Call for Applications for Rector of the Università della Svizzera Italiana (USI)

USI is a Swiss public institution founded in 1996, which has already reached a remarkable international stature – ranking 14th in 2021 in the "World’s Best Small Universities (THE)" and 26th among the "Top 50 under 50 (QS)". The University has a strong international character, with students, teachers and collaborators from one hundred countries. It includes the Academy of Architecture, the Faculties of Biomedical Sciences, Communication, Culture and Society, Economics and Informatics, the affiliated Faculty of Theology of Lugano and 24 institutes. Its four campuses are located in Lugano, Mendrisio and Bellinzona. Currently, USI has over 3900 students and more than 1100 teachers and researchers. The annual budget exceeds 100 million Swiss francs, with 29 million from competitive research funding.

USI actively contributes to the evolution of the Swiss university system and promotes the valuable components of the Italian-speaking culture. The aspects that characterize USI are an active culture, projected towards the future and the entire world, an original prospective stimulated by its unique position, in which the Swiss identity interacts with the traditions of all of Europe, its young spirit that is reflected in a flexible structure and a dynamic and informal attitude. The strategic planning foresees a growing integration in the national university environment, enhanced sustainability and an expanded digitalization in the teaching, scientific and management areas.

USI is currently seeking high-level candidates for the position of Rector, with a (negotiable) starting date within Spring 2023. The selected candidate will be responsible for the institution’s success in teaching at all levels, in research and for the USI mission in general, including its positive impact on the economy, culture and society of Ticino Canton. She/he will be in charge of the management of all the components of the University and will report to the University Council. She/he will operate in coordination with the Academic Senate, collaborating with the Rectorate and the Deans of the Faculties. The duties and responsibilities of the Rector are defined by the USI Statute, art. 13.5: https://www.usi.ch/sites/default/files/storage/attachments/press-usi-statuto-it.pdf

The ideal candidate shall be high in professorial ranks. Furthermore, she/he must have obtained excellent results while participating to the management of at least one university entity, plus a proven capacity to constructively communicate with all the components of the institution and society in general. She/he shall be able to conceive and realise through consensus an ambitious and innovative vision for the future of USI, beyond the present mission, culture and strategy. She/he shall actively promote the image of USI and its international rank. The selection will also take into account the candidate’s knowledge of the culture, economy and historical and political traditions of Switzerland and in particular of the Ticino Canton.
Remuneration and fringe benefits are internationally competitive. The mandate as Rector is intended for 4 years and renewable. It also includes the nomination as full professor in one or more of the USI Faculties, requiring adequate credentials for teaching, research and professional service.

The Rector is required to master Italian, an additional Swiss national language and English. Coherently with the international character of USI, Swiss citizenship is not required. The Rector shall reside in the Ticino Canton.

Applications must be received, by e-mail only, to the address concorsorettore@usi.ch before 24:00 (Swiss time) of 20 August 2022. They must include: (1) a CV not exceeding 2 pages; (2) a list of 7 verifiable references with e-mail addresses; (3) a short note with the candidate’s e-mail address and phone number.

For any additional question, candidates can arrange a phone appointment with the Adjunct Pro-rector, Professor Giorgio Margaritondo, through e-mail (monica.steger@usi.ch). USI is committed to treat with confidentiality all phases of the selection process.

Lugano, 20 June 2022