



## “Young researchers” – 2024 FAQ

### 1- What is the area of intervention of Cariplo Foundation?

The areas of intervention are the Lombardy Region and the provinces of Novara and Verbano Cusio Ossola.

### 2- Where can I find the accompanying letter for projects submitted in response to Phase I, and the partnership agreement?

The documents are available in the "Calls" section of Fondazione Cariplo's website. The documents are available in PDF version, and should be filled in the missing parts without editing the original text.

### 3- Who should submit the Accompanying Letter?

The Accompanying Letter should only be submitted by the Leading Institution of the project.

### 4- Can the Accompanying Letter be digitally signed? When is the digital signature considered valid?

It is possible to sign the accompanying letter digitally. To be valid, it must be possible to verify the authenticity (the identity of the signer), integrity (which guarantees its originality) and non-alteration of the signed documents. Therefore, after it has been affixed, the document should not be renamed nor merged, nor should its extension be modified.

### 5- Where can I find the Lol and the declaration regarding the non-profit status of the foreign partner?

The documents are available online on the platform in the "Attachments" section in word format. All documents must be uploaded in PDF format.

### 6- What is the deadline of the Call for proposals - Phase I?

- Life Sciences March 18, 2024
- Social Sciences and Humanities March 20, 2024
- Physical Sciences and Engineering March 22, 2024

Please note that the portal will not allow submission in case of:

- incompleteness of the project forms
- incompleteness of master data and attachments (Leading Institution and partners).

### 7- What are the eligibility criteria concerning the achievement of the PhD degree?

The PI of the Leading Institution are eligible if they received their PhD degree between:

- March 18, 2022 and March 18, 2024 for the Life Sciences area
  - March 20, 2022 and March 20, 2024 for the Social Sciences and Humanities area
  - March 22, 2022 and March 22, 2024 for the Physical Sciences and Engineering field
- except for the extensions made explicit in the text of the announcement.

### 8- Where is it necessary to mention "maternity, paternity and serious illness" in order to take advantage of extensions to the eligibility period?

Extensions must be indicated in two places:

- online forms
- project, under the "Career breaks" section.

### 9- What documents must be provided in case of maternity, paternity or serious illness in order to benefit from extensions to the period of eligibility?

The following documents must be provided. In case of:

- maternity --> birth certificate
- paternity --> official document certifying the period of leave taken for each child born before or after qualification
- serious illness -> official document certifying the period of illness taken after the title was obtained

### 10- In relation to the attainment of the doctoral degree, what document should be attached?

It is sufficient to attach a letter issued by the university stating the date of discussion of the doctoral thesis. A stamped certificate is not necessary. Alternatively, a copy of the parchment can be attached.

### 11- Is there an upper age limit for the scientific head of the Leading Institution?

No, there is no age limit for the scientific head of the Leading Institution.

**12- Does the doctoral degree time requirement set for the project holder apply only to the head of the Leading Institution or also to any heads of partner units?**

This requirement concerns only the scientific head of the Leading Institution.

**13- Can a researcher who received his or her PhD outside of Fondazione Cariplo's target territory apply to the call? Can foreign researchers also apply?**

The call is also open to young researchers who received their PhD degrees outside of FC's reference territory. There are no constraints on the nationality and origin of the applicant. However, it is necessary that the Leading Institution with which the PI is applying is located in the intervention territory of Fondazione Cariplo.

**14- Is the involvement of project partners mandatory? In the case of partnership projects, are there any constraints on the number of partners and the percentage of funding distribution?**

The involvement of project partners is not a mandatory requirement. In the case of partnership projects, there are no constraints on their number and funding distribution. Obviously, they must be entities eligible for the Foundation's contribution. In addition, it is important that the choices are well justified and functional for the implementation of the project itself.

**15- What is the difference between partners and external collaborators?**

The main difference is that partners receive a contribution, while external collaborators do not. Partners are expected to sign a formal partnership agreement. External collaborators are to be considered all those entities/persons with whom an informal collaboration will take place, that does not involve the allocation of a portion of the contribution.

**16- Can foreign entities be involved in the partnership?**

The project can be submitted in partnership with foreign entities. The Leading Institution must issue a declaration on the non-profit nature of the partner, using the appropriate forms available in the reserved area, "Attachments" section.

**17- How does the Phase I review process take place?**

In Phase I, FC's offices will examine the completeness of the documentation and eligibility of the applicant organizations (Leading Institution and partners). Only the most responsive LOIs to the content and purpose specified in the Call will be selected. Specifically, the reviewers will make a judgment that takes into account the scientific quality of the proposal and the young researcher's CV.

The identification of reviewers is based not only on their expertise in their respective fields of study, but also on their experience in evaluating research projects. Thus, scientists with a broad view on the state of the art of research in their field of interest and with proven experience as evaluators in the context of scientific research funding programs will be involved.

Following the review, the proposals deemed suitable will be invited to enter phase II.

**18- When should Phase II project be submitted?**

The timing will be communicated with the email of invitation to Phase II. Phase II documentation includes the submission of a detailed project proposal and the formulation of a budget.

**19- Are the reviewers' feedbacks expected to be sent at the conclusion of Phase I?**

All PIs, whether admitted or not to apply to Phase II, will be emailed the reviewers' feedback.

**20- What documents will reviewers have access to for review purposes?**

In Phase I, reviewers will be provided with the file named "CODE\_LOI\_Surname". The other documents uploaded to the portal will be only available to Fondazione Cariplo Offices.

**21- Are there any constraints regarding the duration of the project (minimum or maximum duration)?**

There are no constraints regarding the minimum project duration, while the maximum duration must not exceed 36 months.

Therefore, the duration must be chosen appropriately with respect to the objectives that the project aims to achieve.

**22- What information should be included in the "Environmental Impact" project section?**

In an effort to contain the environmental impacts of the initiatives supported, Fondazione Cariplo, consistent with its Mission and priority lines of intervention, requires to specify the specific actions to be taken during the course of the projects to comply with the principles of environmental sustainability. The sole purpose of the "Environmental Impact" section is to raise awareness towards the issue.

**23- What role will the mentor play? How to document his or her involvement in the project?**

The mentor's role is to encourage and guide the young researcher's personal and professional development through the sharing of knowledge, skills and experience. The relationship between the PI and his/her mentor will be based on mutual trust, respect, and communication, and will involve both parties meeting regularly in order to exchange ideas, discuss progress, and set goals for the development of the PI's research identity. The call for applications mandatorily requires, under penalty of exclusion, a statement signed by the mentor indicating his or her willingness to participate in the project and the rationale behind their participation. This statement, which is an integral part of the LOI, must also be compulsorily attached in the annexes section "Mentor's statement of availability."

**24- The Call encourages contamination between different disciplinary areas, methodologies or approaches. How to incorporate these directions into the proposal?**

Each applicant will have to incorporate these directions to increase the success rate of their research project, and with the intention of enhancing their knowledge. For instance, it will be possible to consider collaborations with researchers pertaining to other disciplinary areas or with different research approaches. In addition, it will also be possible to experiment with methodologies other than those used as part of the doctoral thesis.

**25- What is meant by the term Grey Literature?**

There are several definitions of grey literature. A widely cited definition of grey literature is "literature that is not available through normal book-selling channels. It consists of a wide range of materials, including reports, translations, theses, and official publications, and covers all subjects." (Wood, David N. "Management of Grey Literature. Management of Recorded Information: Converging Disciplines. Proceedings of the International Council on Archives' Symposium on Current Records, National Archives of Canada, Ottawa May 15-17, 1989, edited by Cynthia J. Durance, Berlin, Boston: K. G. Saur, 1990, pp. 61-68. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783111514598.61>). Gray literature, then, includes theses and dissertations, conference papers and proceedings, reports (such as white papers, working papers, internal documents), government documents, and more. Recent use of the term gray literature emphasizes that the latter "is produced at all levels of government agencies, academia, business and industry in print and electronic formats, but which is not controlled by commercial publishers" (Perspectives on the Design and Transfer of Scientific and Technical Information (1998), Third International Conference on Grey Literature, Luxembourg, November 13-14, 1997, TransAtlantic, Amsterdam, p. iii).

**26- Is it possible to involve Third Sector organizations within the project?**

Yes, it is. There are in fact two possibilities for involving them. If the Third Sector organization presents scientific research as one of its statutory purposes, it can participate as project partner. In all other cases, it is suggested that the participation of Third Sector organizations be valued under A07, professional services of third parties.

