

## Call for applications for grants to incorporate postdoctoral research staff into the Catalan science and technology system, within the Beatriu de Pinós programme (BP 2021).

- Version 1.1 -

### Frequently asked questions

*Note: The answers provided in this section do not substitute the rules and stipulations established in the terms and conditions for the Beatriu de Pinós call for applications or the AGAUR rules on proposal assessment and selection. All these documents are available on the [AGAUR](#) website.*

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### 1. General information:

#### **Q: What is the purpose of the Beatriu de Pinós programme?**

A: The purpose of the Beatriu de Pinós programme is to award a maximum of 60 individual grants to recruit and incorporate postdoctoral research staff into the Catalan science and technology system. These grants are designed to facilitate both the return and the new incorporation of researchers who have been working abroad in research undertakings located in Catalonia.

#### **Q: Who are these programme grants aimed at?**

A: These grants are designed to recruit, and train experienced postdoctoral researchers, so that they can improve their future professional prospects and foster an independent research position. Candidates must carry out a research and training project for the entire period of the grant, which will allow them to progress in the development of their professional careers.

#### **Q: What is the duration of these grants?**

A: The grant has a term of 3 years.

#### **Q: Which research subjects are funded by these grants?**

A: No priority areas are defined. Candidates freely choose the fields of research, and all areas of scientific and technological development are entitled to receive funding.

#### **Q: How can I apply for these grants?**

A: The terms and conditions the Beatriu de Pinós and its corresponding call for applications contain the basic information on preparing and submitting the application. You must carefully read all the documents belonging to the related documentation section for this call for applications on the [AGAUR](#) website.

## 2. Host institution:

### **Q: Which host organisations can benefit from this grant?**

A: All universities, research centres and hospital foundations located in Catalonia can benefit from this grant. All host institutions must demonstrate their capacity to train the beneficiaries of the grants and to provide them with suitable installations and facilities.

Companies, technology centres, technological activity support centres and technology dissemination centres are all excluded from this call for applications.

### **Q: Is it possible to have more than one responsible researcher at the host institution?**

A: No. Formally, in each proposal there can only be one host institution and one responsible researcher of this institution. This responsible researcher may apply for one single grant only. Nevertheless, at the time of submitting the proposal, collaboration with different researchers and participation in different projects may be described.

### **Q: Can two candidates submit applications with the same research group but a different responsible academic?**

A: Yes. However, the research proposals submitted must be independent and their viability must be guaranteed. During the assessment and selection process, the two proposals will be assessed independently.

### **Q: Is it possible to carry out the postdoctoral stay in two or more host research institutions focussing on different complementary subjects?**

A: No. It is not possible to have two host institutions. However, during the three years of the grant, it is highly recommended to carry out occasional research visits/stays to other institutions, both national and international, with prior authorisations depending on the length of the stay. It must always have the approval of the responsible researcher and of the grant beneficiary institution itself, as it is stated in the terms and conditions (term 22)

The stays may not exceed 9 months, be this is in one single period or divided into shorter mobility periods.

### **Q: Where I can carry out short research visits/stays?**

A: short-term research visits can be carried out to other academic and research institutions as well as in non-academic organisations, including public administrations, policy makers and private enterprises provided that the significantly contribute to the impact of the grant.

## 3. Candidates

### **Q: What requirements must be met by candidates?**

A: Candidates must meet the following three requirements:

- a) They must have obtained their doctorate between 1 January 2014 and 31 December 2019. Nevertheless, in situations of maternity/paternity leave, medical leave of six months or more, or being responsible for dependent persons as well as being recognized as refugee status under the 1951 refugee convention, applications shall be accepted from researchers who have obtained their doctorate between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2019.
- b) Having completed a postdoctoral stay/visit period outside Spain of at least two years at the time of joining the undertaking.
- c) They must not have resided or worked in Spain for more than 12 months in the three years prior to the deadline for submitting applications.

**Q: Is there any grant reserved for candidates with a degree of disability?**

A: There is one (1) grant reserved for candidates with a degree of disability equal or greater than to 33% as issued by the evaluation and guidance teams at the Government of Catalonia care centres for people with functional diversity or equivalent.

**Q: What requirements must be met by candidates with a recognised degree of disability according to the rules?**

A: This Candidates must meet the following three requirements:

- a) They must have obtained their doctorate between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2019.
- b) Having completed a postdoctoral stay/visit period outside Spain of at least two years at the time of joining the undertaking.
- c) They must not have resided or worked in Spain for more than 12 months in the three years prior to date of submission of the deadline for submitting applications.

**Q: Is there any requirement in terms of nationality?**

A: Researchers can be of any nationality.

**Q: Is there an age limit for researchers wishing to apply for the Beatriu Pinós programme?**

A: No. Researcher selection is based principally on the year that the doctorate is obtained.

**Q: If I already am a Beatriu de Pinós fellow and I still fulfil the requirements of the BP20 call, can I send a new application?**

A: No. As it is foreseen by the rules of the call, the researchers who have received a Beatriu de Pinós grant cannot participate in a further call of these grants.

**4. Preparing and submitting the application:**

**Q: How must the application be submitted?**

A: Applications are submitted in two phases. In the first phase the application must be made using the approved form and the approved annex for the corresponding call. The candidate should submit the application. Applications must be completed via the Internet, using the [Procedures Section](#) of the Government of Catalonia website and they consist of two parts:

- a) An approved form for the basic information on the proposal, the supervisor, the host institution, and the candidate.
- b) An annex document with the proposal's content. Applicants must strictly follow this structure when submitting the scientific and technical content of their application. This annex has been designed to highlight the aspects that will be evaluated based on the assessment criteria. The second phase of the submission is carried out by the beneficiary institution of the grant after the deadline for the first phase of the submission, as it is stated in the terms and conditions (term 7).

**Q: Should applications include letters of recommendation?**

A: No, letters of recommendation are not required for this call for applications and will not be considered if submitted.

**Q: Must the application be printed out and submitted in person?**

A: No. After on-line submission of the application, there is no need for physically send the application to AGAUR. Afterwards, there will be a period for the host institutions to confirm or decline the submission of provisional applications carried out by the candidates and the responsible researcher of the host institution.

**Q: What additional documentation need to be submitted at the time of submitting the application?**

A: No document should be sent. According to the call's terms and conditions, Individuals who opt for the position reserved for individual candidates with a degree of disability which is greater than or equal to 33% should provide the supporting documentation at the time required by AGAUR. Other documents required to all candidates will be verified at the time the grant is accepted.

**Q: Can a candidate be included in more than one application?**

A: No. A candidate may not be included in more than one application. However, this is not applicable in the case of host groups or departments, which can apply for the incorporation of different candidates through different responsible researchers.

**Q: In what language must applications be completed?**

A: Applications may be completed in Catalan, Spanish or English although it is recommended to submit the application in English. Moreover, it is highly recommended to use a single language throughout the whole application.

**Q: How can one know whether an application has been successfully submitted?**

A: If the application has been submitted successfully, the Procedures section of the Government of Catalonia's website will issue the associated receipt. Any requirement to amend a submitted application shall be notified by email to those persons directly affected and via publication on the Government of Catalonia e-noticeboard and for informational purposes on the AGAUR webpage.

**Q: Can a candidate's CV be updated after submitting an application?**

A: No. No account shall be taken of any additional information submitted after the deadline for submitting applications, unless voluntarily submitted during the amendment period.

**5. Evaluation:**

**Q: How are the application' evaluators chosen?**

A: The Beatriu de Pinós programme has an open, bottom-up focus. In other words, applicants freely choose their research subjects. The assessment system sorts applications into seven large-scale scientific fields. These seven fields are as follows:

- arts and humanities
- biomedicine
- engineering, technology, and architecture
- health and medical sciences
- natural and agri-food sciences
- sciences
- social science

Applicants chose the area of knowledge most closely associated with their project in the application form, which will determine the field of assessment. Additionally, a second area of knowledge may be used, as may complementarily keywords, to define the remaining interrelated thematic areas. The choice of area and keywords guides AGAUR in the selection of experts to assess the proposals.

**Q: How are applications evaluated?**

A: Applications shall be assessed in 2 stages:

In stage one, Applications are assessed by outside expert bodies from the scientific community, considering the specific characteristics of their field of research, with the following criteria and scoring system:

a) Candidate's CV (45%). Research experience and the scientific and technological activity developed are valued, as are the quality and impact of publications and the scientific production generated, international mobility and intersectoral experience in projects in collaboration with companies and knowledge transfer to the private sector. The candidate's autonomy, initiative, independent thinking and proven leadership will also be valued.

b) Recipient group and host entity (25%). The scientific record and international impact of the recipient research group and its suitability to the specific field of knowledge of the proposal, the experience of the recipient group and the host entity in hiring and training of research staff and their ability to implement and coordinate the planned research and training activities, as well as the ability to insert trained staff into the research system. The suitability of the recipient entity's infrastructures and facilities is also valued.

c) The project and research and training activities that will be developed over the three years (10%). The novelty and originality of the proposed research activities, the clarity in the formulation of the problem and identification of the objectives, the suitability of the methodological approach, and the viability of the proposal and the work plan will be valued, including research stays and professional training activities of the candidate, the interchange of knowledge between the host group and the candidate, and how the proposal will have a global impact on the candidate's future career.

d) Impact (20%). The strategic impact of the proposal, the measures to exploit and disseminate the results of the proposed project, as well as the quality of the proposed communication campaigns.

This first evaluation must give an overall score to the case file, which shall be expressed in terms of a scale from 0 to 10.

This score acts to provide an initial classification for the proposals, which must be subsequently reviewed.

In Stage Two of the evaluation, assessment committees shall be constituted in the form of panels for each of the knowledge areas, in accordance with the listing that can be consulted in the assessment section of the [AGAUR](http://AGAUR) website. These knowledge areas are:

- arts and humanities
- biomedicine
- engineering, technology, and architecture
- health and medical sciences
- natural and agri-food sciences
- sciences
- social science

These assessment committees are made up of outside experts, with a recognised track record and from different academic fields, providing a cross-cutting, multidisciplinary vision in line with the mechanisms established by the AGAUR Assessment Regulation. The panels review all scores obtained in stage one, bearing in mind the assessment criteria and weightings described in the terms and conditions, the specific features of the different areas of knowledge making up each of the fields and the complementary interdisciplinary assessment contributed by the members of each panel. Based on this review, each panel agrees upon a definitive score for each application, which may confirm the provisional scores from Stage One or agree upon a new, duly supported one.

**Q: How are applicants informed of the outcomes of the applications submitted?**

A: The selection results shall be published on the Government of Catalonia e-noticeboard and the AGAUR webpage within six months from the day of publication of the call for applications in the DOGC. All applicants shall be informed of the publication of these results by email.

**6. Project implementation:**

**Q: If an application is accepted, how long must a researcher wait before joining the host institution?**

A: The legal deadline for the resolution is six months from the date of publication of the corresponding call for applications in the DOGC. Stays must begin between the day of publishing of the grant award resolution and 1 April 2022.

**Q: Must candidates dedicate all their time to research, or can they participate in other training activities?**

A: During their grant, researchers may participate in all kinds of training and specialisation activities aimed at learning different science-related skills as well as additional ones, such as management, knowledge transfer, communication, intellectual property rights, entrepreneurship, etc.

**7. Financial and contractual aspects:**

**Q: What is the amount of the grants?**

A: There are two types of economical contributions of Beatriu de Pinós grants:

- One grant for hiring research staff, of 44,100.00 euros per annum. This sum funds the remuneration to be paid to the researcher and employers' social security contributions. A complementary grant of 12,000.00 euros per the three years of the grant aimed at education and training activities and other significant research actions carried on by the hired researcher. This grant can, for example, be used for training courses, both science- and professional-training related (management issues, organisation, entrepreneurship, dissemination and scientific communication, transversal skills, etc.); attendance at and participation in conferences and congresses; the performance of fieldwork or short-term research visits abroad; attendance at international encounters and meetings; the financing of association and academic journal subscription fees; the purchase of bibliographic material, office and laboratory consumables; specialised scientific and technical services that cannot be performed at the host entity itself; the acquisition of specific programs, etc. Expenses associated with the publication and depositing of results and data, including technical review, translation and adaptation services and intellectual property rights-associated costs, may also be included.

The recipient undertaking shall not receive grants for general or management expenses.

**Q: What remuneration will the researcher receive?**

A: The gross annual remuneration to be received by the researcher, including tax withholdings, is around € 32,000.00. However, this is approximate amount. The host institution may also, out of its own funds, voluntarily increase the researcher's salary.

**Q: Can the host institution decide whether to hire a researcher with an employment contract or on a grant-only based basis?**

A: No. The host institution must hire the researcher based on an employment contract.

## 8. Other:

### **Q: What are the dissemination and communication activities in a Beatriu de Pinós project?**

A: The dissemination activities are initiatives aimed at audiences that may use the results in their own work, such as peers (scientific or the project's own community), industry and other commercial actors, professional organisations, and policymakers.

The communication activities are aimed at the general public rather than the research community. The purpose is to raise the general public's awareness of the research project and work carried out in a Beatriu de Pinós proposal.

Each applicant must include dissemination and communication activities as part of their project and may choose them freely. Communication activities are defined as follows: visits to schools, universities, associations, etc., promoting their field of research; helping primary and secondary school teachers in the preparation and issuing of teaching materials; visits by students and the general public to the research institution or laboratory, talks, chats, TV interviews, podcasts and newspaper articles; developing an electronic document to be published on the web to attract the general public's attention (for example, Wikipedia); making videos for publishing on the Internet, in areas open to the general public, etc.

### **Q: What is a research project within the framework of a Beatriu de Pinós grant?**

A: A research project is the set of research activities that are planned to be carried out during the three years of the contract. These activities can be framed within a single pre-existing project, can constitute a new project or be carried out on a cross-cutting basis within the framework of different projects. These activities must also have the goal of contributing to candidates' professional development and must be designed to significantly develop and broaden the researcher's skills in terms of multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary expertise, inter-sector experience and/or complementary abilities such as communication skills, entrepreneurship, ethical issues, intellectual property rights, knowledge transfer, etc.

### **Q: Which is the success rate of the Beatriu de Pinós program?**

A: The Beatriu de Pinós program awards 60 grants per call. The budget will be distributed over the panels based on the proportion of eligible proposals received in each panel to ensure equal successful opportunities to the candidates. In the last published calls, the rate of success ranges from 15% to 25%.

The statistics of the previous call can be found [here](#).

### **Q: In case of doubts about the submission procedure, can I find more information in the AGAUR webpage?**

A: Yes. If you are a responsible researcher or a candidate you can find more information in this [link](#). If you are a host institution, you can find more information about the submission procedure in this [link](#).