Rectoral Decree
Human Resources and Organization Office

Translation of Announcement for 1 research position at the System Science Area

Decree 19709(366)VII.1.29.09.2026

The following text is an unofficial English translation of the original Italian Call, provided to facilitate reading by international applicants. IMT School assumes no responsibility for the accuracy of this translation. In the event of any discrepancy between the English translation and the Italian original, the Italian version shall prevail.

THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD TO Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, and to Art. 22 in particular, as amended by Law No. 79 of 29 June 2002 and subsequent amendment and additions;

HAVING REGARD TO IMT School Regulation for the award of research contracts pursuant to Art. 22 of L 30 .12.2010, no. 240, as amended by L. 29.06.2022 no. 79, issued by Rectorial Decree No. 5361.31.03.25 of 31.03.2025;

HAVING REGARD TO Legislative Decree No. 198 of 11 April 2006 on equal opportunities between women and men;

HAVING REGARD TO Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of personal data;

HAVING REGARD TO Article 22 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, "Provisions concerning the organization of universities, academic staff recruitment and employment, and the delegation of powers to the Government to promote the quality and efficiency of the university system";

HAVING REGARD TO the Collective Agreement concerning the contractual sequence governing Research Contracts pursuant to Article 22 of Law No. 240/2010 (Article 178) of the National Collective Labour Agreement (CCNL) of 18 January 2024);

HAVING REGARD to the project "COmputational Model Predictive and Adaptive Control Tools" – COMPACT, GA n. 101141351 – ERC Advanced Grant Call for Proposals, for which Professor Alberto Bemporad serves as Principal Investigator;

HAVING REGARD TO the appropriation allocated under budget heading CA.04.43.08.04 – Expenditure for Fixed-Term Researchers in the budget of the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca;

DECREES

Article 1 – Subject of the Procedure

A comparative evaluation procedure is hereby announced for the award of one Postdoctoral Fellow position under a research contract pursuant to Article 22 of Law No. 240/2010, with the following specifications:

Title position	Methods for control and optimization of dynamical systems
Scientific Disciplinary Group	09/IINF-04 - Automatic Control
Scientific Disciplinary Sector	IINF-04/A - Automatic Control
Contract Duration	24 months
Annual gross amount	€ 40.990,00
Maximum Number of Publications to be Submitted for Evaluation	5
Profile of the Researcher to be Recruited	A highly motivated and talented individual to join our team as a Postdoctoral Researcher. The successful candidate should hold a PhD in a field related to control systems, numerical optimization, model-predictive control, optimal control, learning-based control, robot control, or system identification. The candidate must have a proven track record of research excellence demonstrated by publications in top-tier journals and conferences, and the ability to work independently and as part of a team.
Description of the Research Project and Specific Duties Assigned to the Holder of the Postdoctoral Research Contract	Carry out research activities within the scope of the ERC Advanced Grant "COMPACT" (COmputational Model Predictive and Adaptive Control Tools) on one of the following topics: numerical optimization methods for controlling multi-agent systems, possibly in a game-theoretic setting; learning-based, explicit, and semi-explicit MPC algorithms for fast online controller evaluation and light MPC adaptation schemes, validating the research results on an experimental multi-arm robotic platform.
Funding Source	ERC Advanced Grant "COMPACT" COmputational Model Predictive and Adaptive Control Tools – prof. Alberto Bemporad (CUP:D63C24000740006; Codice UGOV: P0350)

Article 2 – Eligibility requirements for participation

Applicants eligible to participate in the selection process include candidates, whether Italian or foreign nationals, who, by the deadline for submission of applications, hold a PhD degree or an equivalent qualification obtained abroad and recognised as equivalent solely for the purpose of awarding the contract by the Selection Committee, or, in relevant fields, a medical specialization degree.

Candidates who are enrolled in the third year of a PhD programme or in the final year of a medical specialization programme are also eligible to apply, provided that the completion of the degree is expected within **six months** following the date of publication of the selection notice on the official noticeboard of the School.

Applicants not eligible to participate in the procedures governed by Regulation include:

a) individuals who have a relationship of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with a member of the School's academic staff, with the Director or the General Manager, or with a member of the Board of Directors of the School;

b) individuals who have already been employed on an open-ended (permanent) basis as full professors or associate professors, or as researchers at Italian universities, even if they have since left service;

c) individuals who have a relationship of kinship or affinity up to and including the fourth degree with the President, Chief Executive Officer, majority shareholder, or equivalent figures of the company or entity financing the advertised position.

d) permanent staff members (employed on an indefinite contract) of universities, public research institutions, and institutions whose advanced scientific diploma has been recognised as equivalent to a PhD pursuant to Art. 74, paragraph 4, of Presidential Decree No. 382 of 11 July 1980;

e) individuals who have held fixed-term Researcher positions (RTT) pursuant to Article 24 of Law No. 240 of 2010, as amended by Decree-Law No. 36/2022, converted into Law No. 79/2022.

Incompatibility of the research contract:

1) enrolment in Bachelor's degree programmes, Master's degree programmes (Laurea Magistrale or Specialistica), PhD programmes, or medical specialization schools, in Italy or abroad, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 7 of the Regulations for the awarding of research contracts pursuant to Article 22 of Law 240/2010;

2) scholarships or research grants awarded for any purpose by national or foreign institutions, except those exclusively intended for international mobility for research purposes;

3) holding research fellowships, including those at other universities or public research institutions;

4) any other employment relationship, whether full-time or part-time, fixed-term or permanent, with public or private employers;

5) any other activities prohibited by law or by other regulatory provisions, or activities that may conflict with the institutional activities of the University.

The holder of a research contract who is employed within public administrations must be placed on unpaid leave by their employing administration for the entire duration of the research collaboration, starting from the date of commencement of activities.

The total duration of employment relationships established under Article 22 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, as amended by Law No. 79/2022, including any extensions or renewals, may not exceed five years, excluding periods of leave for maternity or health reasons in accordance with current legislation.

For the purposes of the selection procedure, equivalence of academic qualifications and/or high scientific-professional qualification is preliminarily assessed by the Selection Committee. Mandatory requirements for admission must be met by the application deadline, under penalty of exclusion.

Article 3 – Application

he application must be submitted within a mandatory deadline, **before Thursday, October 29th 2026 by 1:00 p.m.** (Italian time) (01:00 p.m. Central European Time, CET).

The application for participation in the selection procedure must be completed and submitted exclusively through the online procedure (PICA platform) available on the IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca website at the following address: https://www.imtlucca.it/it/scuola-imt/opportunita-lavoro/Post%20Doctoral%20Fellow.

No alternative submission methods are allowed for the application.

Upon successful submission, an email confirmation is automatically generated, including, among other details, the application identification number. This email will be sent to the address provided by the candidate in the application form. Such message serves as proof of the submission date.

In the event that the confirmation email is not received, it is the candidate's responsibility to contact the Human Resources and Organization Office directly, via the email address indicated in the present call, in order to verify the reasons why the application was not properly registered.

Any changes to the information provided in the application must be promptly communicated to the Human Resources and Organization Office at the following email address: researchers.opening@imtlucca.it.

The following documents must be attached to the application, under penalty of exclusion:

- a valid identity document;
- a curriculum vitae in English, providing a comprehensive account of professional experience and scientific activities;
- a research proposal outlining how the candidate intends to develop their research activities at the IMT School.

Candidates may also attach publications, up to the maximum number specified in Article 1.

Applicants with disabilities are entitled to request necessary support measures related to their condition, as well as any additional time required for the selection procedures, pursuant to Law No. 104 of 5 February 1992.

The School assumes no responsibility for the unavailability of the recipient, nor for the loss of communications due to incorrect contact details provided by the candidate, or failure or delay in notifying changes to the address indicated in the application, nor for any postal, telegraphic, or IT issues not attributable to the Administration.

Article 4 – Selection Committee

The Selection Committee shall be appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations governing the award of research contracts pursuant to Article 22 of Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010, as referred to in the recitals of this Decree.

Article 5 – Evaluation criteria

In its first meeting and prior to proceeding with the assessment of applications, the Selection Committee shall define the score allocation for each evaluation criterion:

- quality, originality, and innovativeness of the research proposal, with reference to the research programme subject to the selection procedure;
- relevance and pertinence of the candidate's previous research activities, as well as any professional experience, in relation to the contents of the research programme subject to the selection procedure;
- relevance of the submitted publications to the research programme subject to the selection procedure;
- interview aimed at assessing the candidate's suitability to carry out the research activities covered by the contract and to implement the submitted research proposal, as well as to evaluate the candidate's knowledge of the English language and/or other languages relevant to the research.

Article 6 – Evaluation of Applications

The Selection Committee shall carry out a comparative evaluation of the applicants by expressing a reasoned and detailed assessment of their qualifications, curriculum vitae, scientific output, and research project.

Following the comparative evaluation referred to in the preceding paragraph, the Selection Committee shall admit to the interview stage those applicants whose profiles are deemed consistent with the requirements set out in the present Call.

The list of applicants admitted to the interview stage shall be published on the School's website.

Article 7 – Interviews

The interview is intended to assess the candidate's suitability to carry out the research activities covered by the contract and to implement the proposed research project, as well as to evaluate the candidate's proficiency in English and any other languages required by the profile.

All details regarding the schedule and procedures for the interviews will be published on the School's website.

Following the interviews, the Selection Committee shall compare the results of the individual assessments and identify the successful candidate. The Committee shall also draw up a ranking list based on the scores awarded.

Article 8 – Approval of the Proceedings and Publication of Results

The proceedings shall consist of the minutes of each meeting of the Selection Committee. The Rector shall approve the proceedings and, by Rector's Decree, adopt the final ranking list, which shall be published on the School's Online Notice Board, without prejudice to any additional forms of publication required by law.

Article 9 – Execution of the Contract

The successful candidate shall be appointed through the execution of a fixed-term, full-time employment contract. The contract shall be drawn up in writing and signed by both the Rector and the contract holder.

The research contract shall be entered into exclusively for the purpose of carrying out the research activities specified in the annexes to this Call for Applications.

The contract shall specify the duties associated with the position, the rights and obligations of the contract holder, and the remuneration to which the contract holder is entitled. Tax, welfare, and social security matters shall be governed by the provisions applicable to income derived from subordinate employment relationships.

The research contract shall not give rise to any entitlement to access permanent academic or staff positions.

Article 10 – Processing of Personal Data

The statements, facts and personal qualifications self-certified by the successful candidates shall be subject to appropriate verification by the School, including random checks, to ascertain their accuracy and truthfulness.

Pursuant to Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR) and Legislative Decree No. 196 of 30 June 2003, as amended by Legislative Decree No. 101 of 10 August 2018, the School undertakes to ensure the confidentiality of the information provided by applicants. All personal data supplied shall be processed exclusively for purposes related and instrumental to the selection procedure and any subsequent recruitment, in compliance with the applicable legal provisions.

Article 11 - Officer Responsible for the Procedure

The Officer responsible for the procedure referred to in this Call is Dr Lara Bertoncini of the Human Resources and Organization Office, located at Piazza San Ponziano 6, 55100 Lucca, Italy (telephone: +39 0583 4326704 – fax: +39 0583 4326565 – e-mail: researchers.opening@imtlucca.it).

Article 12 – Final Provisions

For any matter not expressly provided for in this Call, the provisions of the legislation and regulations referred to in the recitals of this Decree shall apply, insofar as they are applicable. The Italian version of this Call is published on the School's Online Notice Board.

The English version of this Call, prepared solely for information and dissemination purposes, is published on the School's website in the dedicated section and on international websites promoting career development opportunities for doctoral graduates and researcher mobility.

Lorenzo Casini
Rector
IMT School for Advanced Studies Lucca