Jožef Stefan Institute on the basis of the Scientific Research and Innovation Activities Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 186/2021 and 40/23), General Act on Stable Financing of Scientific Research (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 87/2022 and 103/2022-corr.), internal Rules on the selection and (co)financing of doctoral students and doctoral students from the program pillar of stable financing of 8.6.2022 and 29. 5. 2025 -corr., and the Employment Relationships Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No. 21/2013 with amend.) publishes

Call for Tenders

for candidates for young researchers with selected mentors

in 2026

1. Subject matter of the Call for Tenders

The subject of the public call is the selection of young researchers who will start training in 2026 to obtain a doctorate in science from selected mentors. List of mentors, including their research areas and programmes, is included in Attachment 1.

Candidates for young researcher apply for a position with the selected mentor.

2. Eligibility Criteria for Young Researcher Candidates

Eligibility Criteria for Young Researcher Candidates:

- has an education attained under a second-cycle study programme of an appropriate level, adopted in the Republic of Slovenia after 11 June 2004, and an average grade of all examinations and exercises in the first-level study programme and the second-cycle study programme, as a rule, of at least 8.00 (also taking into account the grade of the thesis and master's thesis; in exceptional cases where the candidate or candidate has a lower grade than 8, the programme group leader may decide on the suitability (additional explanation) or
- has, according to the first indent, a comparable education attained at universities abroad, and
- no more than 4 years have elapsed since the year of completion of the last study programme of the second-cycle or the last study programme qualifying for enrolment in the doctoral study programme. If a candidate or candidate for a young researcher or a young researcher has taken, or has taken, parental care insurance leave of at least six months for an individual child during the period from the completion of the second-cycle study programme or the study programme with which she meets the conditions for enrolment in the doctoral study programme, this period shall be extended accordingly by one year. The same shall apply in the case of absence due to a long-term illness of a total duration of at least six months.

3. Criteria for evaluating and selecting candidates for young researchers

The criteria for evaluating and selecting candidates for young researchers are:

- the average grade of all examinations and exercises (without diploma) in the first-cycle study programme and the second-cycle study programme;
- enrolment in a third-cycle study programme;
- awards or recognitions;
- published articles;
- participation in research;
- assessment of the interview with the candidate for a young researcher.

4. Application

The application under the Call for Tenders must include:

1. **Application form MR2026**: The application form must be fully completed and signed. Ad advanced electronic signature certified by a qualified certificate shall be equivivalent to a handwritten signature.

2. **Proof of education**

- proof of completion of a diploma obtained under a study programme adopted in the Republic of Slovenia before 11 June 2004, or proof of completion of a first-cycle study programme and a second-cycle study programme, and

- an attachment to the diploma or an attachment to the diplomas, if the candidate for the young researcher is enrolled in the first year of the third-degree study programme, or a certificate of completed examinations and exercises, if the young researcher has not yet been awarded a diploma. if the candidate is already enrolled in the third-degree postgraduate study, a certificate of enrolment and proof of completed obligations at the postgraduate study programme shall be attached;
- proof of the average grade of the undergraduate study (i.e., diploma supplement or officially confirmed list of all completed examinations and exercises, which shows the average grade of the study, calculated to the nearest 2 decimal places). At least 80 % of all examinations and exercises must be completed.

3. Statements

DECLARATION No. 1: Statement that the candidate will graduate or obtain master's degree no later than by the conclusion of the employment contract (usually starting on 1 October) and deliver a certificate of completed diploma or defending a master's degree by the same day (if the candidate is already enrolled in postgraduate studies, enclose the certificate of enrolment and proof of completed obligations at postgraduate studies).

DECLARATION No. 2: Statement of the candidate or candidate on the protection of personal data.

DECLARATION No. 3: Candidate's or candidate's declaration of citizenship.

The application **may be** accompanied by the following attachments:
- proof of the prizes and awards received, a list of published scientific articles and proof of participation in research work;
- evidence of possible maternity or parental leave or prolonged sick leave.

5. Foreigners and/or candidates for young researchers who have graduated abroad

Foreigners or candidates for young researchers applying under the present Call for Tenders must have all the necessary documentation for employment in the Republic of Slovenia ready no later than by the conclusion of the employment contract (usually starting on 1 October) **(DECLARATION No. 1).**

If the candidate for a young researcher has not completed the study programme of the first-cycle or the study programme of the second-cycle or the master's study in the Republic of Slovenia, she or he must send to the Jožef Stefan Institute the following documentation before signing the contract:
- decision by the higher education institution on the recognition of foreign studies for the purpose of studies in the Republic of Slovenia; and
- conversion of the average grade of all examinations and practical courses of the first-cycle study programme or second-cycle study programme according to the assessment system applied at higher education institutions in the Republic of Slovenia, such as prepared by the Institute providing the course, taking into account the assessment system of the studies completed abroad.

6. Term of employment

The Jožef Stefan Institute will conclude an employment contract for a fixed period of training for obtaining a doctorate in science, namely for the duration of financing as defined in Article 14 of the Rules on the selection and (co)financing of doctoral students from the program pillar of stable financing, with a three-month probation period. In accordance with the stated Article, training of young researchers is financed until they obtain their doctoral degrees, however no longer than for four years. If, at the time the candidate begins his/her employment, the candidate is enrolled in the second or third year of doctoral study, training is financed until the candidate obtains his/her doctoral degree, however no longer than for three or two years respectively.

7. Applications to the Call for Tenders

Candidates for young researchers submit the application with all the required attachments by e-mail address **mr2026@ijs.si**.

The tender documentation is available on the website of the Jožef Stefan Institute during the entire Call period.

The final date for the submission of complete applications to the Call for Tenders is 17 May 2026.

In the selection process, only **complete** applications will be considered, which will be submitted to the address of the Jožef Stefan Institute within the Tender deadline. Applications due before the date of publication of the Call for Tenders or after the deadline specified in the published Call for Tenders will not be taken into account.

The selection of candidates for young researchers will be carried out by the Jožef Stefan Institute in agreement with the selected mentors. Candidates for young researchers will be informed of the selection in writing.

8. Ensuring equal opportunities

Jožef Stefan Institute honors and respects the diversity of our staff and provides equal opportunities to all employees and qualified applicants regardless of sex and/or gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, health condition, disability, religion or faith, age, social status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression, family status or any other personal circumstance.

9. Warnings and additional information

Selected candidates for young researchers must apply separately for enrolment in postgraduate study programmes in the academic year 2026/2027 at the selected faculty of postgraduate study. Applicants for a young researcher who **do not** enroll in postgraduate studies by the enrolment deadlines will not be able to conclude an employment contract.

Enrollment in doctoral studies must be done through the “eVŠ” web portal.

For additional information related to the Call for Tenders, please contact Ms. Maja Kološa, **kadrovska@ijs.si** or by telephone at +386 70 679 664 every weekday between 12:00 and 14:00 until the end of the Call for Tenders.

Ljubljana, 16.3.2026

Jožef Stefan Institute
Director:
prof. dr. Leon Cizelj

Digitalni podpis:
CIZELJ LEON
Podpisano: 03.03.2026
ob 12:06:56

Tendering documentation:

- The Call for Tenders
- Attachment 1- list of mentors
- Application form MR2026
- DECLARATION NO. 1
- DECLARATION NO. 2
- DECLARATION NO. 3

Digitalni podpis:
PERGAR MANUELA
Podpisano: 02.03.2026
ob 13:18:52