Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale

Ambasciata d'Italia L'Aja

"Italian Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Award"

Purpose

The Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI) established in 2017 the *"Italian Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Award"* to recognize the work of an Italian scientist who has remarkably contributed to the advancement of science and technology (S&T) while performing his/her research abroad, thus improving Italy's S&T relations with foreign countries and International Organizations. All fields of science and technology are included under this award.

The Award is intended to strengthen scientific cooperation by funding the research stay, for a period of three months, at an Italian research institution, on the basis of a collaborative research project in the thematic area specified in the application.

The Award is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MAECI). The financial contribution shall be disbursed to the researcher through the host research institution.

The Award consists of a grant of approximately **EUR 15,000**, intended to cover all expenses incurred during the research residency at the designated Research Centre, including accommodation, meals, and any laboratory-related costs. Round-trip airfare and insurance costs are excluded from the grant and will be covered by Office XI of the Directorate General for Growth and Promotion of Export (DGCE) of the MAECI.

The host institution shall be designated by the Conference of Presidents of Italian Public Research Institutions (Consulta dei Presidenti degli Enti Pubblici di Ricerca – CoPer), taking into account the preference indicated by the awardee in the motivation letter submitted with the application.

Eligibility requirements

- The *"Italian Bilateral Scientific Cooperation Award"* is assigned to an Italian scientist presently active in The Netherlands, for his/her outstanding contribution to the advancement of bilateral scientific cooperation in any field of science and technology.
- The nominees should be a resident of the country where they are nominated for the award at least since January 1st, 2021.
- The nomination should be submitted by an eminent scientist who is holding a leading position in a Scientific Academy, University, Research Institute or S&T Department of the Government of the **country** in which the nominee is working. Self-nominations are not

eligible, nor are nominations from immediate family members. Teams are not eligible for the nomination. Qualified nominators may be:

- ➢ Heads of University or Scientific Institutions
- ➢ Members of Academies of Science
- ➢ Holders of Research Chairs
- ➢ Full professors

- The nominee should be an independent scientist with 3-7 years of experience since completion of their PhD degree, holding a very good scientific track record and carrying out top level research activities in collaboration with foreign scientists active in the Country where they live and work. Research activities within multilateral organizations are also eligible.
- Age limit: up to 40 years of age at the time of publication of this notice

Evaluation Criteria and Selection Procedures

Nominees will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific impact of the work presented;
- Relevance of the nominee's work for Italian S&T cooperation with The Netherlands;
- Nominee's capacity to keep contacts with the Italian scientific community and corresponding potential for significant, long-term international collaboration;
- Promotion of young researchers' mobility to and from Italy as a mean to foster the establishment of bilateral research teams;
- Nominee's contribution to creative/innovative collaboration models;

The Award Committee, chaired by the Head of Office XI of the Directorate General for Growth and Export Promotion at MAECI, will be composed by representatives of the Conference of Presidents of Italian Public Research Institutions (Consulta dei Presidenti degli Enti Pubblici di Ricerca – CoPer);

Disbursement of the Financial Contribution

The arrangements for the disbursement of the financial grant shall be governed by a separate agreement between the MAECI and the host Research Institution. The award recipient is required to submit a Letter of commitment addressed to the host university or public research institution, indicating the period of the research stay, which shall not be less than three months.

How to Apply

The Call for Nominations will be published on the websites of the Italian Embassy in The Hague (Ambasciata d'Italia L'Aja – Sito Ufficiale Ambasciata d'Italia L'Aja). Any scientist and scientific institution willing to present a nomination may submit the form-herewith enclosed, duly completed, to the following email address: scienza.denhaag@esteri.it .