

## Code B\_2486

<b>Department</b>	Biomedical Science
<b>UniCa reference person</b>	Prof. Paola Fadda
<b>Project title in English</b>	Inside the neurobiology of Anorexia Nervosa
<b>Project title in Italian</b>	La neurobiologia dell'Anoressia Nervosa
<b>Subject area of reference (World University Ranking)</b>	CLINICAL, PRE-CLINICAL AND HEALTH
<b>Project summary and VPS' profile</b>	<p>Anorexia Nervosa (AN) is a severe psychiatric disorder characterized by restriction of energy intake leading to a significantly low body weight, an intense fear of weight gain, and a distorted experience of one's own body weight or shape. The course of AN can be prolonged and may lead to enduring disability, in particular for the individuals with the often called severe and enduring AN. One central and unexplained feature of AN is the paradoxical response to negative energy balance. While most people cannot lose a few kilos, these individuals stay in an emaciated and starved condition commonly for many years. Although the etiology of AN is not well known, several peptides and hormones, that regulate feeding behavior via the hypothalamus, were found altered in AN. Also, AN is associated with impaired reward processing in response to food stimuli. The overall goal of this project is to better understand the molecular mechanisms involved in homeostatic, hedonic, and motivational aspect of food intake in general, and in the elective starvation of AN in particular. Collaboration with high-profile researchers in this specific field can make an enormous contribution to the realization of this project. Beyond research, during his/her stay at UNICA, the Visiting Professor will hold seminars for PhD students and post-doc researchers on topics related to this research activity.</p>
<b>Proposed length of stay</b>	Short visit of 10 days
<b>Expected period of activity</b>	May 2024
<b>Academic position of the VPS'</b>	Professor
<b>Course of Study</b>	Dottorato di ricerca (PhD Course), Scuola di specializzazione (Specialization Course)
<b>Language of instruction</b>	English