

RESOLUTION REU/ 3056/2023 of 5 September, approving the Joan Oró grant rules for the hiring of pre-doctoral research staff in training (FI).

Law 7/2001 of 31 May (DOGC no. 3407 of 12.6.2001), creating the *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca* (Agency for Management of University and Research Grants - hereinafter, AGAUR) as an entity governed by public law and which acts in accordance with private law, with its own legal personality, with the full capacity to act and with its own assets in order to fulfil its purposes.

It is AGAUR's responsibility to implement grant, loan and funding programmes as well as other activities to promote university education, scientific and technical research and technological innovation in Catalonia.

AGAUR is affiliated with the Department of Research and Universities, in accordance with the provisions set forth in the Decree 115/2022 of 14 June, on the restructuring of the Department of Research and Universities.

The provisions set forth in chapter IX of the Legislative Decree 3/2002 of 24 December, which approved the revised text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia, in relation to the legal system of grants and transfers from the Government of Catalonia; Law 38/2003 of 17 November, on General Funding and Royal Decree 887/2006 of 21 July, which approves the Regulations of the aforementioned Law 38/2003, of 17 November, are all applicable.

Law 9/2022 of 21 December on science is applicable.

Law 19/2014 of 29 December, on transparency, access to public information and good governance; Decree 8/2021 of 9 February on transparency and the right of access to public information; Law 17/2015 of 21 July, on the effective equality of women and men; Law 19/2020 of 30 December, on equal treatment and non-discrimination, and Law 11/2014, of 10 October, to guarantee the rights of lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgender and intersex people and to eradicate homophobia, biphobia and transphobia are all applicable.

Order VEH/79/2020 of 9 June, amending Order ECO/172/2015 of 3 June, on the forms of grant eligibility, is applicable.

Order REU/178/2022 of 19 July, approving the mandatory electronic processing of funding procedures and state funding of AGAUR, is applicable.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is applicable, in accordance with Decision 2010/48/EC of the Council of the European Union.

The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union (2016/C 202/02) of 7 June 2016 is applicable.

Regulation (EU, Euratom) no. 2020/2093 of the Council, of 17 December 2020, which establishes the multi-annual financial framework for the period 2021-2027, is applicable.

Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 24 June 2021, establishing the common provisions relating to the European Regional Development Fund, the European Social Fund Plus, the Cohesion Fund, the Just Transition Fund and to the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund, in addition to the financial rules for these funds and the Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund, the Internal Security Fund and the Financial Support Instrument for Border Management and the Visa Policy, are applicable.

Regulation (EU) no. 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, relating to the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), repealing Regulation (EU) No. 1296/2013 of the Council is also applicable.

Article 11 of AGAUR's Statutes, approved by the Generalitat (Government of Catalonia) by virtue of Decree 168/2002 of 11 June, sets forth that it is the Board of Directors' responsibility to approve the calls for applications for grants and subsidies and decide them. On 28 April 2022, these powers were delegated to the Chairperson of the Executive Committee for University Grants (CEAU) and to the Chairperson appointed by the Research Grant Executive Board (CEAR) as well.

Therefore,

It is hereby RESOLVED:

#### Single Article

To approve the Joan Oró grant rules for the recruitment of pre-doctoral research staff in training (FI), the conditions of which appear in the annex of this Resolution.

#### Repeal Provision

Resolution REU/3385/2022 of 28 October, whereby the Joan Oró grant rules for university, research centre and hospital foundation grants for the contracting of new research staff (FI) were approved, is repealed. However, it remains in force while the processing of the grants awarded under the corresponding call, opened by Resolution REU/3468/2022 of 4 November, has not been completed.

#### Final Provision

The following optional administrative reconsideration appeal may be lodged, thereby exhausting all the administrative channels available, before the Chair of the Research Grant Executive Board (CEAR in its Catalan initials) within one month from the day following the publication of the Resolution in the Official Gazette of the Government of Catalonia (DOGC in its Catalan initials), in accordance with the provisions of Articles 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October, of the Common Administrative Procedure for Public Administrations; or directly filing an appeal before the administrative appeal courts of Barcelona, within two months from the day following its publication in the DOGC, in accordance with the provisions set forth in Articles 8, 14 and 46 of Law 29/1998 of 13 July, regulating Appeal Courts.

Barcelona, 5 September 2023

p.p. (Resolution REU/1421/2022, of 10 May, DOGC 8668, of 16/5/2022)

Joan Gómez Pallarès  
Chair of the Research Grant Executive Board (CEAR)

Annex

I Preamble

The Joan Oró predoctoral grants for the hiring of predoctoral research staff in training (FI), together with the FI SDUR predoctoral grants programme, are part of the Strategic Grants Plan of the Department of Research and Universities of the Government of Catalonia for the period 2022-2025, with the objectives to promote research, innovation and the transfer of knowledge and foster the structuring of the country through research. In this way, the Generalitat de Catalunya proposes to strengthen the Catalan research and development system by focusing specifically on the initial stages of a career in research, promoting access to doctoral studies and the preparation of a quality doctoral thesis in any scientific field, and promoting, at the same time, international mobility, intersectorality and the training and professionalisation of research staff. Following the agreements of the National Pact for a Knowledge Society (PN@SC), these specific programmes for the hiring of research personnel contribute to strengthening the system of drawing both national and international talent to the knowledge system and help overcome the limitations and improve the progression of qualified research staff with merits that can be approved by international standards.

The Joan Oró programme is co-financed by the European Social Fund Plus (ESF) and aligns with the political priorities of the European Union to contribute to building a greener, digital and more resilient Europe. At the same time, it conforms to the strategic research objectives of the

European Union established in Horizon Europe, promoting ethical, responsible and innovative research that recognises the transfer of knowledge, the applicability of research and the social, economic and scientific impact of the research carried out. In this way, and in accordance with the provisions of Law 9/2022 of 21 December, the promotion of research managed by the Agency for Management of University and Research Grants (AGUAR) takes into account the framework of directives, European plans and programs and contributes directly to shaping this European Research Area.

In order to promote the recommendations and good practices of the European Commission regarding the hiring of research personnel, and fully aligned with the law on science noted above, this programme also aims to encourage institutions receiving the aid to duly take into account the principles and general requirements of the European Charter for the Researcher and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, and also those of other directives, recommendations and codes of best practices of the European Union intended for research staff, including the guidelines relating to the standardisation of research degrees, the competencies and skills of the different stages, in a manner that is appropriate and compatible with the system of research, development and innovation, and which especially ensure the correct implementation of a continuing education plan and for professional development aligned with the European Framework of competences and skills for research staff at their different stages. In this sense, the Joan Oró programme encourages lifelong learning and promotes quality continuing education and training, based on inclusion and equal opportunities, in order to provide research staff with the necessary qualifications and capacities for a meaningful participation in a democratic and intercultural society and to successfully manage the transition to the labour market. At the same time, the programme pursues the same general aim of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie of Horizon Europe actions in encouraging the training of innovative research staff who can face current and future challenges and turn knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit, providing transversal skills that offer career prospects, both in the academic and non-academic fields with a perspective of international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility oriented towards innovation.

## II Funding to support hiring

### —1 Subject

1.1 The purpose of these rules is to regulate the Joan Oró grants for the recruitment of pre-doctoral research staff in training to carry out doctoral studies within the Catalan university system. These grants must contribute to promoting the training and research activity of contracted research staff and to increase their qualifications and professionalisation during the initial phases of their research career and thus strengthen the generation of cutting-edge knowledge in research and its transfer.

1.2 The funded activity consists of the hiring research staff, in the specific type of contract of pre-doctoral research staff in training provided for in Law 14/2011 of 1 June on science, technology

and innovation and Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, which approves the Statute for pre-doctoral research staff in training, or the regulations that are in force.

1.3 Considering the recommendations of the European Commission and the European strategic objectives to move towards a greener, digital, resilient and fair socio-economic model, the doctoral theses of the research staff in training that are subject to these grants must align with the objectives and strategic orientations for transformative and responsible research and innovation defined in the Horizon Europe program and, specifically, with some of the thematic areas of intervention that define the 2021-2024 Strategic Plan, which can be viewed at <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/3c6ffd74-8ac3-11eb-b85c-01aa75ed71a1>. Therefore, and with the aim of improving its effectiveness, at least 60% of the aid must be directed to priority fields of science aligned with those that have been identified at the European level, such as the green economy and the digital world, which are within are priority areas 4 (digital and industrial aspects), 5 and 6 of the Spanish Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2027, and an additional 20% of the aid must be directed to the priority areas established by RIS3CAT 2030, the Strategy for the Intelligent Specialisation of Catalonia 2030.

To guarantee these percentages align with the priority areas of science identified at the European level, all applications submitted within the framework of these grants must select the subject area of intervention that best suits the proposed research and justify why it belongs in this category.

1.4 The aid derived from this resolution, which is co-financed by the European Union under the ESF+ programme 2021-2027 (CCI 2021ES05SFPR011), approved by Executive Order of the European Commission on 15 December 2022, must contribute to achieving the specific objective provided for in Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of 24 June 2021 of the European Parliament and of the Council: promoting equal access to inclusive and quality education and training and the culmination of such education and training, in particular for disadvantaged groups, from early childhood education and care to general and vocational education and training to higher education, plus adult education and learning, as well as facilitating mobility for learning for everyone and accessibility for people with disabilities.

## —2 Beneficiary Entities

2.1 Public and private universities of the Catalan university system, research centres, hospital foundations and unique scientific and technical infrastructures (ICTS) can benefit from these grants.

All beneficiary entities must have operational headquarters in Catalonia and the capacity to hire research staff.

Technology and scientific centres, technology activity support centres and technology dissemination centres are excluded from these grants.

2.2 To obtain the status of beneficiary, the applicant entities must meet the general requirements and conditions set out in article 13 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November and those that are determined as follows:



- Have the capacity to employ and the administrative, financial and operational ability to be able to fulfil all the duties entailed at the time of accepting the grant regulated by these rules.
- Have duly proved eligibility for any previously awarded grants or funding awarded from the Government of Catalonia's budgets.
- Be up-to-date in terms of its compliance with tax obligations with public administration agencies and with the General Treasury of Social Security.
- Authorise the AGAUR to request the data required from the State Tax Agency, the Social Security system, competent bodies in matters of taxes of the Government of Catalonia, and from the bodies and institutions it deems appropriate, to manage the call.
- Comply with the regulations on intellectual property if the activity subject to the grant uses any element likely to generate copyright.
- Make a declaration indicating whether other public or private funding for the same activity has been applied for or received, which must state in detail the relationship with the awarding body and the amount requested or obtained, in order to inform with regard to the combination of funding for the same activity.
- Provide AGAUR with the information on the remuneration of the entity's management or administration bodies, in accordance with article 15.2 of Law 19/2014 of 29 December.
- Post or print signs and information of a permanent nature in Catalan, at least, that contain text that must be displayed in workplaces for the employees who work there, in accordance with Law 1/1998 of 7 January on Language Policy.
- Comply with the legal quota for the reservation of jobs in the entity's workforce provided for in article 42.1 of the revised text of the General Law on the rights of disabled people and their social inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013 of 29 November, and the exceptional alternative measures provided for by Royal Decree 364/2005 of 8 April, which regulates the exceptional alternative compliance of the reserve quota in favour of disabled workers, and by Decree 86/2015 of 2 June on the application of the reserve quota of 2% for disabled people in companies with 50 or more employees and alternative measures of an exceptional nature to their compliance.
- Respect the right of accessibility of disabled people in accordance with Law 13/2014 of 30 October on Accessibility.
- Comply with the obligation to indicate, in agreement with the workers' and employers' representatives, the means used to prevent and detect cases of sexual harassment and gender-based harassment and to intervene in their workplaces, in accordance with article 29 of Law 5/2008 of 24 April on the right of women to eradicate male violence, for beneficiary entities that are companies with twenty-five or more employees, and also in accordance with the provisions of article 48 of Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March, for the effective equality of women and men, on specific measures for the prevention of sexual harassment and gender-based harassment at work.
- Be registered in the census of the business tax (IAE) in the event it is mandatory.
- Be registered in the corresponding registry.

- In the case of foundations and associations, to have adapted their statutes to Law 5/2011 of 19 July, which amends Law 4/2008 of 24 April, of the third volume of the Civil Code of Catalonia, in relation to legal persons.
- In the case of foundations, to have presented the annual accounts to the Foundations Commission.
- Comply with the purpose of the grant, carrying out the funded activity under these grant rules or those of the call.
- Comply with the obligation established under article 11 of Law 17/2015 of 21 July, on the effective equality of women and men of not having been sanctioned with serious or very serious penalties or convicted for having exercised or tolerated labour practices considered discriminatory on the basis of sex or gender, sanctioned by a final administrative resolution or convicted by a final judgement in a court of law, provided that the sanction is in force.
- Not having been sanctioned, during the two years prior to the call, provided it has become final, with the accessory sanction of disqualification from receiving public aid for having committed serious or very serious infractions set out in article 45 of Law 19/2020 of 30 December on equal treatment and non-discrimination, as long as the sanction is final and in force.
- Have an organisation and management system, in accordance with Law 31/1995 of 8 November on the prevention of occupational risks and Royal Decree 39/1997 of 17 January, enacting the Regulations of prevention services.
- Comply with the obligation to respect equal treatment and opportunities in the workplace and, to this end, take measures aimed at preventing employment discrimination of any type between women and men. Companies included in sections 2, 3 and 4 of article 45 of Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March, for effective equality between men and women, amended by Royal Decree Law 6/2019 of 1 March, on urgent measures to guarantee equal treatment and opportunities between women and men at work and employment, they must draw up and apply an Equality Plan on a mandatory basis.
- Comply with the obligation to respect equal treatment and non-discrimination of people, in accordance with the provisions of Law 19/2020 of 30 December and to this end take measures aimed at preventing any type of action or behaviour that may violate the dignity of people and detrimental to the free development and free expression, without any kind of discrimination, of one's own personality and personal abilities.
- Not having been sanctioned by a final administrative resolution, for any of the infractions classified as very serious, in the terms and deadlines set out in title IV of Organic Law 15/2022 of 12 July, comprehensive for equal treatment and non-discrimination.
- Respect current regulations on sustainable development.
- Respect current regulations on transparency.
- The individual beneficiaries of the grants must have ethically exemplary conduct and must not carry out, encourage, propose or promote any type of corrupt practice and are expected to inform the relevant bodies of any sign of these practices which, in their opinion, appears in or could affect the procedure. In particular, they shall refrain from carrying out any action which could violate the

principles of equal opportunities and free competition. In general, they shall accept the following obligations:

- Abide by the principles, standards and ethical rules of the activities, trades and professions related to the activity that has been funded or has received the public grant.
- Not carry out actions that jeopardise the public interest.
- Report any improper situations that may arise in the calls for subsidies or grants or in the processes carried out as a result of these calls.
- Notify AGAUR of any possible situations of a conflict of interests immediately.
- Not request, either directly or indirectly, that a public officer or employee attempt to influence the awarding of a grant.
- Not offer or provide public officers or employees any material or personal advantages, to them or third parties, with the aim of influencing the procedure for awarding the grant.
- Collaborate with AGAUR in the actions carried out to monitor or evaluate compliance with the obligations set forth in the grant rules and the call, particularly by providing information that is requested for these purposes related to the receiving of public funds.
- Comply with the obligation to provide information imposed by the legislation on transparency on the awardees, without limiting the compliance with obligation of transparency that directly apply due to the legal provisions, in the circumstances set forth in the Article 3.4 of the Law 19/2014 of 29 December.

If there is non-compliance with the ethical principles and rules of conduct, the penalty system provided for in Law 19/2014 of 29 December must be applied, and the penalties provided for in Article 84 of the same law regarding the beneficiaries of public grants, notwithstanding other possible consequences provided for in the current legislation on the subject of subsidies.

2.3 Compliance with these requirements must be proven by signing the statement of compliance that includes the confirmation of the requests submitted by the entity's legal representative in accordance with rule 7.1 of section II in the annex of this resolution.

The submission of the statement of compliance within the framework of an administrative procedure entitles the competent body to verify the conformity of the data contained or declared therein, in accordance with article 35.3 of Law 26/2010 of 3 August on the legal regime and procedure of the public administrations of Catalonia.

#### —4 Requirements for candidates and thesis supervisors for newly awarded grants

4.1 Individual candidates for the Joan Oró grants for the recruitment of research staff must meet the following requirements:

- a) Comply with the requirements relating to the date of completion of the doctorate studies established by the corresponding call.
- b) In accordance with the provisions of article 21 of Law 14/2011 and its subsequent amendments, candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in engineering or architecture, a university degree with a degree of at least 300 ECTS credits (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System),



university master's degree or an equivalent degree at the time of joining the affiliated entity and starting the contract that is the subject of the grant.

c) At the time of joining the affiliated entity, they must be enrolled in a doctoral programme at a university belonging to the university system in Catalonia for the academic year set forth in the corresponding call.

d) At the time of submitting the application, candidates may not have benefited in previous calls from any grant for the hiring of new research staff (FI) nor any grant for the hiring of predoctoral research staff in training in the university departments of the university system of Catalonia (FI SDUR). Nor may they have spent more than six months under any other specific contract for predoctoral research staff in training.

e) At the time of submitting the application, candidates may not be in possession of any doctoral degree.

f) They must provide proof of a minimum average grade of academic transcript for undergraduate studies or the equivalent degree equal to or greater than 6.50 (on a scale from 0 to 10), calculated in accordance with the criteria specified in the Royal Decree 1125/2003 of 5 September, established by the European system of credits and the system of qualifications for official university degrees, valid throughout the national territory.

In the case of studies completed abroad, this minimum average grade of the academic transcript must be calculated in accordance with the declaration of equivalences of the average grade of the academic transcript provided by the current resolutions of the Ministry of Universities (<[https://universidades.sede.gob.es/pagina/index/directorio/Equivalencia\\_notas\\_medias/lenguaje/en](https://universidades.sede.gob.es/pagina/index/directorio/Equivalencia_notas_medias/lenguaje/en)>). In any event, the individual candidates are responsible for calculating their average grades and the aforementioned statements of equivalence.

g) Each candidate may only appear on one application.

4.2 The individual candidates' theses advisor(s) has to meet the requirements at the time of submitting the application:

a) Have a statutory or employment link with the beneficiary entity of the funding, or by means of an assistance agreement.

This link must provide sufficient assurance of supervision and monitoring of the candidate's doctoral thesis for the three-year period of the grant. For the purposes of these grant rules, part-time staff, staff on leave, visiting professors and emeritus professors will not be deemed to meet this requirement.

b) Be principal investigators or members of a competitive research project, or a research or transfer contract or agreement. Research or transfer of knowledge agreements must have a minimum value of €24,000.00. The aforementioned projects, contracts or agreements must be in force or have been awarded at the time of application.

For the purposes of these grant rules, neither support grants to groups recognised by the Government of Catalonia (SGR) nor grants with the purpose of incorporating research staff are considered 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).

d) Be listed as the thesis advisor in a single application.

4.3 It is the decision of the affiliated entities and AGAUR to verify that the applicants and thesis advisors meet the above requirements.

#### —5 Execution Period

5.1 Grants for recruitment last one year and may be renewed for a maximum of two more years in accordance with the provisions of these grant rules and the corresponding calls.

However, and in accordance with the provisions of article 6 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, or the regulations that are in force, if the contract that is the subject of this aid has been granted to a disabled person, the grant may have a maximum duration of six years, considering the characteristics of the research activity and the degree of limitations in performance of the activity. For these purposes, disabled people are considered those set out in the revised text of the General Law on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and their Social Inclusion, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013 of 29 November.

5.2 The contracts financed with this aid must start on the first day of the month and within the maximum period provided for in the corresponding call.

5.3 In accordance with the provisions of article 21 of Law 14/2011 and article 6.2 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, situations of temporary incapacity and periods of time dedicated to the enjoyment of full-time leave due to gestation, pregnancy, risk during pregnancy, pregnancy and breastfeeding, birth, maternity, paternity, adoption, custody for the purposes of adoption or family fostering, or breastfeeding accumulated to full days, or similar situations related to the previous ones, in addition to taking full-time leave for reasons of work/life balance or care of minors, family members or dependants, and the time spent taking leave to care for a child or relative during the period of the contract subject to the grant interrupts the calculation of the contract and the grant. Similarly, the circumstances provided for in Article 45.1.n) of the revised text of the Worker's Statute Law, approved by Royal Decree-Law 2/2015 of 23 October, as a protection measure for women who are victims of domestic violence shall also suspend this calculation. The calculation of the contract and the grant shall also be suspended, for a maximum period of four months, if there is a claim for non-fulfilment of the duties of person acting as the doctoral thesis advisor, under the conditions established in Article 6 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March.

The periods of time devoted to part-time leave for birth, maternity, paternity, foster care for the purpose of adoption or family fostering, and the reduction of working hours for reasons of breastfeeding, the birth of a premature child or hospitalisation after childbirth, legal custody, care of minors affected by cancer or serious illness, family members affected by accident or serious illness or dependent persons, or gender violence, or reductions in working hours due to similar situations related to the above, and also for reasons of work/life balance or care of minors, family members or dependants, during the term of the contract subject to the grant, shall involve the extension of the contract for the time equivalent to the working day that has been reduced.

In cases where any of these situations occur during the three years of the aid, the entity receiving the aid may extend the contract signed during the third year and request an extension of the

period of implementation of the aid to recover the periods of suspension. The request for extension must be submitted during the third year and before the period of implementation of the grant ends, accompanied by the evidence of the situations that have occurred and providing the addendum or addenda of the relevant contract.

The corresponding resolution establishes the extension of the period of execution of the aid and, if applicable, increases the amount of the aid initially granted.

5.4 The finalisation of the grant is determined by all the grounds set forth for the termination of a pre-doctoral research staff contract established in Law 14/2011 of 1 June and in Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, or of the regulations that are in force.

In accordance with Law 14/2011 of 1 June, the conferral of a doctoral degree entails the end of the training of the research staff and the post-doctoral stage aimed at professional enhancement and specialisation begins. From this moment on, the contract subject to this grant will have as purpose this post-doctoral orientation for a maximum period of twelve months, which under no circumstances may exceed the duration of the grant established in these grant rules.

5.5 For the purpose of the co-financing of actions within the framework of the European Social Fund Plus 2021-2027 programme, the period of implementation must be between 1 January 2021 and 31 December 2028.

#### —6 Grant amount and items eligible to be funded

6.1 The subsidised costs of newly awarded and renewal grants are as follows:

a) The costs of hiring research staff.

To determine the amount of the subsidy to be granted, an annual, monthly and daily economic module must be established in accordance with a justified technical report, drawn up for this purpose, which determines the type of module and the methodology that must be followed to establish the amount, and also the technical and economic variables that have been taken into account in its definition.

The amount of the economic module must be established in the resolution of the call once the corresponding annual update and the reference used to determine it have been applied.

All expenses must be substantiated through the proof of the implementation of the defined module and in accordance with the terms and conditions established in rule 26 of section II of these grant rules.

To determine the amount of the module, the following elements must be taken into consideration:

- The calculation of salary expenses for the hiring of contracted research staff is established taking as a reference the remuneration determined by Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, specifically the basic remuneration of group 1 of the salary table included in the IV Single Labour Agreement of the Spanish Central Administration in force at the time the call is announced. In accordance with what is established in article 7.1 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, the pre-doctoral contract cannot be lower than 56% of the salary set for the categories equivalent to the collective agreements in its scope of application during the first two years; to 60% during the third year, and to 75% during the fourth year.

- The calculation of Social Security expenses to be charged to the contracting entity are applied taking into account the percentages of application regulated under Order PCM/313/2023 of 30 March, amending Order PCM/74/2023 of 30 January, which implements the legal rules for Social Security contributions, unemployment, protection for cessation of activity, Salary Guarantee Fund and professional training for 2023, and taking into account the provisions of Law 14/2011 of 1 June.
- The calculation of the possible economic impact of temporary incapacity leave, which has a direct impact on the cost borne by the contracting entity with respect to the worker, are established by determining a correction factor based on the statistical data of the National Institute of Social Security. This corrective factor takes into account the three years prior to the year of implementation relative to the percentage of workers who are on leave annually, among the contracts in force in the year, and the average duration of days of temporary disability per worker on leave.

The amount of the grant module for the researcher's labour contract must be updated annually, in accordance with the publication of the remuneration of employees under the IV Single Labour Agreement, and must be established in the corresponding call.

b) For contracts beginning after 7 September 2022, the compensation costs for termination of the contract due to expiration of the agreed time, with an amount equivalent to that provided for fixed-term contracts in Article 49 of the Revised Text of the Labour Act.

c) A complementary aid aimed at financing research stays and other training activities under the terms set out in section II of the annex to these grant rules and an amount totalling €3,000.00 (three thousand) for the whole of the three-year grant.

d) The costs of the guidance, supervision and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis during the contract period, established in accordance with the decree in force at the time of the call being awarded in which the costs of academic services at public universities in Catalonia and the Open University of Catalonia are established. The cost of processing the academic record shall not be eligible for the grant.

6.2 The expenses eligible to be funded are subject to tax under the tax scheme in force at the time the grant is awarded and must meet the following requirements:

- a) Be unequivocally related to the nature of the subsidised activity, that they are strictly necessary and made under the terms and conditions specified in these grant rules.
- b) Be made during the implementation period of the subsidised activity and that the payments have been made in full by the time of justifying grant expenditures.
- c) Be verifiable. To this end, the beneficiary entities must keep evidence of the successful implementation of the actions.

6.3 Under no circumstances are any indirect taxes, personal income tax, interest on debt from bank accounts and other financial expenses, interest payments, administrative and criminal surcharges or fines, levies or costs of legal proceedings considered eligible expenses for grant purposes. In-kind contributions are not considered eligible for subsidy either, especially those that correspond to internal expenses for the use of internal services and that are justified by an invoice or similar document but do not entail an effective outflow of funds.

6.4 The regulation of cash payments is contained in Law 11/2021 of 9 July, on measures to prevent and fight against tax fraud, transposing Directive (EU) 2016/1164 of the Council of 12 of July 2016, by which rules are established against tax avoidance practices that have a direct impact on the functioning of the internal market, on the amendment of various tax rules, and on gambling regulation, so that the beneficiary entities cannot pay in cash for transactions in which one of the contracting parties is an entrepreneur or professional with an amount equal to or greater than 1,000.00 (one thousand) euros or its equivalent in foreign currency.

6.5 The contractual expenses may be co-funded by the European Social Fund Plus programme of Catalonia 2021-2027. The compensation for the termination of the contract due to expiry within the agreed duration, costs of guidance, supervision and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis of the doctorate-level course of study, the costs of the training activities and the costs of the possible extensions provided for in these grant rules, including the extensions of aid for the hiring of disabled people, are not eligible for co-funding from the European Social Fund Plus.

6.6 With regard to the European Social Fund Plus, the expenses related to article 16 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 24 June 2021.

#### —7 Applications and Documentation

7.1 Applications for newly awarded grants must be presented electronically in two phases:

- First phase (provisional application submitted by the individual candidate)

The provisional application must be submitted by the individual candidate for the predoctoral contract electronically via the “Procedures” section on the Government of Catalonia’s website (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>) and following the instructions provided. The use of the specific form is mandatory and, therefore, failure to comply with this requirement will result in the application being deemed not submitted, in accordance with articles 16.8 and 66.6 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October.

In the event that accidental circumstances cause an interruption in the electronic operation of the site, and provided that it is technically possible, the user accessing the site will see a message that will inform them of this situation as well as of the effects this interruption shall have in the deadline calculation. However, if an interruption occurs on the last day established for the realising the corresponding procedure and it is not technically possible for the user to view this message, the procedure can be carried out over the three consecutive working days.

The standardised application form consists of a general form where the individual candidate’s data has to be recorded along with details of the centre linked to the thesis, any other pre-doctoral aid which may have been awarded, the details of the thesis supervisor of the research project and/or the agreement or research or transfer contract, the priority areas and thematic areas with which the candidate’s research is related. The following documentation must also be attached, as per the instructions on the same form:

a) A standardised annex document 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 possible social, economic and scientific impact of the research performed. The model for this attached document will be available on the AGAUR website during the application period.

b) The documentation that can identify the competitive research project, the contract or the research agreement or transfer and attest to the fact that the thesis advisor is the main researcher or member of this project, contract or agreement. In the event that this documentation is public, the link or links to the corresponding website can be included in this document.

c) The undergraduate academic transcripts or of the equivalent studies and master's studies that grant access to the doctorate. The academic transcripts of the studies must include the date the degree was obtained and the average grade, pursuant to the criteria specified in Royal Decree 1125/2003 of 5 September. If the studies are still in progress and have not been completed at the time of submitting the application, it is necessary to present properly updated provisional academic records or the corresponding registration for these studies.

d) In the event that these studies have been completed outside of the Spanish university system, this will include the statements of equivalences of the average marks. These are to be calculated in accordance with the provisions of the resolutions in force of the Ministry of Universities (<<http://www.educacionyfp.gob.es/servicios-al-ciudadano/catalogo/general/20/203615/ficha.html>>).

For the purposes of this call, candidates only have to formalise and submit the declarations of equivalences of the average mark without the need to have them be signed or process the verification of their content.

e) If applicable, a copy of the supporting documentation corresponding to the exceptional situations established in the corresponding call (having enjoyed a period of maternity or paternity leave; having had children under the age of six in their charge; having had persons with a legally recognised physical, mental or sensory disability in their charge; having suffered any serious illness or accident that causes temporary incapacity for employment or the person's usual activity for a continuous period of at least six months; having suffered any of the situations provided for in the Organic Law on comprehensive protection measures against gender-based violence, or having refugee status recognised according to the Geneva Convention of 1951).

f) Additional documents optionally required by the entity affiliated with the grant programme. Affiliated entities must publish the documents required before the deadline for submission of provisional applications. In the event that an entity requires additional documentation that it deems necessary to make its assessments of the applications, this documentation will also be considered essential, and in the event that it is not provided once the amendment period has elapsed, it may be understood that the person has withdrawn from the relevant procedure.

The affiliated entities must check that the data stated in the form and the annexed documentation and inform the individual candidates of any changes required by publishing it on the website of the entity or individually, in accordance with the aforementioned Law 39/2015 of 1 October and any other applicable regulations.

Since this is a competitive procedure, no improvements to the application will be accepted after the deadline for submission of applications. Therefore, the assessment and prioritisation of

applications will be carried out, exclusively, in relation to the information provided in the form and in the corresponding annexes. If the attached standardised document has not been attached, is blank or is illegible, prioritisation will be carried out solely on the information provided in the initial submission period. Documents to be amended may 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/>>).

- Phase 2 (confirmation of the application by the affiliated entity)

To access the second phase it is essential that the applicant entities have previously signed the agreement for the processing of personal data in the context of calls managed by AGAUR and for accessing their grant management application (BOGA) in accordance with the procedure which can be found on the AGAUR website (<<http://agaur.gencat.cat/ca/lagaur/procediment-de-presentacio-de-persones-juridiques/>>).

Once the deadline for submitting provisional applications has elapsed, a period shall commence so entities can access the AGAUR grant management application (BOGA) to confirm or reject the applications made by the candidates. To confirm the provisional request, the legal representatives of the entities must present, through the electronic registration and within the deadline established in the corresponding call, the following documents:

- The confirmation document for submitted applications generated by BOGA.
- The certifying statement or the statement of compliance with the requirements established by rule 3 of section II of the annex to these grant rules, and also those derived from the submission itself. In this regard, it is necessary to take into account the terms set out in article 28.7 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October, which establishes that the interested parties are responsible for the veracity of the documents that they submit.
- The statement of absence of conflict of interest by all the people involved in the selection process of the submitted applications, in accordance with article 61.3 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and Council of 18 July 2018, on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (EU Financial Regulation) and following the standardised model.

Both the statement of compliance and the statement of the absence of conflict of interest can be found on the AGAUR website.

7.2 At any moment during the processing of applications, AGAUR and the affiliated entities may require the documentation deemed necessary to verify that the requirements set forth in the grant rules and the call are being met. Failure to provide the requested documentation within the legally stipulated period may result in the grant being denied.

7.3. The submission of the application means that these grant rules are accepted in their entirety and AGAUR is authorised to obtain certificates or verify the necessary data to process the grant, which have to be issued by other administrations or public entities, research centres, universities and particularly, the State Tax Administration Agency (AEAT) or any other administrative body, with the aim of successfully awarding the corresponding call. In the event of any technical

problems arising which prevent or hinder the transfer of data, the documents may be requested from the corresponding entity.

The inaccuracy, falsehood or omission, of an essential nature, in any data or document that accompanies the aid request or that is contained in a statement of compliance, renders this procedure void, from the moment it becomes known and a hearing is previously granted to the person concerned and, consequently, shall entail the inadmissibility of the grant application, without prejudice to the fact that they may also be grounds for revoking the grant, if they become known after the grant is awarded.

7.4 The remaining procedures related to this grant that must be carried out by the various entities shall be done through the various electronic registries enabled for this purpose, such as the registries on the EACAT platform, generic requests (<<https://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/tramits-temes/Peticio-generica>>), or procedures associated with an AGAUR file (<<https://agaur.gencat.cat/ca/beques-i-ajuts/convocatories-per-temes/Tramit-associat-a-un-expedient-AGAUR-aportacio-de-documentacio-i-altres-peticions/>>).

#### —8 Personal Data

The data provided by individual applicants will be incorporated into the processing system of AGAUR for the purpose of managing and deciding the awarding of the grant, pursuant to the provisions of these grant rules, and it is processed in a legal, fair, transparent, appropriate, relevant, accurate and up-to-date manner, complying with the provisions set forth in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection of individuals in the processing of their personal data and the free circulation of this data, which repeals Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation), and Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December on personal data protection and guarantee of digital rights (LOPDGDD). The legal basis for the processing of the data is to comply with the legal obligation of the data controller, reinforced by the consent of the data subject.

This data is kept for the time that is strictly necessary to fulfil the aforementioned purpose, respecting that stipulated in the grant rules of the call and the applicable standards as regards the storage of the data at all times. AGAUR certifies that it has implemented the technical and organisational measures included in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and the Council of 27 April 2016, in order to guarantee the security and integrity of personal data contained in the documents and prevent the alteration, loss, unauthorised access or processing of the data.

AGAUR has to communicate the data of the applicants to the Department of Research and Universities so that it can exercise the power to control the management of AGAUR as an entity which is attached to this department. The disclosure of certain types of data to third parties in the public or private sector may also take place; this may be so that these entities may participate in the course of the grant management process which may be necessary to correctly adjudicate the award or is provided for in any regulation which is enforceable by law.

Provided the data subject does not inform us otherwise, it is understood that their data has not been modified and that they are committed to notifying AGAUR of any variation in these data that should occur.

The applicants can exercise their rights of access, rectification, restriction of processing, erasure or opposition to the processing of their data, or exercise their right to data portability, by writing to AGAUR's registry (Passeig de Lluís Companys, 23, 08010 Barcelona), or to the following email address: <lop.d.agaur@gencat.cat> or the Data Protection Officer at AGAUR, Microlab Hard SL (carrer de Santiago Rusiñol, 8, local 11, 08750, Molins de Rei), email address <agaur@dpo.microlabhard.es>. A copy of their ID must be attached to the email message or signed with a recognised electronic signature. In the event they do not agree with the processing, applicants also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Catalan Data Protection Authority.

#### —9 Deadline for submitting applications

The deadline for submitting provisional applications for individual applicants (first phase) and the confirmation deadline for the applications by affiliated entities (second phase) is provided for in the corresponding call.

#### —10 Competent Body and Decision-making body that issues the resolution

The competent body of the proceedings is AGAUR's executive directorate. The awarding of the grant is the responsibility of the AGAUR's Board of Directors and, by delegation, the chair of the CEAR, according to the resolution of the Board of Directors of 28 April 2022, (Resolution REU/1421/2022 of 10 May, published in the Official Journal of the Government of Catalonia [DOGC, in its Catalan initials] no. 8668, of 16.5.2022).

#### —11 Award Procedure

The grants are awarded on a competitive basis in accordance with the evaluation and selection proceedings determined by these rules and pursuant to the priority criteria established by the beneficiary entities. To evaluate and prioritise the submitted applications, only the documentation submitted with the application is taken into account and therefore, the hearing stage of the process is dispensed with, in accordance with that set forth in Article 24.4 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November.

The people who intervene in the process of selecting the beneficiaries or in the processes of verifying compliance with the conditions must expressly state their absence of conflict of interest, signing the statement of absence of conflict of the corresponding interest, according to article 61.3 of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 July. In the event of a conflict of interest, the affected person must refrain from intervening in these procedures, in accordance with article 23 of Law 40/2015 of 1 October, on the public sector legal regime.

## —12 Evaluation and Selection

12.1 The affiliated entities must establish the prioritisation criteria for assessing and prioritising the applications submitted.

The assessment and prioritisation system is carried out according to a scale of 0 to 10 points, with three decimal places, and in accordance with the following general criteria and scales:

a) The weighted average mark from the academic transcript of the candidate has a maximum value of 4 points and is calculated as follows:

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

If the doctorate is accessed directly without the need for a master's degree, only the weighted average grade of the degree studies or the equivalent degree is taken into account as 100%. Similarly, if the candidate is still pursuing their master's degree at the time the application is submitted, only the weighted average mark of the degree studies or the equivalent degree is taken into account as 100%.

If the candidate has completed more than one degree or equivalent study, only the weighted average mark of the course of study most closely related to the doctorate-level course of study is taken into account. If a candidate has completed more than one master's degree, only the weighted average mark of the course of study that is required for the doctoral programme is taken into account. These courses are those that must meet the requirements set out in rule 4.1.a) of section II of the annex to this resolution and the corresponding call.

Universities may establish their own system of approval or weighting of mark for the degree or equivalent and for the master's degree.

b) The assessment of the research group which the candidate must join has a maximum value of 3 points. The specific assessment criteria for this section must be established by the grant affiliated entities, which may take into account criteria related to the department, the unit, the laboratory, the research group or the thesis advisor.

c) The compatibility of the proposals with the scientific policy and scientific priorities of each affiliated entity will have a maximum value of 3 points. The specific evaluation criteria of this section must also be set by the affiliated entities of the grant, which 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, groups or research projects and an evaluation of the candidate's track record.

12.2 The affiliated entities must submit to AGAUR, by means of the electronic registration, the standardised document established by AGAUR that comprises the prioritisation system and the criteria that the entity plans to apply, including the system for approving or weighting the university marks, so that AGAUR can validate that the respective prioritisation procedures are adapted to the requirements of these grant rules.



It is the responsibility of the affiliated entity to make public its own prioritization criteria prior the end of the period for submitting provisional applications (initial application submission phase), with the prior approval of AGAUR, and to keep the proof of this publication.

It is the same entities' responsibility to publish the proposal for the prioritisation of the received applications on a timely basis in order to ensure the interested parties' right of access to the information. 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.

12.3 The final prioritisation, after the aforementioned objection period, must be entered in the aid management application of AGAUR (BOGA) in accordance with the deadlines established by the corresponding call.

12.4 Prior to the awarding of grants, an initial distribution will be made of the number of grants for each of these three areas: public universities, private universities and research centres and hospital foundations. This distribution takes into account the number of doctoral theses presented in the last three academic years prior to the year of the publication of the call, obtained from official coordinating bodies, and the number of grants to recruit new research staff (FI) awarded in the last three calls for each of the areas.

12.5 Within each block, the distribution of the number of grants between the different applicant entities will be made according to the following criteria:

a) The following factors will be taken into account when allocating the number of grants that are awarded to the various public universities (University of Barcelona, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Polytechnic University of Catalonia, Pompeu Fabra University, University of Lleida, University of Girona and Rovira i Virgili University): the data on indicators for evaluating the results in the field of RDI for target-based variable financing and for the university research promotion fund (PROFOR) in the last three years prior to the year the call is published, provided by the Directorate General for Research.

b) For the allocation of the number of grants granted to the different private universities (Ramon Llull University, University of Vic-Universitat Central de Catalunya, Universitat Internacional de Catalunya and Universitat Abat Oliba CEU) and the distance learning university (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya) takes into account the data relating to the number of doctoral theses read in the last three academic years prior to the year of publication of the call, which is obtained from the university and research information cooperative system of Catalonia (UNEIX).

c) The allocation of the number of grants that are awarded to research centres, hospital foundations and singular scientific and technical facilities (ICTS) takes into account the main RDI indicators in relation to grants or awards in force in the year the applications are submitted, and those obtained from official coordinating bodies and the centres themselves. The weight of these indicators will be equivalent and will be scored by dividing the results by quartiles and provided that the result of the indicator is not equal to zero.

Specifically, the following indicators are taken into account:

- The number of doctoral theses read in the last three academic years prior to the year of publication of the call.

- The number of grants to outstanding research staff awarded by the European Research Council (ERC).
- The number of projects coordinated within the Research and Innovation Framework Program of the European Union.
- The number of contracts from the Catalan Institute for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA).

12.6 In order to foster a higher number of women in STEM fields (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), traditionally male-dominated areas, applications submitted by women in these areas will be prioritised. Specifically, in the event of a draw in the final results of the prioritisation carried out by the different affiliated entities, priority will be given to applications submitted by women in these scientific fields. Likewise, in the event that there is a draw in the allocation of the number of grants according to the criteria described in rule 12.5.c), the same prioritisation will be made of the applications submitted by women in these scientific fields, always respecting the final order of prioritisation made by the various affiliated entities. If this prioritisation cannot be done taking into account the subject areas affected, new information related to complementary RDI indicators may be requested from the different entities.

12.7 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.

12.8 The Selection Committee is nominated and appointed by the chair of the CEAR and General Director for Research. It is chaired by this person or the person who has been delegated this task, and is made up of a minimum of two members and a person occupying the position of secretary, who shall be AGAUR's executive director or the person who is delegated this task who will have an advisory capacity but will not be entitled to vote. This Committee, which may be attended by AGAUR's technical staff, may receive advice from external bodies and experts. AGAUR must ensure gender equality on the Committee. The Committee proposes the beneficiary entities and establishes the number of grants awarded to each entity applying for the grants, taking into account the criteria set forth in these grant rules and the prioritised list of individual applicants provided by each entity.

12.9 The Selection Committee will propose a duly prioritised reserve list, composed of applications which have not been deemed successful.

### —13 Ethical Principles

13.1 Actions funded under these grant rules shall respect the ethical principles and applicable laws of the European Union, its member states and international law, including the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union and the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and its additional protocols.

Special attention shall also be paid to the principle of proportionality, the right to privacy, the protection of personal data, the right to physical and mental integrity, the right to non-

discrimination, to the need to vouch for the protection of the environment, and also a high degree of protection of human health.

All activities carried out outside the European Union must comply with European legislation and that which is applicable in Catalonia, and under no circumstances the laws of the target country.

13.2 Funded activities shall focus exclusively on civil applications, so the following fields of research shall not be funded: activities aimed at human cloning for reproductive purposes; activities aimed at modifying the genetic heritage of human beings that could make these changes heritable (except for research related to the treatment of gonadal cancer, which can be funded), nor activities aimed at creating human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of acquiring stem cells, including by nuclear transfer of somatic cells leading to the destruction of human embryos.

Researchers must complete an ethical self-assessment included in the standard annex where they must declare if their research foresees any of the fields described above.

13.3 Beneficiary entities that participate in the call must fill in a statement of compliance that manifests that the activities will comply with the published European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity and that no research activities expressly excluded in point 13.3 of these grant rules will be carried out. This statement is included in the acceptance documents provided for in rules 16 and 17 of section II of the annex to this resolution.

13.4 Where appropriate, AGAUR can verify the ethical aspects of any funded project, activity or initiative and subject them to evaluation. Verifications of ethical aspects may be carried out with the support of external experts in ethics.

13.5 The funded activities must comply with the principle of not causing significant damage to any of the six environmental objectives of Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020, relating to the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investments and which amends Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (European Union Taxonomy Regulation).

13.6 Research and innovation activities that do not comply with ethical and integrity regulations and are therefore not ethically acceptable shall not be funded. The grant may also be revoked if in the course of the project the systematic non-compliance of ethical aspects is detected.

#### —14 Processing and Resolution

14.1 Before awarding the grants, the competent body has to determine whether an application is inadmissible or rejected and the interested party is to be informed by means of a posting on the Government of Catalonia electronic Noticeboard (<<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>>).

14.2 Applications which do not comply with the requirements that cannot be amended or which do not meet the deadline for the submission of applications established in the corresponding call shall be deemed inadmissible.

Similarly, applications which do not submit any of the documents referred to in these grant rules or the failure to rectify the requirements that can be rectified within a period of ten days shall be rejected.

14.3 If the eligible applications for subsidies exceed the available budget, the Selection Committee determines the allocation of funds in accordance with the evaluation and selection criteria established in these grant rules.

14.4 Once the Selection Committee's minutes have been reviewed, the competent body shall draw up the final resolution proposals and refer them to the awarding body.

14.5 The amount of the grant, the terms and conditions that have to be met by the beneficiary entity, the implementation and the rationale of the funded actions and the origin of the funding which is financing the grant must be included in the awarding of the grant.

14.6 The awarding of the grant shall be notified to the interested parties as posted on the electronic noticeboard of the Public Administration of the Government of Catalonia (<<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>>). The awarding of the grant shall indicate the appeals that may be filed. The presentation in the appeal phase of the documentation that has been required in the amendment process will not be accepted.

14.7 In the event of actions that may be co-funded by the European Social Fund Plus, it is informed that, in accordance with article 49.3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and the Council of 24 June 2021, the list of beneficiaries will be published on a single Internet portal, with details of the co-funded operations.

#### —15 Resolution Deadline

The maximum legal deadline for awarding the grant is six months, counting from the day following the publication of the corresponding call in the DOGC. If this term elapses without an express resolution, the requested grant is deemed to have been tacitly rejected.

#### —16 Acceptance of the aid and accreditation of the hiring of the candidate

16.1 The acceptance of grants and confirmation of the employment of candidates must be jointly formalised using a standard form signed by the legal representatives of the recipient entity. This document, which can be found on the AGAUR website (<<http://agaur.gencat.cat>>), must include the list of researchers hired and the commitment to comply with these grant bases and the corresponding call.

The document must be submitted by electronic means within a maximum period of two months from the day after the start of the contract that is the subject of the grant, together with the following documentation:

- a) A copy of the individual candidate's National Identity Document or Foreign Resident Identity Number.
- b) A copy of the registration of the doctorate-level course of study of the candidate of the course established in the corresponding call. If, at the time of providing evidence of the recruitment, the

registration for the academic year is not yet available in accordance with the exception provided for in the corresponding call, the admission to the doctorate-level course of study must be presented and the copy of registration within one month of its becoming effective.

c) A copy of the employment contract.

d) A copy of the document "Data report for the contribution / Salaried workers" (IDC) from Spain's Social Security office.

e) In the case of having benefited from funding for the recruitment of research staff in training of the same candidate, the proof of the relevant waiver.

f) A copy of the entity's articles of association, from the document certifying the authority of the legal representative of the entity along with their ID document. If these documents have already been presented in previous calls of AGAUR, it will not be necessary to submit them, provided that the applying entity submits a statement specifying these documents along with the date they were submitted, and which states that they are still valid. In application of the stipulations of article 53.d) of Law 39/2015 of 1 October, it is noted that the AGAUR already has this information in the case of universities, research centres in the CERCA programme and the other institutions that have signed the agreement provided for in rule 7.1. Consequently, these institutions must resubmit this documentation.

g) In accordance with Article 15.2 of Law 19/2014 of 29 December, if the amount of the awarded grant exceeds €10,000 (ten thousand), the statement of compliance must be provided on the information regarding the remuneration received by their management or administrative bodies, for the purpose of making it public, in accordance with their corporate criteria and, if necessary, according to the corresponding implementing regulations. This document can be replaced by a statement of compliance from the entity's legal representative which states that this information is published on the entity's website under the terms and conditions established by Law 19/2014 of 29 December and the remaining applicable regulations.

h) Proof that a separate accounting system is available or that the receipts for expenditure have been assigned a common accounting code for transactions related to the grant-funded action.

16.2 Beneficiary status is obtained at the time the grant is accepted. It is understood that entities which have not submitted the acceptance document and the rest of the documentation by the deadline and under the conditions provided for in these grant rules and corresponding call are tacitly renouncing the grant.

## —17 Grant Renewals

17.1 The affiliated entities must submit applications for the renewal of grants using the standard application form and in accordance with the different deadlines established in the corresponding call.

This application must include the proposal for the grant renewal of aid for all contracted research staff who meet the following requirements:

a) To have been contracted in the year indicated in the relevant call in the framework of the Joan Oró programme for hiring new research staff (FI) of the Government of Catalonia.



b) Be enrolled in a doctorate-level course of study at a university in the university system of Catalonia for the current academic year at the time of submitting the renewal application.

c) Not be in possession of a doctorate qualification.

Compliance with these requirements must be proven by means of a statement of compliance by the person representing the legal representative of the affiliation entity.

In the event that the entity does not intend to renew a candidate, it must duly give reasons why it has reached this decision.

17.2 After the resolution of the renewal of the grant for each of the deadlines established in the relevant call, the affiliated entity must accept the grant and authorise the continuity of the contractual relationship with the researcher by submitting the standard document. This standard document must be submitted within two months of the start of the new year and must be accompanied by the following documentation:

a) A copy of the contract for the new year.

b) A copy of the doctoral registration for the current academic year at the time of presenting this accreditation. In the exceptional cases in which the applicant joined the programme in the academic year following the one originally planned for the relevant call, it is necessary to present the registration for the academic year subsequent to the one proven in the previous year. If, when proving the renewal, this registration is not yet available, it will have to be delivered within one month of it being effective according to the registration deadlines established by the relevant university.

## —18 Payment

18.1 The payments of the grants will be sent directly to the beneficiary entities, without having to issue guarantees, in the following way:

a) The first payment of 80% of the funding for the hiring of research staff in training is processed once the authorisation for the contracting or the renewal of the individual candidate at the affiliated entity in accordance with the provisions of these grant rules. The payment of the remaining 20% and the compensation for terminating the contract due to the export of the agreed time period is made once the supporting documentation has been submitted in accordance with the provisions of rule 26 of annex II to this resolution.

b) The payment of the supplementary aid of €3,000.00 (three thousand) euros for the realisation of research stays and other training activities will be made according to the provisions of section III in the annex to these grant rules.

c) The payment for the guidance, supervision and continuous evaluation of the doctoral thesis is made effective directly at the universities where the beneficiaries of the grants are enrolled in the various doctorate-level courses of study after accrediting the additions of new concessions and the renewals of the grants in accordance with the provisions of these grant rules.

18.2 In accordance with the provisions of Article 24 of the Law 5/2007 of 4 July on Tax and Financial Measures, and having previously recognised the obligation of each payment, it must be officially verified that the beneficiary entities are up to date with their tax and social security

contributions and obligations. In the event that it is not possible to do this, AGAUR shall require the beneficiary entity to provide certificates which verify they are up to date with the said payments.

#### —19 Rights and obligations of the parties

19.1 The beneficiary entities have the obligation to comply with the terms set forth in these grant rules and in the corresponding call and have the following duties:

- a) 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 in rule 26 of section II of the annex to this resolution and to inform AGAUR of any incidents.
- b) Hire the research staff under the modality of pre-doctoral contract and full-time within the term established in the corresponding call and fulfil all the obligations provided for in Law 14/2011 of 1 June and Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, or the regulations that are in force. The pre-doctoral contracts shall be governed by the aforementioned regulations and, additionally, by the revised text of the Workers' Statute Act, by the rest of applicable labour legislation and by the applicable collective agreement.
- c) Assume any hiring costs that exceed the amount of the grant for the module awarded, always adapt the remuneration of pre-doctoral research staff in training to the minimum salary established by Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, and also assume the salary increases in the wages of the research staff, the increases to social security quotas or increases caused by any other circumstance or amendment to the labour or legislative framework.
- d) Provide the contracted person with the necessary collaboration and support, providing them with the means or equipment necessary so that they can develop their training activities and the research.
- e) Not require that the contracted person perform any other activity which is unrelated to their training work and the research.
- f) Ensure correct compliance of what Article 4 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of March 1 stipulated with regard to collaboration in teaching tasks.
- g) Ensure compliance with grounds for disqualification.
- h) Communicate to the body awarding the funding other subsidies requested or granted for the same purpose and any other alteration produced to those previously communicated as soon as it is documented and, in any case, before justifying the application that has been given to the funds received.
- i) Comply with the fundamental ethical principles set out in clause 13.1 of Section II of the annex to this decision and also good research practice based on the fundamental principle of research integrity.
- j) 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 research staff that includes:

- the adoption of open, transparent and merit-based recruitment (OTM-R).
- the adoption of measures to enhance interdisciplinary research options and promote networking opportunities for research staff in training, including international relationships, within and outside the academic world.
- providing senior research staff 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.
- providing the researcher with a series of educational activities aligned with the current European Competence and Skills 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.

k) Provide all the information requested and submit to the inspection, verification and control actions that correspond to AGAUR and also those to control the activity economic and financial that correspond to the General Intervention of the Government of Catalonia, the Audit Office or other competent bodies, both national and community, and provide all the information that is required of them in the exercise of the previous actions.

l) Comply with the obligations to provide information imposed by the legislation on transparency on the beneficiaries in relation with the aforementioned Administration or administrations, without limiting the obligations of transparency that directly apply due to the legal provisions, in the circumstances set forth in the corresponding sections of Article 3 of Law 19/2014 of 29 December.

m) Give adequate publicity of the public nature of the funding and comply with the obligations and measures of publicity and dissemination contained in rule 23 of section II of the annex to of this resolution.

n) Act in accordance with the criteria provided for in article 20 of Law 9/2022.

o) In the case of co-financing of the European Social Fund Plus:

- Retain all supporting documents and also any other documentation related to the grant awarded, for a period of five years from 31 December of the year in which the management authority makes the last payment to the beneficiary. The Catalan Public Employment Service (SOC) will inform AGAUR of the start date of this period. The documents must be kept in their original format, as a certified copy of the original or an electronic version.
- Inform research staff who are recipients of aid with grant rules of the European Social Fund Plus through the ESF+ programme 2021-2027 and of the incorporation of their personal data into the treatments owned by the AGAUR, with the aim that they can exercise the rights recognized by the data protection regulations.

- Report the data need to obtain performance indicators and results for the management of the grant received in order to meet the certification or justification requirements of the ESF, as per that established by the competent authority.
- Maintain the traceability of all the technical and economic documentation that allows to verify the correct implementation of the activities that are the subject of this grant.
- Collaborate and provide all the documentation that is required to carry out the control and verification duties of the Audit Authority of the ESF+ programme, the Management Authority and the Certification Authority - the sole administrative unit of the European Social Fund - of the European Commission and other bodies which, in accordance with Community legislation, are responsible for overseeing the financial control of grants funded by the European Social Fund Plus.
- Verify that the participants meet the requirements in accordance with the characteristics of the programme and Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016.
- Comply with the obligations to collect the participants' data, safeguard the participant's file with the corresponding security measures, and guarantee the transmission of the data.

19.2 The researcher hired is obliged to comply with the terms set forth in these grant rules and of the corresponding call and has the following duties:

- a) Be registered for the relevant doctoral programme at the time of entering into the employment contract funded by the grant.
- b) Join the affiliated entity and fulfil the objectives and the work plan included in the application under the supervision of the thesis advisor.
- c) Abide by the current employment legislation as well as the internal regulations of the organisation or institution where they carry out their activities.
- d) Comply with the fundamental ethical principles set out in clause 13.1 of Section II of the annex to this resolution and also good research practice based on the fundamental principle of research integrity.
- e) Request authorisation to attend any type of research trip or activity involving being absent from the workplace according to the internal regulations of each affiliated entity. These absences from the workplace may not in any case exceed six months. Nor may the maximum permitted cumulative absence over the three years of the grant reach twelve months.
- f) Provide all the information requested and be willing to undergo inspections, checks and controls that may be undertaken by AGAUR and other competent bodies, in accordance with the regulations in force.

19.3 The thesis supervisors are under an obligation to comply with the terms set forth in these grant rules and of the corresponding call and have the following duties:

- a) Plan and actively guide the thesis research project in order to ensure its formative, original and innovative nature, enhancing the possible transfer of knowledge and the social, economic and scientific impact of the research developed.

- b) Supervise the progress and follow-up of the work plan and training activities, and ensure its viability and coherence in relation to the current lines of research and professional exits to which it is linked.
- c) 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.
- d) Promote interdisciplinary research and promote networking opportunities for research staff in training, including international relationships, inside and outside the academic world.
- e) Ensure proper monitoring of the terms of the rules for the grants and for this round of grant funding and notify the affiliated entity and AGAUR of any incidents.
- d) Comply with the fundamental ethical principles set out in clause 13.1 of section II of the annex to this decision and good research practice based on the fundamental principle of research integrity.

#### —20 Waivers and Substitutions

20.1 Beneficiary entities may waive, in whole or in part, and only for justified and express reasons, the grants awarded using the standardised waiver form found on the AGAUR website, and which must address the executive management of AGAUR.

20.2 If notice is given of waiver in entirety of a grant during the first three months counting from the day after the initial grant decision, the executive management of AGAUR may award the grant waived to applicants from the reserve list for the institution at which waiver has occurred. In the event that a partial waiver occurs or that waiver is submitted beyond the term previously described, this waiver will not entail any replacement.

The resolutions by which the replacements are granted must specify the conditions of the aid and the maximum period of incorporation of the candidates, which may go beyond the dates initially planned in the corresponding call. These resolutions must be published on the Government of Catalonia electronic noticeboard or the interested party shall be notified personally, in accordance with the provisions of articles 40 and 41 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October on the Common Administrative Procedure for Public Administrations.

20.3 Failure to formalise or not continue with the contract within the terms and conditions provided for in these grant rules and in the corresponding call shall be considered a tacit waiver of the grant, with no prior requirement necessary.

#### —21 Changes and Incidents

21.1 At the request of the affiliated entity, the executive management of the AGAUR can authorise duly motivated modifications of the thesis supervisor or the enrolling entity and can also resolve any incident that does not involve a substantial change in the conditions and purpose of the aid nor does it represent any breach of the requirements established by this resolution.



If a change of thesis advisor is requested, the standardised model found on the AGAUR website must be used.

In the first year of employment, a change of thesis advisor may only be made for reasons of force majeure and if following the standardised document.

Changes of affiliated entity must take place at the change of academic year.

Changes that have not been communicated or that have not been accepted may result in the total or partial reinstatement of the grant.

21.2 The recruited research staff must inform and request from the relevant authority of any changes affecting the development of their doctoral thesis or work plan, in accordance with the internal regulations of the affiliated entity and the university statutes where they are developing their thesis. These changes must be reported at the time of submitting the supporting technical report in accordance with rule 26 of section II of the annex to this resolution.

## —22 Incompatibilities

22.1 The provisions of disqualification set out in the employment contract signed by the affiliated entities in accordance with the law currently in force shall apply to contracts that receive grant funding governed by this resolution shall apply to the contracts which are the subject of these rules.

22.2 The grant funding governed by this resolution is incompatible with any other grant funded by public or private funds that have the same purpose and, in general, with any other salary payments for activities which have time frames that clash with that of the training and research activities or that may affect the achievement of the objectives of the 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. The affiliated entity of the researcher is responsible for authorising these compatibilities; which in turn must be reported to AGAUR when they occur.

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.

22.4 The affiliation entity must notify the AGAUR of obtaining other grants or aid for the same purpose from other administrations or public bodies, national or international, both at the time of submitting the application legality as at any time when this situation occurs.

22.5 The beneficiary entities may increase the salary of the staff recruited. This remuneration increase must be stated in the contract and carried out in accordance with the employment and tax legislation and the collective agreements currently in force.

## —23 Publicity

23.1 The support of the Joan Oró post-doctoral programme of the Ministry of Research and Universities of the Government of Catalonia must be cited in all publications and other results that may arise from this call, including the grant reference number. In case of co-financing from the European Social Fund Plus, the emblem of the European Union must also be added accompanied by the expression "Co-funded by the European Union".

The beneficiary entity must display the relevant logo on its website. The logo is provided in the Visual Identification Programme (PIV), published on the website <<http://www.gencat.cat/piv/>>.

23.2 In the event of co-funding by the European Social Fund Plus, the beneficiary entity must include in all information and communication measures carried out:

- a) The emblem of the European Union accompanied by the expression "Co-financed by the European Union", in all information and communication actions it takes. The use and technical characteristics of the emblem of the European Union are regulated under annex IX of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June (DOUE no. L 231, of 30 June 2021).
- b) A brief description of the action on its official website and social media accounts, indicating the objectives and results of this grant and highlighting the financial aid of the European Union.
- c) During the project's implementation, an informative poster (size A3 at a minimum) must be placed in a position visible to the public, where the financial grant of the European Union will be specifically mentioned, following the model that can be found on the website of the AGAUR.
- d) The mention of the participation of the European Union and the emblem of the European Union accompanied by the expression "Co-financed by the European Union", with subtitles in English to facilitate its dissemination, in all communications for purposes of publication, institutional promotion and scientific dissemination.
- e) To ensure that recipients supported by these grants are aware of co-funding by the European Social Fund Plus, specific mention of the co-funding by the European Social Fund Plus must be made on any document given to participants or that is part of the file of co-funded activity, including any kind of certificates of the aid.

To meet the above requirements, the instructions for disseminating co-financed actions for the 2021-2027 period must be followed, available at: <[https://serveiocupacio.gencat.cat/web/.content/01\\_SOC/01\\_QUI-som-i-que-fem/Fons-Social-Europeu/Programes-operatius-2021-2027/00\\_INDICACIONS\\_FONS-EUROPEUS\\_2021-2027.pdf](https://serveiocupacio.gencat.cat/web/.content/01_SOC/01_QUI-som-i-que-fem/Fons-Social-Europeu/Programes-operatius-2021-2027/00_INDICACIONS_FONS-EUROPEUS_2021-2027.pdf)>.

#### —24 Publication of grants awarded

In accordance with article 15 of Agreement GOV/85/2016 of 28 June, which approves the amendment of the standard model of grant rules approved by Agreement GOV/110/2014 of 22 July, which approves the standard model of grant rules for the procedures used in the granting of subsidies under a competition regime processed by the Administration of the Generalitat and its public sector, and approves the full text, subsidies must be made public for its general knowledge

by displaying them on the electronic noticeboard of the Administration of the Government of Catalonia (<<https://seu.gencat.cat/ca/informacio-publica.html>>).

In accordance with Article 15 of Law 19/2014 of 29 December, the grants must be published in the transparency portal of AGAUR's website.

#### —25 Open access to scientific results

Recipient institutions and applicant 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, coinciding with their dates of publication. In addition, the open dissemination of all results generated within the framework of the doctoral thesis (including research data, codes and methodologies) and the management of project data in accordance with international principles FAIR principles (easy to find, accessible, interoperable and reusable data) is recommended. All this is compatible with the possibility of protecting, prior to scientific publication, the intellectual property rights of research and innovation results, in accordance with national and European regulations.

#### —26 Deadline and manner to support grant applications

26.1 The proof of compliance with the grant-funded actions of the expenses incurred associated with the recruitment of research staff regulated by this resolution, will be carried out through the module regime, in accordance with the provisions of articles 69 and 76 to 79 of the Regulation of Law 38/2003 of 17 November. In this regard, the effective implementation of the action and the fulfilment of the results to which they are linked must be verified through the process established in rule 30 of section II of the annex to this resolution and the official verification of the supporting documentation for the established indicators indicated below. The supporting documentation for these indicators must be completed according to the standardised forms that can be found on the website of AGAUR, it must be submitted by electronic means no later than two months from the moment the aid ends, regardless of the cause, and is as follows:

a) A technical report of the justified action signed by the hired researcher and by the thesis supervisor that must include a description of the training and research activities carried out during the grant period, the objectives and the scientific results achieved, the applicability and transfer of knowledge achieved and the possible social, economic and scientific impact of the research developed. This report must also include a specific section that justifies the alignment of the thesis with the strategic orientations of the European Union.

b) An economic report justifying the cost of the hiring based on the results obtained, which must indicate, at least:

- A statement by the beneficiary on the number of physical units considered as a module, which must be indicated by means of the start date and the cumulative end date of the different annuities of each contract subject to the grant.

- The amount of the grant, calculated on the basis of the activities quantified in the action report and the modules provided for in base 6.1 of section II of the annex to this resolution and in the corresponding call.
- Where applicable, details of other income or other subsidies that have financed the grant activity, stating the amount and source.

The report for the third year of the contract must also indicate a certification that researcher has accrued the effective time worked of thirty-six months over the course of the three-year period of the grant.

c) Additionally, the beneficiary entities must provide the necessary information to develop the indicators required by the ESF+. The submission of the data needed to product the required indicators may be requested at any time, even once the action has been completed.

26.2 The settlement of the funding for recruitment costs, which cannot in any case exceed the amount of the funding initially granted, shall be made based on the duration of the contract of each researcher in training, taking into account the following criteria:

- a) If a certain contract established in the award resolution is not formalised or renewed, the entire amount of the grant shall be annulled.
- b) If the contracts that are the subject of the grant end before the scheduled date and the cause is attributable to the beneficiary entity, the total amount of the subsidy shall be annulled.
- c) If the contracts subject to the grant end before the scheduled date, for reasons beyond the control of the entity, the amount equivalent to the part of the contract not implemented shall be annulled, taking into account the annual, monthly and daily economic modules provided for in the corresponding call.
- d) If at the end of the third year of the contract, an effective working time of 36 months over the course of the three-year grant period is not proven, including the recovery periods provided for in rule 5.2 of section II of the annex to this resolution, the amount equivalent to the time remaining to reach 36 months will be annulled.
- e) Failure to comply with all the obligations regarding funding publicity provided for in rule 23 of section II the annex to this resolution, relating to actions co-funded by the 2021-2027 ESF+ programme, will result in partial annulment of 3% of the total amount granted under the provisions of article 50.3 of Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June (DOUE no. L 231, of 30 June 2021).

The grant is calculated for the entire year, from the start date of the contract subject to each year's funding and, if the eligible year is not a whole, the funding is calculated by applying a monthly amount or a daily amount on the days of hire that is determined from the annual amount, dividing this by 12 months to set the monthly amount or 365 days to obtain the daily amount.

26.3 The justification of the costs of compensation for termination of the contract due to the expiration of the agreed time must be done through the presentation of the payroll slip, in which the settlement of this compensation is recorded, and the corresponding proof of payment. This documentation must be submitted by electronic means, together with the rest of the supporting documentation, within a maximum period of two months from the moment when the last grant annuity ends.

26.4 The supporting evidence of the supplementary aid aimed at financing research stays and other training activities shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of section III of the annex to this resolution.

26.5 The supporting evidence of the costs of the guidance, supervision and continuous assessment of the doctoral thesis during the validity of the aid is accredited through the submission of the registrations for the doctorate programme. The registration for the first academic year must be presented at the time of certifying the incorporation of the hired researcher, in accordance with the stipulations of rule 16.1 of section II of the annex to this resolution. Within two months of the end of the first and second years of the contract, the registrations for the academic year in force during this year must be submitted. In the event that the contract subject to the grant is valid for more than three academic years, the additional registrations must be submitted during the third year of the grant and within two months of their becoming effective in order for these registrations can be funded.

26.6 Deadline extensions for reasons related to the project are not accepted without prior justification, which must be accepted, where applicable, by the Executive Directorate of AGAUR. In the case of a request for extension, this must be submitted at least one month before the end of the initial justification period.

#### —27 Subcontracting

Under no circumstances can the beneficiary entity subcontract the full or partial execution of the grants.

#### —28 Notifications

28.1 The resolution on inadmissible and withdrawn applications and the resolution on the awarding of grants are announced on the electronic noticeboard of the Public Administration of the Government of Catalonia. This notification replaces the individual notification and has the same effects. In order to publicise the above and for informative purposes, the result of the resolution may be viewed on the AGAUR website.

28.2 In accordance with the provisions of Law 39/2015 of 1 October, other administrative proceedings issued in relation to this procedure must be issued by means of electronic notification. To do so, the address for notification purposes must be stated on the application form.

For all legal purposes, the notification is understood to have occurred upon access to it.

If ten calendar days have elapsed after the notification has been made available without its content being accessed, it shall be understood that the notification has been rejected, unless ex officio or at the request of the recipient it is proven he/she was unable to access it.

28.3 For other communications by AGAUR not considered notifications, electronic means will be used, sent to the email address indicated by the applicant in their application.



#### —29 Verification and Control

29.1 AGAUR is responsible for verifying that the grant rules approved by this resolution and other applicable regulations have been met. AGAUR may review any grants which have already been awarded and, particularly, it can modify the awarding of the grant in the event that the conditions change or other grants are concurrently awarded.

29.2 The beneficiary entities and the contracted research staff must provide all the information requested by the General Intervention Board of the Government of Catalonia, the Audit Office or other competent bodies, in accordance with the Government of Catalonia's regulations on the subject of grants.

29.3 With regards to statements of compliance, these statements involve the applicant having to submit the relevant documents attesting to the declared data. If the administration identifies any inaccuracies or false information in the data provided, this fact, after hearing the concerned party shall result in the corresponding procedure being annulled. Given this conduct is classified as a breach of the applicable legislation, it will give rise to the initiation of the appropriate disciplinary proceedings in accordance with the penalty system referred to above.

#### —30 Verification of grant-funded actions

The beneficiary entities and the recipients of the aid must submit to the administrative and on-the-ground verification actions carried out by AGAUR, according to its grant verification plan, and to the controls carried out by the competent bodies of the regional, state and community administration.

The purpose of the administrative checks is to verify the implementation of the actions.

The verifications on the ground must be carried out during the implementation of the grant and their purpose is to verify that the action is effectively carried out and that the obligations of the recipients and the beneficiary entities are met.

#### —31 Invalidation of the awarding of the grant and refund of the amounts unduly received

31.1 The grounds set forth in Article 36 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November are considered causes for the decision on the awarding of the grant to be declared invalid and entail an obligation to return the amounts received.

31.2 The refund of the amounts received and the requirement to pay the interest on arrears corresponding to the time the grant was paid until the date for the demand of the refund is also agreed in the cases established in Article 37 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November and Article 99 of the Legislative of Decree 3/2002 of 24 December.

#### —32 Revocation

The total or partial breach of the requirements and obligations set forth in these grant rules and other applicable regulations, whether those determined by the beneficiary entities or by the research staff in receipt of the grant, gives rise to filing proceedings for breach of contract. The resolution of these proceedings may cause the total or partial revocation of the grant and the obligation to return the corresponding amount with interest as applicable for delay.

Proceedings for revocation can also be initiated in cases where, as a result of controls by the competent authorities, whether autonomous, state or community, signs of non-compliance with the obligations provided for in the grant rules and in the corresponding calls.

### —33 Applicable Regulations

In all matters not provided for in these rules, the entities benefiting from the grant are subject to the provisions on subsidies in Section IX of the Revised Text of the Public Finance Law of Catalonia, approved by Legislative Decree 3/2002 of 24 December, the basic regulations on subsidies and other applicable regulations.

## III. Training Activities

This section regulates the granting of a complementary aid in the amount of 3,000.00 (three thousand) euros intended for research stays and other training activities by pre-doctoral research staff in training contracted with the aid regulated by these rules.

### — 1 Operation of educational activity

1.1 Educational activity must be for the purpose of attaining 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:

- Carry out the promotion of international relationships: research placements related to the obtaining of international doctorates, attendance at congresses and conferences and other activities to enable research staff to meet professionals in the field of science and others working in the field and build partnerships with institutions based in other countries.
- Transfer of knowledge and technology to the productive sector and society in general: participation in specific courses aimed at acquiring knowledge, experience and skills related to the transfer of knowledge and results of the research beyond the academic field in order to generate economic value.
- Professional training: training activity related to cross-cutting competencies and team management and leadership, management, organisation, entrepreneurship, etc.
- Doing training activities in the development and the implementation of responsible research and innovation (RRI) processes.

1.2 The awarded grant cannot be used to purchase any materials or equipment nor finance language courses.

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

Waiver of the Joan Oró grant for the recruitment of predoctoral research staff in training (FI) or the loss of the right to enjoy this grant entails the loss of the right to enjoy all grants for the corresponding training, including those that have been granted and not executed.

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

1.4 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.

To calculate expenses, Decree 138/2008 of 8 July, on Compensation for Services Rendered, applied; this decree is applicable to staff who provide services to the Administration of the Government of Catalonia.

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

1.5 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 given on the same form.

1.6 Once the request has been received, AGAUR will check that the requested activity is suitable for the purpose of the grant and the requirements set out in these grant rules, and that it informs the requesting researcher and the entity applying for the grant within a maximum period of forty-five working days.

1.7 Research staff must electronically justify having carried out the training activity within a maximum period of one month from its completion. And, for this purpose, the following documentation must be submitted:

- a) Standard document for the economic justification of the training activities, which is available on the AGAUR website.
- b) The certificates attesting that the activity has been carried out.
- c) Invoices justifying the costs incurred to carry out the activity and the corresponding proof of payments. 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.

1.8 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.

1.9 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, without having to provide security. In line with AGAUR's instructions, in the event there are activities for which more than €300 (three hundred euros) has been requested, affiliated institutions may pay 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 proof of expenditure as required by these rules. In the case of activities for which an amount equal to or less than this 300.00 (three hundred) euros has been requested, the affiliation entity can make the entire payment once it has been submitted the supporting documentation provided for in these grant rules.

1.10 After completing the third one-year period of the grant, and in accordance with the instructions which will be provided by AGAUR, the affiliated entity must refund any remaining amount for activities not carried out by the hired research staff.