THE RECTOR

HAVING REGARD to the participation of the Politecnico di Milano in the IDEA League network;

HAVING REGARD to the *Fellowship Exchange Program* proposed by IDEA League to strengthen the collaboration between researchers from partner universities;

HAVING VERIFIED the availability of financial resources

HEREBY ORDERS:

the issuing of this Call for Applications for Research Funds for visiting periods at IDEA League partner universities.

Art. 1 - Recipients
Applications are open to all faculty members and researchers employed at Politecnico di Milano as of the application deadline, who have obtained a PhD (or equivalent) on or after January 1, 2018, and who have not received the same funding under the IDEA League Fellowship Program 2023 e 2024.

Art. 2 - Project Description
This Call is issued for awarding research grants to invest in building strong IDEA League research collaborations through research exchanges between researchers at IDEA League partner institutions.

Funding is aimed at researchers from universities in the IDEA League network who intend to spend research periods in other IDEA League partner universities.

Each university manages the grants awarded to its researchers autonomously, by identifying the necessary resources and defining the internal processes for resource allocation.

All faculty members and researchers of the Politecnico di Milano who have obtained a PhD (or equivalent) no earlier than 2018 are eligible to apply for this call. In the case of fixed-term researchers, the duration of their contract with the Politecnico di Milano must cover the entire proposed visiting period. The latest date for obtaining the PhD can be extended by the duration of justified absences for appropriately documented reasons such as illness, injury, parental leave,

and inactivity due to serious family reasons. In the case of mandatory maternity leave, the eligibility period can be extended by 18 months for each child born after the PhD was obtained and within seven years prior to the call's date.

The funding is maximum EUR 5,000 per month, for visiting periods that meet the following requirements:

➤ the overall duration of the visiting periods must be <u>between 3 and 6 months</u>;
➤ visiting periods must take place <u>between 15th October 2025 and 15th September 2026</u>;
➤ visiting periods can be split into multiple research periods to be spent at IDEA League partner universities, with the condition that <u>visiting period at each partner university, even if spread over several intervals, must have a minimum duration of one month</u>;
➤ researchers applying for a visiting period of less than 6 months may participate in future editions of this Call up to a maximum of 6 months of supported visiting activity.

The total amount the Politecnico can allocate for the grants that are the object of this Call is EUR 150,000.

For more information see https://idealeague.org/academicstaff-2/fellowships/.

Art. 3 – Submission of Applications

Applicants must define a research project and involve in it the most suitable partner, possibly linking the project to contacts and collaborations involving the use of research laboratories and infrastructures and/or other young IDEA League researchers who can benefit from similar funding at their universities.

The application for participation in the selection must be sent exclusively by filling in the form **https://forms.office.com/e/9z2YQiv8tk**, a facsimile of which is annexed to this Call for Applications (Annex 1), together with a template of the project description (Annex 2).
All applications must be completed and sent, under penalty of inadmissibility, **by noon (Italian time) of Monday, 5th September 2025.**

In submitting the application, the applicant must provide the following information for evaluation:
• curriculum vitae and list of publications;
• research project (brief description), with particular reference to the added value provided by the proposed collaboration. Applicants subject to reporting constraints must specify the compatibility of the research topics proposed for their visiting period and the funding project;
• description of visiting periods;
• motivation letter;

- letter or e-mail of acceptance/invitation from the host professor of the IDEA League partner, with explicit reference to the shared research project/interest.

The personal data requested will be processed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679
The applicant, before completing the application, must confirm that he/she has read the policy relating to the processing of personal data for administrative processes which can be found on the Politecnico's website: https://www.polimi.it/en/privacy.
The applicant is also required to consent to the processing of his/her data aimed at checking whether he/she can apply for this Call and aimed at the Selection Board to carry out the selection process.

The Selection Board responsible for evaluating applications shall be appointed by Rectoral Decree. The Selection Board shall draw up a merit ranking based on the evaluation criteria defined jointly with colleagues from the IDEA League partner universities. The Selection Board shall allocate research funds up to the possible exhaustion of the total available budget. The following elements of merit will be considered in the selection:

- priority will be given to applications whose research projects and visiting plans involve at least three IDEA League partner universities (Politecnico di Milano and at least two hosting institutions);
- collaboration with researchers from the hosting universities, requesting equivalent funding from their universities to visit the Politecnico di Milano;
- use, for the research project, of laboratories or research facilities located at the hosting universities;
- interdisciplinarity of the proposed research project.

In the case of equal merit, the Selection Board shall prefer the best gender distribution, the greatest thematic distribution of the funded research projects, and finally, applicants who have obtained their PhD degree most recently.
The Selection Board also reserves the right not to allocate all available funds.

Art. 4 – Grant acceptance and research fund management

The selected candidates will be informed **starting from Tuesday 16th September 2025**, and a formal acceptance of the grant will be required. The assigned research grant can be used to cover the following expenses: missions to IDEA League partner institutions; purchase of materials needed for funded research to be used in the collaboration; expenses supporting publications resulting from the funded joint research, with the expense share inversely proportional to the number of authors; expenses to cover registration fees for conferences organized at the host university, incurred during the program period (i.e., by September 15, 2026).

Any changes to the visiting program declared in the application must be motivated and communicated to the Politecnico di Milano Research Office. Failure to approve the requested changes will result in a cut in the research fund equal to the funding for the months not covered as stated in the application. Should the researcher fail to meet the above conditions, or should the research period abroad be cancelled for unforeseen reasons, or should the visiting period end earlier than originally planned, the researcher will only be able to count on the corresponding part of the fund granted.

Researchers participating in the programme may be mentioned on the IDEA website and on the Politecnico di Milano media channels for promotional activities, and therefore, by participating they automatically consent to the processing of their data for promotional purposes. The monitoring of the initiative will include verification of the existence of joint publications / research products related to the supported collaboration and/or the emergence of joint initiatives (organisation of workshops / participation in calls for applications).

THE RECTOR
Prof. Donatella Sciuto

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IDEA League Fellowship Program - Annex 1

Fac-simile of the application form, to be accessed at the link
https://forms.office.com/e/9z2YQiv8tk

IDEA League Fellowship Program
Form to submit an application for the IDEA League Fellowship program, supporting visiting periods in IDEA League partner institutions.
Deadline for submission: noon (Italian time), Friday 5th September 2025

1. Applicant: (Name Surname)

2. POLIMI Department:

3. Position: [RTD-a, RTD-b, RTT, PA, other]

4. Academic discipline sector (SSD, settore scientifico-disciplinare): …………………..

5. Research Field (Keywords): …………………..

6. Visiting period(s) I plan: …………………..

7. Upload CV & Publication List (max 1 file, 10 MB)

8. Upload Research Project (brief description, 1 file, max 3 pages, 10 MB).
    Please highlight the added value provided by the proposed collaboration.
    Candidates subject to reporting constraints must explicitly specify the compatibility of the proposed research with the funding project.
    A template for the description can be downloaded from the following link (*see Annex 2*)

9. Upload Motivation Letter (1 file, max 10MB)

10. Upload acceptance letter / email from each hosting partner (explicit reference must be made to the proposed research) (max 4 files, 10MB each)

11. The personal data requested will be processed in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679.
    I declare I have read the information relating to the processing of personal data in administrative processes, which can be consulted on the University website:
    https://www.polimi.it/en/privacy
    I express consent to the processing of data aimed at verifying the call requirements and the completion of the related selection procedure by the admission commission: Yes/No

**IDEA League Fellowships 2025/2026 – Template of the research proposal
(Maximum length: 3 pages, 11pt font, to be uploaded by noon on 05.09.2025 when submitting the application form)**

Candidate: [Name / Surname]
Position: [RTDa / RTDb / RTT / PA / other]
Academic discipline sector (*SSD*): …………………..
Department: …………………..

Host information
Hosting faculty member: …………………..
Department: …………………..
Institution: …………………..

Visiting plan (schedule): …………………..

Research title: …………………..

Objectives and motivation of the proposed research
…………………..

Methods and techniques used in the research
…………………..

Added value of the collaboration
…………………..

Shared research infrastructure (if any) in the host institution:
…………………..

Expected output of the collaboration (e.g. joint papers; joint proposals; joint PhDs, …)
…………………..