

DOMPÉ FOUNDATION ETS**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS****PREFACE**

The knowledge economy is profoundly changing our society in every aspect, at an unprecedented speed. Specifically, we are going through a phase of technological transition, driven by several factors: the possibility of access to shared computational resources, that was unthinkable just a short time ago (Cloud Computing and, in perspective, Quantum Computing); the availability of a very large amount of data, produced by an increasing number of connected intelligent objects (Big Data & Internet of Things); and the rapid development of advanced data analysis techniques and methodologies (Machine Learning & Deep Learning) as well as Artificial Intelligence.

In this context, science and innovation derived from science represent the most fruitful sources of the ongoing transformation. This process originates in universities and research centers and then grows and consolidates in businesses. It is a continuum that draws its value precisely from its inseparable coherence.

The Dompé ETS Foundation has chosen to be an active player in this change by investing in the university education of the most promising young people in STEM fields. Today, students embarking on the path of science must be able to train in a context capable of combining deep specialization with a multidisciplinary approach. The knowledge they acquire must integrate biology and life sciences, with the new perspectives offered by digital technologies, materials science, nanotechnology and other emerging technological fields. The university courses chosen by the Dompé ETS Foundation to establish its scholarships are inspired by these principles. The Foundation's commitment is in addition to Dompé farmaceutici's investments in R&D and innovative startups.

Without talent, there can be no progress. Without knowledge, there can be no development.

ART. 1 PURPOSE

1.1 The Dompé ETS Foundation intends to foster the human and professional growth of deserving university students, contributing both to the process of social mobility through the so-called "social elevator" and to the removal of barriers to access to university education for the less advantaged social groups. The Foundation, in particular, focuses on supporting students attending second- and third-level university courses characterized by innovation and experimentation.

1.2 The United States has been an undisputed leader in global scientific and technological progress since the second half of the 20th century. It is the country that has received the highest number of Nobel Prizes (368, compared to the United Kingdom's 133 and Italy's 20), especially in scientific disciplines. Scientific and technological cooperation between Italy and the United States holds strategic importance and involves the most esteemed public and private universities and research centers in both countries.

1.3 For the reasons stated above, the Foundation has allocated a total sum of \$1,590,000.00 (one million five hundred and ninety thousand/00 dollars) for the establishment of 24 scholarships that will aim to support the students:

- for a Master's degree or research fellowship in neuroscience and/or neurobiology for two years maximum;
 - for a PhD program in neuroscience and/or neurobiology for three years maximum.
- These fellowships will be awarded to neuroscience and/or neurobiology students at U.S. universities.

Each fellowship will be in the amount of \$25,000.00 per year, for a maximum of three years.

1.4 For the promotion and dissemination activities of this Call for Proposals, the Foundation relies on the valuable collaboration of the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C.

ART. 2 RECIPIENTS

2.1 The recipients of the fellowships will be identified among students enrolled in a Master's degree program (one-year or two-year), a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) program, or a Research Fellowship at a U.S. university, in the fields of neuroscience and/or neurobiology, which may possibly be conducted in partnership with U.S. research centers/agencies.

Applicants must submit a regular application, within the deadlines identified and as specified in this Call for applications in art. 3.

- a) For the academic year 2025/2026, candidates will need to provide proof of their household's 2025 net income, which should not exceed \$120,000.00. The exemption from the payment of university fees does not disqualify candidates from being eligible for the Scholarship.
- b) Applicants must not have any working, collaborative, subordinate or para-subordinate relationship with Dompé farmaceutici s.p.a. and/or Fondazione Dompé ETS, either personally or indirectly through cohabitants and relatives and/or relatives-in-law.

2.2 Students who have submitted their applications (see art. 3.1.) may undergo individual interviews with the representatives of the Foundation's Scientific Committee. The selection of scholarship recipients among the candidates will be discretionary and will take into consideration the research abstract, the motivations, curriculum, competences, and interests of the candidate, as well as the prestige of the host University, with reference to the most accredited international rankings.

2.3 The Foundation will directly communicate the choice of scholarship recipients.

ART. 3 TERMS AND MODALITIES OF APPLICATION

3.1 Applications for this Call for Proposals must be received at the Dompé ETS Foundation Secretariat using the online application procedure available at <https://www.dompefoundation.org/> no later than midnight on January 31, 2026.

3.2 The applications, as per art. 3.1, must be accompanied by the following documents properly labeled with the candidate's surname and attached in PDF format:

- a curriculum vitae in the European format;
- a cover letter in which the applicant should provide a complete description of himself/herself. This description should include information regarding their undergraduate and postgraduate careers, as well as a presentation of their personality, hobbies and interests. The letter should be written using Times New Roman font, size 12 and 1.5 line spacing and should not exceed two pages in length; the letter must have a header and must be signed by

- the candidate;
- An abstract (minimum 200/maximum 400 words) of the research project that will be pursued by the candidate during the Master's/PhD/Fellowship program. The abstract must include a title and end with the candidate's first name, last name, and signature;
 - Income Tax Return (US Form 1040);
 - Bachelor's Degree or Bachelor of Science (in case of admission to a Master's Course) or Master's Degree or Master of Science (in case of admission to a Doctoral Course) from an Italian or foreign university;
 - Application for admission to a Master's and/or Doctorate (PhD) Program and/or Research Fellowship (for students already holding MD or PhD degrees or equivalent) in neuroscience and/or neurobiology at a U.S. University.

Applications with incomplete documentation, documentation in a format other than PDF, or documentation lacking a header and/or signature where required will not be evaluated.

ART. 4 REVOCATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

4.1 The Foundation will verify that each scholarship recipient attends the courses of study in which he/she is enrolled successfully, and/or achieves the objectives of the assigned research project within the specified timeframe. The scholarship recipient must submit, by the end of November each year, a written letter regarding the status of his/her studies, signed by the referring mentor/Professor, which the Foundation reserves the right to verify by contacting the University itself.

4.2 The Grant will be permanently revoked:

if discrepancies are found between the student's declaration and his or her actual university, economic, financial or family situation. It should be noted that the awarded scholarship will be revoked if it emerges, at any time, even after the payment has been made, that the student does not meet the requirements indicated in articles 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, 3.2 and 4.1 (for example, if the student has not been accepted to the Master, PhD, or Fellowship, or if the student's family income exceeds \$120,000.00);

4.3 For the cases set for at art. 4.2, the Foundation will recover the amounts paid through the procedures provided for by law.

ART. 5 DELIVERY AND PAYMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE WINNERS

5.1 The Foundation will disburse the annual scholarship contribution (equal to \$25,000.00 gross), net of any withholding taxes, in a single payment via bank transfer to the bank account provided by the scholarship winner.

5.2 The scholarship winner must have a tax identification number issued by the territorially competent Italian Consulate at the time the scholarship is disbursed.

ART. 6 TREATMENT OF PERSONAL DATA

6.1 The personal data provided when applying for participation in the call will be processed in accordance with current legislation on the protection of personal data (EU Regulation 2016/679 and subsequent implementing measures).

6.2 The Foundation, represented by the President *pro tempore*, will process personal data as autonomous data controller, exclusively for the purpose of fulfilling the obligations related to the implementation of these regulations.

Milan, Italy, July 4th 2025