

Public call for applications for Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF) contracts as part of the project BIOPOLE

CONDITIONS OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PIPF26001

1. Regulations

- Organic Law 2/2023, of 22 March, of 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 1 March, which approved the Statute of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff, modified by RD 1251/2024, of 10 September.
- Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral courses, modified by Royal Decree 576/2023, of 4 July.
- Royal Decree Law 1/2023, of 10 January, on urgent measures to encourage employment contracts and improve social protection for artists.
- Law 1/2003, of 19 February, regarding the Universities of Catalonia.
- Government agreement GOV/244/2025, of 21 October, which approved the Statute of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili.
- The Institutional Integrity Plan and anti-fraud measures of URV in the field of public procurement and subsidies, approved by the Governing Council on 21 December 2021.
- The Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff Programme of the URV.
- The Doctoral Programme Academic and Registration Regulations for the 2025/2026 academic year.

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

2. Objective

The objective is to complete a doctoral thesis at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili and, at the same time, to carry out all of the doctoral programme activities in order to acquire the skills and abilities necessary to obtain the official university degree of doctorate within the framework of the project BIOPOLE that has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European's Union, Horizon Europe research & innovation programme, grant agreement No 101222089.

3. Characteristics of the contracts

- Department: Physical and Inorganic Chemistry.
- Location: Faculty of Chemistry.
- The type of contract will be a fixed term, full time Predoctoral Contract (Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff) in accordance with article 21 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation. Successful candidates will be registered with the general regime of the social security system.
- The pre-doctoral contract will have a duration of four years. The periods of other pre-doctoral contracts will be deducted from the total amount of this contract.
- Line of research: "*Bioinspired photocatalytic Polymersomes for compartmentalized solar energy conversion*".
- PhD Programme: Chemical Science and Technology.



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- PhD project: The PhD project will focus on the design, synthesis and study of new amphiphilic block copolymers with tunable properties to develop new tailored bioinspired polymersomes functionalized with molecular complexes for photocatalytic applications, within the ERC-StG-BIOPOLE project. The PhD candidate will synthesize new amphiphilic di- and triblock copolymers and characterize their properties by state-of-the-art spectroscopic and microscopy techniques. Then the candidate will use these well-defined polymers to covalently attach molecular complexes at a specific side of the block copolymer, to further assemble functional polymersomes for artificial photosynthesis and photocatalysis. These new polymersomes will also be characterized by state-of-the-art techniques before testing them for photocatalysis. The effect of the type of polymer and the membrane properties on the reactivity will be investigated. And mechanistic studies will be performed to study structure-activity relationships, photophysical properties and catalytic performance. An important part of the Project will focus on the mechanistic studies of the effect of the polymer properties in the reactivity and the stability of these bioinspired systems.
- Principal researcher: Dra. Carla Casadevall Serrano.
- Trainee predoctoral researchers will have full-time research and teaching duties. Their main obligation will be to complete a doctoral thesis at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili and, at the same time, to carry out all of the doctoral programme activities in order to acquire the skills and abilities necessary to obtain the official university degree of doctorate. They will collaborate in teaching activities up to a maximum of 180 hours during the total extension of the predoctoral contract and a maximum of 60 hours per year. Likewise, if the trainee predoctoral researcher finishes and successfully defends their doctoral thesis before the end of the contract, they may continue in a postdoctoral role for a maximum period of 12 months. The doctoral degree is considered to have been obtained on the date of the defence and approval of the doctoral thesis. In any case, the maximum duration of the work contract may not exceed the maximum period mentioned in point 3.
- The money provided by each predoctoral contract will be used to pay the student's:
 - a) Gross monthly salary: the gross monthly salary of the contracts is established in accordance with article 7 of RD 103/2019, of 1 March, which approved the Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff Statute, modified by RD 1251/2024, of 10 September. For the year 2026, the gross monthly salary is 1.583,94 euros during the first and second year, 1.697,08 euros during the third year and 2.121,35 euros during the fourth year.
 - b) Fees for the supervision, tuition and continuous assessment of the student's doctoral thesis corresponding to 4 academic years. The other fees applied during registration are not eligible for exemption.
- Trainee predoctoral research staff will be assessed annually by the academic committee of the doctoral programme for the duration of their time on the programme as established in the doctoral programme's Academic and Registration Regulations. The contract will be terminated if this assessment is not passed favourably.
- The pre-doctoral contract will also be terminated when the researcher is awarded the official university doctorate degree on the same day as the defence of the thesis, or when the postdoctoral guidance period (POP) comes to an end in the event that such a period is agreed, or by prior denunciation by either of the parties, or by any of the causes provided for in article 49 of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law.

4. Requirements

- Be aged between 18 and the retirement age.
- Have the functional capacity to perform the duties of the job to be filled.

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- Not have left the service of any of the public administrations for disciplinary reasons, or be forbidden from carrying out public functions.
- Not be disqualified in any of the ways listed in Law 53/1984, of 26 December, regarding the disqualification of personnel from the public administrations.
- Not be in possession of a doctoral degree.
- Comply with the requirements to access a doctoral programme by holding one of the following:
 - a) An official Spanish bachelor's degree or equivalent and a master's degree or equivalent, with a minimum total of 300 ECTS credits between both degrees.
 - b) An official Spanish university degree or equivalent Spanish degree, as long as the holder has passed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits in total and can accredit level 3 of the Spanish Framework of Higher Education Qualifications (MECES).
 - c) A qualification from a European Higher Education Area (EHEA) system that accredits level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework, as long as it enables the holder to access a doctoral programme in the issuing country. The qualification does not need to be homologated for the student to be admitted. Admission shall under no circumstances be interpreted as homologation of the qualification, or have any effects other than admission to the doctoral programme.
 - d) A foreign qualification from outside the EHEA, providing the URV can verify that it is equivalent to an official Spanish university master's degree and that it enables the holder to access a doctoral programme in the issuing country. The qualification does not need to be homologated for the student to be admitted. Admission shall under no circumstances be interpreted as homologation of the qualification, or have any effects other than admission to the doctoral programme.
 - e) A place as a specialised health trainee after passing the corresponding entrance exam and having completed at least two years of a training programme leading to an official qualification in one of the health science specialities.
 - f) A bachelor's degree, an architecture degree or an engineering degree in addition to the Diploma of Advanced Doctoral studies (DEA) as regulated by Royal Decree 778/1998, of 30 April, or proven research aptitude as regulated by Royal Decree 185/1985, of 23 January.

5. Profile and merits to be assessed

The PhD position is aimed at a highly motivated graduate with a MSc in Chemistry (or related field), a solid background in synthetic and polymer chemistry and polymeric materials and good hands-on experience in synthetic laboratory work.

Familiarity with Schlenk techniques and inert atmosphere handling, molecular characterization (NMR, UV-Vis, IR, MS).

The ideal candidate is interested to apply their background in polymer chemistry and polymer synthesis to the development of new hybrid systems for artificial photosynthesis, CO₂ valorisation and solar fuels, and is ready to work in an interdisciplinary, international environment, combining synthesis, spectroscopy and catalysis.

6. Presentation of Applications

Individuals who meet the necessary requirements to apply for this contract must complete the corresponding online application via the URV's electronic registry, in accordance with article 3.3.d) of the URV's Digital Administration Regulations.

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To access it, you must go to the [University's General Registry link](#), enter 'Registre electrònic' and submit the application as well as the documents listed below.

In compliance with Law 39/2015, there is no need to send any documentation that the University can obtain from other administrations. However, the URV is in the process of implementing the corresponding interoperability tools for consulting information and documentation so the following documentation must be submitted with the application

- Photocopy of current identity card, resident's card or passport.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Photocopy of the certificate of the official academic qualification that allows the holder to access the doctoral studies or proof of payment of the fees for the issuance of this certificate.
- Academic transcript of their undergraduate degree issued in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese.
- Academic transcript of their master's degree issued in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese. Candidates who have not completed their master's degrees must send their provisional academic transcript.
- Applicants who have fully or partially completed a bachelor's degree, licentiate, engineering degree, architecture degree, diploma or master's degree at a centre outside the Spanish university system must also present a completed declaration of equivalence calculated in accordance with the resolutions of 21 March 2016, 21 July 2016 and 18 September 2017 of the General Directorate of University Policy of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport or with the resolutions that are in effect at the time when the application is presented (consult [here](#)).
- Letter of motivation.
- Other merits

The applicant declares that all the information and documentation provided is true and that they are aware that if they fail to demonstrate that they meet the requirements, if any of the information that appears in the documentation presented is inaccurate or false, if any required information is missing from the documentation or if they fail to present the corresponding documentation, they will not be allowed to continue with the procedure initiated, and their actions carried out hitherto will be rendered ineffective, notwithstanding any criminal, civil or administrative responsibilities that may be applicable.

All documentation must be presented with the application form in the manner indicated above and within the established deadline. Failure to present this documentation and failure to comply with the requirements established in these conditions will result in exclusion.

Under no circumstances will any qualification or merit that has not been accredited in the manner stipulated in these conditions be taken into account.

Deadline for applications: **13 February 2026 (CET)**.

In accordance with calendar governing the call, on 17 February 2026 the provisional list of admitted and excluded candidates will be published, indicating, if necessary, the reason for their exclusion. Within 10 working days, the candidates may make any necessary rectifications to their application, the end date of the rectification period being 03 March 2026. In the event that the excluded candidates do not rectify the issues that have caused their exclusion within the indicated period, they will be considered to have withdrawn from the application process request and therefore, their exclusion will become permanent. After the rectification period has expired, the final list of admitted and excluded candidates will be published on 05 March 2026, in the same place as the provisional list.

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In accordance with article 5.1 of Law 39/2015, of October 1, on the common administrative procedure of the public administrations, by publishing the definitive list of admitted and excluded candidates on its online registry, the URV will be regarded as having appropriately notified the candidates, and the periods in which candidates may make any complaints or appeals will be initiated.

Candidates are responsible for monitoring the information published on the online registry regarding the different phases of the call.

7. Evaluation, prioritization and selection

The selection committee will have three full members and three substitute members who are all members of the department's full-time teaching and research staff and who meet the URV's requirements to supervise doctoral theses:

- Composition:

Chairperson: Dra. Carla Casadevall Serrano
Secretary: Dra. María Elena Fernández Gutiérrez
Committee member: Dr. Josep Manel Ricart Pla

Deputy chairperson: Dra. Montserrat Diéguez Fernández
Deputy secretary: Dr. Jordi Carbó Martín
Deputy committee member: Dr. Cyril Godard

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

The committee will propose the assignment of the position using as a main criterion the relevance of each applicant's academic transcript to the area of knowledge pertaining to the contract. The committee members may decide to interview candidates in person. The agreement will be published on the electronic side of the URV. If, during the selection process, the selection committee deems it necessary, it may ask any of the candidates to prove that they fulfil all or some of the requirements for participation in the selection process.

To enable the committees to evaluate and prioritize the candidates, the following formula will be used to calculate the candidates' scores:

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

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Where:

C is the weighted average grade for the undergraduate degree (0-10) (*)

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

B is the committee's score relating to the candidate's suitability for the knowledge area of each position available (0-5).

The committees will agree on a prioritised list of the positively valued candidates. The lists of selected candidates and the candidates on the waiting list will be published on the electronic side of the URV and will comply with the [rules on personal data protection](#).

After examining the proposed assignation of contracts, the Rector will pass a resolution in which he will name the selected candidate proposed by the selection committee until all the contracts in the competition have been awarded. The competition may be declared void.

Any appeal against the awarding of the contracts must be addressed to the Rector of the URV and presented to the General registry within one month of the publication of the award.

(*) Candidates who have studied all or part of their undergraduate studies outside the Spanish education system must submit their academic transcripts with the [declarations of equivalence](#) calculated in accordance with the resolutions of 21 March 2016, 21 July 2016 and 18 September 2017 of the General Directorate of University Policy of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport or the resolutions that are in effect at the time when the application is presented.

8. Contracting

From the day after the publication of the rector's resolution, the selected candidate must submit [the document confirming their acceptance or renunciation of the grant](#) to the People Management Service, as well as the necessary documents so that the selected candidate can join the job position no later from 01 May 2026.

Candidates must be registered for full time study on a doctoral programme when they formalize their contracts with the URV. In accordance with the Academic and Registration Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, candidates must first [complete the pre-registration process](#) in order to be admitted onto the doctoral programme within the periods established by the university for this purpose.

When the proposed person comes from non-EU countries, they must meet the legal requirements necessary for their hiring and affiliation with Social Security. In no case may the proposed person begin the activity before the date of their registration with Social Security.

As employees, candidates will have the same rights as the rest of the URV's workers, in accordance with the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, approved by RDL 2/2015 of October 23, and with the employment contract linked to the research project.

9. Renunciations and substitutions

If the selected candidate wishes to renounce the contract, he/she must communicate this in writing to the People Management Service, giving at least 15 days' notice. This communication must state that the student has voluntarily renounced the contract and give the date from which he/she wishes to withdraw from it.

Students who renounce the grant within the first 3 months of the predoctoral research contract must pay the full cost of their registration fees.

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A trainee predoctoral researcher may be substituted if this is requested i) by the researcher's department in cases where the department finances the research position with its own funds, ii) by the evaluation committee for positions generated by contracts funded by R+D+I project, or iii) by monitoring committees for positions created by agreements between the URV and other entities. A request to substitute a trainee predoctoral researcher may be made in the following cases:

- renunciation
- non-renewal
- early cessation

If the applicant relinquishes or resigns from a contract before time, and if there is a waiting list, the rector will appoint the first candidate on the waiting list as the applicant's replacement.

10. Incompatibility

This contract is incompatible:

- with any other contract or grant, with payments or salaries that involve a contractual link of a similar nature and with registration grants intended for the same purpose;
- with activities that, in the opinion of the Human Resources Committee delegated by the Governing Council of the URV, may prevent the individual from dedicating him/herself exclusively to the work that is the object of the contract;
- with occasional or infrequent activities carried out at the URV for which the individual receives a payment of more than 30% of the gross annual value of the grant.

11. Publicity

Any publications or other results that result from the contract must follow the URV's affiliation regulations. They must also cite the funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's, Horizon Europe research & innovation programme, grant agreement No 101222089 – ERC -2025-STG STARTING GRANTS and the following text: "*Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Council Executive Agency. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them*", add the display of the European Union emblem and the ERC logo together:



12. Others

The awarding of a PIPF contract does not imply any type of commitment on the part of the awarding department regarding the subsequent employment of the trainee predoctoral researcher.

In accordance with the Regulations regarding the Industrial and Intellectual Property of the URV that were approved by the Governing Council on 30 April 2009 and modified by the Governing Council on February 22, 2018 and May 7, 2020, the intellectual ownership of a literary, artistic or scientific work belongs to the author for having created it; however, the exploitation rights will have first been transferred to the university unless there is an agreement to the contrary.

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The predoctoral researchers will adhere to the recognised ethical practices and fundamental ethical principles appropriate to their research. The research carried out must comply with the EU's ethical principles, Spanish and international legislation applicable, as well as the [Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU](#). The URV has developed the "[Code of good practices in research, research training, development and innovation of the Universitat Rovira i Virgili](#)", which should be used as a guide to ensure the best practices for excellence in research.

13. Interpretation

It is the responsibility of the Vice-Rector for Research to clarify any doubt in the interpretation of these conditions in cases of conflict during their application.

14. Complaints

Any interested party may lodge an appeal against this call for applications and its conditions at the Social Court in Tarragona or at the court in their place of residence, provided that this court is within the jurisdiction of the Social Court of the Supreme Court of Catalonia. This appeal must be lodged within a period of two months starting on the date of publication of the call for applications, as specified in article 69 of Law 36/2011, of 10 October, which regulates the social courts.

Likewise, interested parties can appeal to the rector of the URV against the administrative actions of the committee within one month of having been informed of this decision. This appeal will be understood to have been rejected if the university administration publishes no resolution regarding the appeal within three months after it has been lodged.

Likewise, interested parties may lodge any other appeal they deem necessary to defend their interests.

Tarragona, 09 February 2026

Basic information on data protection

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION INFORMATION	
Responsible party	The party responsible for processing your personal data is the Universitat Rovira i Virgili with CIF Q9350003A and fiscal address at Carrer de l'Escorxador, s/n, 43003 Tarragona.
Purpose	Personnel selection and provision of work positions by the University.
Rights	You can exercise your right to access, rectify, delete, transfer, limit or oppose the processing of your data by means of a letter addressed to the General Registry of the URV at the same address as the fiscal address or by means of a letter presented at the General Registry of the University, in person or electronically, as indicated at https://seuelectronica.urv.cat/registre.html .
Additional information	You can consult additional information about the processing of personal data called <i>Provisió i selecció de llocs de treball</i> and your rights in the Processing Activities Register of the URV published at https://seuelectronica.urv.cat/rgpd/ where you can also consult the Privacy Policy of the URV. Additionally, you can address any query on personal data protection to our data protection representatives using the e-mail address dpd@urv.cat .