



Open Access grants: call for applications for contributions to publish research articles of young researchers in open access, to strengthen their professional careers and enhance the research system of the University of Cagliari.

Disclaimer: This English translation of the original text in Italian is provided for information purposes only. In case of a discrepancy, the original Italian document will prevail

THE RECTOR

CONSIDERED	the University Statute issued by DR no. 1396 of 12/06/2012 and subsequent amendments, most recently by R.D. no. 305 of 28/03/2022;
CONSIDERED	the University Regulations for Administration, Finance and Accounting issued by Rector's Decree no. 634 of 13/04/2015 and in particular Article 62, entitled 'Public contracts for works, services and supplies';
CONSIDERED	the D.D.G. No. 246/2023 of 28/12/2023, that appoints Mr. Gaetano Meli, Manager of the Research and Territory Division
CONSIDERED	the D.D.G. no. /2023 of /12/2023, that appoints Mr. Marco Maxia Manager of the Quality management, library services and museum activities Division
CONSIDERED	the resolutions of the Academic Senate (DEL no. 94/2022S and DEL no. 01/2025S) and the Board of Directors (DEL no. 117/2022C and DEL no. 04/2025 C), approving the University's open access policies for scientific research
CONSIDERED	the resolutions of the Academic Senate (DEL no. 1062/24S and DEL no. 01/2025S) and the Board of Directors (DEL no. 142/24C and DEL no. 04/2025C) approving the University's Open Science policies aimed at promoting, supporting and disseminating open access to scientific research and open science
CONSIDERED	the new Charter for Researchers contained in the European Council Recommendation C/2023/1640, which replaces Commission Recommendation 2005/251/EC with updated principles with respect to the policies of the European Research Area;



CONSIDERED	the European Commission document TOWARDS A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH CAREERS describing the European career framework for researchers
CONSIDERED	That the University of Cagliari, in 2024, was awarded the HR Excellence in Research label by the European Commission
CONSIDERED	That the HR process aims at improving the research environment, especially for the early-stage researchers, supporting them with resources for the promotion of open access to scientific publications
CONSIDERED	The resolution of the Board of Directors of 18/12/2025 (DEL. 257/25C) approving the University's budget consisting of the 2026 economic and investment budget and the 2026-2028 multi-year economic and investment budget
CONSIDERED	The 2026 budget allocation of EUR 70,000.00 to open access charges for the publication of articles, chapters, data, books (APC, article processing charges)

DECREE

Article 1 (Premises and aims)

Given the University's commitment to strategic quality policies to support the competitiveness of its researchers, from the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research process, and from the adoption of the 'open science' approach, to make research more visible and competitive and as a supporting tool for Responsible Research and Innovation.

The action, included in HRS4R framework, to pursue the strategy of UniCA for COARA, aims at providing support to researchers as defined in the following Art.2 of this notice.

The notice is in line with the following strategic objectives of the University:

- to support its researchers, to counteract the 'brain drain' by investing in young talents;
- to support professional career development in research;
- to promote actions to attract new researchers;



- to promote the Open Science approach and in particular the publication of quality scientific articles at international level in Open Access by researchers, through financial support;
- to promote the development of scientific and technical culture and research, as well as granting academic freedom and transparency towards citizens;
- to strengthen the dissemination of scientific research on a national and international scale by making research products accessible (open);
- to strengthen interdisciplinary research and the transfer of knowledge to the entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Article 2 (Purpose of the notice)

The notice consists in a financial support for publishing in pure (or gold) open access, in Italian and foreign publishers, scientific contributions by eligible subjects.

The maximum amount awarded per individual researcher to cover costs shall not exceed €2,500.00 (VAT included) for the year 2026.

Article 3 (Eligible subjects)

Researchers, as defined by the [European Charter for Researchers](#) and by the document [TOWARDS A EUROPEAN FRAMEWORK FOR RESEARCH CAREERS](#), type R1 (PhD students, resident students, non-medical specialization school students, research assignments), R2 (postdoctoral fellows, research fellows, research contract, post-doc assignments) and R3 (RTdA, RTdB, RTT researchers) who are affiliated to the University of Cagliari at the time of submission of the contribution to the publisher, are eligible to apply for funding. If the alphabetical criterion is not used when listing the authors of the publication, it is explicitly requested that the young researcher is the first, last or 'corresponding author'.

All researchers (R1, R2, R3) funded by projects that include an obligation to publish in open access and have dedicated financial resources for open access are excluded.



Article 4 (Financial allocation)

The financial resources of the University's 2026 budget are €70,000.00.

Article 5 (Eligible scientific contributions)

The notice will cover the costs of APCs (Article processing charges) in scientific journals indexed in the [Directory of Open Access Journals](#) (DOAJ) or, if recent and not yet included, meeting the [DOAJ criteria](#), so as to avoid the risk of publication in 'predatory journals'. BPC (Book processing charges) in academic monographs that meet [DOAB criteria](#) will be covered.

Coverage of other expenses (including, but not limited to color charges, editing, extra pages, overlength, submission fees, proofreading, translation, etc.) will not be allowed.

Funding will be granted for publications that do not benefit from other financial support, direct or indirect, covering the full cost of publication.

Publications must meet the following criteria:

- be unpublished;
- adopt and respect open licenses allowing free access and re-use (preferably the [CC-BY license](#));
- be published in an appropriate standard format;
- include, in the published version (VoR, Version of record), an acknowledgment of the present notice (e.g. 'The authors acknowledge support from the University of Cagliari under Open Access funding call for the publication of this work');
- the metadata and the full text must be archived in open access, upon publication, in the [UniCA IRIS](#) institutional archive.

When submitting the contribution to the publisher it will be mandatory to indicate the institutional e-mail address and, as first affiliation, the University of Cagliari. When the publisher allows it, it will be necessary to indicate one's [ORCID](#).



It is recommended that the dataset used for publication be uploaded in an open repository certified as reliable, according to FAIR principles.¹

Publications that have been submitted starting from 01/01/2026, not yet accepted (i.e. under review) and that meet the above requirements, will be eligible for funding.

It is not possible to submit an application if the research product has not yet been submitted for publication or if it has already been accepted by the publisher for publication.

Article 6 (Application procedure)

Applications submitted for eligible contribution shall be met on a first-come, first-served basis, until the fund is exhausted.

The application must be submitted through the appropriate [form](#), immediately after the publication proposal has been sent to the publisher. Through the form, the applicant must certify that he/she meets all the requirements of this call for applications and provide the information necessary for the evaluation of the application.

If the eligibility requirements are met, the funding will be granted. If the requirements are not met, the application will be rejected. In both cases, the applicant will be notified within 15 working days.

Article 7 (Grant assignment)

The grant will be actually paid out upon receipt of the publisher's letter of acceptance, which should be sent to openaccess@unica.it. The applicant is responsible for contacting their Administrative Secretarial Offices and providing the publisher with billing and payment details. Information will be sent together with the grant approval.

In particular, the invoice must:

¹ It is possible to search for reliable and certified discipline repositories in Re3data <https://www.re3data.org>, otherwise [Zenodo](#), the CERN Geneva repository accessible to all, is available. We recommend using this tool to check whether your data meets the FAIR principles <https://ardc.edu.au/resource/fair-data-self-assessment-tool/>



- be made out to the University of Cagliari, Department XXX ref. name of the applicant for the grant;
- include the CIG requested by the Department;
- include the wording “funded by University of Cagliari under the call 'Open Access grants: call for applications for contributions to the open access publication 2026.”

The Research and Territory Division will transfer the allocated contribution to the Department of the requesting researcher; the Department will finalize the payment to the publisher, according to the following principles:

- If the pure (or gold) open access publication costs (APC, Article processing charges) are less than €2,500.00 (including VAT), the amount awarded to each applicant will cover the entire cost;
- If the pure (or gold) open access publication costs (APC, Article processing charges) exceed €2,500.00 (including VAT), the amount awarded to each applicant will be a maximum of €2,500.00 and the applicant will be responsible for covering the difference with other research funds.

Should the publisher refuse to publish the proposed manuscript, the applicant shall immediately inform the offices by emailing openaccess@unica.it, to release the funds previously allocated, for other requests. It will be possible to reapply for another grant, in accordance with the requirements and procedures indicated above.

The grant will be revoked if all obligations are not fulfilled.

Article 8 (Confidentiality of Information)

The University of Cagliari is the owner of the processing of personal data in accordance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 and the Code on the protection of personal data Legislative Decree 196/2003, respecting human dignity, rights and fundamental freedoms of the person. The information on data processing for the category of interested Employee is published on the website https://www.unica.it/unica/it/utility_privacy.page.

Article 9



(Officer responsible for the procedure)

The person in charge of the administrative procedure for this Notice is the Manager of the Research and Territory Division. Information may be requested at the following address: openaccess@unica.it

The 'Digital Library and System Services' Coordination Office will provide support in the analysis of publishing and quality control sites, as well as in the analysis of publishing contracts regarding copyright rights, if necessary.

**Article 10
(Publicity)**

This notice is published on the University's website.
This decree shall be submitted for ratification at the next available meeting of the Administrative Board.

Seen by the General Director
Aldo Urru

The Rector
Prof. Francesco Mola
Digitally signed