

Call for Applications and Initiative Rules

The Bending Spoons Fellowship Program

Art. 1 Recitals

Bending Spoons Operations S.p.A., a company with registered office in Via Nino Bonnet 10, 20154, Milan, tax code, VAT number and registration number with the Companies' Register of Milan Monza Brianza Lodi 13368510965 ("**Bending Spoons**" or the "**Organizer**"), intends to support outstanding early-stage technical talent. For this reason, Bending Spoons is promoting an initiative named "**The Bending Spoons Fellowship Program**" (the "**Initiative**").

Art. 2 Fellowship's and Scholarship's characteristics and recipients

The Initiative is aimed at instituting a fellowship lasting up to three years with no. 10 top-performing students in Computer Science Bachelor or Master degree programs enrolled in the academic year 2025/2026 (the "**Fellowship**") and at awarding to them **no. 10 scholarships**, amounting to max. **EUR 150,000.00** net each (EUR 50,000.00 per year) (the "**Scholarships**").

Art. 3 Participation Requirements

The participation in the Initiative is open to students who shall meet all the following requirements (the "**Participation Requirements**") by the deadline of the call for applications:

1. Not below 18 years of age.
2. Enrolled in a Bachelor or a Master program in the academic year 2025/2026 (the "**Academic Program**") at any university in the EU, the UK, Switzerland or the non-EU Balkan countries (North Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Albania and Kosovo) (the "**Eligible Universities**").
3. Still have at least one year of study ahead within the same Academic Program or—for Bachelor students that will complete their Academic Program during the academic year 2025/2026—still have at least one year of study ahead within an Master program, upon the condition that they will be enrolled in said Master before final acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship.
4. The Academic Program or the Master program they will be enrolled in focuses on computer science, computer engineering, software engineering, artificial intelligence,

informatics, or an aligned study program (at the discretion of Bending Spoons) (the "**Computer Science Subjects**"), and is held at an Eligible University.

5. Have an end of year GPA ranking (or comparable indicator) that is top 5% of their class (the "**Performance Requirement**"). For participants attending their first year in the Academic Program (the "**First Year Students**") the Performance Requirement does not need to be met at the time of the application but must be met before final acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship.

Every person submitting an application request (the "**Applicant**") agrees to all the rules provided herein.

Art. 4

How to participate

Applicants must submit an individual application to the website <https://fellowship.bendingspoons.com/> by 11:59 p.m. (Italian time) on March 29, 2026.

- When applying, the Applicant shall submit the Curriculum Vitae.

At a later stage of the application process, Applicants may be required to submit additional documentation, including but not limited to:

- Proof that the Applicant meets the Performance Requirement. For First Year Students the respective documentation shall be submitted before the final acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship.
- Letter of recommendation from a professor of the Academic Program.
- Identity Document or Passport.
- Certificate of residence for tax purposes.
- Proof of economic need, such as income statements, tax documents, or other relevant financial records.

The documents must be submitted in English. Failure to submit any required additional documentation may lead to the exclusion from the selection process, at Bending Spoons' discretion.

Art. 5

Acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarships

The conditional acceptance to the Fellowship and **award** of the Scholarships will be decided by a selection committee composed of Bending Spoons representatives (the "**Selection Committee**").

The Selection Committee's work will be carried out in two stages:

- **First stage:** an initial selection of Applicants on the basis of the documents attached to the application and submitted during the application process.
- **Second stage:** Applicants identified in the first stage of selection will be admitted to take online logical reasoning and behavioral tests, and an interview with a representative of the Selection Committee.

After the stages mentioned above, no. 10 Applicants will be selected as winners in the selection and shall become fellows (the "**Fellows**"). The selection of the Fellows will be done according to the discretionary judgment of the Selection Committee on the basis of the results of the tests and the individual interview.

Applicants acknowledge and accept that the Selection Committee is the independent, final adjudicator of the evaluation and that it will not justify its decisions. Applicants agree not to object to or challenge the composition, decision-making process, or any judgments of the Selection Committee. The Selection Committee's judgment is final and not subject to appeal. Any attempt of a participant to contact one or more members of the Selection Committee with matters regarding the Scholarship will automatically disqualify and exclude such Applicant from the selection. The Fellows will be contacted in June 2026 via email to inform them that they have been conditionally awarded the Scholarship.

In the event that two or more Applicants obtain the same ranking, the acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship will be based on economic need. The Organizer reserves the right to ask for more substantial proof of economic need, if necessary.

The final acceptance to the Fellowship and **award** of the no. 10 Scholarships will take place following verification of compliance with all the following requirements:

- Enrollment for the 2026/2027 academic year in the Academic Program, or—for Fellows who completed the Academic Program in the 2025/2026 academic year—in an Master program that focuses on Computer Science Subjects and is offered by an Eligible University.
- For First Year Students, meeting the Performance Requirement.

Failure to submit any documentation required at any stage by the Organizer may lead to the exclusion from the acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship, at Bending Spoons' discretion.

In order to obtain the final acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship, the Fellow is required to send proof that the applicable requirements above were met by August 28, 2026 to the email address **fellowship@bendingspoons.com**.

The no. 10 Scholarships are awarded to each Fellow for the duration of the Fellowship and up to three consecutive years in total, subject to meeting the Retention Requirements (as defined below) provided under article 6 below.

Art. 6

Fellowship duration and Scholarship retention

The Scholarship will be paid by Bending Spoons in EUR 50,000 installments (the “**Installments**”) for the duration of the Fellowship, up to three consecutive years, and for a maximum of EUR 150,000 per Fellow. After the first Installment, the disbursement of the following Installments is subject to the retention of the Scholarship by the Fellow.

To ensure duration of the Fellowship and retention of the Scholarship after the first year, the Fellow shall meet the following requirements (the “**Retention Requirements**”):

- **Continuous enrollment:** The Fellow must maintain uninterrupted enrollment in the same Academic Program. Fellows who were enrolled in a Bachelor program and subsequently complete that program must be enrolled—starting from the academic year immediately following the academic year in which the Bachelor was completed—in an Master program that: (a) focuses on Computer Science Subjects; and (b) is offered by an Eligible University.
- **Academic performance and integrity:** The Fellow must maintain strong academic performance and uphold academic integrity.
- **GPA requirement:** The Fellow must maintain an end-of-year GPA ranking (or comparable indicator) within the top 10% of their class.
- **Non-interruption:** The Fellow has received the Scholarship the preceding year.
- **Duration limit:** In any case the Fellow has not received the Scholarship for more than two years consecutively.

The respect of the Retention Requirements will be verified each academic year by the Organizer. To this purpose, for each year of the Fellowship, the Fellow shall provide the Organizer with academic records of each winter and summer exam session, as well as any other academic records requested by the Organizer, within 30 September of each year and in any case before disbursement of the relevant Installment.

The lack (or the lack of proof) of one or more Retention Requirements, ascertained according to the discretionary and final judgment of the Organizer, will determine the definitive termination of the Fellowship limited to that Fellow and forfeiture of the Fellow’s right to receive all Installments not yet disbursed.

Fellows who do not meet one or more Retention Requirements due to documented circumstances such as serious illness, maternity/paternity leave, or other events of comparable gravity must promptly notify the Organizer. After receiving the notification, the

Organizer may, at its sole discretion, evaluate individual circumstances on a case-by-case basis and decide whether to waive or adapt any of the Retention Requirements.

Transfers to another Eligible University or to another program aligned with Computer Science Subjects may be authorized, provided that:

- The new program meets the requirements outlined in these Rules.
- The transfer does not cause a delay in the academic career of the Fellow.
- The Fellow obtains prior written approval from the Organizer.

Art. 7

Mentorship and Summer Internship

For each year of the Fellowship—and as long as the Retention Requirements are met—each Fellow shall be paired with a Bending Spoons software engineer who will act as a mentor, through dedicated mentoring sessions scheduled upon request of the Fellow in accordance with the time constraints of the mentor.

For one or more years of the Fellowship—and as long as the Retention Requirements are met—the Organizer reserves the right to offer the Fellow to participate in a paid full-time summer internship at Bending Spoons.

The internship, if offered, is entirely optional and acceptance or refusal of the internship offer has no impact on the Fellowship duration or the Fellow’s eligibility for any Installment and does not constitute a Retention Requirement.

The terms, duration, and conditions of any internship will be communicated separately and will be subject to a dedicated internship agreement, where applicable.

Art. 8

Accuracy of Information, Misconduct, and Revocation

Applicants warrant that all information, documents, and declarations submitted during the application process are true, accurate, complete, and not misleading.

The Organizer reserves the right to verify, directly or through third parties, the authenticity and accuracy of any information or document provided.

Any false, incomplete, altered, forged, or misleading information, or any omission of relevant facts, will result in immediate:

- exclusion from the selection procedure; or
- termination of the Fellowship and revocation of the Scholarship, if already awarded,

without prejudice to the Organizer's right to seek reimbursement of any amounts unduly received by the Fellow.

The Fellowship may be terminated and the Scholarship revoked in case of:

- academic misconduct or disciplinary sanctions issued by the Fellow's university;
- breach of these rules;
- conduct that, in the Organizer's reasonable and discretionary judgment, is incompatible with the integrity, reputation, or values of the Fellowship.

Any sums already disbursed prior to the revocation will not be considered an acquired right and may be subject to recovery at the Organizer's discretion.

Art. 9

General provisions

Combination: The Scholarship can be combined with other scholarships or other forms of financial aid. The Scholarship may also be combined with exemptions from university fees and contributions.

Refusal of the Fellowship or Scholarship or non-compliance with the requirements for the final acceptance or award: In the event of not acceptance of the Fellowship or Scholarship and/or failure to deliver the documentation required under article 5 above for the final acceptance to the Fellowship and award of the Scholarship, the final award shall be made in favor of another eligible Applicant. This provision does not apply in case a Fellow does not meet the Retention Requirements, in which case the Fellow forfeits the right to be part of the Fellowship and to receive all Installments not yet disbursed, and these will not be extended to or paid in favor of other eligible Applicants.

Disbursement: The first Installment will be disbursed via bank transfer by the end of October 2026. The following Installments will be disbursed via bank transfer by the end of October of each year, but in any case only after the Fellow has successfully proved the respect of the Retention Requirements. If the Fellow has a need for an earlier disbursement of one or more Installments, they may request it, provided eligibility has been confirmed and all necessary information required by the Organizer to process the disbursement has been submitted. In such cases, the disbursement will be made within the month following the confirmation of eligibility and receipt of the required information.

Exclusion from the scope of prize events: The Initiative falls outside the scope of the rules governing prize events, pursuant to and in accordance with Article 6, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph a), of Presidential Decree No. 430/2001.

Taxes: The Scholarships will be assigned net of any withholding taxes. All such taxes required to be withheld will be an expense of and borne by the Organizer on behalf of the Fellow. Any other taxes, levies, or charges that may be applicable to the Scholarship pursuant to the local laws or tax regulations of the Fellow's country of residence shall be borne exclusively and autonomously by the Fellow.

Privacy: All data collected will be treated in accordance with the applicable [Privacy Policy](#).

Force Majeure: In the event of force majeure, including but not limited to natural disasters, war, pandemics, or events beyond the Organizer's reasonable control that affect the Initiative, the Organizer may modify, suspend, or cancel the Fellowship and/or the Scholarship. Fellows and Applicants shall have no claim for compensation or damages in relation to decisions made under this provision.

Governing Law: The laws of Italy, excluding its conflict of law provisions, will govern these rules, the Fellowship, and the Scholarship. If you are a consumer resident in the European Union, these rules will not affect the mandatory laws and statutory consumer rights of your country of residence. Any and all disputes, controversies or claims arising out of or related to the interpretation, performance or termination of these rules, or a breach thereof, will be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Milan, Italy. If you are a consumer resident or domiciled in the European Union, you may submit your claim to the court of your place of residence or domicile. These rules are available on the Initiative website and may be changed by the Organizer at any time. In the event of conflict between these rules and any subsequent amendments, the latter will prevail. The amended rules will come into force once they are published on the Initiative website.

Contacts: Any communications or requests for information related to the Initiative must be sent by email to fellowship@bendingspoons.com.

Pursuant to articles 1341 and 1342 of the Italian Civil Code, Applicants declare they have read and specifically accept articles 5, 6, 8, and 9 of these rules.