

Decree of the Rector n. 1191 of 17/11/2023
Competition for awarding 1 research grant at the University of Udine

DISCLAIMER:

The official and legally binding call for applications is in Italian only.
This document cannot be used for legal purposes and is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications (Decree of the Rector n. 1191 of 17/11/2023). Please refer to the official call published on: <https://www.uniud.it/it/albo-ufficiale>

Any change and integration will be made available on the above mentioned web page. Therefore, no personal written communication regarding the examination date and/or competition results shall be provided to applicants.

Annex 1

Competition Notice for the award of 1 research grant for carrying out research activities at the University of Udine on the following subject: “Mapping, documentation, and analysis of the piedmont archaeological landscape of Duhok Governorate (Kurdistan Region of Iraq)” SSD: L-OR/05 (principal investigator, Pierdaniele Morandi Bonacossi).

Research fellowship financed with the resources of the research project PRIN 2022 PNRR, Prot. n. P2022MBJ3C, titled “Community Archaeology of Endangered Agropastoral Landscapes of Upper Mesopotamia (CArE)”. Public call No. 1409 of 14/09/2022 – PRIN 2022 PNRR M4C2 Inv. 1.1. CUP G53D23007550001.

Art. 1

A selection procedure is hereby announced for the award of 1 research grant at the University of Udine, as identified in Attachment A which constitutes an integral and substantial part of this call. The research grant is linked to the research project and is subject and conditioned upon the relative funding.

Specifically, the project is placed within the context of the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan (i.e., PNRR) – Mission 4: Education and research, Component 2: From research to business, Investment 1.1: Fund for the National Research Programme (PNR) and Research Projects of Significant National Interest (PRIN), funded by the EU-Next GenerationEU. Project PRIN 2022 PNRR, Prot. n. P2022MBJ3C, titled “Community Archaeology of Endangered Agropastoral Landscapes of Upper Mesopotamia (CArE)”. CUP G53D23007550001.

The fellowship may be renewed, in compliance with Art. 22, Law No. 240 of 30 December 2010 (as in the text in force before the implementation of the Conversion Law of the D.L. 36/2022, L. 79/2022), Law No. 11 of 27 February 2015, and the current regulations of the University of Udine for awarding research grants, issued with the Rector’s Decree No. 182 of 31 March 2021. The renewal is subject to the scientific coordinator’s positive assessment of the researcher’s activities, an adequate scientific rationale, and a corresponding financial covering.

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The activities pertaining to this research fellowship will be monitored for compliance with the PNRR's Do No Significant Harm principle (hereinafter DNSH), that is, they will not cause significant harm to the environment.

This call guarantees equal generational, gender and territorial opportunities.

The research findings resulting from the fellowship, as well as the related data, will be published in compliance with the Open Science and FAIR Data principles.

The research fellowship does not give rise to any right with regards to accessing University posts.

Any personal communication to candidates related to this selection will be sent exclusively to the email address indicated when registering for the selection, as mentioned in Art. 5.

Art. 2

The research grant described in this competition announcement and the required qualifications to apply for the position are identified in Attachment A. The lack of the admission requirements leads to the automatic exclusion from the competition procedure.

Possession of a PhD or equivalent degree obtained abroad or, only for the interested areas, of a medical specialization accompanied by an adequate scientific production, constitutes a preferential qualification for awarding the research fellowship of this selection, if it has not been provided as a mandatory requirement.

For the only purpose of the admission to the competition, the Examining Board (Art. 7) shall assess the equivalence of the qualification obtained abroad, except for the evaluation of the medical specialization qualification to which Article 38 of the Legislative Decree 165/2001 and subsequent modifications and additions, and EU regulations on the matter, shall be applied.

The Examining Board will proceed to the evaluation of the qualification obtained abroad according to the documentation attached to the application form. The Examining Board may exclude the candidate if the submitted documentation does not provide sufficient information for the assessment. Therefore, applicants must enclose all the documentation in their possession relating to their qualification in order to provide the Examining Board with sufficient information for assessment.

Candidates holding a qualification issued by a **European Research Area country**, if successful, must submit, if not already attached to the application form one of the following options:

- Supplement Diploma in English issued by the competent University.
- CIMEA Certificate of comparability of the foreign qualification, issued by CIMEA (Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence) via the "diplome" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>

Candidates holding a qualification issued by a **non-European Research Area country**, if successful, must submit, if not already attached to the application form one of the following options:

- Declaration of the on-site value of the qualification and the certificate relating to the degree with examinations and grades. A certificate in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation into one of these languages (certified by the competent diplomatic-consular authority or certified by a court in Italy).

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- CIMEA Certificate of comparability of the foreign qualification, issued by CIMEA (Information Centre on Academic Mobility and Equivalence) via the "diplome" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>

If the Supplement Diploma or the statement/attestation of comparability are not available when signing the contract, the applicant must demonstrate that he/she has requested the documentation and submit it as soon as possible.

Any exclusion from the selection procedure due to lack of eligibility requirements, absence of required documents, failure to sign the selection application or submission of the selection application in a manner different from what is provided for in this call for applications will be communicated to applicants exclusively at the email address indicated in the application form.

Art. 3

The research grant referred to in this call for applications cannot be awarded:

- to employees of Universities and the entities referred to in Article 22, section 1, of Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022);
- to those who have already been awarded research grants pursuant to Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022) for the maximum period provided by law, even if not continuously, excluding the period in which the grant was used in conjunction with the doctorate, up to the legal term of the relative course;
- to those who have already benefited from research grants and fixed-term researcher contracts provided for, respectively, in Articles 22 and 24 of Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to the reform introduced by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022), for a total of 12 years, even if not consecutive;
- to anyone who has a degree of kinship or affinity, up to and including the fourth degree, with:
 - the Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Udine;
 - the scientific supervisor or a professor/researcher belonging to the department or organisation hosting the research grant in question.

The research grant provided for in this call for applications cannot be combined:

- with scholarships of any kind, except for those granted by Italian or foreign institutions to supplement, by means of stays abroad, the fellow's training or research activities;
- with other research grants;
- with an employment relationship, even if part-time, without prejudice to the relevant provisions for employees of public administrations.

The grant awarded under this call for applications is also incompatible with simultaneous attendance at university degree courses, either Bachelors, specialistic or Masters, research Doctorates with scholarships and medical specializations, in Italy or abroad.

Art. 4

Applicants must enclose with their application, under penalty of exclusion, the following documents:

- their professional scientific CV, highlighting the candidate's aptitude for carrying out and implementing the research project (Attachment A);

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- b) their identity card, their passport or any other identification document¹;
- c) (for candidates with a foreign qualification only) certification or self-certification of both the academic qualification required for the admission to the selection, and of the exams (with evaluation) took during the period of study abroad, and of any other document that can be useful to the evaluation of the degree by the Examining Board.

Applicants can attach to the application, publications and any other certification considered useful to demonstrate the qualification based on the research program (Attachment A) and to certify any research activity accomplished at public or private institutes (indicating the starting and ending date and the duration).

The documents and qualifications mentioned above must be submitted in Italian or English. Those that are not as requested will not be evaluated. Documents originally written in a language other than Italian or English must come with a translation in Italian or English, that the candidate will do on its own responsibility. The translation can be an abstract concerning the thesis.

Italian and Community candidates wishing to submit qualifications referring to conditions and facts attested by Public Administrations must proceed exclusively with self-certification.

Non-EU citizens legally residing in Italy may self-certify only data that can be verified or certified by Italian public bodies. They may also use declarations in lieu when provided for by an international convention between Italy and the declarant's country of origin.

Non-EU citizens not residing in Italy cannot self-certify.

Only the qualifications possessed by the candidate on the date the application form is submitted and submitted in accordance with the procedures set out in Article 5 will be assessed.

Failure to submit mandatory documents provided for in this article will constitute grounds for exclusion from the selection.

Art. 5

The submission of the applications for the present call starts on November 23, 2023 at 2:00 pm (Italian time) and ends on December 12, 2023 at 2:00 pm (Italian time).

The application to take part in the selection must be completed, under penalty of exclusion, using the appropriate online procedure, available at the link <https://pica.cineca.it/>

The procedure involves an applicant registration step, for those who do not already have an account, and then an application completion step.

Once completed, the online application must be signed in the manner described in the online procedure (manual signature with attached identity document or digital signature), under penalty of exclusion from selection. The application does not have to be signed if you access the above-mentioned online procedure using your SPID ID.

The qualifications referred to in Article 4 must be attached to the application in .pdf format. Individual .pdf files may not exceed 30MB.

¹ Please be aware that the residence permit is not an identification document.

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The application for participation in the selection is automatically sent to the University of Udine with the definitive closing of the online procedure.

The University Administration:

- is not responsible if it is impossible to read the submitted documentation in electronic format due to damaged files;
- shall not accept or take into consideration qualifications or documents received in paper form or by any means other than what is specified in this article.

Reference to documents or publications already submitted in connection with other competitions is not allowed.

The Administration is not responsible for any missing document or communication because of inaccurate indication of residence and/or address submitted by the candidate during the application. Also, the Administration is not responsible if the candidate has not communicated changes in this information, or has communicated them too late. The Administration is also not responsible for any postal or telegraphic problems not attributable to the Administration itself.

Applicants are advised not to wait until the last few days before the closing date to submit their application. The University accepts no responsibility for any malfunctions due to technical problems and/or overloading of the communication line and/or application systems.

Art. 6

The selection procedure is held in accordance with the modality indicated in Attachment A.

The test will aim to assess the general preparation, experience and aptitude for research of the candidate. It will consist in the evaluation of the professional scientific curriculum, of the publications and qualifications presented, and of the interview, where foreseen.

Art. 7

The Examining board for the competition is identified in Attachment A of the present competition announcement, of which it is an integral part.

At its first meeting, the Examining board shall appoint its President and Secretary, and establish the criteria and methods for evaluating the qualifications and the interview, where foreseen.

The results of the qualifications assessment must be disclosed to applicants during the interview, where foreseen.

The Examining board can award a maximum of 100 points (one hundred out of one hundred) to the selection.

At the end of the evaluation procedure, the Examining board shall formulate the general merit list based on the overall score of each candidate, and draw up the minutes of the whole competition procedure.

Based on the ranking list, the assignment is awarded to candidates who have obtained a minimum overall score of 70/100 (seventy out of one hundred).

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The Examining board's judgement is final.

The ranking list will be made public exclusively through publication on the University's official website.

Applicants will not be notified of the outcome of the evaluation.

Those who do not declare their acceptance of the research grant and do not present themselves at the research centre within the deadline communicated by the latter, even if not formally, shall lose the right to receive it. Exceptions to this term will only be granted in cases of documented force majeure.

Art. 8

The research activity cannot be started before signing the contract defining the terms and conditions of the collaboration.

The activity covered by the research grant must have the following characteristics:

- a) it must be carried out as part of the research programme covered by the grant and not be a merely technical support to it;
- b) it must have a close connection with the realization of the research program for which the winner of the grant has been awarded the contract;
- c) it must be continuous and, in any case, temporally defined, not merely occasional, and in coordination with the overall activity of the University;
- d) it must be carried out autonomously, solely within the limits of the programme prepared by the programme supervisor, without predetermined working hours.

The researcher is required to submit a detailed written report on the work carried out and the results achieved, accompanied by the opinion of the scientific supervisor, to the reference organisation at the intervals set out in the contract. The researcher must also submit interim reports and timesheets, if requested by the reference organisation.

Either the fellow or the reference organisation may withdraw from the contract.

The reference organisation may terminate the contract not only in the cases referred to in Article 9, sections 2 and 3, of the "Internal rules for awarding research grants pursuant to law 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine, but also in the event the research project and therefore the financial coverage on which the research grant is based cease to exist.

Art. 9

The following legal dispositions shall apply to the grant referred to in this call for applications:

- for tax matters, the provisions of Article 4 of Italian Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- for social security matters, the provisions of Article 2(26) *et seq.* of Italian Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- for mandatory maternity leave, the provisions of the Italian Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007;
- with regard to sick leave, the provisions of Article 1(788) of Italian Law no. 296 of 27 December 2006 and subsequent amendments.

During the period of mandatory maternity leave, the allowance paid by INPS according to Art. 5 of the Italian Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007 is supplemented by the University up to the full amount of the research grant.

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The grant will be paid in monthly instalments.

Art. 10

The data collected as part of the procedure referred to in Art. 5 are necessary to properly manage the selection procedure, for any subsequent management of the research grant and for purposes related to managing services provided by the University. The University of Udine is the Data Controller. At any time, the data subject may request access, rectification and, depending on the University's institutional purposes, cancellation and restriction of processing or oppose the processing of their data. The data subject can always lodge a complaint with the Italian Data Protection Authority. The complete disclosure is available on the University of Udine website in the "Privacy" section, accessible from the home page www.uniud.it Direct Link: <https://www.uniud.it/it/pagine-speciali/guida/privacy>

Art. 11

For all matters not expressly mentioned in this call for applications, refer to the regulations in force on the subject cited in the introduction and to the "Internal rules for awarding research grants pursuant to Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine, issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021.

Art. 12

The procedure supervisor is Dr Sandra Salvador, Head of the Research Services Area of the University of Udine.

The Responsible office at the University of Udine is "Area Servizi per la Ricerca - Ufficio Formazione per la Ricerca", via Mantica n. 31 - 33100 Udine, Italia.

To request information about the call for applications, please complete the following form available on the University of Udine website:

https://helpdesk.uniud.it/SubmitSR.jsp?type=req&accountId=universityofudine&populateSR_id=42105

Attachment A

Responsabile scientifico della ricerca / Principal investigator:

Nome e cognome / Name and surname: Pierdaniele Morandi Bonacossi

Qualifica / Position: Professore Ordinario / Full Professor

Dipartimento / Department: Studi umanistici e del patrimonio culturale (DIUM) / Humanities and cultural heritage

Area MUR / Research field: 10 – Scienze dell'antichità, filologico-letterarie e storico-artistiche

Macrosettore concorsuale e Settore scientifico disciplinare / Scientific sector: 10/N1; L-OR/05 (Archeologia e storia dell'arte del vicino oriente antico)

Titolo dell'assegnato di ricerca / Topic of the research fellowship "assegnato di ricerca":

I bandi sono consultabili dal sito dell'Ateneo, del MUR e di Euraxess / The calls are available on the University, MUR and Euraxess websites

Testo in italiano:

Mappatura, documentazione e analisi dei paesaggi archeologici pedemontani del Governatorato di Duhok (Regione del Kurdistan iracheno).

Text in English:

Mapping, documentation, and analysis of the piedmont archaeological landscape of Duhok Governorate (Kurdistan Region of Iraq).

Obiettivi previsti e risultati attesi del programma di ricerca in cui si colloca l'attività dell'assegnista di ricerca / Foreseen objectives and results of the research programme performed by the research fellow "assegnista di ricerca":

I bandi sono consultabili dal sito dell'Ateneo, del MUR e di Euraxess / The calls are available on the University, MUR and Euraxess websites

Testo in italiano:

Introduzione

I paesaggi archeologici del pedemonte dell'alta Mesopotamia, con la loro ricca sovrapposizione di insediamenti, strutture e infrastrutture sono, per la stragrande maggioranza, ancora *terra incognita* per la ricerca archeologica moderna. Le più recenti ricerche nell'Iraq settentrionale si sono infatti concentrate sulle fertili pianure della Mesopotamia antica, caratterizzate dai grandi monticoli artificiali chiamati "tells", principalmente corrispondenti ad antichi insediamenti. Tuttavia, questi paesaggi trascurati rappresentano un'area privilegiata per la sopravvivenza dei siti archeologici strettamente legati alle comunità agropastorali che vivevano nella regione. Il pedemonte, come giunzione tra la zona montana e pianura, è di fatto fondamentale per la comprensione degli aspetti agro-pastorali e nomadici delle società che abitavano la Mesopotamia settentrionale premoderna. Per questo motivo, il programma di ricerca prevede la combinazione di telerilevamento e lavoro sul campo nell'ottica di identificare, mappare e documentare il patrimonio archeologico conservato nelle aree pedemontane, con l'obiettivo di esplorare, analizzare e comprendere l'occupazione e l'uso del territorio di queste aree considerate da sempre marginali.

La ricerca sarà implementata nell'ambito del "Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project" (LoNAP), un vasto e multidisciplinare progetto dell'Università di Udine, che dal 2012 conduce un'ampia ricognizione archeologica e diversi scavi nel Governatorato di Duhok nella regione del Kurdistan dell'Iraq (KRI) con lo scopo di indagare la formazione e trasformazione dei paesaggi archeologici di questa regione.

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La ricerca condotta nei due anni previsti dall'assegno si focalizzerà: (a) nello sviluppare e testare sul campo una metodologia innovativa per l'indagine delle aree pedemontane della regione di Duhok e (b) nel mappare e documentare il paesaggio archeologico agropastorale di un'ampia fascia pedemontana che si estende tra i modernivillaggi di Faida e Ba'adre.

Attività e Obiettivi

Le principali attività svolte dal ricercatore saranno:

1. Mappatura e documentazione dei paesaggi archeologici da telerilevamento. Il ricercatore avrà il compito di mappare, attraverso l'analisi da remoto e il telerilevamento, la complessa sovrapposizione e intreccio di strutture e siti archeologici che caratterizzano il paesaggio del pedemonte. L'assegnista dovrà implementare una dettagliata documentazione e mappatura di tutte le potenziali evidenze archeologiche identificabili dalle immagini satellitari e dalle foto aeree moderne e storiche disponibili. Lo studio del pedemonte della Mesopotamia settentrionale attraverso il telerilevamento permetterà l'indagine di aree vaste e talvolta difficilmente accessibili, fornendo al contempo la base per il lavoro di verifica sul campo che verrà svolto in aree campione selezionate sulla base dei risultati ottenuti in questa prima fase di ricerca.
2. Mappatura e documentazione dei paesaggi archeologici sul campo. L'assegnista di ricerca avrà anche il compito di documentare i paesaggi archeologici presi in esame anche sul campo. Le attività prevedono una ricognizione di tipo intensivo (a) e lo scavo di saggi campione (b) in siti selezionati nelle aree precedentemente mappate. La ricognizione di superficie e lo scavo dei saggi campione sono infatti cruciali per ottenere dati relativi alle tecniche costruttive, alla funzione dei siti e alla loro datazione (verranno impiegate tecniche di datazione C14 e OSL).
3. Analisi e interpretazione dei paesaggi archeologici. Tutti i dati raccolti tramite telerilevamento e direttamente sul campo saranno inseriti dal ricercatore in un geodatabase al fine di consentire l'analisi e l'interpretazione dei paesaggi archeologici documentati. Le singole strutture identificate saranno suddivise in base a tipologia, forma, dimensioni, complessità e associazione con altre strutture. L'obiettivo finale è determinarne morfologia, cronologia e contesto come unità singole, comprendendo al contempo i processi tafonomici che hanno trasformato il paesaggio archeologico in cui sono inserite. Saranno infine anche applicate analisi statistiche e spaziali su GIS con lo scopo di indagare le relazioni tra i siti archeologici e le altre componenti storico-culturali, socioeconomiche e ecologiche del paesaggio.

Gli obiettivi specifici della ricerca sono:

- A. Interpretazione e datazione dei paesaggi archeologici che caratterizzano il pedemonte dell'alta Mesopotamia.
- B. Comprensione delle relazioni tra i sovrapposti e intrecciati siti archeologici si sono sviluppati nel corso dei millenni nel pedemonte. Comprendere come il riuso, la spoliazione di materiali e/o la continuità d'uso abbiano influenzato la formazione e trasformazione dei paesaggi archeologici.
- C. Indagine dei modelli di occupazione e utilizzo del territorio da parte delle comunità agropastorali che vivevano ai margini delle fertili pianure dell'alta Mesopotamia.

Risultati attesi

Il programma di ricerca condotto dal ricercatore contribuirà a colmare una grossa lacuna nella conoscenza dei paesaggi archeologici del pedemonte. Le strutture ed infrastrutture pastorali ed agricole (terrazze, recinti pastorali, tumuli) sono state spesso trascurate dai più recenti progetti di ricerca nella regione. I progetti archeologici sono infatti spesso riluttanti a concentrarsi su questi paesaggi perché la loro documentazione può essere complicata e richiedere molto tempo. Inoltre, la loro datazione e funzione sono difficili da valutare senza una corretta strategia di documentazione e campionamento accompagnata da tecniche di datazione adeguate. Da queste premesse nasce la necessità di sviluppare un progetto specifico focalizzato sulla comprensione dei cicli di costruzione,

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uso e abbandono dei siti archeologici del pedemonte. L'assegnista di ricerca avrà l'opportunità di progettare e testare una metodologia innovativa per mappare e documentare i singoli elementi che compongono i paesaggi agropastorali dell'Iraq settentrionale contribuendo all'avanzamento anche di tipo metodologico della ricerca archeologica.

La comprensione di questa regione, che ha giocato un ruolo così importante di giunzione tra le pianure e le zone montane e tra le comunità sedentarie e nomadi, avrà anche un impatto cruciale sulla nostra conoscenza delle società agro-pastorali che un tempo abitavano le aree collinari circostanti le fertili pianure mesopotamiche. I risultati della ricerca contribuiranno ad arricchire con nuovi dati archeologici il dibattito teorico relativo ai paesaggi agro-pastorali antichi e sulle relazioni tra comunità nomadiche e sedentarie dell'antica Mesopotamia.

Text in English:

Introduction

The archaeological landscapes of Upper Mesopotamia piedmont with their rich palimpsest of archaeological features are, for the vast majority, still *terra incognita* to modern archaeological research. In fact, the most recent research in northern Iraq focused on the fertile plains of ancient Upper Mesopotamia characterised by large artificial mounds, called *tells* and mainly corresponding to settlements. However, these neglected landscapes are a very privileged area of survival for archaeological sites and features especially connected with the agropastoral communities living in the region. The piedmont as the juncture between highlands and lowlands is crucial for the understanding of the agro-pastoral and nomadic components of the societies living in premodern Northern Mesopotamia. For this reason, the research programme will combine remote sensing and fieldwork for the identification, recording and mapping of the archaeological features preserved in the piedmont areas with the aim to explore, analyse, and understand the occupation and land use of these marginal areas.

The research will be implemented in the framework of the Land of Nineveh Archaeological Project (LoNAP) of the University of Udine (UniUD) which since 2012 has conducted an extensive archaeological reconnaissance and several archaeological excavations in the Governorates of Duhok in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) to investigate the transformations of the archaeological landscapes of this region.

The research to be conducted over the two years of the fellowship will focus on (a) developing and field-testing an innovative methodology for investigating the piedmont areas of the Duhok region and (b) mapping and documenting the agropastoral archaeological landscape of a broad piedmont region that extends between the modern villages of Faida and Ba'adre.

Activities and Objectives

The main activities and tasks carried out by the research fellow will be:

1. Desk-based detection and recording of the archaeological evidence. The research fellow will have the task of mapping through remote sensing analysis the complex palimpsest of archaeological features that characterise the piedmont landscape. A detailed recording and mapping of the structures and features visible on satellite and available modern and historical aerial images will be implemented. The survey through remote sensing of the Upper Mesopotamian piedmont will permit the investigation of large and sometimes inaccessible areas while at the same time providing the basis for the ground-truthing work in selected regions.
2. Field-based detection and recording of the archaeological evidence. The research fellow will have the task of documenting in the field the archaeological landscapes through intensive field survey (a) and test excavation (b) of selected sites in the previously mapped areas. The ground survey and the test trench excavations are crucial to obtain data regarding construction technique, site function and dating (radiocarbon-C14 and OSL dating techniques will be employed).

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3. Analysis and interpretation of the archaeological landscape. All the data collected remotely and in the field will be entered by the researcher in a geodatabase in order to allow the analysis and interpretation of the documented archaeological features. The documented features will be subdivided according to type, shape, size, arrangement complexity and association with other features. The final aim is to determine their morphology, chronology and context as single units while understanding the general taphonomic processes that transformed the archaeological landscape until today. Statistical and spatial GIS analysis will be applied to investigate the relationships between the feature distribution in the landscape and the natural and cultural environment of the area.

The specific objectives of the research are:

- A. Landscape interpretation and dating of the archaeological features of Upper Mesopotamia piedmont.
- B. Understanding of the relationships between the various archaeological sites and features that overlap in the piedmont. Comprehension of how reuse, material looting and/or continuity of use affected the archaeological landscape.
- C. Insight into the occupation and land use strategies of the communities living on the edges of the fertile plains of Upper Mesopotamia.

Expected results

The research programme performed by the researcher will contribute to the understanding of the occupation and land use strategies of the piedmont landscapes.

Agricultural terraces, enclosures and cairns are often neglected by research projects. Projects have been reluctant to focus on these features because their documentation can be complicated and time-consuming. In addition, their dating and functions are difficult to assess without a proper strategy for sampling and dating techniques. This creates an urgency for considerable research investment and the design of a specific project focused on the understanding of cycles of construction, use and abandonment of these sites and features. The research fellow will have the opportunity to test and develop innovative tools to describe and measure the different but often overlapping elements of agricultural and pastoral archaeological features in Northern Iraq. The understanding of this region that played such an important role of juncture between lowlands and highlands and between sedentary and nomadic communities will have a great impact on our knowledge of the agro-pastoral societies who used to live in the upland areas surrounding the fertile Mesopotamian plains.

Furthermore, in a more general and wider perspective, the research results will enhance the theoretical debate on agro-pastoral landscapes and nomadism vs sedentarism relationships, as the research fellow will target up-to-date economic, social, and interpretative approaches to pastoral-nomadic communities.

**Struttura dell'Università di Udine presso la quale verrà sviluppata l'attività di ricerca /
Department or other structure of the University of Udine where research activities will be
carried out:**

Dipartimento di studi umanistici e del patrimonio culturale (DIUM) / Department of humanities and cultural heritage

**Importo dell'assegno di ricerca (al lordo oneri carico assegnista) / Total grant gross for the
research fellowship:**

€ 47.326,68

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Durata dell'assegno di ricerca / Duration of the research fellowship "assegno di ricerca":

22 mesi / months

Finanziamento / Financed by:

La copertura finanziaria graverà sul progetto PRIN 2022 PNRR - "Community Archaeology of Endangered Agropastoral Landscapes of Upper Mesopotamia (CArE)"; Prot. n. P2022MBJ3C. Avviso pubblico n. 1409 del 14/09/2022. Decreto di finanziamento n. 1373 del 01/09/2023 - Settore SH6. Codice CUP G53D23007550001. Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (Finanziato dall'Unione Europea, NextGenerationEU).

Requisiti di ammissione / Minimum qualifications necessary:

- Possesso del titolo di Dottore di ricerca o titolo equivalente conseguito all'estero;
- possesso di un curriculum scientifico professionale idoneo allo svolgimento dell'attività di ricerca contemplata.
- Research doctorate or equivalent qualification obtained abroad;
- professional scientific curriculum suitable for the research activity above mentioned.

Procedura selettiva / Competition procedure:

Valutazione per soli titoli / Assessment of qualifications only

Commissione giudicatrice / Examining Board:

Nome e Cognome	Qualifica	SSD	Università
Membri Effettivi / Permanent members			
Pierdaniele Morandi Bonacossi	PO	L-OR/05	Università degli Studi di Udine
Marco Iamoni	PA	L-OR/05	Università degli Studi di Udine
Valentina Vezzoli	RTD	L-OR/11	Università degli Studi di Udine
Membro Supplente / Temporary member			
Elisabetta Borgna	PO	L-FIL-LET/01	Università degli Studi di Udine