

Prot. n° 20294/25/A del 13/02/2025

*"In our normality, every moment
is a unique and silent nourishment
for us who are flesh and emotion,
a Universe in becoming, unrepeatabe, in continuous explosion."
Emanuele Cappelli*

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - GTA CONTEST 2025

"Normal is Extraordinary"

Within the framework of the "GTA" Project - Unique Project Code (*Codice Unico di Progetto - CUP: I83B24000030006*, financed by the European Union under the Next Generation EU (NGEU) program, supporting the internationalization of higher education institutions in the fields of arts and music (AFAM), in accordance with the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) - MISSION 4 COMPONENT 1 - INVESTMENT 3.4 SUB-INVESTMENT T5.

CUP: I83B24000030006

Investment Line: M4C1I3.4T5 "Strategic Partnerships/Initiatives to Innovate the International Dimension of the AFAM System"

Considering:

- Regulation (EU) No. 2021/241 of 12 February 2021, establishing the Recovery and Resilience Facility;
- The National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR), approved by the ECOFIN Council Decision of 13 July 2021 and notified to Italy by the General Secretariat of the Council with note LT161/21 of 14 July 2021;
- Specifically, Mission 4 Component 1 Investment 3.4 Sub-investment T5 of the PNRR;
- Regulation (EU) 2018/1046 of 18 July 2018, establishing the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union, amending Regulations (EU) No. 1296/2013, No. 1301/2013, No. 1303/2013, No. 1304/2013, No. 1309/2013, No. 1316/2013, No. 223/2014, No. 283/2014, and Decision No. 541/2014/EU, and repealing Regulation (EU, Euratom) No. 966/2012;
- Law No. 120/2020, converting, with amendments, Decree-Law No. 76 of 16 July 2020, concerning "Urgent measures for simplification and digital innovation";
- Decree-Law No. 77 of 31 May 2021, converted with amendments by Law No. 108 of 29 July 2021, regarding the "Governance of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan and initial measures to strengthen administrative structures and streamline procedures";
- Decree-Law No. 80 of 9 June 2021, converted with amendments by Law No. 113 of 6 August 2021, concerning "Urgent measures to strengthen the administrative capacity of public administrations for

- the implementation of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) and to enhance judicial efficiency";
- The CIPE Resolution No. 63 26 November 2020, introducing regulatory provisions for the implementation of the Unique Project Code (CUP) reform;
 - The Ministerial Decree of the Italian Minister of Economy and Finance of 6 August 2021, concerning the allocation of resources to each Administration responsible for PNRR interventions and corresponding milestones and targets;
 - Article 17 of Regulation (EU) 2020/852, defining environmental objectives, including the "Do No Significant Harm" (DNSH) principle, and the European Commission Communication 2021/C 58/01, providing "Technical guidance on the application of the 'do no significant harm' principle under the Recovery and Resilience Facility Regulation";
 - The cross-cutting principles established by the PNRR, including climate and digital contributions (so called "tagging"), gender equality, and the obligation to protect and promote youth development;
 - The obligation to ensure the achievement of milestones, targets, and financial objectives as set out in the PNRR;
 - The D.D. No. 124/2023, concerning the "Notice for the granting of funding aimed at the internationalization of higher education institutions in the fields of arts and music (AFAM)";
 - Law No. 168 of 9 May 1989, establishing the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific and Technological Research;
 - The guidelines for financial reporting (Official Regulation U.0001488.27-09-2024) and the additional circulars referenced regarding the procurement of goods and services;
 - The MEF Circular No. 4/2022 – RGS, entitled "National Recovery and Resilience Plan (PNRR) – Article 1, Paragraph 1 of Decree-Law No. 80 of 2021 - Implementation Guidelines";
 - The relevant EU regulations and all applicable legislation for the project implementation.
 - The appointment decree of the external RUP (Responsible for the Procedure) dated 5 July 2024, adopted following the decision of the Board of Directors.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT

The partner institutions of the "Grand Tour Afam" Project—as per Notice No. 124 of 19 July 2023, issued by the Ministry of University and Research—hereby promote the first edition of the "GTA Contest" for the year 2025. This international competition is established with the aim of enhancing and supporting the talent of students enrolled in training programs at the partner institutions and affiliated members.

Regulations.

1. SUBJECT OF THE CALL

The "GTA Contest" is an international competition for students, established with specific reference to the second phase of the "Grand Tour Afam" project, which is dedicated to networking. The overarching theme of this phase is "Peace Overcomes All Barriers and Prejudices." In this context, the Contest aims to:

- Showcase the talent and design sensitivity of young students in training;

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- Reinforce the role of young individuals in the promotion of Italian culture worldwide;
- Celebrate Italy, beauty, and the aesthetics of contemporary art, fostering a spirit of full sharing, interdisciplinary integration, and cross-modal enjoyment of art and culture.

The Contest enables the development of various productions and artistic specializations, centered around the unique theme "Normal is Extraordinary", as set forth in Article 2 of this Call. It serves as an opportunity to:

- Generate contemporary reflections on the theme and create historical testimonies;
- Encourage freedom of artistic expression, making it as universal and inclusive as possible by engaging an international audience;
- Enhance the cultural approaches, methodologies, and specializations of each academic institution, integrating them into cross-sectoral events.

Throughout its various phases, the Contest and all projects will be accessible to the public via a dedicated web portal. The winners of the competition will be awarded a scholarship to further their studies abroad.

The selection of the fifty finalist works will be entrusted to a highly qualified Jury. The choice of the winning works will be made by an internationally renowned artist, capable of representing the various artistic sectors in the competition and serving as the President of the "GTA Contest."

The finalist works will be presented during the international exhibition "Grand Festival Afam", an inclusive, cross-sectoral event, organized in collaboration with the partner institutions.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

All students enrolled in any course of study at the Partner Institutions or foreign affiliated institutions of the "Grand Tour Afam" Project at the time of publication of this Call are eligible to participate. This includes both incoming and outgoing Erasmus mobility students, without any distinction of gender, age, origin, or other criteria.

Applications must include the submission of a project that originally and creatively responds to the theme set forth in Article 2 of this Call, following the modalities and deadlines specified in Articles 3, 4, and 9 of this Call.

2. PROPOSED THEME AND CHARACTERISTICS OF THE WORKS

"Normal is Extraordinary"

Every moment is unique and unrepeatable. Every person, with their own story, experiences, and choices, is one of a kind.

We are unique, earthly, and carnal—authentic in our bodies and in our deepest emotions. Away from the spotlights and the virtual world, we are real in our skin and in our senses, free in our thoughts and in our feelings. The extraordinary is precisely who we are.

"Normal is Extraordinary" is an introspective reflection on your uniqueness.

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Dedicate your work to this concept, expressing yourself in way that is true to who you are. Break free from the limitations you unconsciously impose on yourself—design and create without fear. Portray the subtle and hidden beauty of normality through the techniques best suited to your project.

Each applicant is free to choose the techniques for creating their work and the means of presentation, provided that the work does not contain any hazardous elements, either directly or indirectly.

The project may fall within one or more of the following Clusters:

1. Design
2. Arts and Technology
3. Theatre, Acting, Dance, and Performative Arts
4. Cinema and Audiovisual
5. Visual Arts
6. Music

3. PARTICIPATION PROCEDURE

Participation in the "GTA Contest" may be undertaken individually or as a team, composed of multiple students, including those enrolled in different partner institutions and affiliated members, with a maximum of six members per group. In the case of group participation, a team leader must be designated. Registration for the contest is exclusively digital.

By accessing the dedicated webpage at [grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest](https://www.grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest), both individual applicants and team leaders will be able to upload the required project documentation during the various phases outlined in the Call for Applications. **The platform will be accessible starting from 24 February 2025 on the page <https://www.grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest/>.** Applications submitted via e-mail or through any means other than the specified digital platform will not be considered.

4. CONTEST STRUCTURE

To participate in the "GTA Contest", candidates must follow and comply with the following phases:

A. Registration for the Contest

To enter the Contest, each candidate must submit their proposal by April 28, 2025, through the dedicated webpage: [grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest](https://www.grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest).

Applicants must provide the following information:

- Institution(s) of affiliation
- Relevant cluster
- Project title

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- Project concept: A description of the intended project (maximum 1,200 characters, including spaces)
- Accompanying images (optional)

Images must be in JPEG format, with a resolution between 150 and 300 dpi, and must not exceed 2 MB in size. Each project may include up to three images at this stage.

Important: Image files must be named using the candidate's last name (or, in the case of a team submission, the team leader's last name), followed by an underscore and the title of the work.

B. Preselection

By May 15, 2025, an internal commission within each institution will evaluate the submitted project concepts from its students and select up to 10 proposals to proceed to the final selection phase. For group submissions, the project will be assessed by the internal commission of the team leader's institution.

C. Project Development and Submission of Digital Works

The selected project concepts must be developed and fully realized by the candidates.

Final project images and other necessary digital materials must be uploaded by the participants to the dedicated platform by June 15, 2025, following the technical specifications provided on grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest.

D. Selection of Finalists

By July 5, 2025, an external jury composed of renowned experts (ensuring gender parity for fair judgment) and the artistic director of the event will meet (either in person or remotely) to select 50 finalist projects from those uploaded to the platform. At this stage, the jury may also award special mentions among the 50 selected projects.

E. Submission of Final Works

By July 20, 2025, the 50 finalists must upload their finalized projects on grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest for the final evaluation. Each work must be accompanied by a technical data sheet. The digital documentation submitted via the platform will be:

- Forwarded to contest partners and sponsors for the potential assignment of special prizes,
- Published on the "Grand Tour Afam" website,
- Archived as part of the "Grand Festival Afam 2025" collection.

F. Grand Festival Afam

The finalist works will be publicly presented during the international exhibition "Grand Festival Afam" (2025 edition) an inclusive, cross-sectoral event organized in collaboration with the partner institutions.

The festival will be held in Rome from September 10 to September 20, 2025. The exhibition venue will be announced before the final selection of works.

G. Exhibition of Finalist Works

During the festival, all finalist works will be exhibited to the public in digital format and/or reproduced on appropriate graphic supports, ensuring consistency with the exhibition's visual display.

For works requiring physical display (wall-mounted, floor-based, or performance pieces), participation is subject to the following conditions:

- Finalists must request approval in advance from the event organizers, who must authorize the display;
- Transportation, delivery, and retrieval of physical works must be arranged and covered by the participants within the dates set by the organizers;
- The maximum display dimensions (wall-mounted or floor-based) must not exceed 2m x 2m;
- The date for live performances must be coordinated between the finalists and the event organizers; -All installation and performance expenses must be covered by the participants. Works and performances must not pose any direct or indirect safety risks.

H. Masterclass, Announcement of Winning Works, and Final Event

As part of the "Grand Festival Afam", a Masterclass will be held exclusively for the finalists, led by the President of the GTA Contest. The President will select the winners from the 50 finalist projects. The announcement of the six winning works will take place during a major public event at the conclusion of the festival.

5. PRIZES AND SPECIAL MENTIONS

The six winners of the "GTA Contest" 2025 edition will be awarded a scholarship of €2.500,00 to further their studies abroad. In the case of group participation, the total scholarship amount will be equally divided among the group members.

The jury, partners, and sponsors reserve the right to select certain projects for the assignment of special prizes or honorary mentions. The announcement and awarding of these additional recognitions will take place simultaneously with the proclamation of the contest winners.

By accepting the prize, the winners transfer free of charge to their institution of affiliation and the lead institution all publication and economic exploitation rights related to the awarded work, while retaining the right to be credited as the authors of the work at all times.

6. CONDITIONS OF INCLUSION AND EXCLUSION

The Grand Festival Afam is open to students regularly enrolled at the partner institutions and foreign affiliated institutions of the "Grand Tour Afam" Project at the time of publication of the Call for Applications, including incoming and outgoing Erasmus mobility program students.

Applications submitted after April 28, 2025, will not be considered.

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The organizing bodies reserve the right to exclude participants from the festival under the following circumstances:

- a) Participants whose behavior is deemed inappropriate towards other contestants or disrespectful of the values of the organizing institution, at any stage of the contest.
- b) Works that fail to meet the criteria of uniqueness, originality, and authorship.
- c) Projects submitted for the final phase, including any accompanying materials, if they are found to be manifestly inadequate.

7. ROLE OF TEACHING STAFF

The teaching staff of the partner institutions and affiliated organizations is responsible for:

- Promoting the initiative among all students;
- Encouraging broad participation, ensuring inclusivity regardless of gender, age, origin, or other distinctions;
- Identifying and organizing evaluation methods to assess project quality in terms of originality and content;
- Collaborating to achieve a substantial number of contest registrations.

8. INTERNAL COMMISSION AND JURY

Internal commissions within the partner institutions and affiliated members, composed of teaching staff and appointed by the Directors, are responsible for the preselection of works for each institution.

Jury, composed of renowned experts external to the institutions and the Artistic Director of the Contest, will evaluate the submitted works at its sole and final discretion to select the 50 finalist works. The evaluation criteria will focus on: Conceptual elements of the work, Quality of execution, Potential for project development.

9. SUMMARY OF PHASES AND DEADLINES

- By April 28, 2025: Registration for the contest and submission of project concepts.
- By May 15, 2025: Preselection of project concepts by the Internal Commissions.
- By June 15, 2025: Submission of digital documentation for completed projects.
- By July 5, 2025: Selection of the 50 finalist works by the Jury.
- By September 10, 2025: Delivery of finalist works to the festival venue.
- Between September 10–20, 2025: Masterclass and announcement of the winning works.

The organizing committee reserves the right to modify the locations, phases, dates, and deadlines of the contest and festival based on organizational needs and will promptly inform all relevant parties of any changes.

10. EVENT MANAGEMENT AND ORGANIZATION

Scientific Coordination: Fabio Mongelli

Artistic Direction: Emanuele Cappelli

Organizational Secretariat: Ernesto Pastore

Marketing and Programming: Alessia Cantafio

Legal Consultancy: Ilaria Lupi, Bianca Tursi Prato

Research and Artistic Production Management: Chiara Greco, Laura Leopardi

Press Office: Alessandra Caruso

Evaluation quality: Patrizia Di Santo, Milena Lombardi

11. CUSTODY AND INSURANCE

The organizing committee ensures the utmost care in the custody of the received works but assumes no responsibility for any damages caused by transportation, tampering, fire, theft, or any other cause during the event, exhibition, setup, or storage period.

If deemed necessary, the authors may independently insure their works at their own expense.

12. USE OF MATERIALS AND WORKS

By participating in the contest and festival, candidates expressly authorize the organizing body to use images of the works and submitted documents (as outlined in Article 4 of this Call) in any manner and for purposes deemed appropriate by the organization, without any financial compensation.

Specifically, the organization retains the right to:

-Use submitted materials on its official websites, promotional materials, and communication channels.

-Feature the works in exhibitions related to the contest.

-Authorize sponsors, partners, and affiliated institutions to use the work's images for promotional purposes.

-Except for the winning work, all other works will remain the property of the respective authors, whose names will be acknowledged and credited whenever the works are reproduced.

The timeline and procedures for retrieving non-winning works will be communicated by the Organizational Secretariat to the relevant participants via e-mail at gtacontest@grandtourafam.it.

13. ACCEPTANCE

By participating in this initiative, students unconditionally acknowledge and accept all the regulations outlined in this Call, without exception.

14. PRIVACY

The information and data collected will be processed in compliance with the applicable data protection regulations (Article 13 of the General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR). These data will be used exclusively for contest participation, dissemination of informational materials, promotional activities related to the festival, and public presentations, and will be archived within the database of "Grand Festival Afam".

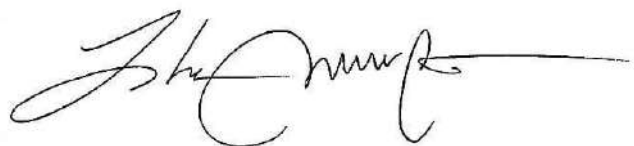
15. TRANSPARENCY

The organization guarantees maximum transparency in every phase of the contest and commits to publishing timely updates and official documentation related to each stage of the contest on the dedicated webpage: grandtourafam.it/en/gtacontest.

16. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further inquiries, please contact: gtacontest@grandtourafam.it.

**Il Coordinatore Scientifico
(Arch. Fabio Mongelli)**



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