



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: THE “IGINIO DIENI FUND” RESEARCH AWARD

(Biennial Edition – Contribution to Paleontological Research)

The Società Paleontologica Italiana ETS (Italian Paleontological Society, hereinafter “SPI”), in accordance with the donor’s will regarding the establishment of a fund named the “Iginio Dieni Fund,” hereby announces a selection procedure for the awarding of a financial contribution intended to support research activities in the field of Invertebrate Paleontology, **with priority given to studies concerning Cretaceous molluscs.**

Art. 1 – Purpose of the Call

The SPI launches a biennial selection procedure for the awarding of a financial contribution of € 5,000.00 (five thousand EUR) to a young researcher of any nationality intending to carry out studies on **fossil invertebrates, with preference for Cretaceous molluscs.**

The award is normally indivisible and is announced on March 23 of each even-numbered year.

Art. 2 – Eligibility Requirements

Candidates must, at the closing date of this call:

- hold a master’s degree, or be PhD candidates, or have obtained a PhD, or have graduated no more than 10 years prior, and must not have reached the **age of 35**;
- be **members of the Italian Paleontological Society** in good standing with membership fees at the time of the deadline;
- **not have previously been recipients of this same contribution**, as the Fund cannot be awarded more than once to the same person.

Art. 3 – Purpose of the Contribution

The financial contribution from the “Iginio Dieni Fund” is intended to support paleontological research activities, such as:



- collection or sampling campaigns;
- laboratory analyses;
- fieldwork;
- travel or accommodation expenses for research or consultation of collections;
- other activities strictly related to the proposed research project.

Expenses related to registration or participation in conferences are not eligible. Expenses that are not directly related to scientific research, lack proper justification, or overlap with other reimbursements for the same activity are also excluded.

Art. 4 – Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted by the deadline specified in this call via email to segreteria@paleoitalia.it with the subject: “Application for the Iginio Dieni Fund.” The deadline is **April 30** of the year of publication of the call.

The application, **which must be written in English** under penalty of exclusion, must include:

- a. **Application form** (as per template attached);
- b. updated **CV** with a list of publications;
- c. **research project** (max 3 pages), including:
 - objectives,
 - scientific context,
 - methodology,
 - planned activities and timeline,
 - expected outcomes;
- d. detailed and appropriate **budget plan**;
- e. copy of a valid **identity document**.



Art. 5 – Evaluation Criteria

The Evaluation Committee, composed of three members of the SPI Presidency Council, will assess applications based on:

- **scientific quality of the project** and relevance to Invertebrate Paleontology;
- **coherence and feasibility of the budget**;
- **scientific curriculum** of the candidate, with particular attention to publications and previous research activities;
- alignment of the project with the aims of the Fund, **with priority for Cretaceous mollusc research**.

The Committee may request additional documentation or clarification if needed.

Art. 6 – Outcome of the Selection

The result will be approved by the SPI Presidency Council and communicated to applicants via publication on the SPI website and by email no later than **May 31** of the year of publication. The award ceremony takes place during the Italian Paleontological Society's Paleodays.

The decision of the Committee is final and not subject to appeal.

Art. 7 – Disbursement of the Contribution

The contribution will be managed by the **Società Paleontologica Italiana ETS** in compliance with the donor's will. It will be disbursed in a single instalment within 60 days of the winner's proclamation, upon formal acceptance.

The winner must submit within two years:

- a final report on activities and results;
- detailed financial documentation with receipts.



Publications arising from the project must explicitly acknowledge the “Iginio Dieni Fund.” Unused or non-compliant expenses may be subject to reimbursement.

Art. 8 – Personal Data Processing

In accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR), personal data provided will be processed exclusively for purposes related to the management of the selection procedure.

Art. 9 – Final Provisions

Participation implies full acceptance of the rules of this call.

For matters not expressly stated, reference is made to the statutes and regulations of the Italian Paleontological Society ETS.

The Committee may decide not to award the contribution if no application is deemed adequate. The SPI reserves the right to revoke the contribution in case of false statements or improper use of funds.

Application for Participation in the Selection of the “Iginio Dieni Fund” Research Award

Subject: Application for participation in the selection procedure for the awarding of grants under the Iginio Dieni Fund

The undersigned [**Name Surname**], born in [**Place**] on [**Date**], residing at [**Full address**], tax code [____], telephone [____], email [____],

HEREBY APPLIES

to be admitted to the selection procedure referred to in the above-mentioned call, aimed at awarding the grants provided by the **Iginio Dieni Fund**.

For this purpose, the undersigned, under their own responsibility,

DECLARES

1. to have read the call for applications and to accept all its provisions in full;
2. to meet all the requirements for participation;
3. to undertake to promptly communicate any changes to the information provided above;
4. that all documents submitted are true and accurate.

The applicant encloses the following documents:

- Updated *curriculum vitae*, including a list of publications;
- Research project (max. 3 pages);
- Proposed and relevant budget plan;
- Copy of a valid identity document.

Place and date: [____]

Signature: [____]