

**Call for Grant Applications for doctoral theses in Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme; Society, Technology and Culture Doctoral Programme; Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme; Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme; Humanities and Communication Doctoral Programme, and Health and Psychology Doctoral programme – 2022-2023**

**Resolution of February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022 whereby the Vice President for Strategic Planning and Research invites applications for UOC grants to undertake doctoral theses in the Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme; Society, Technology and Culture Doctoral Programme; Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme; Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme; Humanities and Communication Doctoral Programme, and Health and Psychology Doctoral programme, within the framework of the Statute for Research Staff in Training.**

The Vice President for Strategic Planning and Research, in exercising her authority in terms of the training of researchers, hereby invites applications for UOC grants for doctoral theses in the Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme; Society, Technology and Culture Doctoral Programme; Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme; Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme; Humanities and Communication Doctoral Programme, and Health and Psychology Doctoral programme for research staff undertaking postdoctoral training, within the framework of the Law 14/2011 of 1 of June 2011, for Science, Technology and Innovation and the Supporting Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization approved by Law 14, of 27 September 2013.

This programme is funded by the Foundation of the Open University of Catalonia (FUOC).

**1. *Aim of the call for applications***

- I. In order to promote the training of researchers in the different research groups at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC), the UOC is awarding two [2] grants for postdoctoral research in the framework of the Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme, the Society, Technology and Culture Doctoral Programme, the Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme, the Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme, the Humanities and Communication Doctoral Programme, and the Health and Psychology Doctoral programme. The number of places will be determined by and subject to the UOC's budget.
- II. This call is made in accordance with the criteria set forth by the UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee for doctoral theses, appointed by the University's Governing Council.

**2. *Programme structure***

- I. The UOC grant programme for doctoral theses is regulated by Spanish Law 14/2013, of 27 September 2013, which approved the Supporting Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization, and Spanish Law 14/2011 of 1 June 2011, on Science, Technology and Innovation.

- II. In accordance with Article 21 of Spanish law 14/2011, UOC grant holders will sign a one-year postdoctoral contract. Renewal of this contract requires a favourable report from the programme's Academic Commission and the UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee, which assess the meeting of the training and research objectives agreed to by the grant holder in the period established.

### **3. Grant amount and form of payment**

- I. Being awarded a grant requires the signing of a one-year employment contract, for a gross annual amount of 17,000 euros, which will be taxed in accordance with the legislation in force. This amount will be paid in twelve [12] monthly payments via bank transfer to the account indicated by the trainee researcher.
- II. Grant holders with a postdoctoral contract will have all those employment and other rights relating to social security deriving from the contract signed with the UOC.
- III. All the beneficiaries must take into account that the month of **August shall not be counted considered to be outstanding**, and the evaluation process can takes two months to carry out.

### **4. Documentation to be presented**

- I. Candidates will need to complete a grant application form which, once signed, should be sent in digital format from the Virtual Campus, along with the documentation required for this grant which is given in detail within the Virtual Campus, *Procedures> UOC doctoral student grants> Renewal of the Grant from the third year to the fourth* . The deadline for applications is **February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022**.

### **5. Selection and Evaluation Committee**

- I. The UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee is the body responsible for evaluating and selecting candidates who have submitted applications for this Call, based on the proposals and prior appraisal of the Doctoral Programme Committee.

Each Doctoral Programme has its own Evaluation Committee, made up of experts from the specific area of the Programme.

Moreover, there is a General valuation Committee, which members are the directors of each Doctoral Program:

- Dr. David Masip Rodo
- Dr. Ferran Adelantado Freixer
- Dr. Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol
- Dr. Iolanda Garcia González
- Dr. Rubén Nieto Luna
- Dr. Joan Pujolar Cos

- II. The Committee will decide upon the awarding of grants at a single session, after their proposal has been approved by the Governing Council, in accordance with the selection criteria established in clause 7 of this call.
- III. The Committee may, if it deems it necessary, request the necessary information from the candidates to suggest, expand and / or modify the initial project proposal submitted.
- IV. The Committee reserves the right to declare the scholarships vacant and is competent to resolve any issue that is not expressly regulated in these rules.

## **6. Selection criteria**

- I. The specific evaluation criteria of this call are:
  - Respond to the call for applications and submit their plan for the fourth year.
  - Have published an article.
  - Defend their thesis before February 28th.
  - Be awarded the highest possible mark in the doctoral thesis evaluation.
  - Keep track of all their activities in a document so they can be evaluated.
  - Take part in the doctoral research seminar and, where applicable, in research groups' seminars.
  - Take part in the research workshops and other activities organized by the UOC for researchers to find out about relevant research and to integrate into the university community.
  - Receive a favourable report from the doctoral programme director and the research group director.
- II. In order to renew the grant for a fourth year you must fill in [this application form](#) (.doc, 68 kB) and then send it to us using the following [link](#).

## **7. Provisional selection of candidates**

- I. The provisional selection of the candidates approved for the grant will be published on [eTauler UOC's website](#) and on [UOC's Doctoral School](#) on **March 4th 2022**. Notification will be made by means of an email sent to the provisional selected candidate's address given in the application and publication of the provisional selection on the Programme website.

## **8. Appeals**

- I. All applicants will then have a period for appeals starting from March 5th, 2022 and **until March 15th 2022**.

Appeals should be sent to the UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee, as a formal letter, to the Procedures within the Virtual Campus.

- II. The UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee undertakes to decide on the appeals received and will be published on [eTauler UOC's website](#) and on [UOC's Doctoral School](#) the final selection of candidates to be awarded a grant for the Doctoral Programmes before **March 16th 2022**.

### **9. Final selection of candidates**

- I. The beneficiaries must formally accept the grant within a maximum period of ten [10] days after the final decision by signing a standardized document and submitting the corresponding documentation.
- II. Any beneficiary who does not submit the acceptance of the document mentioned above within the period stated in the previous paragraph will be considered to have waived the grant.
- III. In the event of the resignation of any of the beneficiaries, the place will be awarded in descending order to the person who has obtained the highest score and who is on the waiting list, until 15 April 2022.

### **10. Terms and Conditions of Grants**

- I. The management of UOC and the doctoral programme may consider requests to carry out teaching activities (giving courses, presentations, speeches, etc.), collaboration in R+D+I work or contracted R+D+I work that is directly related to the training and research undertaken by the research intern, so long as these are occasional and not regular activities. These activities may not take up more than 100 hours per year.
- II. If the research intern receives remuneration from any of the activities mentioned above, this may not exceed 30% of the gross annual sum of the grant.
- III. If the teaching activity takes place at the UOC, the research interns will not receive any additional remuneration to the amount paid by means of the grant.
- IV. The length of the contract will be extended to cover any period of temporary incapacity, risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding, maternity, paternity, adoption or foster care. The same is true for any other situation covered by law.
- V. Research staff in training will develop their research activities on the Doctoral School premises, wherever these may be. The post-doctoral contract for the Doctoral Programmes –it is, the grant–, will begin April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 and in accordance with the provisions of clause 3 of this call The research interns should have to join up the University centre by April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022. The start date for non-Spanish students depends on when they receive the permits and documents required to sign the contract.
- VI. The research intern expressly authorises the UOC to make whatever use it deems appropriate of the findings and reports submitted for the grant application or to justify the work carried out (except their publication) to undertake whatever proceedings may be necessary with the individuals or institutions that may be partially or fully funding the grant awarded.
- VII. However, in accordance with Law 14, of 27 September 2013, approving the Supporting Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization, they may exercise the intellectual property rights deriving from their own research training activities, depending on their contribution, as established in the revised text of the Intellectual Property Act, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April 1996.

## **11. Rights of research trainees**

Without being exhaustive in nature anyone receiving a grant has the right to:

- Obtain the necessary support from the UOC to carry out their research activities.
- Use the services of the UOC and take part in their activities as a whole in accordance with internal regulations.
- Participate in UOC calls for applications for grants.
- Exercise the intellectual property rights deriving from their own research training activities, depending on their contribution, as established by the revised text of the Intellectual Property Act approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April 1996, and the UOC's internal Intellectual Property regulations
- Receive the funding described in the in clause three [3] "Grant amount and form of payment" of this call.
- If budgetary provisions allow, recover the grant in the event of interruptions caused by force majeure.
- Carry out teaching activities, collaborate in R+D+I work or undertake contracted R+D+I work subject to the prior authorisation of the management of the doctoral programme and in accordance with the requirements set out in this document, and in the current internal intellectual property regulations.
- Make research visits to other centres. In each case, the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme will decide on whether these visits are appropriate and whether this will involve temporarily suspending the grant and hence stopping payments.
- The length of the contract will be extended to cover any period of temporary incapacity; high risk pregnancy; maternity, adoption or foster care; risk during breastfeeding or paternity.
- Full payment of the corresponding grant will be maintained during both the interruption and the recovery period. The extension period will correspond to the amount of time of the interruption.

## **12. Obligations of research trainees**

Without being exhaustive in nature, and in all cases in line with the provisions of Spanish Law 14, of 27 September 2013, approving the Supporting Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization, grant beneficiaries have the obligation to:

- Carry out the research work in accordance with the criteria established by the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme and the Research Group Coordinator from the UOC assigned to the programme.
- Carry out regular research at the Doctoral School facilities without prejudice to any temporary stents that may be necessary during the course of this activity in other higher educational centres or research centres and any travel undertaken for fieldwork and to disseminate the research work.
- In any written documents deriving from the research work undertaken, state their affiliation to the University with the expression "With the support of a doctoral grant from the UOC".
- Attend and participate in the doctoral and group research seminars, and attend and take advantage of the research seminars, workshops and other activities organised by the UOC for research personnel, as well as any initiatives organised or facilitated by the UOC to enhance their training or to promote their integration in the university community and the host country.

- Integrate in the scientific community of the Doctoral School in particular and the UOC community in general in the spirit of scientific collaboration.
- Notify the UOC in writing if any other grant or similar subsidy is awarded or there is any interruption to the grant period due to force majeure.
- Accept the grants that the UOC may obtain from other individuals or organisations to partially or fully offset the grant, so long as this substitution does not involve the research intern having to accept lower remuneration.
- Request permission through the means established for this from the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme to undertake research stints at other centres.
- Notify the management of maternity, paternity, leave to adopt or foster children or any disability leave.
- Accept any obligations incumbent upon him/her as a result of being covered by the Social Security system.
- Abide by the internal regulations of the UOC, especially employment conditions and health and safety regulations.
- Adopt an attitude and conduct commensurate with the values of a culture of peace and democracy.
- Respect the ethical implications of the research activity being carried out.
- Comply with the objectives and requirements for remaining on the doctoral programme, established in accordance with the applicable academic regulations.
- Comply with the regulations governing the rights and obligations of students at the UOC, the Charter of Commitments for accessing and using the virtual campus, the rules governing the organisation and operation of the UOC, and the rights and obligations in the Charter of Commitments for doctoral students, all of which have been established in accordance with the applicable academic laws.
- UOC Grantholders will be located in one of UOC's buildings in Barcelona or Castelldefels.
- Non-EU foreigners who want to travel or carry out a research stay in which they must remain outside the country for more than 6 months, must previously contact Personnel at [persones@uoc.edu](mailto:persones@uoc.edu) to receive information and support on the procedure and the necessary documentation.
- Must enjoy their holidays during the natural year, as the UOC labour personnel. If they don't apply for their holidays, these days will be lost and irrecoverable. Neither will be paid in the final payslip.  
The holidays must be accepted by the Doctoral School Direction before enjoy them and must be applied through the Endalia tool.
- Adhere to the conditions and obligations set forth in this document, all applicable internal regulations

Should any of these obligations not be fulfilled, the UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will have the right to revoke the grant.

### **13. Data protection**

In compliment of the Spanish Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, of protection of personal data and guarantee of digital rights and of Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Conseil, of 27 April, in relation to the protection of physical persons from the personal data tractament and the circulation of these data (hereinafter "RGPD"), informs the participating persons of the following aspects.

#### **Responsible of the treatment:**

Fundació per a Universitat Oberta de Catalunya

Avinguda del Tibidabo, 39-43, Barcelona  
National tax ID number (NIF) G60667813

In the case of having qualified questions about the handling of personal information, you can contact the Data Protection Officer through the electronic mail [dpd@uoc.edu](mailto:dpd@uoc.edu).

**Purpose of the treatment:**

Your personal data will be processed with the aim of organize, manage and resolve the present Call for Grant Applications for doctoral theses in Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme; Society, Technology and Culture Doctoral Programme;, Network and Information Technologies Doctoral Programme;, Education and ICT (e-learning) Doctoral Programme;, Humanities and Communication Doctoral Programme, and Health and Psychology Doctoral programme, (hereinafter "the Activity").

Carry out an assessment and a follow-up of the activity through statistics and inquiries of satisfaction related to this activity.

Publish the names and surnames of the people benefiting from the Activity on [eTauler UOC's website](#).

**Legitimation:**

The management of the scholarship, and the publication of the beneficiary persons is based on the execution of the contract (the bases of the call for the Activity).

Legitimate interest in the evaluation and the follow-up of the activity through statistics inquiries of satisfaction related to this activity.

**Conservation terms:**

The personal data will be kept during the time that the present call was carried out, at the end of the indicated period, the UOC will keep the personal data blocked during the period necessary to donate compliment to the legal obligations that could generate legal responsibilities regarding the indicated finalities. When you expire the responsibilities, the personal data will be permanently eliminated.

**Recipients:**

If necessary, the UOC will disclose the personal data you send us through this form to other third parties in order to comply with any corresponding legal obligations.

Likewise, the data provided may be transferred if this is expressly established in the rules of participation for the Activity.

The UOC has several providers that assist it in carrying out different tasks related to the processing of personal data.

**Rights of interested parties:**

You have the following data protection rights:

<b>RIGHT</b>	<b>That is?</b>
Right of access	Check what personal data you have.
Right of rectification	Modify personal data held when inaccurate.
Right of opposition	Request that personal data not be processed for some specific purposes or not be subject to automated individual decision making, including profiling.
Right of suppression	Request that personal data be deleted.
Right of limitation	Request that the processing of personal data be limited.
Right of portability	Request that the information available be delivered to them in a computer format.
Right to lodge a complaint with the competent authority	File a claim. Without prejudice to the exercise of their rights before the controller, at any time they may lodge a complaint with the competent authority to defend their rights through the website <a href="http://www.aepd.es">www.aepd.es</a> .

To exercise such rights, send an email to [fuoc\\_pd@uoc.edu](mailto:fuoc_pd@uoc.edu), with the reference "Data Protection". The application shall contain a copy of your identificative document, as well as minimum content provided for in the applicable regulations. If the application does not meet the specified requirements, you may be required to amend it. The exercise of these rights is free, although a fee may be charged when applications are unfounded, excessive or repetitive.

**14. Request solving**

The UOC makes available to participants in this call an e-mail box for inquiries regarding the conditions of participation, the deadlines, and, in general, all the aspects regulated in these rules [phd\\_school@uoc.edu](mailto:phd_school@uoc.edu)

**15. Jurisdiction**

These bases are governed by the laws of the Spanish State.

Any dispute or litigation arising from these rules and the grants awarded will be submitted to the courts and tribunals of the city of Barcelona. Applicants and beneficiaries waive any other jurisdiction that may apply to them.



Barcelona, January 24, 2022

Vice President for Strategic Planning and Research  
Signed: Marta Aymerich Martínez