

**Public call for applications for the recruitment of
Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF) FPI within the framework of the State
Programme for Knowledge Generation, of the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and
Innovation Research 2024-2027**

CONDITIONS OF THE 2026PIPF-PREP CALL

1. Explanation of motives

By means of the Order of 29 October 2025, the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities and the State Research Agency approved the 2025 call for the early processing of the procedure for awarding grants for Knowledge Generation Projects and for training activities for the predoctoral research personnel associated with these projects, within the framework of the State Plan for Innovation and Scientific and Technical Research 2024-2027.

Article 12 of the aforementioned order establishes that the process of evaluating and selecting the person to be contracted will be the responsibility of the beneficiary entity, which must ensure that the process complies with the principles of competition, publicity and transparency and which may carry out these activities prior to the publication of the award resolution.

A total of 11 grants are awarded to the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, in accordance with the proposal for the provisional resolution of the procedure for the awarding of the 2025 grants for Knowledge Generation Projects and for training activities for the predoctoral research staff associated with these projects, in the framework of the State Programme for Research and Experimental Development, of the State Plan for Innovation and Scientific and Technical Research 2024-2027, dated 15 July 2026.

The list of projects pre-selected for funding with predoctoral contracts was published on 15 July 2026 and can be consulted on the [website of the State Research Agency \(Agència Estatal d'Investigació\)](#).

2. Applicable regulations

- Organic Law 2/2023, of March 22, on the University System.
- Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, modified by Law 17/2022, of 5 September.
- Royal Decree 103/2019, of March 1, which approves the Statute of Predoctoral Research Personnel in Training.
- Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral degrees.
- Royal Decree-Law 1/2023, of 10 January, on urgent measures regarding incentives for employment and the improvement of social protection for artists.
- Law 1/2003, of 19 February, on the Universities of Catalonia.
- Order of 29 October 2025 of the Presidency of the State Research Agency, approving the 2025 advance call for proposals for grants for "Knowledge Generation Projects" and for actions aimed at the training of predoctoral research personnel associated with such projects, under the 2024-2027 State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research.
- Agreement GOV/244/2025, of 21 October, approving the Statutes of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili and ordering the publication of their full text.
- Institutional Integrity and Anti-Fraud Plan of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili in the area of public contracts and grants, approved by the URV's Governing Council on 21 December 2021.
- Academic and Registration Regulations governing Doctoral Studies for the 2026/2027 academic year and subsequent years.
- Law 39/2015, of October 1, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.
- Law 40/2015, of October 1, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

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All current regulations on the contracting of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF) will also apply.

3. Scope of application

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili regulates, through the aforementioned regulations, the contracts of trainee predoctoral researchers (PIPF) within the framework of the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research 2024-2027 of the State Research Agency.

4. Objective

The objective of these grants is to train new doctoral students at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili through the completion of a doctoral thesis associated with one of the research projects listed in Annex I.

Each predoctoral contract will also provide postdoctoral guidance for a maximum period of 12 months (POP) after the doctoral thesis has been completed, provided that the doctoral degree is obtained within the period of validity of the contract.

5. Conditions

5.1 Number of contracts

A total of **11** grants are offered and are listed in Annex I attached to these conditions.

5.2 Characteristics of the contracts

Trainee predoctoral research staff will undertake full-time research and teaching. Their main obligations will be to write a doctoral thesis at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, and to carry out the other doctoral-programme activities that lead to the acquisition of the competences and skills required to obtain an official university doctoral degree. They may also collaborate in teaching tasks up to a maximum of 180 hours over the total length of the predoctoral contract, without exceeding 60 hours in any one year. The contract will also provide postdoctoral guidance for a maximum period of 12 months (POP) after the doctoral thesis has been completed, provided that the doctoral degree is obtained within the period of validity of the predoctoral contract. Under no circumstances may the total duration of the contract exceed the maximum period stipulated in section 5.4. The doctoral degree will be considered to have been obtained on the date on which the trainee predoctoral researcher defends and approves the doctoral thesis.

During the period of the grant, both in the predoctoral phase and in the postdoctoral guidance phase, Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff may spend time at other R&D centres other than the URV in order to undertake activities that are beneficial for their training and the preparation of their theses and that enable them to complement and consolidate the research training they have acquired.

5.3 Requirements

Candidates must:

1. Be at least 18 years of age and not have reached retirement age.
2. Have the functional capacity to carry out the duties of the position to be filled.
3. Not be disqualified, due to disciplinary proceedings, from the service of any of the public administrations, nor be disqualified from undertaking public functions.

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4. Not be ineligible for the contract on the grounds of incompatibility, in accordance with Law 53/1984, of 26 December, on incompatibilities of staff in the service of public administrations and Law 21/1987 on incompatibilities of staff in the Administration of the Catalan Government.
5. Not be in possession of a doctoral degree.
6. Comply with the requirements for accessing a doctoral programme in one of the following ways; that is, by:
 - a) Holding an official Spanish bachelor's degree, or equivalent, and a university master's degree, or equivalent, provided that the candidate has passed at least 300 ECTS credits over the two courses; or
 - b) Holding an official Spanish university degree or an equivalent Spanish degree, provided that they have passed at least 300 ECTS credits, and demonstrate that they have obtained level 3 on the Spanish Higher Education Qualifications Framework; or
 - c) Holding a degree awarded by a foreign education system belonging to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which does not need to be officially recognised and which demonstrates that the candidate has obtained level 7 on the European Qualifications Framework, provided that this degree entitles the holder to access doctoral studies in the country of issue. If the candidate is admitted on this basis, it does not imply, under any circumstances, that their qualification has been recognised as valid in Spain or that it has been recognised for purposes other than access to doctoral studies; or
 - d) Holding a degree awarded by a foreign education system from outside the EHEA, which does not need to be officially recognised but which the university must first check to ensure that it demonstrates a level of education equivalent to that of an official Spanish university master's degree and that it entitles the candidate to access doctoral studies in the country in which the degree was awarded. If the candidate is admitted on this basis, it does not imply, under any circumstances, that their qualification has been recognised as valid in Spain or that it has been recognised for any purposes other than access to doctoral studies; or
 - e) Being a university graduate who, after obtaining a training place via the corresponding test for access to specialised health training places, has passed at least two years of training in a programme to obtain an official degree in one of the health sciences specialities; or
 - f) Holding a degree in architecture or engineering and hold a diploma in advanced studies (DEA) obtained in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 778/1998, of 30 April, or who have achieved the level research proficiency stipulated in Royal Decree 185/1985, of 23 January.

Candidates must meet these requirements at the latest by the final day for the submission of applications.

If, during the selection process, the selection committee considers that there are sufficient reasons, it may ask any of the candidates to demonstrate that they meet all or some of the requirements to participate in the selection process.

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5.4. Duration

PIPF contracts have a maximum duration of 4 years. In the event that individuals have previously been awarded a predoctoral contract, the duration of the contract may not exceed the maximum established in article 21.c) of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation.

PIPF contracts may be terminated at any time if the reasons for doing so are stated in a report by the thesis supervisor.

5.5. Amount

The minimum salary attached to the contracts is established in accordance with article 12.4 of the Resolution of 29 October 2025 of the Presidency of the State Research Agency, which approved the 2025 grants for predoctoral contracts for the training of doctors included in the State Programme for Research and Experimental Development, within the framework of the State Plan for Innovation and Scientific and Technical Research 2024-2027, which states that the remuneration of the contract may not be less than 75% of the salary set for equivalent categories in the relevant collective bargaining agreements during any of the annual periods. Nor may it be lower than the minimum interprofessional wage established each year, in accordance with Article 27 of the Revised Text of the Workers' Statute Law. To establish the aforementioned remuneration, the minimum reference will be the category corresponding to the Professional Group M3 on the salary scale included in the single agreement on labour staff of the General Administration of the State.

Accordingly, the gross annual salary is established at €25.456,20.

In all cases, in order to establish the minimum salary for each year, the provisions of article 7 of Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, approving the Statute of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff, will be taken into account in addition to the above amount.

Likewise, the expenses resulting from stays at R&D centres and registration for doctoral studies will be covered. The total amount of the grant will be 7,000 euros.

5.6 Submission of applications

Those who meet the necessary conditions to apply for one of the PIPF contracts must do so using the [on-line application form](#) and attaching the following documents electronically:

- Photocopy of the candidate's current, unexpired, identity document, Spanish residence card or passport.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Photocopy of the official university degree certificate that grants access to doctoral studies, or proof of payment of the fees for its issuance, issued by the university.
- Academic transcript of the candidate's bachelor's degree in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese. For studies completed outside the Spanish university system, the academic transcript must include a description of the university's grading system. Otherwise, applicants must also submit documentation accrediting this grading system, including the maximum and minimum grades, as well as the minimum passing grade.
- Academic transcript of the candidate's master's degree in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese. For studies completed outside the Spanish university system, the academic transcript must include a description of the university's grading system. Otherwise, applicants must also submit documentation accrediting this grading system, including the maximum and minimum grades, as well as

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the minimum passing grade.

- A declaration of calculated equivalence (only in the case of candidates who have completed all or part of their Bachelor's Degree, Licentiate, Engineering Degree, Architecture Degree, Diploma or Master's Degree at centres outside the Spanish university system), in accordance with the resolutions of 21 March 2016, 21 July 2016 and 18 September 2017 of the Directorate General for University Policy of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport, or those regulations in force at the time when the application is submitted, which can be found at [the following link](#).
- Any other relevant documentation.

All documentation must be submitted in the form indicated above within the established deadline.

The candidate must also submit a signed declaration that all the information and documentation that they have provided is true and that they are aware that if they do not provide the necessary documentation demonstrating their compliance with the requirements or that if any of information contained in their documentation is inaccurate, falsified or omitted, they will not be permitted to continue with the application procedure and all previous actions that they have carried out regarding the application procedure will be rendered ineffective, notwithstanding any criminal, civil or administrative liabilities that may be applicable.

All documentation must be presented in the manner indicated above within the established period. Failure to present the necessary documentation and failure to comply with the requirements established in these conditions will lead to the candidate's exclusion from the application procedure.

Under no circumstances will any qualifications or other merits that are not presented or proven in the manner required in these conditions be taken into account.

Deadline for submission of applications: **23:59 (CET) on 23 October 2026.**

5.7 List of admitted and excluded candidates

In accordance with the timetable of the call for applications, the provisional list of admitted and excluded candidates will be published on 30 October 2026 on the [URV's website](#), with reasons given, if appropriate, for any exclusion. There will then be a 10-day period during which candidates will have the opportunity to [amend their applications](#) and thus be admitted, with the closing date for the amendments period being 13 November 2026. In the event that the excluded candidates do not amend the deficiencies that have led to their exclusion, they will be considered to have withdrawn their application and, therefore, their exclusion will become definitive. Once the amendment period has elapsed, the definitive list of successful and unsuccessful candidates will be published on 20 November 2026, in the same place as the provisional list.

In accordance with the provisions of article 5.1 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure for public administrations, candidates will be considered to have been appropriately notified of the outcome of the initial applications procedure by the publication of the aforementioned resolutions on the University's website, and the time period for any appeals will begin.

Candidates are responsible for monitoring the electronic notifications regarding the different phases of the call for applications.

5.8 Evaluation, prioritisation and selection

The Research Groups will set up the committees that will evaluate the applications submitted for each contract. These committees will be made up of three full members and three substitute members, all of whom hold a doctoral degree, are members of the permanent teaching and research staff, and meet the URV's requirements to be able to supervise doctoral theses.

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The committees assessing the applications will be chaired by the principal researcher to whom each contract is linked, provided that there is no [conflict of interest](#).

Each committee will propose the allocation of the contracts in accordance with the following criteria and sub-criteria:

Criterion 1. The candidate's academic and/or scientific/technical career (up to 50 points)

Sub-criterion 1.a): Scientific and technical contributions (up to 45 points).

The candidate's academic record and other curricular merits will be assessed, as will their suitability in terms of their training and professional experience for the tasks to be carried out.

Sub-criterion 1.b): Mobility and internationalisation (up to 5 points).

The relevance and impact on the candidate's research career of the candidate's stays at national and international centres and/or in the industrial sector will be assessed, taking into account the prestige of the host institution and the activities carried out during the stay.

Criterion 2. The candidate's suitability for the research activities to be carried out (up to 50 points). The candidate's suitability for the programme, project or research activities to be carried out will be assessed on the basis of their previous training and experience. To this end, consideration will be given to the added value that carrying out the project will represent for the candidate's research career, as well as the added value contributed to the research centre and the receiving team.

The committees will also agree on a prioritised list of candidates whose assessments have been positive and shall prepare a report describing the evaluation and selection process, including a justification of the suitability of the selected candidate in accordance with the aforementioned criteria. The lists of the selected and reserve candidates will be published on the website of the call for applications and will comply with the [regulations on Personal Data Protection](#).

The Rector, in view of the proposal presented, will issue a resolution in which they appoint one candidate for each contract, in the order proposed by the selection committee, until all of the contracts have been assigned a candidate. The competition may be declared null and void.

If a proposed candidate renounces their appointment or does not sign the contract, the first candidate in order of preference from the selection committee's reserve list of unappointed candidates may be contracted, provided that it is possible to execute the contract in accordance with the duration and conditions established in the call for applications and the applicable regulations.

5.9 Contracting

In accordance with the timetable of the call, during the period of 7 to 12 January 2027 the proposed candidates must present their document of acceptance or refusal of the contract via the [online form](#). If the aforementioned period elapses without the proposed candidate having presented the acceptance of the grant, it will be understood that the candidate has relinquished the post.

From 13th January 2027 onwards, the selected candidates who have accepted the grant must present, via the [online application form](#), the relevant documentation in order to sign the corresponding contract.

The contract signed will be a full-time, fixed-duration Predoctoral Contract (Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff), in accordance with article 21 of the Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, modified by Law 17/2022, of 5 September. The contracted persons will be registered with the general social security system.

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The person hired will have the same rights as other URV employees, in accordance with the provisions of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, approved by RDL 2/2015 of 23 October, and with the employment contract linked to the research project.

The recruitment of successful candidates is conditional upon the final award of the grants by the State Research Agency.

The selected candidates must start work on the first day of the nine months following the decision by the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI) to award the projects associated with the posts in Annex I and at the earliest on the 1st of February.

In order to formalise the contract, candidates must be [registered](#) full time on a URV doctoral programme linked to the projects set out in Annex 1. In accordance with the Academic and Registration Regulations governing Doctoral Degrees, in order to be admitted to and register on a doctoral programme, students must first formalise their [pre-registration](#) within the periods established by the university for this purpose. The doctoral degree calendar for the academic year 2026/2027 can be found [here](#).

If the proposed candidate comes from a non-EU country, they must fulfil the necessary legal requirements so that they can be contracted and affiliated to the Social Security system by the latest date on which they are expected to start work, as established in the present call for applications.

5.10 Withdrawals and substitutions

If a candidate wishes to withdraw from the contract, they must submit a letter to the Human Resources Service at least 15 days in advance in which they indicate their decision to voluntarily withdraw from the contract and state the date on which they wish to leave.

In the event of a withdrawal or early dismissal, provided that there is a waiting list, the Rector may appoint the first candidate, in order of preference, from among the candidates on the aforementioned list.

If, during the execution of the grant, the contract is terminated or the contracted person withdraws from the contract, the beneficiary organisation may evaluate, select and contract another person, in compliance with Article 12 of the Order of 29 October 2025 of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation and the State Research Agency, with the applicable labour legislation and with RD 103/2019, of 1 March.

5.11 Incompatibilities

Individuals who hold one of these trainee predoctoral research contracts cannot hold any other employment contract at the same time. Likewise, they cannot receive any payment in the form of a salary if such payments are detrimental to the research and training purpose of the present grant and/or if the work they do to receive such payments occurs during the same timetable as their trainee predoctoral research contract. Furthermore, they cannot receive other grants that have a similar purpose.

5.12 Publicity

Any publications and other results deriving from the trainee predoctoral research contract must mention, in the appropriate section, the funding received from the Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, the State Research Agency and the ERDF of the EU, including the grant reference number (Project REFERENCE OF THE PROJECT funded by MCIU/ AEI / 10.13039/501100011033/ FSE+) pursuant to Article 23.4(h) of the Resolution of the Presidency of the

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State Research Agency approving the 2025 advance call for proposals for grants for “Knowledge Generation Projects” and for actions aimed at the training of predoctoral research personnel associated with those projects, beneficiaries shall acknowledge the funding received in accordance with the provisions set out therein.

Likewise, they shall comply with the affiliation guidelines and regulations of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV).

This call for applications will be published on the European Commission's EURAXESS Jobs Portal.

5.13 Other

The awarding of a PIPF contract does not imply any kind of commitment on the part of the receiving department with regard to the subsequent incorporation of the predoctoral researcher in training into the department's staff.

In accordance with the URV's Regulations on Industrial and Intellectual Property, approved by the URV's Governing Council on 30 April 2009 and modified by the Governing Council on 22 February 2018 and 7 May 2020, the intellectual ownership of a literary, artistic or scientific work corresponds to the author by virtue of having created it; the regulations also provide, however, for the transfer to the University of the rights to exploit the work, unless otherwise agreed.

Predocctoral researchers will observe ethically recognised conduct and fundamental ethical principles appropriate to their research. The research carried out must comply with the ethical principles of the EU, the applicable national and international regulations, and the [EU's Charter of Fundamental Rights](#). The URV has developed a "[Code of good practice in research, research training, development and innovation at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili](#)", which is to be used as a guide to ensure good practice in achieving excellence in research.

5.14 Interpretation

It is the responsibility of the Vice-Rector for Research, Doctoral Studies and Institutional Relations, to clarify any doubts regarding the interpretation of the present conditions in cases where their application leads to conflict.

5.15 Complaints

Interested parties may lodge a complaint against the present call for applications and its rules with the Social Court of Tarragona, notwithstanding their right to lodge an appeal with the courts in their place of residence provided that this court is located within the jurisdiction of the Social Court of the High Court of Justice of Catalonia, within a period of two months from the date of notification by means of the corresponding publication, as provided for in article 69 of Law 36/2011, of 10 October, regulating social jurisdiction.

Interested parties may also lodge an appeal for judicial review against the administrative actions of the selection committee with the Rector of the URV within a period of one month from the date of notification or publication. If, during the three months after such appeal has been lodged, no express decision is announced, the appeal may be deemed to have been dismissed due to administrative silence.

Interested parties may also lodge any other appeal that they deem necessary in order to defend their interests.

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Tarragona, 5 October 2026

Basic information about data protection

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION INFORMATION	
Data controller	The data controller responsible for processing the data subject's personal data is the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, with CIF Q9350003A and tax address at Carrer de l'Escorxador, s/n, 43003, Tarragona.
Purpose	The administration of the selection of personnel and provision of jobs for the University.
Rights	The data subject can exercise their rights to access, rectify, cancel, oppose, limit and restrict portability of their data by submitting their reasons in a written communication and adding a copy of their identity document either in person to the General Registry of the URV or electronically to the https://seuelectronica.urv.cat/registre.html .
Additional Information	The data subject can consult additional information about this processing of their personal data entitled " <i>Provision and selection of jobs and your rights</i> " in the Register of Data Processing Activities of the URV published at https://seuelectronica.urv.cat/rgpd where they can also consult the Privacy Policy of the URV. Additionally, the data subject can submit any data protection enquiries to the URV's data protection officers by sending an email to the address_dpd@urv.cat .