

MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Public call for applications for Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF) contracts

Approved by the Committee for Science Policy and Transfer 10 October 2024

CONDITIONS OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2nd edition

1. Background

The Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV) is an institution dedicated to providing the public service of higher education and research by means of teaching, research and university extension activities.

To meet this commitment in the field of research, the URV needs to train research staff by means of doctoral programmes and theses.

Contracts for trainee researchers are a fundamental tool both for attracting talented researchers from all over to come and study doctorates and for carrying out essential research activity throughout the university. For this reason, it is necessary to increase the number of doctoral contracts and to ensure that these contracts contribute to the URV's international visibility.

To meet these objectives, the URV wants to incentivize the training of future doctoral students by means of a grants programme that enables the URV to:

1. Qualitatively and quantitatively increase the human and economic resources available to the URV for predoctoral training, research and teaching.
2. Strengthen the university's own doctoral programmes.
3. Increase the number of doctoral theses carried out in its departments.
4. Complement the training of doctoral students within the frame of R+D+I projects carried out by URV research groups.

2. Regulations

The present call for applications is governed by the following:

- 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.
- Royal Decree 99/2011, of 28 January, which regulates official doctoral courses, modified by Royal Decree 576/2023, of 4 July.
- Law 1/2003, of 19 February, regarding the Universities of Catalonia.
- Government agreement GOV/40/2022, of 08 March, 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 2024/2025 academic year.

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



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3. Objective

The objective of this programme is to complete a doctoral thesis at the Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

4. Conditions

4.1 List of contracts:

The present call for applications is opened for predoctoral contracts **12** related to annex I attached to these conditions as part of the Martí i Franquès Research Grants Programme.

4.2 Characteristics of the contracts:

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 4.4.

4.3 Requirements:

In order to qualify for a trainee predoctoral research contract, candidates must:

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



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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.
- g) Students who are registered for an official university master's degree that allows the holder to access the doctoral programme in the 2024-2025 academic year.

4.4 Duration

PIPF contracts will have a duration of four years. The periods of other pre-doctoral contracts will be deducted from the total amount of this contract.

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.

Likewise, the contract may be terminated after notification by any of the parties or by any of the causes stipulated in article 49 of the revised text of the Llei de l'Estatut dels Treballadors (Workers' Statute Law).

4.5 Amount:

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. For the year 2024, the gross monthly salary is 1,485.33 euros during the first and second year, 1,591.42 euros during the third year and 1,989.28 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.

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4.6 Presentation of applications:

Individuals who meet the necessary requirements to apply for one of these contracts must complete the corresponding [online application form on the website of the URV](#). The following documentation must be sent electronically:

- 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.
- 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 the resolutions that are in effect at the time when the application is presented (consult [here](#)).
- Other merits

All documentation must be presented with the application form in the manner indicated above and within the established deadline.

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: **02 December 2024 23:59h (CET)**

4.7 Evaluation, prioritization and selection:

The Departmental Councils or Research Groups will form the committees that are to evaluate the applications submitted for each contract. These committees 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.

The committees for evaluating applications for contracts funded by R+D+I projects will be presided over by the principal researcher affiliated to the contract as long as there is no [conflict of interest](#).

Applications for contracts that are governed by agreements between the URV and other institutions will be evaluated by the committees stipulated in the respective agreements.

Each committee will assign the contracts in accordance with either its Departmental Council or its Monitoring Committee (according to the circumstances), and its main criterion will be 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 [website of the Marti i Franquès Programme](#).



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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:

$$\text{Final score} = A+B$$

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

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

Where:

C is the weighted average grade 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 [website of the Martí i Franquès Programme](#) 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 a candidate for each contract in the order proposed by the Departmental Council or Monitoring 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 party 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.



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4.8 Contracting:

From the day after the selection committee publishes its list of proposed candidates, these candidates have 10 working days to present the relevant documentation to the Human Resources Service through the [online application system](#) so that they can sign the corresponding contract.

Candidates who fail to present this document within the established period will be regarded as having renounced the offer of a contract.

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.

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, modified by Law 17/2022, of 5 September. Successful candidates will be registered with the general regime of the social security system.

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.

Selected candidates must join their job position from 15 January 2025 and no later than 01 March 2025. Failure to join during this period will lead to the termination of the contract, unless the Vice-Rector of Research authorizes a later start date for reasons of force majeure.

4.9 Renunciations and substitutions:

If a candidate wishes to renounce the contract, he/she must communicate this in writing to the Human Resources 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.

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 projects, 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 an 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.

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4.10 Incompatibility:

These contracts are 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.

4.11 Publicity:

Any publications or other results that result from the contract must follow the URV's affiliation regulations. They must also cite the funding entity or entities in the appropriate section and the reference number assigned to the funding.

4.12 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.

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.

4.13 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.

4.14 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.

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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, 13 November 2024



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 .