

Summary of the rules and of the round of grant funding for the recruitment of pre-doctoral researchers in training (FI-SDUR 2023).

This summary is of no legal effect

Purpose of grant funding round

The purpose of FI-SDUR grants is to fund the recruitment of researchers in training so that they conduct their doctoral studies within the Catalan university system.

The doctoral theses funded by these grants must fit within one of the **thematic areas of intervention** as set out in the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, which is available at <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/3c6ffd74-8ac3-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1>. Consequently, applicants must state on their forms the thematic area within which their proposed thesis best fits. We attach a document that will be published on our website which contains a list of the thematic areas.

General terms and conditions

- Deadline for submission of initial applications: 21st of June 2023 (2 pm).
- Deadline for institutions to confirm or reject provisional applications: from the 26th of June until the 30th of June 2023
- Start of newly awarded contracts: no later than 1st of March 2024
- Start of newly awarded contracts (non-EU citizens): no later than 1st of April 2024

Eligible organisations and departments

Universities in the university system of Catalonia to which any of the grants specified in the rules for the funding round are eligible for these grants.

Applicant universities to which grants are awarded will be responsible for engaging the pre-doctoral staff in training to work in their departments.

Following application of the requirements set out in the rules for the funding round, the grants set out below have been allocated to each university and department:

University of Barcelona (37 grants)

Department	Number of grants
SOCIAL ANTHROPOLOGY	1
CELL BIOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY AND IMMUNOLOGY	1
EVOLUTIONARY BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	2
BIOLOGY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT	1

BIOMEDICINE	1
BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOMEDICINE	1
BIOCHEMISTRY AND PHYSIOLOGY	1
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY	1
PHYSIOLOGICAL SCIENCES	1
COGNITION, DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	1
EARTH AND OCEAN DYNAMICS	1
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW, PROCEDURAL LAW AND FINANCIAL AND TAX LAW	1
ELECTRONIC AND BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING	1
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING AND ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY	1
PHARMACY AND PHARMACEUTICAL TECHNOLOGY, AND PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY	1
PHARMACOLOGY, TOXICOLOGY AND THERAPEUTIC CHEMISTRY	1
CATALAN PHILOLOGY AND GENERAL LINGUISTICS	1
CLASSICAL, ROMANCE AND SEMITIC PHILOLOGY	1
PHILOSOPHY	1
APPLIED PHYSICS	1
CONDENSED MATTER PHYSICS	1
QUANTUM PHYSICS AND ASTROPHYSICS	1
GENETICS, MICROBIOLOGY AND STATISTICS	1
ART HISTORY	1
ECONOMIC HISTORY, INSTITUTIONS, POLITICS AND WORLD ECONOMY	1
HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY	2
MATHEMATICS AND COMPUTING	2
RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC METHODS IN EDUCATION	1
MINERALOGY, PETROLOGY AND APPLIED GEOLOGY	1
NUTRITION, FOOD SCIENCES AND GASTRONOMY	1
EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY AND THERAPY	1
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY AND PSYCHOBIOLOGY	1
INORGANIC AND ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	1
THEORY AND HISTORY OF EDUCATION	1

Autonomous University of Barcelona (26 grants)

Department	Number of grants
ART AND MUSICOLOGY	1
ANIMAL BIOLOGY, PLANT BIOLOGY AND ECOLOGY	1
CELL BIOLOGY, PHYSIOLOGY, AND IMMUNOLOGY	1
BIOCHEMISTRY AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY	1
ANIMAL AND FOOD SCIENCE	1
POLITICAL SCIENCE AND PUBLIC LAW	1
COMPUTER SCIENCES	1
SCIENCES OF ANTIQUITY AND THE MIDDLE AGES	1
APPLIED ECONOMY	1

CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING	1
SPANISH PHILOLOGY	1
PHILOSOPHY	1
PHYSICS	1
GENETICS AND MICROBIOLOGY	1
GEOGRAPHY	1
MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY HISTORY	1
MATHEMATICS	1
ANIMAL MEDICINE AND SURGERY	1
MEDICINE	1
APPLIED PEDAGOGY	1
PSYCHOBIOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY OF HEALTH SCIENCES	1
BASIC, EVOLUTIONARY AND EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY	1
CHEMISTRY	1
ANIMAL HEALTH AND ANATOMY	1
SOCIOLOGY	1
TRANSLATION AND INTERPRETING AND EAST ASIA STUDIES,	1

Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (Polytechnic University of Catalonia) (18 grants)

Department	Number of grants
MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING	1
AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND BIOTECHNOLOGY	1
CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING	3
SYSTEMS ENGINEERING, AUTOMATION AND INDUSTRIAL COMPUTING	1
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING	1
ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING	2
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	1
STATISTICS AND OPERATIONAL RESEARCH	1
PHYSICS	3
ARCHITECTURAL PROJECTS	1
ARCHITECTURE TECHNOLOGY	1
SIGNALLING AND COMMUNICATIONS THEORY	2

Pompeu Fabra University (8 grants)

Department	Number of grants
EXPERIMENTAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES	1
POLITICAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	1
COMMUNICATION	1
LAW	1
ECONOMY AND BUSINESS	1

HUMANITIES	1
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS	1
TRANSLATION AND LANGUAGE SCIENCES	1

University of Girona (11 grants)

Department	Number of grants
BIOLOGY	1
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	1
PUBLIC LAW	1
ECONOMY	1
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING IN INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION	1
CHEMICAL AND AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING AND AGRIFOOD TECHNOLOGY	1
PHILOLOGY AND COMMUNICATION	1
HISTORY AND HISTORY OF ART	1
COMPUTING, APPLIED MATHEMATICS AND STATISTICS	1
PEDAGOGY	1
CHEMISTRY	1

University of Lleida (5 grants)

Department	Number of grants
BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES	1
COMPUTING AND INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING	1
MATHEMATICS	1
EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE	1
PLANT PRODUCTION AND FORESTRY SCIENCE	1

Universitat Rovira i Virgili (University of Rovira i Virgili) (9 grants)

Department	Number of grants
BIOCHEMISTRY AND BIOTECHNOLOGY	1
BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES	1
ELECTRONIC, ELECTRICAL AND AUTOMATION ENGINEERING	1
COMPUTER ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS	1
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING	1
CHEMICAL ENGINEERING	1
HISTORY AND HISTORY OF ART	1
ANALYTICAL CHEMISTRY AND ORGANIC CHEMISTRY	1
PHYSICAL AND INORGANIC CHEMISTRY	1

Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Open University of Catalonia) (3 grants)

Department	Number of grants
ARTS AND HUMANITIES STUDIES	1
LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDIES	1
STUDIES IN PSYCHOLOGY AND EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES	1

Requirements for candidates

a) Meet the admission requirements to the doctoral program between 1 January 2020 and the date of submission of the application.

Exceptionally, the period stipulated in the rules for the funding round will be extended by three years (up to 1 January 2017) where following successful completion of the studies required for admission to the doctoral programme, a candidate has done or undergone any of:

- Taken maternity or paternity leave.
- Been responsible for children under the age of six.
- Been responsible for people with a legally recognised physical, mental or sensory disability.
- Suffered a serious illness or accident that required major surgery or treatment in a hospital and caused temporary incapacity for the person's usual occupation or activity for a minimum continuous period of 6 months.
- Experienced any of the circumstances described in Article of the Gender-Based Violence Act.
- Been recognised as a refugee under the Geneva Convention 1951.

Alternatively, candidates who at the submission of their applications are matriculated for a degree that would allow them to matriculate for the doctoral programme for the 2023-24 academic year may also apply in the funding round.

Candidates who after 1 January 2020, have qualified for one of a specialization in health sciences within the specialist healthcare training system can also apply and the exceptions to the time for application listed above also apply.

b) Have a minimum grade point average in their undergraduate transcript or equivalent qualification equal to or greater than 6.5 (scale 0-10).

In the case of studies completed abroad, the minimum average grade is calculated under the declaration of equivalences of average grades in academic transcripts set out in the current decisions of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (<https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-alciudadano/catalogo/general/20/203615/ficha.html>).

c) At the time of submission of an application, not to have been awarded a doctoral degree or have received a grant for the recruitment of FI researchers or any FI SDUR

grant. Not to have had more than 12 months of any under any other specific contract for pre-doctoral researchers in training.

d) At the time of joining the affiliated university, all candidates must be enrolled in a doctoral program for the 2023-24 academic year. Exceptionally, candidates who join a university before the time for matriculation may be admitted to the relevant doctoral programme and matriculate for the 2023-24 academic year at the time when matriculation opens under the matriculation schedules of each university. The start date of the contract may not be extended when it has not been possible to formally matriculate within the matriculation schedule of the relevant university for reasons attributable to the candidate.

e) Each candidate may only be included in one application.

Requirements for thesis supervisors:

Each application should name only one thesis supervisor who may not be included in any other application and who must meet the following requirements:

a) Have a statutory or employment link with the institution affiliated to the funding programme. That link must provide sufficient assurance of supervision and monitoring of the candidate's doctoral thesis. Part-time staff, staff on extended leave, visiting professors and emeritus professors are deemed not to meet this requirement.

b) Be principal investigators or members of a competitive research project, or a contract for research or knowledge transfer. In the case of contracts or agreements for research or knowledge transfer, each must have a minimum value of €24,000 (twenty-four thousand euros).

Those research projects, contracts or agreements must be in force or awarded at the time of submission of the application. Grants to support complete research groups recognised by the Regional Government of Catalonia (SGR) and grants to fund the recruitment of researchers are deemed not to be competitive research projects.

c) Be part of a recognised research group within the framework of the round of grant funding to support the scientific activity of research groups in Catalonia (SGR-Cat 2021).

Period

Staff employment grants last for three years. However, when a contract has been awarded to a disabled person, the contract may extend to a maximum term of six years, in function of the characteristics of the research and the extent of limitations on conducting that research.

Newly-awarded contracts under this funding round must commence no later than 1st of March 2024 with the exception of non-EU candidates, for whom the deadline for recruitment is 1st of April 2024.

All contracts must commence on the first day of the month.

Grant amount and eligible expenditure:

a) Costs of **salary expenses and contributions** for all welfare programmes for research staff. Those expenses are calculated using the modular system based on the salary fixed under the Researchers in Training Act (EPIF), with a correction factor for the financial impact of leave for Temporary Disability which may be revised before or after the grant award decision.

The module for years 1 and 2 of the grant is €22,374.75 per researcher employed and the annual module for year 3 of the grant is €23,743.22.

b) One **supplementary grant** to fund research displacements and other training activities up to €3,000.00 for the whole of the three years of grant support.

c) The **costs of the management, supervision and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis** over the successive years of grant support.

d) Any **compensation for termination of employment due to expiry of the agreed term**.

Applications for grants

Grant applications must be submitted electronically in two stages.

- Phase 1 (provisional application by the candidate):

A provisional application must be submitted electronically by a candidate for a grant to support recruitment through the "Procedures" section on the Government of Catalonia's website (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>). The common application form comprises a general form in which the following documents must be attached:

a) A common form of appendix that includes a short curriculum vitae of the candidate; a technical report with a summary of the education, training and research activities expected to be achieved during the three years of the grant; the expected scientific objectives and results; the expected applicability and knowledge transfer and the social, economic and scientific impacts of the research carried out.

b) If a research project, contract or research agreement which meets the requirement that apply to thesis supervisors has been awarded to an institution other than the affiliated institution, a document must be attached which identifies the project, contract or agreement.

c) All applicants must submit the transcripts for their degree, undergraduate degree or equivalent and master's degree studies, showing the date of award of each degree and the average grade.

d) In the case of studies completed abroad, the declaration of equivalences of the average grade of the academic transcript of the studies completed abroad under the current decisions of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training must be submitted (<https://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/general/20/203615/ficha.html>). For the purposes of this grant funding round, candidates are responsible for formalising and submitting these declarations of equivalences of the average grade and are not required to obtain verification prior to submission.

- e) Where relevant, a copy of the supporting documentation concerning any exceptional situation envisaged in the requirements.
- f) Additional documents optionally required by the institution affiliated with the grant programme. An affiliated institution must publish the documents required before the deadline for submission of provisional applications.

- Phase 2 (confirmation of the application made by the affiliated institution):

The deadline for submission of provisional applications marks the start of a period for applicant institutions to access the AGAUR grant management application (BOGA) to confirm or reject applications submitted by candidates.

Confirmation documents must include a supporting declaration or self-declaration of compliance with the requirements of the rules of the grant funding round.

AGAUR will verify information provided in the form and any attachments. When an application needs to be amended, notice will be given to the relevant person via the electronic noticeboard of the Regional Government of Catalonia of an administrative document issued by the general directorate which identifies the basic documents and non-basic documents to be amended. That administrative document will be supported by reasoned explanation and will state that if the basic documents for the relevant application are not amended within ten working days from the day after the publication of the administrative document, the applicant will be deemed to have withdrawn their application.

The documents to be amended must be submitted using the Procedure for an AGAUR file which can be found on the website of the Regional Government of Catalonia (<<https://agaur.gencat.cat/ca/beques-i-ajuts/convocatories-per-temes/Tramit-associat-a-un-expedient-AGAUR-aportacio-de-documentacio-i-altres-peticions/>>)

Electronic procedure

All procedures related to these grants must be carried out remotely. The computer registries provided for the purpose may be used, such as the EACAT platform (tramits.eacat.cat), or the AGAUR generic request (<https://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/tramits-temes/Peticio-generica>) that can be found in the "Procedures" section of the Government of Catalonia website (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>).

Criteria for evaluation and ranking of applications:

Affiliated institutions must rank applications received and validated on a scale of 0-10 as follows:

- a) The weighted average grade from the academic transcript of the candidate will have a minimum value of 4 points.**

The weighted average grade for undergraduate studies or equivalent degree has an 80% weighting and the weighted average grade for master's studies has a 20% weighting.

If a candidate is proceeding directly to a doctorate and does not need to earn a master's degree, only the weighted average grade of their undergraduate degree studies or equivalent will be taken into account as to 100%.

If a candidate has acquired more than 300 ECTS credits at the time of submission of their application but is still studying for a master's degree, only the weighted average grade of undergraduate study will be taken into account or of the equivalent degree as to 100%.

If a candidate has completed more than one degree or equivalent, only the weighted average grade of the course of study most closely related to the doctoral programme will be taken into account. If a candidate has completed more than one master's degree, only the weighted average grade of the course of study that is required for the doctoral programme will be taken into account. Those courses those that meet the requirements set out in the rules for the grant funding round.

b) The evaluation of the teaching and research group of which the candidate is to be a member will have a maximum value of 3 points. That evaluation may consider the department, the unit, the laboratory, the research group, and the thesis supervisor.

c) The compatibility of the application with the scientific policy of each affiliated institution will have a maximum value of 3 points. That evaluation may consider matters such as the institution's strategic lines of research, the scope for knowledge transfer from the proposed research and its applicability, the distribution of grants among departments, units or research projects and an evaluation of the candidate's track record.

The evaluation criteria must consider the average grade from the candidate's academic transcript (Paragraph a) but may not cover the assessment of the training and research environment (Paragraph b) and/or the adequacy of the scientific policy adopted by an institution (Paragraph c) described above, provided the scores for the other criterion or criteria add up to a score expressed on a scale of 0-10 points.

In order to increase the representation of women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), particularly traditionally male-dominated areas, in the event of a tie, universities will give a higher ranking applications submitted by women in those areas.

Ranking

Universities must send their proposed ranking systems and evaluation criteria to AGAUR remotely for validation so that it can be confirmed that the procedures meet the requirements of these grant funding rules. We attach by email the form of document for reporting the ranking system.

It is the responsibility of each affiliated institution to publish its ranking criteria before the end of the period for submission of provisional applications and to retain evidence of such publication.

Each affiliated institution is responsible for publishing its proposed ranking for the applications received in good time so that potential applicants have access to the information as they are entitled. The proposed ranking must be accompanied by an explanation of the mechanisms implemented and the evaluation criteria to be used so that applicants can submit any claims.

The final ranking following expiry of time for claims must be entered in BOGA, AGAUR's grant management app.

Out of the total amount of grants awarded, 2% is reserved for candidates who have an assessment of disability as to 33% or more which is recognised by the Department of Social Rights of the Regional Government of Catalonia.

Ethical principles

Funded activities must be exclusively focused on civil applications, such that the following fields of research may not be funded: activities for the purpose of the cloning of human beings for reproductive purposes; activities for the purpose of modifying the genetic make-up of human beings that could make such changes heritable (except research related to the treatment of testicular or ovarian cancer, which may be funded); activities for the purpose of creating human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of harvesting stem cells, including by nuclear transfer of somatic cells leading to the destruction of human embryos.

Researchers must complete an ethical self-assessment in the standard form in the appendix in which they must declare whether their research contemplates any of the fields described above.

Acceptance of grant and confirmation of employment of the candidate

The acceptance of grants and confirmation of the employment of candidates must be jointly recorded formally using a standard form signed by the legal representatives of each recipient institution.

That document must be submitted electronically by no later than two months from the day after the start of the contract covered by the grant and be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) A copy of the individual candidate's National Identity Document or Foreign Resident Identity Number.
- b) A copy of matriculation for the doctoral programme for the 2023-2024 academic year.
- c) A copy of the employment contract.
- d) A copy of the General Treasury for Social Security document, 'Contribution information report / Employees' (IDC).
- e) Where a grant has been received for the recruitment of researchers in training, evidence must be submitted of the relevant waiver.
- h) Evidence of a separate accounting system or that a single accounting code is used for evidence of transactions relating to the grant-funded activity.

Payment

An initial payment of 30% of the employment grant will be paid once employment of a candidate by the affiliated institution has been confirmed. The second and third payments of 30% will be made once the person's matriculation for the relevant academic year has been confirmed. The final payment of 10% and costs of compensation for termination of employment by expiry of the agreed term will be made following submission of supporting documents.

Payment of the supplementary grant of €3,000 and payment of matriculation fees for the doctoral thesis will also be on confirmation of employment or renewal.

Payment for the management, supervision and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis will be made directly to universities following submission by them in accordance with AGAUR's instructions of copies of researchers' matriculations for the relevant academic years.

Rights and obligations of recipients

- To comply with the objective and purpose of the grant, to carry out the grant-funded activity, to account for that activity in the form and within the period established by these rules and to inform AGAUR of any incidents.
- To employ the researcher as a full-time pre-doctoral employee within the time stipulated in the rules for the relevant round of grant funding and to comply with all obligations under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act and in the Pre-doctoral Researchers in Training.
- To bear any costs of employment that exceed the amount of the grant for the module awarded and to keep the pay of pre-doctoral researchers in training at the minimum remuneration stipulated by the Pre-doctoral Researchers in Training.
- To provide each researcher employed with the required collaboration and support, including the means or equipment required to enable them to carry out their educational and research activities.
- Not to require a researcher to perform any other activity unrelated to their educational and research work.
- To ensure due compliance with Article 4 of the Pre-doctoral Researchers in Training in relation to collaboration in teaching tasks.
- To ensure compliance with the regime of grounds for incompatibilities.
- To give notice to the grant-awarding body of any other grants requested or awarded for the same purpose and any other change to any such of which notice has previously been given as soon as the change the institution becomes aware of it and in any event before accounting for the use of the funds received.
- To comply with fundamental ethical principles under the rules for the grant funding round and with good research practice based on the fundamental principle of research integrity.
- To align with the priorities of the European Research Area (European Research Area), the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (*Charter & Code*) and to promote internal measures aligned with the European Human Researchers Personnel (HRS4R), so as to promote excellence in research, an attractive work environment, a framework of actions to support the development of researchers that includes:

- the adoption of open, transparent and merit-based recruitment (OTM-R).
- measures to enhance interdisciplinary research options and promote networking opportunities for researchers in training, including international relationships, within and outside the academic world.
- provide senior researchers with tools to train researchers, promote good practice in mentoring and encourage training that allows researchers to access industry and other cross-industry fields of employment.
- provide the researcher with a series of educational activities aligned with the current European Competence Framework for Researchers in the early stages of training (R1 and R2) in both scientific skills and practical skills, which provide opportunities to develop transferable skills through cross-cutting competencies such as teaching, mentoring and leadership, research management and entrepreneurship, as part of their development so as to contribute significantly to their professional careers.
- the promotion of responsible research and innovation (RRI) with open access to publications and data management policies.

Rights and obligations of recruited researchers:

- To have matriculated for the relevant doctoral programme at the time of entering into the employment contract funded by the grant.
- To join the affiliated institution and meet the objectives and carry out the work plan included in the application under the supervision of the thesis supervisor.
- To abide by current employment law and internal rules of the organisation or institution within which they carry on their activity.
- To follow the ethical principles in the rules for the grant funding round and good research practice based on the fundamental principle of integrity in research.
- To follow the principles of the European Charter for Researchers of the European Commission.
- To request consent for research visits or activity that involves absence from the workplace under the internal rules of each affiliated institution. Absences from the workplace may not in any event exceed six months. The maximum permitted cumulative absence over the three years of the grant is twelve months.
- To provide all information requested and undergo inspections, checks and monitoring by AGAUR and other competent bodies under relevant laws.

Summary of the rights and obligations of thesis supervisors

- To plan and actively guide the thesis research project to ensure that it educates the researcher and is original and innovative and so as to enhance knowledge transfer and the social, economic and scientific impact of the research carried out.
- To supervise the progress and implementation of the work plan and educational activity, and ensure its viability and coherence in relation to current lines of research and future employment opportunities with which it is associated.
- To provide guidance, any professional and scientific support required, and advice on professional development and the various professional pathways or ensure that each researcher has access to such support.

- To promote interdisciplinary research and promote networking opportunities for researchers in training, including international relationships, inside and outside the academic world.
- To ensure proper monitoring of the terms of the rules for the grants and for this round of grant funding and notify the affiliated institution and AGAUR of any incidents.
- To comply with the fundamental ethical principles set out in clause 13.1 of Section II of the appendix to this decision and good research practice based on the fundamental principle of research integrity.

Withdrawal

If notice is given of withdrawal in entirety of a grant during the first three months counting from the day after the initial grant decision, AGAUR may award the grant withdrawal to candidates from the reserve list for the institution at which withdrawal has occurred. In the case of partial withdrawal or withdrawal after those three months, the grant will not be re-awarded as described above.

Changes and modifications

At the request of an affiliated institution, consent may be given to changes supported with adequate reasons by a thesis supervisor or the affiliated institution and to the resolution of incidents that does not involve a substantial change in the conditions or purpose of the grant or constitute a breach of the applicable requirements.

In the first year of employment, a change of thesis supervisor may only be made for reasons of force majeure.

Changes of affiliated institution should take place at the change of academic year.

A researcher who has been recruited must request and give notice of any changes that affect the course of their doctoral thesis or work plan to the appropriate decision-making body. Notice must be given of such changes at the time of submission of technical compliance reports.

Incompatibilities:

The provisions for incompatibilities stipulated in the employment contracts entered into the affiliated institutions under employment legislation will apply to contracts funded by these grants.

These grants are incompatible with any other grant funded by public or private funds for the same purpose and with payment of any other remuneration for any activity that overlaps in time with the educational and research activity or that may negatively affect the achievement of the purpose of a grant.

Grants regulated by this decision are compatible with payment of other remuneration for the performance of professional or research activities that are relevant to the educational

objectives of the grant including supplements for teaching or research tasks directly associated with the educational activity of researchers provided they do not negatively affect the purpose of the grant. Such compatible activities are subject to authorisation by the affiliated university in which the researcher is working. An affiliated institution must give notice to AGAUR of any such authorisation at the time it is given.

These grants are also compatible with grants for attendance at congresses, meetings and scientific conferences and grants for short research visits and other educational activity.

Each affiliated university must give notice to AGAUR of the award of any other grant or support for the same purpose by any other domestic or foreign government or public body at the time of submission of the relevant application and on grant.

Recipient institutions may increase the salary of funded researchers. Notice must be given to AGAUR of any such increase in remuneration which must be stated in the contract of employment and implemented in accordance with employment and tax laws and any applicable collective agreements.

Publicity

The support of the FI-SDUR pre-doctoral programme of the Office of the Secretariat for Universities and Research of the Ministry of Research and Universities of the Regional Government of Catalonia must be referenced in all publications and other results, including the grant reference number. Each recipient institution must show on its website the relevant logo which can be found in the Visual Identification Programme (PIV) at <<http://www.gencat.cat/piv/>>.

In relation to the European Social Fund Plus, each recipient institution must:

- a) In all information published and communications include the emblem of the European Union, accompanied by the phrase "Co-funded by the European Union".
- b) Include a brief description of the research on its official website and social media accounts, to include the objectives and results of the grant and the financial support from the European Union.
- c) While the research is ongoing, display an A3 poster about the project in a publicly visible place that specifically mentions the financial support of the European Union. Such poster must be based on the model poster on AGAUR's website.
- d) In all institutional communications and publications and scientific dissemination, mention the involvement of the European Union and show its emblem accompanied by the phrase "Co-funded by the European Union" with English subtitles for greater accessibility.
- e) Ensure that researchers supported by these grants are aware of co-funding by the European Social Fund Plus. Mention co-funding by the European Social Fund Plus in any document given to participants or that is part of the grant or used for recruitment.

Open access

Recipient institutions and researchers must provide open access to scientific articles generated as part of the activity funded by this grant by depositing the final versions accepted for publication and associated data for such articles in institutional or subject repositories on their dates of publication.

Evidence of recruitment costs

Evidence of recruitment costs will be provided under the standard form system: In that regard, confirmation that the research has been carried out and achievement of results will be provided using the following standard forms:

a) A **reasoned technical report of the activity** signed by the researcher and the thesis supervisor to include a description of the educational and research activity carried out during the grant period, the objectives and the scientific results achieved, the applicability and any knowledge transfer and the possible social, economic and scientific impact of the research completed. The report must include a specific section that explains how the thesis aligns with the strategic orientation of the European Union.

b) A **reasoned financial report setting out the costs of recruitment** in function of the results obtained, to state at a minimum the start date and the end date of each successive year of each contract supported by these grants, the terms of the contract, the number of physical units considered to be a module and quantification using unit costs for each contract.

c) Evidence of the costs of compensation for termination of a contract will take the form of a copy of the payslip showing the amount of the compensation and receipt for the payment.

Predoctoral researchers must complete a **tracking form** at the end of the first year of the contract and a **form at the conclusion of the grant**, regardless of the reason for termination as instructed by AGAUR.

Universities must collect the information required to prepare the indicators required by ESF+.

Notifications:

The decision as to ineligible and withdrawn applications and the final grant award decision will be announced on the electronic noticeboard of the Regional Government of Catalonia (<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>). By way of publicity and for purely informative purposes, any decision may be seen on AGAUR's website.

Other administrative acts in relation to this procedure will be notified by electronic notice.

Monitoring system

During the subsidised activity AGAUR will carry out the following sample-based checks:

Administrative checks for the purpose of confirming that the funded activity is taking place and to ensure that statements of expenses submitted by recipient institutions have supporting documentation (contracts, pay slips, proof of payment, etc.).

Checks on the ground for the purpose of confirming that the grant-funded activity is taking place and researchers and institutions are meeting their obligations.

Educational activity:

This section regulates the grant of a supplementary grant of €3,000 intended for research visits and other educational activity by pre-doctoral researchers in training whose recruitment has been funded by a grant regulated by these rules.

Operation of educational activity

1. Educational activity must be for the purpose of imparting key essential skills for the education of future recipients of PhDs and to make them professional and must be generally linked to the following objectives:

- Promotion of international relationships: research placements related to the obtaining of international doctorates, attendance at congresses and conferences and other activities to enable researchers to meet scientists and others working in the field and build partnerships with institutions based in other countries.
- Knowledge and technology transfer to the productive economy and society as a whole: specific courses and participation in activities aimed at acquisition of knowledge, experience and skills associated with knowledge transfer and dissemination of the results of the research beyond academic circles so that it generates economic value.
- Professional training: training activity related to cross-cutting competencies and team management and leadership, management, organisation, entrepreneurship, etc.
- Education in drawing up and implementing responsible research and innovation (RRI) processes.

2. A grant may not be used for the purchase of materials or equipment or to finance language courses.

3. Activity must be carried out in its entirety during the three years of the validity of the relevant grant, including any extension.

The waiver or loss of the right to a FI-SDUR includes waiver of any training grant including grants awarded but not yet made.

The participation in training activities does not entail the suspension or interruption of the employment contract.

4. The travel and accommodation expenses, subsistence allowances, enrolment fees and tuition and other costs unequivocally related to the training activities are eligible to be funded.

This grant is compatible with the affiliated entities' own funds and with funds from other sources of financing and the beneficiary entity and the researchers may co-finance the activity or activities which are the subject of this grant.

5. Applications must be submitted electronically during the term of the grants and no later than one month from the day after the conclusion of educational activity using the standard form on AGAUR's website following the instructions on the same form.

6. On receipt of an application, AGAUR will check whether the activity is consistent with the purpose of the grant and the requirements of these rules. AGAUR will give notice concerning such consistency to the applicant researcher and to the affiliated institution within a maximum period of 45 working days.

7. Researchers must electronically provide evidence of educational activity within a maximum period of one month from completion by submission of the following documents:

- a) Standard form expense report for educational activity, available on AGAUR's website.
- b) Certificates showing completion of the activity.
- c) Invoices showing the costs incurred to carry out the activity and receipts. The invoices and expense receipts may be in the name of the individual beneficiary of the grant or the centre in which they are contracted. The invoices and payment receipts in the name of third parties cannot be refunded.

8. Failure to provide proof of payments in the established time periods shall give rise to proceedings for breach of contract. The resolution of these proceedings may result in the total or partial revocation of the grant and the obligation to return the corresponding amount.

9. The supplementary grant of €3,000 (three thousand euros) will be paid directly to the institutions of newly awarded grants, when employment of the candidate has been certified by the affiliated institution in accordance with rules for these grants and there is not need to provide security.

In line with AGAUR's instructions, for activities for which more than €300 (three hundred euros) has been requested, affiliated institutions may pay to the researcher 80% of the value of the activity in advance following confirmation that the activity is eligible and the remaining 20% on receipt of evidence of expenditure as required by these rules. For activities of a requested value equal to or less than €300 (three hundred euros), payment will be made in full after submission of the supporting documents required by these rules.