

UIC BARCELONA PREDOCTORAL CONTRACTS 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this call is to award predoctoral research contracts to train research staff at Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC Barcelona) with the University's own funds.

2. Beneficiary requirements

2.1. The call will be positively assessed those people who between 1 January 2022 and the date of start of the contract have completed their studies to access the doctorate.

2.2. Persons who have exceeded the requirements to access the doctoral programme at the time of incorporation (in accordance with the provisions of article 6 of Royal Decree 99/2011).

- They have taken a period of maternity leave. They have cared for children under the age of six.
- They have cared for people with a legally recognised physical, mental or sensory disability.
- They have suffered a serious illness or accident that has required major surgery or treatment in a hospital setting and that has caused temporary incapacitation for a continuous period of at least six months.
- They have suffered any of the situations provided for in Article 1 of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on comprehensive protection measures against gender-based violence.
- They have recognised refugee status according to the 1951 Geneva Convention..

2.3. On the contract start date, candidates must be enrolled onto a UIC Barcelona doctoral programme and have not received any other predoctoral contract for more than six months.

2.4 They must have achieved an average mark of at least 6.5 (out of 10) in their bachelor's degree studies.

If the qualification on their academic record uses a scale of 0 to 4, the average mark will be calculated following the criteria established by the [Ministry of Education and Vocational Training of equivalences of average marks](#).

2.5. Not be in possession of a doctoral degree.

2.6. They will be incorporated into or must link their thesis to a competitive research project or a research or knowledge transfer contract or agreement. In any case, UIC Barcelona must be a beneficiary.

2.7. The theses that are developed within the framework of this programme should aim to obtain the International Doctorate mention.

2.8. Each candidate can only be listed as such in one application.

3. Duration of the financial aid

The duration of the financial aid will be three years (which cannot be extended), counted from the date the trainee research staff member joined the institution. Any interruption of aid is covered in the point six.

4. Award

4.1. The gross annual amount of the contracts is the same at that stipulated in Article 7 of Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, which approves the Statute of predoctoral personnel in training and, specifically, the basic remuneration of group 1 of the remuneration table that includes the IV Convenio único de personal laboral de la Administración General del Estado [IV Single Agreement for workers of the General State Administration] in force at the time of publication of the call. In accordance with Article 7.1 of the Statute of Predoctoral Research Staff in Training, the pre-doctoral contract cannot be less than 56% of the salary fixed for the equivalent categories in the collective agreements of its scope of application during the first two years, 60% during the third year and 75% during the fourth year.

4.2. The annual sum will be paid in 12 monthly instalments.

4.3. The beneficiary of the contract will receive an 80% discount on the annual academic enrolment fees and on the deposit and reading of their thesis, during the grant's validity period.

4.4. The beneficiary will be given priority in the competitive call for predoctoral mobility grants issued by the VRIT, so long as the budget for the academic year in question allows for it.

5. Incompatibility with the contract

5.1. Receiving this grant makes the beneficiary incompatible with other contractual or statutory obligations both from public and private organisations which may compromise the beneficiary's exclusive dedication to their research.

5.2. The beneficiary of the contract can do a maximum of 60 hours per year and 180 hours of teaching for the entire duration of the contract, according to RD 103/2019.

5.3. The fact of having received a predoctoral research contract does not imply any kind of commitment from the University regarding the subsequent incorporation of the beneficiary into the University's staff.

6. Interruption and suspension

6.1. The Vice-Rectorate will send the request, with his/her consent, to the People Management department for the temporary cessation of the contract without financial remuneration, at the reasoned request of the interested party, with the express agreement of the thesis supervisor and the Doctoral School for a maximum (and cumulative) period of six months across the entire period of the contract.

6.2. Circumstances leading to temporary leave, such as risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding, maternity, adoption, foster care and paternity leave, shall suspend the length of the contract. Likewise, the situations provided for in Article 45.1.n) of the revised Workers' Statute shall be viewed as reasons to suspend the contract, as a measure to protect female victims of gender-based violence.

7. Conditions

7.1. Applications are limited to one annual request for each thesis supervisor.

7.2. Thesis supervisors must be a doctorate of UIC Barcelona accredited with a six-year research period or equivalent. If the thesis supervisor terminates their relationship with UIC Barcelona during the duration of the contract covered by this call, the School for Doctoral Studies must be informed of a new supervisor who fulfils these conditions.

7.3. The thesis supervisor must be the principal investigator or a member of the research project, knowledge transfer contract or agreement, which the candidate either joins or is linked to. All knowledge transfer contracts and agreements must be worth at least €24,000 (twenty-four thousand) euros. The aforementioned research projects, contracts or agreements must be in force or granted at the time of the candidate joining the organisation.

7.4. Candidates undertake to apply for a predoctoral grant or contract, similar to this contract, from other public or private organisations during the first year of the grant. If the external grant or contract is awarded, the beneficiary must inform the VRIT of their decision to continue with the UIC Barcelona contract or to take up the new grant or contract.

7.5. Affiliation with UIC Barcelona must be correctly stated in all publications and other results that may derive from the activities and research carried out during the period of the contract.

8. Commitments and benefits of candidates with UIC predoctoral grant

8.1. The training that the beneficiary of the grant will receive at UIC Barcelona will be in the field of research as a researcher and may be complemented in the field of teaching as a university lecturer.

8.2. The thesis supervisor undertakes to train the beneficiary of the grant as a researcher. They shall oversee and supervise the candidate's learning.

8.3. The research team the candidate is part of undertakes to integrate them into their group, involving the candidate in the group's discussions and even allowing them to participate in other projects if the management deems it appropriate.

8.4. At the request of the doctoral student, they will be able to support their training by taking on teaching duties of up to a maximum of 60 hours per year, contributing to the teaching that the department management deems appropriate and in agreement with the doctoral student.

8.5. 18 months after the start date of the contract, the beneficiary of a predoctoral grant undertakes to defend their doctoral thesis at UIC Barcelona. This requirement may only be waived in the following cases:

- a) Supervening incapacity
- b) Legal obligation to leave the country

- c) Exceptional causes duly justified after a positive report from the vice-rectorate.

In the event of unjustified non-compliance, the beneficiary shall return to UIC Barcelona the amount received as a grant to date.

8.6. The teaching given will be certified with official certificate for accreditations of university quality agencies.

9. Applications and documentation

Interested persons must send the application form signed by the supervisor and submit the following documentation to VRIT via the online form:

- a) A photocopy of your enrolment form for one of UIC Barcelona's doctoral programmes or a document accrediting that you have been accepted.
- b) Academic certificate stating the average mark obtained by the candidate in the qualifications that grants access to the doctorate. If the candidate does not yet have the final official master's degree mark, only the bachelor's degree mark will be taken as a reference for priority ranking.
- c) Photocopy of the bachelor's and master's degree.
- d) Photocopy of national ID card (DNI) or passport.

Optional documentation:

- e) Legal authorisation to formalise the contract, if applicable, in the case of foreign staff who already have such authorisation.

10. Deadline

The application deadline is **18 November 2024**.

11. Assessment and selection criteria

As set out in the internal recruitment guidelines, the Research Committee will replace the Selection Committee in this case. These selection criteria have been drawn up by the Research Committee and approved by the Board of Governors.

The prioritisation criteria can be found in Annex 1.

12. Decision

12.1 The list of admitted/rejected candidates will be published before **28 November 2024**. The VRIT will allow a maximum of 7 calendar days to rectify any possible errors. Applications that are incomplete once the stated modification period has ended will not be included in the call.

12.2 The provisional decision, with a prioritised shortlist of candidates, will be made before **10 December 2024**.

12.3 Participants may file an appeal against the provisional decision issued by the vice-rector. This appeal will have to be submitted to the General Registry of UIC Barcelona's General Secretariat within five calendar days from the day following the notification of the provisional resolution of the call. The vice-rector for Research has 2 calendar days to resolve the appeal to be repositioned once it has been received by the General Registry of UIC Barcelona. Once the period of appeals has ended, the final decision will be published on the website of the Universitat Internacional de Catalunya.

12.4 The definitive decision will be made on **16 December 2024**.

13. Acceptance of the contract

The contract at UIC Barcelona will begin on **8 January 2025**.

*For candidates from outside the European Union, the deadline will be extended to **1 April 2025**.

14. Waiver and substitutions

14.1 In the event that the contract is waived, the Vice-Rectorate for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer and People Management must be notified at least 30 calendar days in advance.

14.2 Withdrawals due to resignation or other causes among the beneficiaries can be covered by means of a resolution issued by the vice-rector allocating the vacancies to the applicants according to the priority list.

15. Renewal of the contract

15.1 The renewal of grants is subject to the positive assessment of the reports submitted to the Doctoral School.

15.2 The renewal of the first year is subject to the beneficiary requesting at least one external grant similar to the UIC Barcelona contract during this first year.

15.3 The renewal of the second year is subject to the presentation of the results of a stay that leads to the international mention of the doctoral thesis, or to the planning of a future stay, signed by the thesis supervisor.

16. End of the contract

16.1 Coinciding with the end of the contract and only if the thesis has not yet been deposited, a final report on the project undertaken and the expected reading of the thesis will be submitted.

16.2 Should the doctoral degree be obtained within the period of the grant, the contract will remain in force for up to a total of three years.

For clarification, please contact us via: vrecerca@uic.es

Barcelona, 11 October 2024

Dr Román Pérez
Vice-Rector for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer.

ANNEX 1. ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION CRITERIA ACADEMIC TRANSCRIPT AND CURRICULUM VITAE OF THE APPLICANT (maximum 4 points)

A mark out of 10 points will be awarded on the basis of the weighting of the average mark of the personal academic transcript of the undergraduate studies, bachelor's degree, engineering or diploma (Nm applicant), which will account for 90%.

To obtain the weighting of the applicant's Nm, the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) data will be used to calculate the average ISCED score (Nm) for each candidate, according to the following formula:¹

$$Nm = \frac{Nm\ ISCED\ General - Nm\ ISCED\ Universitat}{2} + Nm\ solicitante$$

Nm ISCED University and Nm ISCED General correspond to the average marks in the university and throughout the country of the degree where the candidate has completed the degree.

The average mark of the candidate's master's degree transcript will be assessed out of 10 and will account for 10 %.

In case of direct access to the doctoral program without the need for a master's degree, the Nm will account for 100%.

If the studies have been partially or totally taken in foreign university systems, adapted or not to the European Higher Education Area, a declaration of equivalence of marks must be made.

ASSESSMENT OF THE RESEARCH GROUP IN WHICH THE GRANT APPLICANT IS A MEMBER (3 POINTS)

Sources of financing of the group in which the candidate is a member, with a maximum of 3 points.

Current projects are assessed according to the following criteria:

PROJECTS (max. 3 points and only one of them will count - the one with the highest score)	
Have a Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe project	3 points
Have competitive projects: National projects or Erasmus +	2 points
Have non-competitive projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Less than €24,000 - More than €24,000 	0.5 points 1 point

¹ Access the ISCED 2022 tables (in Spanish): [Information on ISCED General and ISCED University average mark \(pdf\)](#); [Information on ISCED Marks for Foreign Studies \(pdf\)](#)

OTHER ASSESSMENT CRITERIA OR STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT CRITERIA (3 POINTS)

Patents and the four publications from the last three years proposed by the thesis supervisor will be evaluated. 0.5 points are added for each high-impact publication (max. 2 points):

Publications:

- Humanities: Books and book chapters in foreign publishers in Q1 and Q2 of SPI (Scholarly Publishers Indicators) and in the case of Spanish publishers, in Q1 of SPI. Articles in Web of Science (AHCI or JCR [Q1 or Q2]), SCOPUS (Q1), CARHUS A, CIRC A and classification Journals with FECYT quality seal (Q1).

Social Sciences: For all fields of knowledge: Articles in JCR [Q1 or Q2]; Scopus Q1 (SJR). For Law: All previous and CARHUS Plus+ A.

- Basic and Health Sciences: Articles in Web of Science (JCR [Q1]).

- Engineering and Architecture: Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE), Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI) and Arts and Humanities Citation Index (AHCI).

Patents:

Patents granted or applied for or licensed (0.5 points each)

In relation to theses overseen by the supervisor (max. 1 point):

- 0.5 points for each thesis with European mention in the last five years.
- 0.2 points per thesis read in the last five years.
- 0.1 points per ongoing thesis.
- 0.6 points per supervised industrial doctorate and 0.3 per ongoing industrial doctorate.

Other considerations:

The aim for the coming years is to continue increasing the scientific production at UIC Barcelona. In line with the University's ideology and the 2023-2028 strategic plan, UIC Barcelona aims to continue promoting research, fundraising for research, and to focus more attention on UIC Barcelona's strategic lines of research. In this regard, the Board of Governors will assess, where appropriate, the possibility of awarding one of the grants to a candidate who, fulfilling the necessary requirements, has the ideal profile to promote the study of these strategic lines.

It should be noted that thesis supervisors who have been awarded a predoctoral grant in the different calls for grants for the training of future researchers (FI, FPI, FPU, UIC Predoc) during the previous year and which are still in force, will have a 1-point reduction.

On the other hand, the thesis supervisor who has been awarded a grant and who does not finish his doctoral thesis for reasons other than those justified (personal illness or illness of a first-degree relative, etc.) will have a 1-point reduction for the next call for grants.

Thesis supervisors of UIC Barcelona predoctoral fellows or doctoral students funded by competitive projects who have deposited their thesis during the 2022/2023 academic year, within a maximum period of three years from its start, will benefit from an extra point in the priority ranking.