



**L-Università
ta' Malta**

**People, Culture &
Engagement Directorate**

University of Malta
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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS (Call ID: 148/2026)

Post/s of Full-Time Research Support Officer I

Project CIRCFOODPACK – “CIRCular FOOD PACKaging Solutions for Sustainable Cross-Border Dairy Chains”

Funded by the Italia-Malta Programme

And any other projects undertaken by the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty of Health Sciences.

1. Applications are invited for a Research Support Officer (RSO) to carry out duties in relation to the CIRCFOODPACK Project which is funded by the Italia-Malta Programme. The RSO may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty of Health Sciences.
2. Applicants must be in possession of a BSc in Food Science or a related topic. Professional experience in dairy environments and microbiology laboratories will be considered assets.

The University of Malta is an Equal Opportunity employer.

3. **The selected candidate must be resident in Malta for the period of employment.**

4. The post is for a period of up to 24 months.

5. The initial remuneration per annum, inclusive of any cost-of-living adjustment shall be €27,207.

6. Candidates must upload their covering letter, curriculum vitae, and certificates (certificates should be submitted in English) and contact details of at least two referees **through this form** <https://www.um.edu.mt/hrmd/workat-um-projects> by not later than **Monday, 2nd November 2026**.

Late applications will not be considered.

7. Further information may be obtained from <https://www.um.edu.mt/hr/recruitment/projects/> and should you have any queries, please send us an email on projects.hr@um.edu.mt

Office of the University,
Msida, 22nd October 2026

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Further Information

1. The CIRCFOODPACK project aims to address a critical shared challenge in the Sicily–Malta cross-border area: the high levels of food and packaging waste generated within the dairy supply chain, exacerbated by seasonal tourism and limited local waste-management capacity. Addressing this challenge requires cross-border cooperation to implement coordinated actions in waste prevention, circularity, and innovation. The project’s overall objective is to support the transition to a circular economy through the joint development, validation, and implementation of two sustainable packaging solutions. The first solution is a bioactive primary packaging system designed to ensure food safety, reduce pathogen contamination, extend product shelf life, and minimise food waste at source. The second solution focuses on circular secondary packaging produced from food waste and bio-based, recycled, and biodegradable materials. Designed according to eco-design principles, this solution valorises waste into high-value materials while reducing reliance on plastic-based and virgin resources. The project also includes tailored business models for each solution: the primary packaging will follow an SME-oriented sales and technology-licensing model, while the circular secondary packaging will be supplied directly to retailers and producers, with strong potential for cross-border replication and scaling. Further information may be obtained by contacting Dr Foteini Pavli at foteini.pavli@um.edu.mt. The RSO may also be required to work on other projects undertaken by the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics, Faculty of Health Sciences.
2. The appointee will be responsible for carrying out research with the main duties including:
 - Perform research activities relevant to the project and assist in product trials
 - Maintain appropriate experimental records and contribute to technical reports, project deliverables, scientific publications, presentations, research meetings and collaboration with project partners.
3. The appointee will be expected to work at such places and during such hours as may be determined by the University authorities.

4. The selection procedure will involve:
 - a. scrutiny of qualifications and experience claimed and supported by testimonials and/or certificates (copies to be included with the application);
 - b. shortlisting; and
 - c. an interview and / or extended interview.
5. The post is for a period of up to 24 months, which will be subject to a probationary period and to the provisions of the Statutes, Regulations and Bye-Laws of the University of Malta which are now or which may hereafter be in force.

Office of the University,
Msida, 22nd October 2026