



AstroFit2
ASTRONOMY FELLOWSHIPS IN ITALY 2

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS
2nd Call



AstroFit2 has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 664931 and from the National Institute for Astrophysics.



Disclaimer: this Guide has no legal value in itself and does not supersede the AstroFit2 Call for Proposals.

HOW TO APPLY

Eligibility Criteria

At the time of the deadline for submission of proposals, applicants shall fulfil the following requirements, on pain of exclusion, in order to participate to the selection:

a1) shall have a PhD degree, plus a maximum of eight (8) years of full-time post-PhD research experience;

or, in the case of lack of PhD degree,

a2) shall have a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of twelve (12) years of full-time equivalent research experience (including the period of research training), acquired after the degree formally necessary for the admission to a doctorate in the country where the degree was obtained or in the country where the fellowship is taking place;

b) shall be researchers who have not resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Italy for more than twelve (12) months in the three (3) years immediately prior to the call deadline (short stays, e.g.: holidays, are not taken into account).

Collaborations and research activities with non Italian institutions/universities cannot be taken into consideration as eligibility requirement if the applicant has not resided outside Italy for at least twenty four (24) months in the three (3) years immediately prior to the call deadline.

The Board of the Programme may request to the awarded fellows to provide documents in order to verify the accuracy of the declarations on requirements.

Scientific areas

Each applicant shall propose a research project related with one (or more in case of interdisciplinary projects) of the following scientific research areas:

- 1) Galaxies and Cosmology
- 2) Stars, Stellar Populations and Interstellar medium
- 3) Sun and Solar System
- 4) Relativistic and Particle Astrophysics
- 5) Advanced Technology and Instruments;
- 6) any other astrophysics subject (e.g.: exoplanets, astrobiology, etc.), relevant for INAF scientific activities.



INAF Research Structures:

Applicants shall choose the most suitable INAF Research Centre (Hosting Structure) for carrying out their proposed research project (to be chosen in the application):

1. Istituto di Astrofisica e Planetologia Spaziali (Roma)
2. Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Bologna
3. Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Milano
4. Istituto di Astrofisica Spaziale e Fisica Cosmica di Palermo
5. Istituto di Radioastronomia - Bologna
6. Osservatorio Astrofisico di Arcetri
7. Osservatorio Astrofisico di Catania
8. Osservatorio Astrofisico di Torino
9. Osservatorio Astronomico di Bologna
10. Osservatorio Astronomico di Brera
11. Osservatorio Astronomico di Cagliari
12. Osservatorio Astronomico di Capodimonte
13. Osservatorio Astronomico di Padova
14. Osservatorio Astronomico di Palermo
15. Osservatorio Astronomico di Roma
16. Osservatorio Astronomico di Teramo
17. Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste

If required, the fellows can conduct their research in more than one INAF Research Centre. This option can be foreseen in the application or be agreed between fellow and supervisor during the preparation of the career development plan.

The applicant may indicate a scientific staff member of the Hosting Structure as contact point and supervisor of their project. In the absence of such indication, the successfully awarded fellows will meet the Director of the Hosting Structure to jointly identify a supervisor. In any case the indication of the supervisor will not have any impact on the evaluation.

The application

The Application shall be written in English, dated, signed, and submitted as one compressed (e.g.: zipped) file, to be uploaded by means of the *AstroFit2* website (www.astrofit2.inaf.it), and shall include the following documents:

- *Application Form*, compiled in all its sections, using the template;
- copy of a valid identity document (ID card or Passport);
- *Letter of Commitment* signed by the Director of the selected INAF Research Centre, that will ensure the appropriate conditions (office, laboratory space, equipment etc) for the correct development of the proposed project, together with the necessary administrative support using the template;



The *Application* shall be integrated by at least two *Letters of Reference*, dated and signed and e-mailed to astrofit@inaf.it, before the deadline, by experts in the scientific areas of the Call. The subject of the email shall contain the name of the applicant.

Letters of Reference without signature or delivered after the deadline will not be considered and no acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the sender.

Templates of *Application Form* and *Letter of Commitment* are available on the *AstroFit2* website (www.astrofit2.inaf.it).

Instructions for drafting the research project

The maximum length of part B1 is 4 pages.

The maximum length of part B2 is 4 pages.

The minimum font size allowed is 11pt with single line spacing. The page size is A4, and all margins should be at least 15mm (not including any headers or footers).

Applications must be submitted online before the deadline. The applicant shall not be allowed to send it by email. **Late submissions will not be considered.**

Please make sure that:

- you use the correct template to prepare your proposal available at www.astrofit2.inaf.it;
- you respect the maximum number of pages. INAF reserves the right to disregard parts of a proposal that exceed the maximum lengths above specified;
- your proposal is complete and contains all the above mentioned documents .

Communications

After the deadline, INAF will perform the eligibility check. Proposals not meeting the requirements (see Art. 2 of the Call for proposals) will not undergo evaluation. The rejection due to ineligibility will be promptly communicated to the applicants, explaining the reasons.

The applicant can submit a request for redress within 20 days from the receipt of the communication. The redress procedure will look into procedural shortcomings and/or factual errors.

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 changes to these details.

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions are available on the Programme website at www.astrofit2.inaf.it. For any inquiries please contact the help desk astrofit_info@inaf.it.