteria for the distribution of the ordinary financing fund to universities for the year 2012, registered at the National Audit Office on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2012, Reg. 7, Sheet 32;

**IN CONSIDERATION** in particular of art. 6 of the abovementioned Ministerial Decree no. 71 of 16/04/2012, which assigns 5,000,000 euros to the continuation of the program named the “Rita Levi Montalcini program for young researchers” to the benefit of young Italian and foreign scholars and experts, doctorate graduates in research or equivalent for not more than 6 years and employed permanently abroad in research or didactic activities for at least three years, aimed at the realization of research programmes offered autonomously at Italian universities, through the agreement of contracts pursuant to art. 24, paragraph 3, letter b) of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240, on the basis of criteria and methodologies defined by Ministerial decree;

**IN CONSIDERATION OF the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240 stipulating regulations regarding the organization of universities, academic personnel and recruitment, and including a mandate to the Government to incentivate the quality and efficiency of the university system;**

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** art. 24, paragraph 2, letter b) and paragraph 3 letter b) of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240 which foresees the possibility of stipulating non-renewable temporary employment contracts of three years’ duration, with holders of doctorates in research or equivalent qualifications, or for the sectors involved in medical specialization diplomas who have received, for at least three years, also non consecutively, research grants pursuant to article 51, paragraph 6, of the Law of 27 December 1997, no. 449, and subsequent amendments, or postdoctoral bursaries pursuant to article 4 of the Law of 30 November 1989, no. 398, or analogous contracts, grants, or bursaries in foreign universities.

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** art. 24, paragraph 8 of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240, which foresees that the financial compensation due for contracts as per paragraph 3, letter b) of the same article is equal to the initial compensation for a full time research

position increased by up to a maximum of 30 percent;

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** article 24 paragraph 5 of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240, pursuant to which, “in the ambit of the resources available for programming, in the third year of contract pursuant to paragraph 3, letter b), the university will assess the contract holder, as regards achieving scientific approval pursuant to article 16, for the purposes of appointment to the role of associate professor, pursuant to article 18, paragraph 1, letter e). If assessment is positive, the contract holder, upon conclusion of the contract, will be assumed in the role of associate professor. The assessment is conducted in compliance with internationally recognized quality standards identified with a specific university regulation in line with criteria set by Ministerial decree”;

**IN CONSIDERATION OF** art. 29, paragraph 7, of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240, which, amending article 1, paragraph 9, of Law no. 230 of 2005, attributes to the Minister of Education and Research, having consulted the National Agency of Assessment of the University and Research System, and the National University Council, the power to assess individuals in high profile research programmes financed by the European Union or by the Ministry of Education and Research, the most meritorious of which may be directly elected to the roles of full and associate professor and temporary researcher by universities;

**HAVING CONSULTED** the National Agency for Assessment of the University and Research System, and the National University Council, regarding the provisions of the present implementing decree of the abovementioned art. 29, paragraph 7, of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240;

**SUSTAINING** the necessity to lay down rules for the form of presentation of applications, the selection of applicants, and the assignment of resources available pursuant to art. 6 of the abovementioned Ministerial Decree no. 71 of 16/04/2012;

## **DECREES**

### **ART. 1**

The program for the recruitment of young temporary researchers pursuant to art. 6 of Ministerial Decree no. 71 of 16/04/2012, regards scholars of all nationalities, who on the final date for applications, have been awarded a research doctorate or equivalent after the 31 October 2006 and have been permanently employed abroad for at least three years of teaching or research activity at reputable university or research institutions. The services rendered abroad on the basis of study grants or sponsorships obtained in Italy cannot be included as part of the three years of activity in teaching or research conducted abroad. During the three years of service abroad, the scholars must not have acted in any formal position (temporary researchers that have conducted extended periods of research and/or teaching activity abroad, fellowships, contracts, doctorates, or enrolled in doctorate courses in co-tutorship with foreign universities and research centres, receivers of study grants) at a university or other bodies/institutions, within the territory of the Italian State. The scholars

must have completed their PhD within 31 October 2009, such that the three year period includes teaching and/or post doctorate research activity not dedicated solely to completion of the PhD.

#### **ART. 2**

On the basis of the resources pursuant to art. 6 of Ministerial Decree no. 71 of 16/04/2012, 24 temporary research positions are hereby announced pursuant to article 24, paragraph 3, letter b);

#### **ART. 3**

Applications must be presented exclusively over the Internet at the relative MIUR-CINECA web site (<http://cervelli.cineca.it>), within and not after thirty days from publication of the present Decree in the Official Gazette. Applications must include:

- curriculum vitae of the applicant;
- list of scientific publications and an attached publication realized during the last three years;
- self-certification of continuous domicile abroad, with a position involving teaching or research activities for at least three years on the final date for applications;
- the research programme, which must specify: the context of the research, the foreseen methodology, the foreseen results and division into stages; the cost of the research which must be directly correlated with the activity of the scholar at the site of fulfilment of the contract;
- two letters of presentation from foreign experts;
- indication, in order of preference, of three state universities, including special order institutions, at which the applicant intends to conduct the research activity. The list of locations will be communicated to the Committee as per art. 4, once the final classification by merit is completed.

#### **ART. 4**

The selection of applications is entrusted to a Committee consisting of the Chairman of the Committee of Italian University Rectors, and four scholars of high scientific standing on an international level, nominated by the Minister, with the task of expressing motivated opinions regarding the scientific qualifications of the candidates and the scientific validity of the research projects. The Committee may refer to highly qualified Italian or foreign experts in order to assess candidates. Upon completion of the assessment stage the Committee will order, according to lists of priorities between different general areas, all the positively assessed applications and propose to the Ministry those to be financed in relation

to the available funds. When necessary, the Committee will make use of expert anonymous reviewers for the assessment of applications.

The lists of priorities will be approved by the Ministry and published on the Ministerial web site. Subsequently the Minister will make contact with the institutions, taking into account the order of preference indicated by the selected candidates.

The institutions must state their acceptance/refusal to assume the selected candidate and, in the case of acceptance they must forward the decision of the university department, including a commitment to provide adequate resources to accommodate and support the research, to the Ministry within 30 days.

Within the subsequent 60 days the selected candidates will be declared winners of the abovementioned high profile research programme and will be employed by the university without interview or competitive examination according to the procedure pursuant to art. 1, paragraph 9, of the Law of 4 November 2005, no. 230 as amended by art. 29, paragraph 7, of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240.

In cases of non acceptance of contract by a winner, the classification can be applied in order of merit within the 12 months following the publication of the same at the Ministerial web site. The Ministry will also provide financing for the cost considered admissible for the execution of the research programme, which must not include costs resulting from the utilization of external personnel.

The contract agreed with the university regulates the exclusive full time employment of the researcher at the university pursuant to the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240 as noted in the recitals.

#### **ART. 5**

The Ministry, following agreement of a contract, will provide for the transfer to the university of the entire sum agreed for the execution of the research activity and for the payment of the all-inclusive compensation to the researcher involved, determined as 120 percent of the initial rate of compensation payable to a confirmed full time researcher, pursuant to art. 24, paragraph 8, of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240. In cases of advance resolution of contract, the Ministry will act to recover the residual remaining funds from the ordinary financial funds of the university.

#### **ART. 6**

No later than 90 days from the termination of each year of the duration of the contract the researcher will present, to the university department at which they conduct their research activity, a detailed report on the research conducted during the period of reference, and a final report upon termination of the contract. The abovementioned final report, together with the opinion expressed by the department, will be forwarded to the Ministry within 30

days. At the end of the contract the department are also required to present the Ministry with the financial summary of the project.

Furthermore, pursuant to the provisions of art. 24, paragraph 5, of the Law of 30 December 2010, no. 240, regarding the resources available for programming, the university will assess whether the contract holder has achieved scientific approval pursuant to article 16 of Law 240 of 2010, for the purposes of nomination as associate professor pursuant to article 18, paragraph 1, letter e), of the same Law. In cases of a positive assessment, the contract holder, upon termination of the contract, may be employed as an associate professor. The assessment will be conducted in compliance with internationally acknowledged quality standards identified in a specific university regulation in line with criteria stipulated by Ministerial decree.

#### **ART.7**

No financial burdens are foreseen against the forecast budget of the Ministry of Education and Research in relation to the operation of the Committee as per art. 4.

The present Decree will be forwarded to the National Audit Office for registration and publication in the Official Gazette.

Rome, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Index no. 539

THE MINISTER  
Francesco Profumo