LUISS

Luiss Research Award Regulation

Purpose and Recipients of the Award

The purpose of the award, introduced in 2022, is to encourage Luiss Faculty members and researchers to pursue high-quality research through the various tools available to them, ranging from the publication of scholarly outputs to participation in competitive research funding programmes at national and European level. The award, publicly conferred, is granted annually *ex officio* to tenured faculty members, researchers and Assistant Professors (Research), with one award assigned to each Department.

From 2026 onwards, faculty engagement in research impact and knowledge-sharing activities carried out within Research Centres and in collaboration with industry and institutions is recognised through the new *Luiss Knowledge Sharing & Social Impact Award*.

Starting from the 2027 edition (based on research activities carried out during the 2026 calendar year), the *Luiss Research Award* replaces the *Research Profile* previously awarded within the Faculty Management Reward System (Sistema di Premialità del Faculty Management - SPFM).

Faculty members who received the *Luiss Research Award* in the previous year, or who at the time of assignment still hold a *Research Profile* status within the three-year recognition period, are not eligible for the award

1. Awarding Procedure

The award is conferred annually with reference to activities carried out during the previous calendar year.

For the purpose of assigning the award, an Evaluation Committee is established, composed of the Deputy Rector for Research and Third Mission (or equivalent), the Rector's Advisor for Faculty Development and Management (or equivalent), the Heads of Department or, alternatively, their Delegates for Research and Third Mission, and the Chief of Governance, Research Funding & Third Mission. Scores are assigned according to the evaluation grids described in the section "Evaluation Criteria for Award Assignment".

The Committee may assign up to 3 additional points to each researcher in the overall assessment of their commitment to high-quality research activities and to ensure a gender balance among award recipients. In the event of a tie, the faculty member with the highest VIR score prevails; in the event of a further tie, the younger faculty member prevails.

2. Award

Starting from the 2027 edition, in order to encourage the publication of A+ research outputs (according to the VIR - Valutazione Interna della Ricerca classification), faculty members receiving the award are entitled to a one-off bonus of € 7,000 upon publication, within two years of the award date, of an A+ (VIR)[1] contribution with "Luiss Guido Carli" as the primary affiliation. For the purpose of granting the bonus, acceptance of the contribution in "online first" format is also considered valid.[2]
To obtain the bonus, the faculty member must notify the publication of the contribution by completing the dedicated form. If the contribution is deemed eligible under this *Regulation*, the full bonus amount will be paid together with the salary for the month in which the request is submitted or, where this is not possible, in the following month.

3. Evaluation Criteria for Award Assignment

A separate ranking is established for each Department. Award assignment is based on the score attributed to each faculty member or researcher according to the following criteria:

1. VIR result relating to the financial year preceding the year in which the award is assigned;
2. Scopus H-Index score as recorded on the date on which scores are assigned for the purposes of the award;
3. Applications submitted to competitive research funding calls during the calendar year preceding the year in which the award is assigned (only the Principal Investigator submitting the application is taken into account);
4. Competitive research projects, in which participation occurs either as Principal Investigator or as a member of the research team, that were awarded funding during the calendar year preceding the year in which the award is assigned (the relevant date is the signature date of the funding agreement);
5. Competitive research projects, in which participation occurs either as Principal Investigator or as a member of the research team, that were ongoing during the year preceding the year in which the award is assigned, provided that they have not already been considered under criterion 4.

With reference to criterion 1 concerning the VIR result, a single overall ranking is established taking into account the individual *research score*. Scores are assigned according to the following evaluation grid, based on the amount of the monetary award granted pursuant to Article 6 "From the *research score* to the assignment of funds" of the *Luiss Regulation for the allocation of research funds on a reward basis* (*Regolamento per l'assegnazione di fondi di ricerca su base premiale*, Art. 6 "Dal *research score* all'assegnazione dei fondi"):

[1] A contribution recognised by the Luiss VIR as A+ in a disciplinary area different from that of the applicant will also be considered eligible.
[2] The bonus may be requested only once for each publication and may not be claimed separately for different versions of the same publication (*online first*, online publication, and print version).

VIR Result	Score
Maximum VIR award (€ 10,000), regardless of the *research score*	5
Intermediate VIR award / high *research score* (3rd tertile)	4
Intermediate VIR award / medium *research score* (2nd tertile)	3
Intermediate VIR award / low *research score* (1st tertile)	2
Minimum VIR award (€ 1,000) (*research score* equal to 0)	0

With reference to criterion 2 concerning the Scopus H-Index, in order to avoid disadvantaging non-bibliometric disciplines or disciplines with a predominantly national orientation,[3] a separate ranking is established for each Department, taking into account the value of the indicator as recorded on the date on which scores are assigned.[4] Scores are assigned according to the following evaluation grid:

H-Index Score	Score
High H-Index (3rd tertile)	3
Medium H-Index (2nd tertile)	2
Low H-Index (1st tertile)	1
H-Index equal to 0	0

With reference to criteria 3, 4 and 5 relating to competitive research, which concerns the involvement of faculty members and researchers in competitively funded research projects at national and European level, the assessment is carried out according to the following evaluation grid, which provides for differentiated scoring depending on the specific funding scheme and Luiss' role within the project.

			Score		
Funding Scheme[5]		**Ruolo Luiss**	**Application (criterion 3)**	**Funded Project* (criterion 4)**	**Ongoing Project* (criterion 5)**
Horizon Europe	ERC: StG, CoG, AdG, SyG e PoC	Host institution	5	10	3

[3] It should be noted that the H-Index (Hirsch Index) is a bibliometric indicator that simultaneously measures the productivity and impact of a researcher's publications. An author has an H-Index of N if at least N of their publications have each received at least N citations.
For the same researcher, the value may vary significantly depending on the database used for its calculation. For example, Google Scholar H-Index values are generally higher than those calculated by Scopus or Web of Science, which apply more restrictive publication inclusion criteria.
In particular, the Scopus H-Index considers only documents indexed in the database and citations received since 1996. The requirements for inclusion in Scopus are designed to ensure quality and currency, to the extent that the mere fact that a publication is indexed in Scopus constitutes an indicator of reliability, quality and impact.
For this reason, several international university rankings rely on Scopus as a source of data. In particular, two of the four indicators used in the QS World University Rankings by Subject, namely "H-index" and "Citations per Paper", are based directly on Scopus data.
However, the very nature of the H-Index limits its effectiveness to comparisons among researchers within the same field and makes it less representative for non-bibliometric disciplines. For example, the inclusion criteria adopted by databases such as Scopus and Web of Science strongly penalise non-English-language publications and scholarly monographs, making the indicator less representative for researchers in disciplines such as Law when compared with researchers in Economics.
The indicator may also disadvantage early-career researchers or researchers with shorter academic careers and does not always adequately account for the context in which citations occur, self-citations, negative citations, or the actual contribution of individual authors within collaborative publications.
[4] Scopus content is updated daily by publishers. Consequently, the H-Index values of individual faculty members may potentially vary on a day-to-day basis.
[5] ERC = European Research Council; StG = Starting Grant; CoG = Consolidator Grant; AdG = Advanced Grant; SyG = Synergy Grant; PoC = Proof of Concept; RIA = Research Innovation Action; IA= Innovation Action; CSA = Coordination and Support Action; MSCA = Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Funding Scheme[5]		Ruolo Luiss	Score: Application (criterion 3)	Score: Funded Project* (criterion 4)	Score: Ongoing Project* (criterion 5)
	RIA, IA, CSA, MSCA Doctoral Networks, MSCA Staff Exchange	Collaborative Project Coordinator	3,5	7	2
		Collaborative Project Partner	1,5	3	1
	MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships	Host institution	2	4	1
Other Programmes of the European Commission's Directorates-General, Agencies or Services		Coordinator or Sole Beneficiary	2	4	1
		Partner	1	2	0,5
Italian Science Fund (FIS)	Starting Grant; Advanced Grant	Host institution	2,5	5	1,5
Projects of Significant National Interest (PRIN)		Lead Institution	2	4	1
		Partner	1	2	0,5

* The score indicated refers to the Principal Investigator of the project. In the case of a member of the research team, the score awarded shall be equal to one half of the score indicated.