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Call for Applications:

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (UCSC), within the framework of the project **“Academic Collaboration through Higher International Education for a Viable and Equitable Africa with Italy (ACHIEVE-IT)”** – nell’ambito del Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR), Missione 4 “Istruzione e ricerca” – Componente 1 “Potenziamento dell’offerta dei servizi all’istruzione: dagli asili nido alle università” – Investimento 3.4 “Didattica e competenze universitarie avanzate” – Sottomisura T4 “Iniziativa Educative Transnazionali” - finanziato dall’Unione europea – NextGenerationEU CUP: D91I23001030006, announces **a second call for applications** for the selection of up to 15 researchers to participate in the following Winter School:

“Microbial fermentation as a strategy for enhancing food safety, nutrition and sustainable food security.” on 13th April 2026 to 14th April 2026 at HOTEL EMARA OLE SERENI, Nairobi (Kenya).

DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

The Winter School will take place over two full days (Monday 13th and Tuesday 14th April). The program will open on Monday morning by welcome speeches from representatives of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology and Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. Across both days, participants will attend a series of expert-led sessions covering key aspects of fermentation science, including technological approaches, microbial and metabolic dynamics, nutrition and health implications, and food safety and regulatory perspectives, with dedicated coffee and lunch breaks to encourage networking and informal discussion. The first day will also include a session for presentations, providing participants with the opportunity to share their ongoing or completed research. The Winter School will conclude on Tuesday afternoon with a round table discussion focusing on policy implications and future directions for microbial fermentation in support of food safety, nutrition, and sustainable food security.

TARGET AUDIENCE

This call is specifically addressed to researchers from universities who are interested in the topic of the Winter School. Priority will be given to researchers from African universities.

BENEFITS OF THE MOBILITY GRANT

Selected participants will benefit from:

- Opportunities to collaborate with international colleagues and participate in academic exchanges during the Winter School.





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- Understand microbial fermentation as a tool for food safety, improved nutrition, and sustainable food security
- Compare European and African fermentation contexts (technologies, challenges, and opportunities)
- Apply quantitative and qualitative approaches to assess fermentation-related hazards and benefits
- Recognize the role of microbial biodiversity/consortia in product safety, functionality, and sustainability
- Translate scientific knowledge into practical solutions and project proposals relevant to real food systems

FINANCIAL SUPPORT:

The Achieve-IT Project will cover the following costs related to international mobility:

- a) Travel expenses
- b) Accommodation
- c) Catering costs

The costs will be paid directly by the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at different times and according to different procedures depending on the respective Host University, in compliance with Italian law and the internal regulations of each Host University.

It's expressly prohibited the double funding of the above-mentioned mobility costs.

II. REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- Be members and/or researchers of the academic staff of a university.
- Priority will be given to researchers from African universities

APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applicants must send the registration form (Allegato A) to the following email address project.Achieve-IT@unicatt.it within the deadline: **23/03/2026 at 13.00 P.M. CET**

The application **must** include:

- Passport copy (valid for at least six months beyond the expected end date of the mobility period).





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- Proof of affiliation with one of the listed institutions.
- Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- A short presentation (3 slides) presenting the applicant's work. The submissions most relevant to the Winter School topics will be selected for a 3-minute flash presentation during the Winter School.

Optional:

- Certificates of the language proficiency in English, released by the Home University or third entity.

III. SELECTION PROCEDURE

Relevance of CV to the course objectives: Max. 20 points.

1. **Fully Relevant:** The item is directly and entirely aligned with the specified topic of the course
2. **Mostly Relevant:** The item is significantly aligned with specified topic of the course with only minor deviations.
3. **Partially Relevant:** The item is somewhat aligned with the specified topic of the course but with notable gaps or inconsistencies.
4. **Not Relevant:** The item has no discernible alignment with specified topic of the course

Powerpoint presentation: Max. 10 points.

- Relevance to the Winter School topics
- Overall quality of the presentation

Priority criterion:

In case of comparable overall evaluation scores, priority will be given to researchers from African universities.

Gender will be taken into account during the selection process. In cases where two candidates have equal qualifications and scores, preference will be given to promote gender balance and to the younger applicants.

SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee will consist of:





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Three professors of UCSC, one of whom is responsible for organizing the school.

The final ranking will be communicated to all applicants.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the submitted applications and compile a ranking list, which will be communicated to the participants in the competition by **(24/03/2026)**

IV. POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

The selected candidate will receive the Admission Letter by email from Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. Any further documentation necessary for the mobility programme will be requested by email by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore. The admission letter, or any additional documentation, must be countersigned for acceptance by the selected candidate in accordance with his/her Home University and sent no later than 6 days upon notification.

Withdrawal from the mobility grant may be made provided it occurs prior to the purchase of the ticket fly and the disbursement of the planned funding. Any withdrawal after these steps will necessitate full reimbursement of the funds already allocated.

GROUNDS FOR REJECTION:

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore reserves the right to refuse staff for the mobility grant on the basis of objective impediments that are inconsistent with its regulations. These may include:

- a) Failure to submit the required information of the selected staff within the stipulated deadline;
- b) Non-compliance with the application procedures set forth by the sending university;
- c) Failure to meet the language proficiency requirements specified by the partner institution;
- d) Incompatibility between the proposed teaching plan and the educational offerings of the host institution;
- e) Issues related to entry and stay regulations in the host country.

V. POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Lectures will be required to comply with the disciplinary and safety regulations in force at the locations where the activities will be carried out.





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If the Ministry of Foreign Affairs advises against travelling to the destination location or the Host University, after consulting the involved parties, consider it unsafe for Lectures to be sent/stay at the destination location, the mobility period may be suspended, modified, interrupted or cancelled. Lectures are invited to carefully assess the risks associated with the mobility period and to review the security measures adopted by the destination country.

VI. PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA

In accordance with current legislation on the protection of personal data and, in particular, with EU Regulation 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR), the personal data provided by candidates will be collected by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore as Data Controller and processed for the purposes of managing the evaluation procedure and the possible programme admission process.

The information regarding the processing of personal data provided during the competitive selection procedure is available on the websites of the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore at the following addresses: <https://www.unicatt.it/en/privacy/information-notice-for-calls-for-applications-and-competitions-for-admission-.html>

VII. INFORMATION CONTACT ON THE CALL

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact: uff.ricerca-pc@unicatt.it

