



MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Call of the public competition for the contracting of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF)

Approved by the Commission for Science Policy and Transfer 09 October 2023

CONDITIONS OF THE COMPETITION

STANDARD Edition

1. Background

The Rovira i Virgili University (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.

Consequently, to reach its 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

- Organic Law 2/2023, of 22 March, of the University System.
- Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, modified by the 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.
- 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 Rovira i Virgili University.
- Institutional integrity plan and anti-fraud measures of Rovira i Virgili University in the field of public procurement and subsidies, approved by the Governing Council 21 December 2021.
- Academic and Matriculation Regulations of the Doctoral Programme for the 2023/2024 academic year.

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

3. Scope

By means of the aforementioned law, the Universitat Rovira i Virgili regulates the contracts of trainee predoctoral research staff (PIPF), STANDARD edition.



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4. Objective

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

5. Conditions

5.1 List of contracts:

The competition is opened for predoctoral contracts **13** related to the annex I attached to these conditions as part of the Martí i Franquès Programme, STANDARD edition, of Research Grants.

5.2 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 University and, at the same time, to carry out the integral activities of the doctoral programme leading to the acquisition of the skills and abilities necessary to obtain the official university degree of doctorate and they will be able to collaborate in providing teaching assistance for up to a maximum of 180 hours during the total extension of the predoctoral contract with a maximum of 60 hours per year.

Likewise, once the doctoral thesis has been defended, the purpose of the contract will be postdoctoral guidance for a maximum period of 12 months. In any case, the maximum duration of the work contract may not exceed the maximum period mentioned in point 5.4.

The Doctorate degree is considered to have been obtained on the date of the act of defense and approval of the doctoral thesis.

5.3 Requirements:

- Be aged between 18 and the retirement age.
- Have the functional capacity to perform the duties of the job to be filled.
- Not have been expelled for disciplinary reasons from the service of any of the public administrations, or be barred from carrying out public functions.
- Not incur in any reason for incompatibility, according to the provisions of Law 53/1984, of 26 December, on incompatibilities of staff in the service of public administrations and Law 21/1987 on incompatibilities of staff of the administration of the Catalan government.
- Not hold the title of doctor.
- Be in possession of an official Spanish bachelor's degree, or equivalent, and university master's degree, or equivalent, provided that they have passed at least 300 ECTS credits between the two degrees.

Likewise, students who meet any of the following requirements may also be admitted:

- Be in possession of Spanish university degrees or equivalent Spanish degrees as long as at least 300 ECTS credits have been passed in total and accredit level 3 of the Spanish Higher Education Qualifications Framework.
- Be in possession of a degree awarded by a foreign educational system that belongs to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which does not require homologation, and which accredits level 7 of the European Qualifications Framework provided that this degree gives access to doctoral studies in the country of issue. Under no circumstances does this admission imply the homologation of the qualification held by the interested party or its recognition for any purposes other than that of access to doctoral studies.



MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

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- Be in possession of a degree awarded by a foreign educational system outside the EHEA, which does not require homologation, after verification by the university that it accredits an educational level equivalent to that of the official Spanish university master's degree and that it gives access to doctoral studies in the country of issue. Under no circumstances does this admission imply the homologation of the qualification held by the interested party or its recognition for any purposes other than that of access to doctoral studies.
- Likewise, access can be granted to university graduates who, after obtaining a place as a trainee in the corresponding test for access to specialized healthcare training, are positively assessed on at least two years of training on an official degree programme for one of the specialities in Health Sciences.
- Access can be granted to doctoral studies regulated by RD 99/2011 to graduates, architects or engineers who hold the Diploma of Advanced Studies obtained in accordance with the provisions of RD 77/1998, of 3 April, or who have obtained their research proficiency regulated by RD 185/1985, of 23 January.

If, during the selection process, the selection committee believes there is sufficient reason, it may request any of the candidates to prove that they fulfil all or some of the requirements for participation in the selection process.

5.4 Duration

PIPF contracts will have an initial duration of one year and may three times be extended for another year up to a maximum period of four years provided that the thesis supervisor has submitted a favourable report.

In the case of contracts that are under the aegis of R+D+I projects or agreements with other institutions, the student must also submit a favourable report from the principal researcher of the said project or from the Monitoring Committee, and a guarantee of funding from an R+D+I project or from any other funds available to the research group to which the principal researcher is affiliated. This funding must be used expressly for the project.

PIPF contracts may be rescinded at any time with a reasoned report from the thesis director recommending such a course of action.

In all cases, the annual renewal of the contract will depend on the availability of the necessary funds.

Any amounts awarded for similar grants or contracts will be discounted from the total amount of this contract.

5.5 Amount:

The money provided by the predoctoral contracts will be used to pay:

- a) Gross monthly payment: the gross monthly payment of the contracts is established in accordance with article 7 of RD 103/2019, of 1 March, which approved the Statute of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff, being for the year 2023 of 1.470,98 euros during the first and second year, 1.576,05 euros during the third year and 1.970,06 euros during the fourth year per twelve months.
- b) Corresponding fees for the thesis tutorials of 4 academic years. The remaining fees applied for registration are not eligible for exemption.

The money provided by the predoctoral contracts will be paid by the funding entity.

MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Call of the public competition for the contracting of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF)

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5.6 Presentation of applications:

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

- Photocopy of identity card, resident's card or passport currently in force.
- Curriculum Vitae
- Photocopy of the certificate of the official academic qualification or proof of payment of the fees for the issuance of the certificate that allows the holder to access the doctoral studies.
- Academic transcript of the undergraduate degree issued in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese.
- Academic transcript of the master's degree issued in one of the following languages: Catalan, Spanish, English, French, Italian or Portuguese. Candidates who have not completed their master's degrees must send their provisional academic transcript.
- Candidates who have studied all or part of their undergraduate studies outside the Spanish education system must submit, in addition, the 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 effect at the moment when the application is presented and which can be consulted [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.

The person responsible for the application states that all the information and documentation provided is true and that he/she understands that not accrediting these requirements, any inaccurate, false or missing data in the documentation submitted or not submitting the corresponding documentation will make it impossible to continue with the procedure. All action taken will be null and void, without prejudice to any applicable criminal, civil or administrative responsibilities.

Deadline for applications: **23 November 2023 23:59h (CET)**

5.7 List of admitted and excluded candidates

Once the deadline for presenting applications has expired, a provisional list of candidates who have been admitted and excluded will be published on the [URV's website](#), if necessary, specifying the reason for exclusion.

Within 10 working days, applicants may amend their application using the [online application form](#). After this deadline, the definitive list of admitted and excluded candidates will be published in the same place as the provisional list.

Material errors can be amended at any time.



MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

Call of the public competition for the contracting of Trainee Predoctoral Research Staff (PIPF)

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5.8 Evaluation, prioritization and selection:

The Departmental Councils or Research Groups will form the committees that have 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 permanent 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 and those assigned to certain Recognised Research Groups of the URV will be presided over by the principal researcher affiliated to 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. Likewise, the committees may issue a list of the successful candidates in order of preference. The decision will be published on the site of the Marti i Franquès Programme.

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).

(*) 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 effect at the moment when the application is presented.



MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

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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 pursuant the [rules of personal data protection](#).

After examining the proposal assignment 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.

5.9 Contracting:

From the day after the date on which the commission's proposal is published, the proposed candidates will have 5 working days to get in touch with the Human Resources Service via the [online application system](#) to accept or reject the grant. Those candidates who have been selected and who accept the grant can also send the relevant documentation so that they can sign the corresponding contract via the online form. Should the proposed candidate not submit the documentation within five days, it will be assumed that he/she has rejected the grant.

The contract signed will be a full-time, fixed term, 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.

The employee will have the same rights as the rest of the URV workers, according to what is established in the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, approved by RDL 2/2015 of October 23 and in the linked employment contract to the research project.

The candidates selected must necessarily **start work from 15 January 2024 and no later than 01 March 2024**. Failure to join on these dates will mean renouncing the contract, unless the vice-rector of research authorizes a later start date for reasons of force majeure.

To be able to enter into a contract, candidates must be [enrolled](#) full-time in a URV doctoral programme connected to the projects listed in Annex 1. As stated in the Academic and Registration Regulations for Doctoral Programmes, in order for students to be admitted to and enrolled in a doctoral programme, they must [preregister beforehand](#) before the deadline set by the university. At the following link you can find [the doctoral schedule for the academic year 2023/2024](#).

5.10 Renunciations and substitutions:

If the beneficiary 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.



MARTÍ FRANQUÈS RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME

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A trainee predoctoral researcher may be substituted if this is requested by the researcher's department in cases where the department finances the research position with its own funds, by the evaluation committee for positions generated by contracts funded by R+D+I contract, or 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.

5.11 Incompatibility:

These contracts are incompatible:

- with any other grant or contract, with payments that imply a contractual link of a similar nature;
- 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.

5.12 Publicity:

Any publication or other results that result from the contract must cite the funding entity or entities in the appropriate section and the reference number assigned to the funding.

5.13 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, 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, although 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 guidelines to ensure the best practices for excellence in research.

5.14 Interpretation:

It is the responsibility of the vice-rector for research to clarify any doubt in the interpretation of these bases in cases of conflict in the application.



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5.15 Complaints:

Any interested party may lodge an administrative appeal against this competition and its conditions at the Administrative Court in Tarragona within two months, counting from the day after notification is received. An appeal for reversal can also be made to the Rector of the URV prior to the administrative appeal and within one month of the day after notification is received.

Likewise, interested parties can appeal to the rector of the URV against the 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. The opportunity to lodge an administrative appeal at the

Administrative Court of Tarragona will expire six months from the day after the appeal lodged with the Rector has been rejected. If a resolution is published regarding the appeal lodged with the Rector, the interested party will have two months starting from the day after they have been notified of this to lodge an administrative appeal.

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

Tarragona, 03 November 2023

Basic information on data protection

PERSONAL DATA PROTECTION INFORMATION	
Responsible	The responsible for the treatment of 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 for the University.
Rights	You can exercise your right of access, rectification, deletion, portability, limitation or opposition to the treatment, by means of a letter addressed to the General Registry of the URV at the same address as the fiscal address or by presenting it to 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 process of personal data called <i>Provisió i selecció de llocs de treball</i> and your rights in 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 to the e-mail address dpd@urv.cat .