

RESOLUTION REU/ 3156 /2023, of 13 September whereby the call is opened for funding to hire pre-doctoral research staff in training (FI) for 2024.

Law 7/2001 of 31 May (DOGC no. 3407 of 12/6/2001), created the *Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca* (Agency for Management of University and Research Grants - hereinafter, AGAUR in its Catalan initials) as an entity governed by public law, which acts in accordance with private law, its own legal personality, with full capacity to act and with its own assets in order to fulfil its duties.

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.

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 Chair appointed by the Research Grant Executive Board (CEAR).

On 12 September 2023, the Resolution REU/3056/2023/ of September 5 was published in the *Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya* [Official Bulletin of the Government of Catalonia], whereby the grant rules governing Joan Oró funding to hire pre-doctoral research staff in training (FI) are approved.

Therefore,

It is hereby resolved:

Article 1

To open the call for the granting, on a competitive basis, of Joan Oró funding to hire pre-doctoral research staff in training (FI) for the year 2024 and to renew the funding granted in previous calls.

Article 2

2.1 This call is financed by the Direcció General de Recerca [General Directorate for Research] (DGR in its Catalan initials) and the Department of Research and Universities (REU in its initials in Catalan).

The overall amount is €20,622,825.00 (20,622,825.00 euros), which is charged to the items 409.0001, 440.0001, 442.0001, 443.0001, 448.0001, 449.0001 and 482.0001 of the AGAUR's budget for the year 2024.

2.2 The awarding of grants is contingent on the existence of sufficient funds at the time of the resolution to award the grant.

2.3 This maximum funding may be extended by up to 20% before the resolution to award funding is passed without the need to publish a new call.

2.4 The grant may be reduced in whole or in part before the definitive resolution is issued as a consequence of restrictions deriving from the fulfilment of budgetary stability objectives and financial sustainability.

2.5 Once this call has been resolved, if the maximum amount set forth in Article 2.1 has not been exhausted, or in the event that funds are left over deriving from waivers or revocations of the grants awarded, new allocations may finally be made to approved applications as a result of the filing of an administrative or contentious-administrative appeal, or to applications that have placed on a reserve list, provided those projects are completed by the deadlines set forth in the rules.

2.6 The contractual expenditure can be co-funded with the European Social Fund Plus program (ESF) 2021-2027, with a co-funding of 40%, except for the compensation costs upon termination of the contract due to expiry of the agreed time and those relating to the extensions of the periods of execution originating in the situations described in rule 5.3 of section II of the annex to the grant rules.

Article 3

The grants covered by this call are regulated by:

- a) Resolution Resolution REU/3056/2023/ of September 5 approving the grant rules of Joan Oró aid for the hiring of pre-doctoral research staff in training (FI).
- b) The regulatory standards of the European Social Fund Plus.
- c) 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.

Article 4

4.1 In accordance with the provisions of Rule 4.1 a) of section II of the annex to the grant rules, people may apply for a further granting of funds who, between 1 January 2021 and the start date of the contract subject to this grant, have met the admission requirements for doctorate-level courses of study in accordance with the provisions of Article 6 of Royal Decree 99/2011 of 28 January, regulating official doctorate-level education.

Those who met the aforementioned requirements between 1 January 2018 and the start date of the contract can also participate in the call if, after meeting these requirements, one of the following exceptions provided for in the grant rules applies to their situation:

- Having taken maternity or paternity leave.
- Having had dependant children under the age of six.

- Having persons with a physical, mental or sensory disability that were dependent on the beneficiary and required special care.
- Having suffered any serious illness or accident that required major surgery or treatment in a hospital and caused temporary incapacity for the person's usual occupation or activity for a minimum consecutive period of six months. Minor surgery, out-patient surgery and rehabilitation treatment performed outside the hospital system are excluded.
- They have suffered any of the situations provided for in article 1 of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on comprehensive protection measures against gender violence.
- They have recognised refugee status according to the Geneva Convention of 1951.

4.3 Candidates who have obtained, between 1 January 2021 and the date of incorporation, the official title of one of the specialities provided for in Royal Decree 183/2008, of February 8, which determines and classifies the specialities in health sciences and certain aspects of the specialized healthcare training system, may accede to this call with the same exceptions provided for in article 4.1 thereof.

4.2 In accordance with the provisions set forth in Rule 4.1 c) of section II of the annex to the grant rules, at the time of joining the affiliated entity, candidates must be enrolled on a doctorate-level course of study in a university of the university system of Catalonia for the 2023-2024 academic year.

Article 5

In accordance with the provisions of Rule 17.1 of section II of the annex to the grant rules, affiliated entities may apply for the renewal of funding assistance for hired researchers that meet the following requirements:

- a) Having been hired in the first or second grant year within the framework of the Joan Oró funding programme to hire research staff in training (FI) for the year 2023. On an exceptional basis, the beneficiary entities can also apply for the renewal of aid for the hiring of disabled people who have received the third or fourth annual aid within the framework of this call, up to a maximum of six one-year periods and in accordance with the provisions of rule 5.1 of section II of the annex to the grant rules.
- b) They are enrolled in a doctorate programme of a university of the university system in Catalonia in the academic year 2023-2024.

Article 6

6.1 In accordance with rule 6.1.a) of section II of the annex to the grant rules, the amounts of the aid modules for the hiring of research staff are as follows:

The annual module for years 1 and 2 of the grant amounts to €22,590.67 per researcher employed with a monthly module of €1,882.56 and a daily module of €61.89.

The annual module for the third year of the grant is €23,956.66 per researcher employed with a monthly module of €1,996.39 and a daily module of €65.63.

The annual module for fourth and fifth years of the grant is €29,493.97 per researcher employed with a monthly module of €2,457.83 and a daily module of €80.81. This module only applies to the hiring of people with disabilities, in accordance with the stipulations of rule 5.1 of section II of the annex to the grant rules.

6.2 In accordance with the provisions of rule 5.3 of section II of the annex to the grant rules, the amounts of aid related to the extensions of the periods of implementing the aid that have originated in previous annuities are calculated taking into account the amount of the extended annuity.

6.3 In accordance with rule 6.1.b) of section II of the annex to the grant rules, for contracts started after 7 September 2022, the aid for financing the costs of compensation for termination of the contract due to expiration of the agreed time is €1,818.39.

6.4 In view of the provisions of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March, approving the Statute of pre-doctorate level research staff in training and also their annual increase, the amounts of the aid modules set out above may be increased, before or after the resolution to grant the funding, in accordance with the update of the pay table set out in the single collective agreement of employees of the General State Administration and provided the budget permits.

These amounts may also be increased, provided that the budgetary availability of the call permits, in the event that there is an increase in the cost of the employer's social insurance contribution, especially in cases in which the minimum contribution bases increase.

Article 7

7.1 The period for submission of provisional applications for newly awarded grants will start on the day after the publication of this resolution in the DOGC and will end at 2:00 pm (Barcelona time) on 10 October 2023.

The period for institutions to confirm or reject the submission of provisional applications for newly awarded grants will be from 18 to 25 October 2023.

7.2 Affiliated entities must submit applications and renewal proposals for all grants in previous calls issued between 11 and 25 January 2024.

Article 8

The new concession contracts subject to this grant must start on 1 May 2024, at the latest. All contracts must commence on the first day of the month.

Article 9

The affiliated entities have until 10 January 2024 to directly feed prioritisation into the AGAUR computer system. Universities must also include in this prioritised list the applications received by their dependent entities, in accordance with Article 84 of Organic Law 6/2021 of 21 December on universities (LOU) and Articles 22 and 89 e) of Law 1/2003 of 19 February, the Universities of Catalonia Act (LUC).

Article 10

10.1 The competent body for the issuance and supervision of this call is the person designated by the AGAUR executive board.

10.2 The responsibility to grant the resolution is vested in the AGAUR's Board of Management and, by delegation, the Chair of the CEAR or the person occupying this position of Chair, according to the Resolution of the Board of Directors of 28 April 2022, (Resolution REU/1421/2022 of 10 May, DOGC no. 8668, of 16.5.2022).

10.3 The procedure of new grants from this funding is on the basis of competitive tender. The prioritisation criteria, in addition to the corresponding weightings, are included in rule 12 of section II of the annex to the grant rules.

10.4 The legally binding deadline to resolve this call is six months from the date of publication of this call in the DOGC. If this term elapses without an express resolution, the requested grant is deemed to have been tacitly rejected by the administration.

10.5 The resolution on the awarding of grants will be announced on the electronic noticeboard of the Public Administration of the Government of Catalonia. In order to publicise the above more widely and for informative purposes, the result of the resolution may be viewed on the AGAUR website.

10.6 Interested parties may, on an optional basis, file an appeal against the resolution to award grants, which exhausts the administrative channel, to the Chair of the CEAR within one month from the day after its publication on the electronic noticeboard of the Public Administration of the Government of Catalonia, or may directly file a contentious-administrative appeal to the contentious-administrative court of Barcelona, within two months from the day after its publication, in accordance with the provisions of Articles 123 and 124 of the Law 39/2015 of 1 October, on the common administrative procedure of public administrations, and Articles 8, 14 and 46 of the Law 29/1998 of 13 July, regulating the contentious-administrative jurisdiction.

Interested parties may lodge the following optional administrative reconsideration appeal, thereby exhausting all the administrative channels available, before the Chair of the CEAR 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 lodging an appeal in the administrative appellate 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, 13 September 2023

p.p. (Resolution REU/1421/2022 of 10 May 2022, published in the DOGC, No. 8668, of 16.5.2022)

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