

RAUL GARDINI MEMORIAL AWARD
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR RESEARCH IN ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
AND CIRCULAR (BIO)ECONOMY
2026

The Raul Gardini Foundation honours the legacy of the entrepreneur Raul Gardini through a high-profile scientific and cultural project addressed to the academic community, developed in collaboration with the Municipality of Ravenna, Fondazione Flaminia, the University of Bologna - Ravenna Campus, and Spring - the Italian Circular Bioeconomy Cluster.

To this end, an annual call for applications is launched for the assignment of an AWARD in memory of Raul Gardini, open to holders of a Master's degree or a Single-Cycle degree, as well as PhD students and research associates affiliated with Italian and European universities, who pursue advanced research and interdisciplinary study in the fields of environmental sustainability and the circular bioeconomy.

The award is established by the Raul Gardini Foundation.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF THE AWARD

For the year 2026, an annual call for applications is hereby launched for the Raul Gardini Memorial Award, amounting to €7,000.00 (seven thousand euros), with the aim of promoting advanced research and interdisciplinary study in the fields of environmental sustainability and the circular bioeconomy.

The AWARD aims to:

- co-fund a research stay abroad of at least 6 months for holders of a Master's degree or a Single-Cycle degree who are formally enrolled as PhD students or employed as research associates at Italian or European universities, with a project in the fields referred to above.
or
- co-fund a start-up or spin-off in the above-mentioned fields, submitted by holders of a Master's degree or a Single-Cycle degree affiliated with Italian or European universities.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- **for the proposal of internship abroad:** applicants must hold a Master's degree or Single-Cycle degree awarded by Italian and European Universities, who are currently enrolled as PhD students or employed as research associates at Italian and European Universities in the fields referred to above.
- **for the Start-up or Spin-off proposal:** applicants must hold a Master's degree or Single-Cycle degree awarded by Italian or European universities, and be no older than 32 years of age on the application deadline.

Applications must be submitted no later than 12:00 hrs on 31 May 2026. The outcome of the evaluation procedure will be communicated by email by 31 July 2026.

Applicants must submit a signed application, scanned and saved as a PDF file, using the form available on the website of Fondazione Flaminia (www.fondazioneflaminia.it), and send it by email to segreteria@fondazioneflaminia.it, to the attention of the Chairman, together with the following documents:

- for co-funding of a research stay abroad for PhD students and research associates:

1. A certificate attesting to enrolment in a PhD programme or holding a current research fellowship;
2. A Curriculum Vitae, including details of any publications, collaborations, or other relevant activities;
3. A certificate of completion of a Master's degree or a Single-Cycle degree, including final grade and list of exams, obtained within the last 5 academic years;
4. The motivation and the internship project abroad, including the estimated budget, agreed upon with the supervising professor at their home university, together with details and Curriculum Vitae of the scientific supervisor at the host institution where the internship will take place. In the event of projects of equal merit, enrolment in a PhD programme shall constitute a preferential criterion.

for Start-up/Spin-off co-funding:

1. A certificate of completion of a Master's degree or a Single-Cycle degree, including final grade and list of exams, obtained within the last 5 academic years;
2. A Curriculum Vitae, including details of any publications, collaborations, or other relevant activities;
3. The project proposal, including a technical and economic feasibility plan, consistent with the objectives of sustainability and the circular and regenerative bioeconomy, the identification of the proposed physical location of the Start-up/Spin-off, any partners involved, and any other elements useful for assessing the quality of the project.

Incomplete applications or applications lacking the required documentation will not be admitted for evaluation. Participation in this call is free of charge. Documents may be submitted on plain paper; no official stamps are required. Any false declarations may result in the revocation of the Award, with the recipient required to return the amount received.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE AND AMOUNT OF THE AWARD

Following an initial verification of the completeness and compliance of the documentation submitted, the applications received will be forwarded to the Scientific Committee.

The Award will be granted at the sole and irrevocable discretion of the Scientific Committee, following an evaluation of the submitted documentation and interviews with the applicants.

The Scientific Committee shall assess the quality and originality of the project submitted, adopting as a selection criterion its relevance to the themes of environmental sustainability and the circular and regenerative bioeconomy.

The decision of the Scientific Committee shall be final and not subject to appeal.

The amount of the Award (€7,000.00) shall be considered gross and all-inclusive. No additional taxes, insurance costs, or other expenses shall be reimbursed.

The award ceremony will take place at the Environment, Energy and Sea Research Centre, named after Raul Gardini, in Marina di Ravenna.

CONTACTS

segreteria@fondazioneflaminia.it

Tel.: +39 0544 34345