

Call for applications for IN3-UOC grants for PhD theses 2006-2007 academic year

AIM OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

This call for applications aims to promote research training of 3rd-cycle students who wish to pursue research so they can prepare their PhD thesis.

The grants will be awarded in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Selection and Evaluation Committee for IN3-UOC Grants for PhD theses appointed by the university's Governing Council.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF GRANTS

The grants are awarded to applicants who are not receiving equivalent grants from any other public or private body. Grants will therefore only be awarded provisionally pending the result of any other grant applications which applicants may have made or may make.

Research trainees holding IN3-UOC grants may not have any contractual or statutory ties that might impinge on the exclusive nature of the research. However, IN3 Management may consider requests to carry out teaching activities (courses, conferences or papers) directly related to the research carried out by research trainees, providing this is occasional and not habitual in nature. These activities may not exceed 30 hours a year for 1st-stage research trainees and 60 hours a year for 2nd-stage research trainees. If this activity is carried out at the UOC, the research trainee carrying it out shall not receive any additional funding above and beyond the grant itself. If the activity is carried out outside the UOC, any additional funding may not exceed 30% of the total gross annual amount of the grant.

The maximum duration of the grants is four years, and grants must be renewed annually. Renewal will be dependent on the Evaluation Committee's assessment of aims and results achieved by the grant-holder.

Research trainees shall carry out their research activity at the IN3 building in Castelldefels.

Research trainees expressly authorise the UOC to make whatever use it judges appropriate (except publication) of any reports they present when applying for the grant or justifying the activity carried out, so that the UOC can take the necessary steps with those people and bodies who might provide full or partial finance for the grant in question. Nevertheless, in accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, which approved the Statute for Research Trainees, research trainees may exercise their intellectual-property rights arising from their own research training activity according to their contribution, in

accordance with the provisions of the adapted text of the Intellectual Property Act approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April 1996.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

In accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, which approved the Statute for Research Trainees, the programme of IN3-UOC grants for PhD theses comprises three stages:

First stage: this stage comprises two 12-month periods (September to August), during which research trainees will have the legal status of grant-holders. However, exceptionally for the 2006-2007 course, the grant will last 11 months (October to August).

Second stage: during this stage a 1-year work contract will be signed which will be renewed for an additional year if the grant is renewed.

Regardless of whatever phase of the grant the research trainee is at, the thesis reading automatically signifies the end of the grant, and therefore the end of the associated funding.

REQUIREMENTS

Applicants for these grants:

- Must meet at least one of the following admission requirements:
 - Have sufficient research experience or hold a Diploma of Advanced Studies
 - Hold any Bachelor's Degree in Advanced Engineering or Architecture with accreditation that research has been undertaken in a given area.
 - Have undertaken the research within one of the Master's Degrees in the Official Programme of the UOC's Postgraduate Degree in the Information and Knowledge Society (with a minimum of 300 ECTS in their studies as a whole)
 - Have: completed a minimum of 60 ECTS credits in official postgraduate programmes with two conditions: a) Have completed a minimum of 300 ECTS in their graduate and postgraduate studies as a whole and b) have completed an initial period of research with the corresponding accreditation from the head of the area in which the research was undertaken.

- Must, for the entire period of the grant, be matriculated in the UOC's PhD Programme
- Must not hold any other grants or similar funding awarded by any other public or private bodies.
- Must accept these terms and conditions in full.

RIGHTS OF RESEARCH TRAINEES

The following is in no way exhaustive and adheres strictly to the provisions of Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, which approved the Statute for Research Trainees. Grant-holders have the right to :

- Obtain the necessary backing from the FUOC to carry out their research activity.
- Form part of a UOC Research Group.
- Use the UOC / IN3 facilities and services and play a part in its activities as a whole, in accordance with internal regulations.
- Apply for IN3 funding.
- Exercise their intellectual-property rights arising from their own research training activity according to their contribution, in accordance with the provisions of the adapted text of the Intellectual Property Act approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April 1996.
- Receive the funding laid out in the section "Grant Amount and Form of Payment" in this call for applications.
- Recuperate, within budgetary constraints , the grant in the case of interruptions caused by force majeure.
- Be able to carry out collaborative teaching activities with prior authorisation from IN3 Management and in accordance with the requirements in this call for applications.
- In the case of interruptions due to pregnancy, adoption, or fostering (children aged under 6, either prior to adoption or permanently) enjoy the benefits legally established in these cases.
- During both the period of the interruption itself and the period of recuperation, 100% of funding for the corresponding grant will be maintained. The period of recuperation for the interruption may not exceed 16 weeks counting from the end of the four years of the grant, and only when the PhD thesis has not been read.

OBLIGATIONS OF RESEARCH TRAINEES

The following is in no way exhaustive and adheres strictly to the provisions of Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, which approved the Statute for Research Trainees. Grant-holders have the obligation to :

- Carry out the research activities in accordance with the criteria set by IN3 Management and the assigned research group coordinator / UOC researcher.
- Take part in general IN3 and UOC activities in the spirit of scientific collaboration.
- Take the necessary steps to request and obtain any grants or funding from the State or any other public or private body to which they are entitled due to their personal circumstances or the activity they are carrying out.
- Inform the IN3-UOC of any other grant or similar funding they obtain , as well as any interruption caused by force majeure.
- As advised by the UOC, accept any grants from other people or bodies to partially or totally substitute the grant awarded, providing such substitution does not economically disadvantage the research trainee.
- Inform of any interruption due to maternity, adoption or fostering of children aged under 6.
- Ensure the written product of the research includes the expression: "with the support of IN3-UOC"
- Accept any obligations arising from being registered for National Insurance contributions .
- Adhere to FUOC's internal regulations, especially the working conditions and health and safety at work regulations
- Adhere to the terms and conditions set out in this call for applications .

PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING APPLICATIONS

New applications should be made by grant applicants using the application form available from the IN3.

This form should be sent to the following address , with the envelope clearly stating the reference GRANTS:

Internet Interdisciplinary Institute
Av. Canal Olímpic, s/n
Parc Mediterrani de la Tecnologia
08860 Castelldefels (Barcelona)

SELECTION

The UOC appoints the Selection and Evaluation Committee for IN3-UOC research grants as the body responsible for assessing and selecting the candidates who have applied for these grants. Appointed by the Governing Council, this Committee will be solely responsible for deciding the awarding of grants, once its proposal has been approved by the Governing Council.

In making its evaluation of applications, the Committee will bear in mind the following criteria:

- Academic, research and professional merit demonstrated on applicants CVs.
- Aptitude and potential for carrying out the research
- Extent to which the candidates' research interests match the research interests of the group to which they have applied.
- Group work capacity.
- Level of English
- Scientific output of the research group / UOC researcher to which candidates have applied for a PhD place . Only scientific output contained in the IN3 Comprehensive Research Management Tool (GIR) will be considered.

The decision regarding the selection of candidates for a grant will be made public before 31 July every year. However, exceptionally for the 2006-2007 course, the decision will be made public from 1 October, after which formal acceptance of the grant on the part of applicants will take place using standard documentation.

GRANT AMOUNT AND FORM OF PAYMENT

During the first period of the grant (24 months) the grants will be €10,620 a year (amount corresponding to the 2006-2007 course) , which will be subject to corresponding tax deductions in accordance with current legislation. During this first stage, the grant will be paid in 12 monthly instalments by means of a bank transfer to an account specified by the research trainee.

In accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, which approved the Statute for Research Trainees, during the first two years (legal status as grant-holder) the research trainee will be registered for National Insurance contributions.

Any concession for a period of less than 12 months, or if the research trainee leaves before the end of the period, will lead to a proportional reduction in the annual amount of the grant.

During the second stage, a work contract will be drawn up (renewable for a further year) for €13,104 a year (amount corresponding to the 2006-2007 course) which will be subject to corresponding tax deductions in accordance with current legislation. Once research trainees have a contract, they will enjoy work and National Insurance rights arising from the contract

signed with the FUOC. The sum will be paid in 12 monthly instalments by means of a bank transfer to an account specified by the research trainee.

Both periods of the grant also include matriculation in the UOC PhD Programme.

RENEWAL

To renew the grant, the following should be presented before 15 July each year:

- Grant renewal application using the form available from the IN3.
- A report on the research carried out, the results obtained, and, if necessary, the teaching collaboration given.

Any additional requirements or criteria for renewing grants considered necessary by the Selection and Evaluation Committee for IN3-UOC grants will be duly communicated to the research trainees affected.

Before 31 July each year, the Selection and Evaluation Committee for IN3-UOC grants will decide which grants will be renewed. This decision will be duly communicated to all applicants.