

MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME

Call for public tenders for the recruitment of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF)

Approved by the Committee on Scientific Policy and Transfer of 16 October 2025

CONDITIONS OF THE 2025PMF-PIPF CALL - 2nd edition

1. Explanation of motives

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili University (URV) is an institution dedicated to providing the public service of higher education and research through teaching, research and university outreach.

Carrying out these functions in the field of research involves the training of research staff through doctoral programmes and the preparation of doctoral theses.

Contracts for trainee researchers are fundamental element both to attracting talent from all over the world to pursue doctoral studies and to undertaking basic research activity across the University. For this reason, there is a need to consider increasing the number of doctoral grants and for these to facilitate international visibility.

In this context, the URV, in order to achieve its own objectives, wants to encourage the training of future doctors through a grant programme that:

1. Qualitatively and quantitatively increases the human and economic resources available to the University for predoctoral training, research and teaching.
2. Promotes the URV's university specific doctoral programmes.
3. Encourages doctoral students to prepare doctoral theses at the URV's departments.
4. Expands the training of doctoral students to include training within the framework of R&D&I projects developed by URV research groups.

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 studies, amended by Royal Decree 576/2023, of 4 July.
- Royal Decree-Law 1/2023, of 10 January, on urgent measures regarding incentives for contracting and improving the social protection of artists.
- Law 1/2003, of 19 February, on the Universities of Catalonia.
- Agreement GOV/40/2022, of 8 March, which approved the Statute of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili and ordered the publication its 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.
- Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff Programme at the URV.
- Academic and Registration Regulations governing Doctoral Studies for the 2025/2026 academic year and subsequent years.

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

3.Objective

The purpose of this programme is to carry out a doctoral thesis at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

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4. Conditions

4.1 Number of contracts

A total of **15** predoctoral contracts have made available and are listed in Annex I attached to these bases within the framework of the Martí Franquès Research Grant Programme.

4.2 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. Furthermore, if the trainee predoctoral researcher successfully defends their doctoral thesis before the end of the contract, they will be allowed a postdoctoral period of a maximum of 12 months. The doctoral degree will be considered to have been obtained on the date on which the trainee predoctoral researcher successfully defends their doctoral thesis. Under no circumstances may the total duration of the contract exceed the maximum period stipulated in section 4.4.

4.3 Requirements

- Candidates must: Be at least 18 years of age and not have reached retirement age.
- Have the functional capacity to carry out the duties of the position to be filled.
- Not be disqualified, due to disciplinary proceedings, from the service of any of the public administrations, nor be disqualified from undertaking public functions.
- 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.
- Not be in possession of a doctoral degree.
- 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

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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.
- Submit a single application indicating a maximum of 3 places of those referred to in Annex I attached to these rules. People who apply for more than 3 places will only be considered for the first three places requested.

4.4 Duration

Trainee predoctoral research staff contracts will have a duration of four years. Periods spent on other predoctoral contracts will be deducted from the total amount of this contract.

Trainee predoctoral research staff will be evaluated annually by the academic committee of the doctoral programme for the duration of their stay in the programme as established in the Academic and Registration Regulations governing Doctoral Degrees. The contract will be terminated if this evaluation is not passed.

Likewise, the predoctoral contract will be terminated if:

- The trainee predoctoral researcher obtains their official university doctoral degree, that is, on the same day as the thesis defence act; or
- The postdoctoral guidance period (PGP) expires (in the event that one has been agreed); or
- Any of the parties chooses to withdraw; or
- Any circumstances arise that are provided for in article 49 of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law.

4.5 Amount

The amount of the predoctoral contracts is divided into two components:

- a) Monthly remuneration: the gross monthly remuneration of the contracts is established in accordance with article 7 of RD 103/2019, of March 1, which approves the Statute of Predoctoral Research Personnel in Training, which was amended by RD 1251/2024, of 10 December. For the year 2025, this will be 1,522,47 euros for trainee predoctoral researchers in their first and second years, 1,631.21 euros for those in their third year, and 2,039,02 euros for those in their fourth year per 12 twelve months.
- b) Tuition fee: supervision, tuition and continuous evaluation of the doctoral thesis over 4 academic years. The grant cannot be applied to the other remaining registration fees.

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4.6 Submission of applications

Candidate who meet the necessary conditions to be eligible for any of the trainee predoctoral research staff contracts must formalise their applications using the [online application form](#). In accordance with Law 39/2015, it is not necessary for candidates to provide any documentation that the University may collect from other administrations. However, the URV is currently in the process of implementing the interoperability tools that will enable it to find the information or documentation that it needs. Candidates must, therefore, provide the following documents electronically to demonstrate that they meet the requirements to participate in the competition:

- Photocopy of the candidate's current, unexpired, identity document, Spanish residence card or passport.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Photocopy of the official academic degree or proof of payment of the fee for the issuance of the degree that enables the candidate to access doctoral studies.
- Academic transcript of the candidate's bachelor's degree in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese.
- Academic transcript of the candidate's master's degree in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese. Candidates who have not still completed their master's degrees must also submit the corresponding academic transcript.
- 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](#).
- Letter of motivation.
- Any other relevant documentation.

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 submitted in the form indicated above within the established deadline. 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 17 November 2025.**

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In accordance with the timetable of the call for applications, the provisional list of admitted and excluded candidates will be published on 21 November 2025 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 5 December 2025. 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 11 December 2025, 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.

4.7 Assessment, prioritisation and selection

The Departmental Councils or 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.

The evaluation committees of the applications for the places generated from contracts funded by R&D & I projects will be chaired by the main researcher of the project as long as there is no [conflict of interest](#).

The evaluation of applications for places that depend on agreements between the URV and other institutions will be carried out by the committees stipulated in the respective agreements.

In accordance with the Institutional Integrity and Anti-Fraud Plan of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili, the members of the selection committees must sign the declaration of absence of conflict of interest (DACI) after the final list of admitted and excluded candidates has been published and before the committee is constituted. In the event that there are causes of abstention, conflicts of interest or any other justified cause that prevents the participation of the members of the committee, the committee will act in accordance with the provisions of Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the legal regime of the public sector.

Each committee will propose the allocation of places using as their primary criterion each candidate's academic record and its relevance to the field of knowledge of each place. The members of the committee may decide to conduct personal interviews with the candidates. This decision will be published on the URV's website. 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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The committees will assess and prioritize the candidates using the score obtained from the following formula:

Final score = A+B

Where **A** is the score corresponding to the following scale:

Value of 80% C + 20% D	Value of A
5 - 6.49	0
6.5 - 7.49	3
7.5 - 8.49	3.5
8.5 - 8.9	4
9 - 9.49	4.5
9.5 - 10	5

Where:

C is the weighted average grade of the candidate's licentiate, bachelor's or diploma studies (0-10) (*)

D is the weighted average mark of the master's degree (0-10) (*) and

B is the committee's assessment of the candidate's suitability to the field of knowledge of each position (0-5)

The committees will agree on a prioritized list of candidates and will submit this proposal to the Department Council or the Monitoring Committee, as appropriate, which in turn will submit the proposal to the rector. The lists of selected and reserve candidates will be published via the URV's electronic office and will respect the [regulations on the Protection of Personal Data](#).

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.

Any complaints must be addressed to the Rector of the University and submitted to the General Registry within one month of the date of publication of the agreement.

(*) Candidates who have completed all or part of their Licentiate, Bachelor's Degree, Engineering Degree, Architecture Degree, Diploma or Master's Degree at centres outside the Spanish university system must submit with their academic record a [declaration of calculated equivalence](#), in accordance with the resolutions of 21 March 2016, 21 July 2016 and 18 September 2017 of the Directorate General for University Policy, or those in force at the time of the application.

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4.8 Contracting

In accordance with the timetable of the call, during the period of 20 to 23 January 2026 the proposed candidates must present their document of acceptance or refusal of the contract via the [online application form](#). If the aforementioned period elapses without the proposed candidate having presented their acceptance of the grant, it will be understood that the candidate has relinquished the post.

From 26th January 2026 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.

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 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.

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 selected candidates may start work on 1 February 2026 at the earliest and 1 March 2026 at the latest. Non-EU candidates who are waiting to obtain the residence permit that authorizes them to work have until 1 May 2026 to start work.

Failure to start within these dates will entail the annulment of the contract, unless the Vice-Rector for Research authorises the candidate to start on a different date for justified reasons of force majeure.

4.9 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.

If the candidate withdraws within the first 3 months of the contract, they must pay the full registration fee.

A trainee predoctoral researcher may be replaced provided that:

- a. this is at the request of:
 - i. the Department to which the contract is assigned, in the case of places funded with the URV's own funds; or
 - ii. the selection committee, in the case of places generated from contracts funded by R&D&I projects; or
 - iii. the monitoring committees in the case of places that depend on agreements between the URV and other entities; and

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- b. one of the following circumstances arises:
- withdrawal
 - non-renewal
 - early dismissal

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.

4.10 Incompatibilities

These contracts are incompatible:

- with any other contract or grant or with salaries and wages that imply another contractual link of similar characteristics, or with other registration grants intended for the same purpose;
- with any activities that may prevent the trainee researcher from dedicating themselves exclusively to the contract, to be decided at the discretion of the Human Resources Committee delegated by the Governing Council of this University;
- with the performance of sporadic and unusual activities in the URV for which they receive a payment that exceeds 30% of the full gross annual amount of the grant.

4.11 Publicity

Publications and other results deriving from the predoctoral contract must follow the URV's affiliation regulations. Likewise, the financing entity or entities must be mentioned in the appropriate section, along with the reference number assigned to the grant.

4.12 Additional clauses

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 trainee predoctoral researcher 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.

4.13 Interpretation

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

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4.14 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.

Tarragona, 27 October 2025

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 personal data protection enquiries to the email address of the dpd@urv.cat .