

## **2025 call for postdoctoral research stays at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya's research centres and faculties**

At its meeting of 31 October 2024, the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee of the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (hereinafter the "UOC") agreed to hold a call for postdoctoral research stays for the year 2025 in accordance with the following clauses:

- i. The aim of the UOC's 2025 postdoctoral research stay programme is to recruit new postdoctoral research staff within the UOC's research groups. With the new staff, it would be possible to increase the number of members of the UOC's research groups and improve the quality of the R&I that these groups perform. The UOC is interested in candidates who can contribute to diversity and fair opportunities in higher education through their research.
- ii. This programme supplements the UOC's doctoral thesis grant programmes. In addition, it joins other predoctoral stay programmes and contracts and doctoral research staff access contracts, such as those awarded by the Ministry and the Government of Catalonia, with the added value provided by the fact that its design takes into account the diversity and potential of the UOC's various research groups.
- iii. The grants are distributed in accordance with certain indicators that show the dimensions and productivities of the UOC's different areas.
- iv. The programme is implemented by means of a single annual call.
- v. Within the framework of the European Commission's HR Excellence in Research programme, the UOC applies a policy of [Open, Transparent and Merit-based Recruitment of Researchers \(OTM-R\)](#). The general goal of the UOC's selection policy is to guarantee the best match between the person and the vacancy to be filled.
- vi. This programme is funded by the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (FUOC).

### **1. Purpose of the call**

The aim of this call is to encourage postdoctoral teaching and research staff to carry out stays in the research groups of the UOC's faculties and research centres.

A total of five [5] placements in the Standard and Interdisciplinary options are offered in this call. A specific number of placements is not reserved for either one of the two options. However, the best candidate for the Interdisciplinary option who has at least eighty [80] points will be guaranteed a placement in that option, and the other four [4] placements will be awarded based on the score obtained in their assessment, regardless of the option.

**A) Standard:** it allows researchers to join a research group attached to the UOC's faculties or research centres for a maximum period of three [3] years. The UOC's faculties and research centres are listed in Appendix I to this call.

**B) Interdisciplinary:** it allows researchers to join one or more research groups attached to the UOC's faculties or research centres for a maximum period of three [3] years. For the purposes of this call, a research project is deemed to be interdisciplinary when it integrates knowledge and methods from different disciplines through a synthesis (combination) of approaches. A research project is not interdisciplinary but multidisciplinary when researchers from different disciplines bring their disciplinary knowledge to the project but without combining methods and approaches.

No candidate can apply for both options of this call; they must expressly state on the application which of the two [2] options they are applying for. Those candidates who opt for both will be automatically excluded from this call.

This call for postdoctoral research stays and the annual renewals of the grants are conditional on the existence of sufficient budget availability during all three [3] years.

The different rules of this call are applicable interchangeably to both of the options described above, unless expressly stated otherwise or indicated by the context.

## 2. Programme structure

The postdoctoral research stay programme is based on Spain's Law 14/2011 of 1 June on science, technology and innovation, as amended by Law 17/2022 of 5 September.

Under Article 22 of Law 14/2011, the beneficiaries of the programme must enter into a three [3] year doctoral research staff access contract giving them access to the Spanish science, technology and innovation system.

The UOC's Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee will assess on an annual basis and within the specified time whether the research goals undertaken by the beneficiary have been attained.

The award of the stay and the performance of the contract do not give rise to any obligation by the university to subsequently hire the beneficiary as a member of the UOC's teaching and research staff.

## 3. Nature and terms of the grants

Beneficiaries of postdoctoral research stays must carry out one hundred [100] hours of teaching per year. Their teaching must be approved by the relevant faculty within their field of expertise. Beneficiaries will not receive any payment for teaching at the UOC other than the remuneration envisaged in the doctoral research staff access contract to which the grant relates.

The research staff employed by the UOC under a doctoral research staff access contract are expected to work full-time. As a result, the appointment is incompatible with any contractual or statutory relationships that may prevent their full-time dedication to research. However, the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee may consider the beneficiary's requests to carry out collaborative or contract R&I activities that are directly related to the research activity carried out by them.

In the event that the teaching activities and the collaborative and contract R&I activities are remunerated, such remuneration may not exceed, in total, thirty per cent [30%] of the annual gross salary of the contract.

Once they have been validated by the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee, teaching support activities with other institutions must be requested through the professional activity reporting and authorization procedure by submitting the appropriate authorization application.

Candidates applying for the Standard option must **join a research group** in one of the faculties or research centres listed in Appendix I and **identify one or two mentors in the faculty or research centre** (two in the case of postdoctoral placements with more than one supervisor), who must undertake to support the project submitted and provide the necessary resources to carry it out. In addition, this mentor must identify themselves in connection with **the project in which the stay will be carried out**. Candidates applying for the **Interdisciplinary option must identify two mentors** specializing in different fields or areas of knowledge (see Section Four [4] of this call). In any case, a mentor may only tutor one postdoctoral researcher (or two in the case of postdoctoral placements with more than one supervisor) during the course of the mentoring. This means that two postdoctoral researchers may not be tutored at the same time (although it should be noted that, in postdoctoral placements with more than one supervisor, each postdoctoral researcher counts as half a person).

The postdoctoral research staff will carry out the research activity at the UOC building allocated to R&I activities or together with the person directly in charge of the group or faculty and with the telework system that may be agreed in accordance with the UOC's regulations and new way of working.

Working hours are full-time, with an average of 38.5 hours a week over the year, in accordance with Articles 14 to 16 of the collective agreement of the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

The doctoral research staff access contract will begin on **1 June 2025**. Beneficiaries who are unable to join on 1 June 2025, as well as nationals from non-EU countries who are yet to obtain a residence and work permit, may join the UOC no later than 15 December 2025. In exceptional cases, and subject to the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee's prior authorization, requests to join after 15 December 2025 may be considered.

The UOC reserves the right to allocate the selected candidate's placement to candidates on the reserve list if the selected candidate is unable to join the centre within the period stated in the previous paragraph.

Beneficiaries who already have a residence and work permit at the time of award of the postdoctoral stay must contact the Personnel department at [persones@uoc.edu](mailto:persones@uoc.edu) within ten [10] working days after the decision, with "**Postdoctoral stay documentation**" as the subject and attaching a copy of their doctoral degree certificate, their certificate of municipal registration in Spain, their ID card (DNI) or foreigner identity number (NIE), their social security number and their Spanish bank account details. They must also provide an employment history report or a signed declaration if they have previously worked under a doctoral research staff access contract, stating the contract's start and end dates and the total number of months of duration.

Candidates who do not yet have a residence and work permit must send the same documents as above as soon as they have them, except their employment history report or signed declaration, provided they have not previously resided legally in Spain.

Grant beneficiaries expressly authorize the UOC to make such use that it considers appropriate of the reports submitted when applying for the grant or justifying the work performed – excluding publication from such use – in order to perform such procedures as may be appropriate with people or organizations that may finance all or part of the grant awarded.

#### 4. Application conditions

The people eligible for this programme include research staff who obtained their doctoral degree after 1 January 2018 and before the end of the application period, or after 1 January 2016 if the beneficiary can prove, before the end of the period for accepting the grant, that after this date they were on maternity leave or looking after children aged under six or people suffering from a physical, mental or sensory disability or people over 65 who depended on the candidate and needed special care.

People who received their doctoral degree at the UOC are also eligible for a grant if they meet the conditions set forth above and can prove that they have carried out a postdoctoral stay at other universities or research centres for at least two [2] years.

Those who have been in the UOC's employ under an employment contract or pursuant to a business relationship at any time in the two years immediately prior to the date of publication of this call will not be eligible in any event. Those who have been awarded a doctoral research staff access contract at the UOC in previous calls are not eligible under the call either.

The candidates for the Interdisciplinary postdoctoral placement will have to prove the proposal's interdisciplinarity in the project report, taking into account the definition described in this call's first section. They must also submit two letters of support from two [2] mentors from different disciplines at the UOC (see Appendix II for a list of the areas).

In order to be awarded a grant under the Interdisciplinary option, candidates must obtain a **minimum of two [2] points** between the following criteria (with at least one point being obtained under the first criterion):

● Interdisciplinarity of the project/proposal (0-2 points, **minimum 1 point**):

Area or areas and fields to which the project or proposal submitted belongs (according to the list provided, which corresponds to the AQU's (Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency) accreditation areas and fields set forth in Appendix II to these rules).

One [1] point is awarded if the project or proposal is associated with two [2] different fields within the same area; two [2] points in the case of two [2] fields in two [2] different areas, and no points otherwise.

If a research project can be classified in more than two [2] fields or areas, the score will be limited to the maximum that can be obtained for two [2] fields or two [2] areas.

● Interdisciplinarity of the research groups to which the mentors belong (0-2 points):

One [1] point is awarded if the mentors involved belong to two [2] different research groups. A further half point will be given if the two [2] groups are from different fields and another half point if the two [2] groups are from different areas.

Candidates who have applied for this Interdisciplinary postdoctoral stay option and have not obtained the minimum of two [2] points that accredits their project's interdisciplinarity will be automatically excluded from this call.

## 5. Documentation to be submitted

The period for submitting applications and the required documentation runs from 12 November to 15 December 2024.

Applicants must fill in the application form, sign it and send it in digital format to [internal\\_grants\\_ri@uoc.edu](mailto:internal_grants_ri@uoc.edu), with "SOL\_POSTDOC\_2025 - CandidateName" as the subject. The following documents must be attached to the application in electronic format:

- ID card (DNI) or passport.
- CV.
- A summary of the candidate's international research experience in the last five [5] years. Use the attached template (*Scientific\_Ach*).

- A summary of the candidate's most significant scientific contributions (maximum of five [5]) and main scientific achievements (maximum of four [4]). Use the attached template (*Scientific\_Ach*) or, for scientific output, follow the text format set forth in Appendix III to this document.
- A copy of the official doctoral degree certificate.
- A brief report outlining the proposed project.
- The UOC mentor's justification of the fit of the candidate and their project with the corresponding research group.
- A letter of acceptance by a research group affiliated with one of the faculties or research centres listed in Appendix I, identifying the member of the university's teaching and research staff who is responsible for the stay. Applications for the Interdisciplinary postdoctoral placement must be accompanied by two letters of acceptance, one from each mentor, each from a different discipline, in order to certify the interdisciplinarity of the proposed project (see Section 4 of this call).
- Letter of reference.
- Candidates who have previously worked under a contract governed by Spanish law must also provide an employment history report or a signed declaration if they have previously worked under a doctoral research staff access contract, stating the contract start and end dates and the total number of months of duration.

The application is considered completed once the message confirming receipt of the application has been received.

## **6. Selection processes**

The Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee will assess the applications in accordance with the criteria described in this clause and the detailed provisions of the rubric attached as Appendix IV to these rules, of which it forms an integral part.

The criteria expressly described in these rules will be the only aspects taken into account when assessing candidates. No requirements and/or circumstances that have not been expressly envisaged will be assessed or may be used as grounds for an appeal.

No other personal or individual circumstances applicable to candidates may be taken into account in the assessment or used as grounds for an appeal against provisional awards, decisions and/or assessments made by the Committee.

Any applications that are not submitted within the stipulated periods or do not comply with the requirements established in these rules will be automatically excluded. Incomplete applications or additional documentation and/or information submitted after the end of the application period established in these rules will not be accepted in any event.

Only applications submitted in due time and form may be assessed. Incomplete applications cannot be admitted or assessed, and no additional items or changes will be accepted after the end of the submission period.

The application assessment criteria are as follows:

### **1. Standard:**

A) A maximum of fifty-five **[55] points** based on the applicant's exposure to international research and their scientific output and scientific achievements. This maximum of fifty-five [55] points is distributed as follows:

- Up to a maximum of ten **[10] points** based on the applicant's **exposure to international research at the postdoctoral level** (stays or contracts in a country other than the one in which they carried out their doctoral studies) **in the last five [5] years**. One [1] point will be awarded for each month of international exposure in a research centre, up to a maximum of 10 points, provided that the objectives, tasks performed, consistency of each centre in relation to the research project carried out, and the results of the stay for the candidate's research career, are duly justified in their CV. A candidate who has had [10] months of international exposure may thus obtain the maximum score. The number of months of stays or duration of different contracts can be added together to obtain the maximum score. The months of international exposure, stays or duration of the contracts must be stated for this purpose, with a description in each case of the aims, tasks performed and alignment with the research project and results.

Applicants who can prove that they have been affected by **circumstances that have prevented them from carrying out international research stays** may provide details of long-term collaboration with international research groups and networks, and this will be taken into account based on similar quality indicators to those applicable to stays. Applicants with a duly recognized degree of disability of 33% or more or lasting for a long time may request an exemption from this requirement provided they can give reliable evidence of the illness or the leave of absence to care for children, family members or dependants.

- Up to a maximum of fifteen **[15] points** for **scientific output**. This section aims to offer candidates a place to qualitatively describe their most significant scientific output. The candidate must list their publications or set of publications and briefly

explain their scientific contribution. Paper citations or other metrics can be given, but they are not indispensable. Appendix III contains an example of how to organize and focus this section.

The candidate's publications will be considered in the assessment if they appear as the first or second author, corresponding author or last author.

This section will be assessed in accordance with the criteria established in the rubric (see Appendix IV).

- Up to a maximum of thirty **[30] points** for the four **[4] scientific accomplishments** submitted by the candidate. They will need to describe these accomplishments in a brief, qualitative manner, emphasizing their significance for their career and their **scientific and/or social impact and in terms of open science (if this criterion applies)**, as well as their alignment with the project being submitted to the UOC. Accomplishments may include, among others, preprints, publications, training imparted, contributions to consortia, scientific dissemination, patents, key databases, software, standardization tasks, white papers or work in industry or other sectors. The metrics of their publications are not essential and must be used appropriately. There is no need to state either the impact factor (JIF) or the h-index. Publications already mentioned by the candidate in the previous section (scientific output) can be included. We take a broad view of the social impact of research that includes any contribution by research to society, including relationships with the economic and industrial sector, knowledge transfer and co-creation of knowledge with civil society organizations and other actors in society or collaboration with the public sector and other stakeholders. Any positive feedback from different stakeholders on the research carried out, its influence on public policies, the participation of patients or other groups affected by research in the knowledge creation processes, as well as the dissemination and communication of research results, will be valued positively.

These scientific accomplishments will be assessed according to the criteria established in the rubric (see Appendix IV).

B) Up to a maximum of **thirty-five [35] points**, in accordance with the rating of the project report and the extent to which it fits in with the research group and the UOC, distributed as follows:

- Up to a maximum of **thirty [30] points** based on the scientific and technical quality of the proposal and its alignment with the university's strategic lines of research, which are those that focus especially on the interaction between technology and human and



social sciences in general, as well as on the network society, e-learning and e-health. Proposals must be addressed to one of the university's research groups. The criteria and yardsticks established in the rubric (see Appendix IV) will be taken into account when assessing the scientific and technical quality of the proposal.

- Up to a maximum of **five [5] points** based on the candidate's fit (and that of their project) with the research group and the complementarity or scientific potential there may be between the postdoctoral candidate, the research group and the university.

C) Up to **ten [10] points** will correspond to the merits of the mentor of the host research group. The assessment of these merits will exclusively take into account **the information in GIR about the mentor at the end of the application submission period**. Merits not correctly included in GIR will not be considered. The 10 points will be distributed as follows:

- **Five [5] points** if the mentor has supervised at least one [1] doctoral thesis defended in the last five [5] years.
- **Five [5] points** for obtaining resources in **competitive calls for funding**. Only those UOC or co-led projects in which the mentor is or has acted as principal investigator of the competitive project in the last five [5] years will be considered. Five [5] points will be awarded if the mentor has been the PI of a competitive project in the last five [5] years.

## **2. Interdisciplinary**

For Interdisciplinary postdoctoral stays, the final score will be calculated as follows:

- 70% based on the criteria set forth in this section of the call. This is the score that will be considered when establishing the minimum threshold of 80 points stipulated in Section 4 of this call.
- 30% based on the assessment criteria for establishing the proposal's interdisciplinary nature as specified in Section 4 of this call.

The Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee will draw up a single list, sorted according to the scores obtained, including both the applications for the Standard option and those for the Interdisciplinary option. Notwithstanding this, one of the five placements of the

call will be reserved for the best candidate in the Interdisciplinary option, provided that they score over 80 points.

### **3. Tie-breaker for applications under the Standard and Interdisciplinary options**

In the event of a tie in the scores obtained for both the Standard and Interdisciplinary options, the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee must apply the following prioritization criteria:

1. External fundraising in the previous year according to the project PI or the candidate's mentor(s) (according to GIR data).
2. Percentage of articles published by the candidate's mentor(s) in open access in the previous year.

### **7. Provisional award and appeal period**

1. Once the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee has assessed and sorted the applications in descending order, the UOC's Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship, or any other person that may replace them, will issue a provisional award. This will include a list of the five [5] successful candidates, as well as a list, in strict order, of the candidates that will replace them if for any reason the original awardees reject or renounce the grant.
2. The provisional decision will include the total score obtained by the successful candidates and by those included in the list of replacement candidates mentioned above, with a breakdown of the total score obtained under each of the assessment criteria envisaged in these rules.
3. The provisional decision will be published on the UOC's e-Noticeboard and research website **from 4 March 2025**.
4. Selected candidates, as well as other interested parties, will have three [3] working days from the date of publication of the provisional decision to renounce the grant awarded or submit any appeals they consider appropriate by writing to [internal\\_grants\\_ri@uoc.edu](mailto:internal_grants_ri@uoc.edu).

## 8. Final award

1. Prior to the publication of the final decision, the UOC reserves the right to interview the people who have been provisionally awarded the grant, in order to verify their effective compliance with the requirements and conditions established in this call.
2. The UOC's Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship, or any other person that may replace them, will issue the final award, which will include the candidates who are finally awarded a grant, once the UOC's Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee has resolved any appeals made against the provisional award.
3. The final award of the grants will be published on the UOC's e-Noticeboard and the research website **from 17 March 2025**.
4. The candidates who are finally awarded a grant will have ten [10] working days from the date of publication of the final award to formally accept the grant by submitting the standard form attached hereto as Appendix V and the appropriate documentation listed in Clause Twelve [12] of these rules.
5. If the grant is not formally accepted within the time stated above, the candidate will be deemed to have renounced it.

## 9. Calculation of time periods

When periods or deadlines are expressed in days, these are business days. They do not include Saturdays, Sundays, public holidays or the month of August.

Periods and deadlines expressed in days must be calculated from the day following the date upon which the notification or publication in question is made.

When the final day is not a working day, it shall be deemed extended until the next working day.

## 10. Endowment and form of payment

Beneficiaries must enter into a three [3] year doctoral research staff access contract for up to thirty-two thousand two hundred and thirty-six euros and twenty cents [€32,236.20] gross per year, subject to the withholdings required by the current legislation.

Beneficiaries are entitled to the labour and social security rights arising from the contract to be concluded by them with the FUOC.

## 11. Formalizing the contract

In order to conclude the contract, beneficiaries must provide the following documents to the UOC's Personnel department at least ten [10] working days before their planned joining date:

- A copy of the national identity document (DNI)/foreigner identification number (NIE).
- A photocopy of the official doctoral degree certificate.
- A photocopy of the Social Security number (if the beneficiary does not have this number, it can be requested at any branch of the Social Security General Treasury).
- Certificate of municipal registration in Spain.
- Employment history report or a signed declaration if they have previously worked under a doctoral research staff access contract, stating its start and end dates and the total number of months of duration.
- The beneficiary's bank details.
- In the case of non-EU foreigners, the work permit that authorizes contracting for work. Those who do not have this document can contact the Personnel department at [ngarciapal@uoc.edu](mailto:ngarciapal@uoc.edu) to receive information and support on the procedure and the necessary documents.

## 12. Rights of contracted research staff

Contracted research staff have the following rights:

- Obtain the necessary support from the UOC to develop the research activity.
- Use the UOC's services and take part in the activities that are organized in accordance with the internal regulations.
- Take part in the UOC's internal grant calls.
- Receive the grant described in the "Endowment and form of payment" section of this call.
- Provided that budget availability allows, resume the contract's term in the cases of suspensions caused by force majeure.
- Perform teaching support activities, collaborative R&I activities or contract R&I activities, with the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee's prior authorization and in accordance with the requirements set forth in this call.
- Perform research stays in other centres. The Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee will decide on the desirability of the stays in each case and whether

or not they will require a temporary suspension of the contract, with the corresponding suspension of pay.

In accordance with Article 22 of Law 14/2011 of 1 June on science, technology and innovation, situations of temporary disability and periods of full-time leave for pregnancy, risk during pregnancy and breastfeeding, childbirth and childcare, adoption, custody for the purpose of adoption or foster care, or breastfeeding time accumulated into full days, or for similar situations related to the above, as well as periods of full-time leave for reasons of work-life balance or to care for a child, relative or dependant, and time spent on leave to care for a child or family member during the term of the contract, shall stop time running for the purpose of the calculation of the contract.

Periods of part-time leave for childbirth and childcare, adoption, custody for the purpose of adoption or foster care, and the reduction of working hours for breastfeeding, birth of a premature child or a child who is hospitalized after birth, legal guardianship, care of children with cancer or other serious illness, of family members who have suffered an accident or have a serious illness, or of dependants, or due to gender-based violence, or reductions in working hours for similar situations related to the above, as well as for reasons of work-life balance or to care for a child, family member or dependant, during the term of the contract, shall cause the contract to be extended for an equivalent amount of time to the reduction in working hours.

In all these cases, the term of the contract must be extended by an amount of time equal to the sum of the suspended periods.

### **13. Duties of contracted research staff**

Contracted research staff have the following duties:

- If applicable and depending on their nationality, apply for the appropriate permits that will enable their recruitment and employment in the terms set forth in current legislation and the timeline outlined in Section 3 of this call.
- Perform the research activities in accordance with the criteria established by the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee and the researcher or coordinator of the UOC research group to which they are affiliated.
- Carry out the teaching activities that may be decided for up to 100 hours per year.
- Perform the habitual research activity at the UOC's research centre, without prejudice to temporary stays that, as required for performance of this activity, may be performed at other higher education institutions or research centres, and the trips that may be made for field work or to disseminate the research project.
- Include in any written output derived from the project the person's affiliation with the university and the statement "With the support of a UOC postdoctoral stay".

- Attend and take part in the research seminars, workshops and other activities organized by the UOC for research staff, and also in the initiatives organized or provided by the UOC to improve the level of training or to foster integration in the university community and the host country.
- Integrate in the UOC's scientific community, in general, and take part in it with a spirit of scientific collaboration.
- Notify the UOC of any other similar grant or support received and any suspension caused by force majeure.
- Accept the grants that may be obtained by the UOC from other individuals or organizations to replace all or part of the grant awarded, provided that such replacement is not to the beneficiary's financial disadvantage.
- Ask the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee for approval to perform research stays in other centres.
- Include information on the scientific activity in GIR and deposit the results of the activity in the UOC's O2 Repository (for publications) and in CORA.RDR (for data) in accordance with the UOC's Open Knowledge Policy.
- Have an ORCID (open researcher and contributor ID) number.
- Report suspensions due to maternity, adoption or foster care of children under six [6] years of age, as well as other situations arising during the term of the contract that may result in its extension for an equivalent time as provided by law.
- Accept the obligations arising from inclusion in the general Social Security scheme.
- Abide by the UOC's by-laws, in particular those concerning work conditions and occupational health and safety.
- Show attitudes and conducts that are consistent with the values of a culture that fosters peace and democratic values.
- Take into account the ethical implications of the research activity performed.
- Comply with all applicable regulations, protocols and internal regulations.
- Abide by the conditions and obligations set forth in this call.

#### **14. Grounds for withdrawal of the grant**

Grants awarded under this call may be withdrawn in any of the following cases:

- a) If the grant was obtained by falsely pretending that the candidate complied with the required conditions and/or the requirements to take part in the call or by concealing any matters that would have made the candidate ineligible.
- b) In the event of a conflict of interest, or if one or more of the requirements for the award of the grant ceased to be met.

- c) Due to full or partial nonfulfillment or defective fulfilment of the research activity commissioned by the researcher or coordinator of the UOC research group to which they are affiliated.
- d) Due to other circumstances adversely affecting the ability to properly perform the commissioned tasks.

Withdrawal of the grant on any of the above grounds, except for a supervening conflict of interest, shall result in the reimbursement and/or return of the grant amount received by the beneficiary. Except in the case set forth in Paragraph a), which shall result in full reimbursement, the reimbursement and/or return of the grant shall be partial and proportional to the time when the ground for withdrawal arose.

## **15. Withdrawal procedure**

The researcher or coordinator of the UOC research group to which the beneficiary is affiliated must issue a report justifying the grounds of the withdrawal and submit it to the Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship, who must send it to the university's Personnel department.

The Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship shall appoint from among the members of the Research, Innovation and Knowledge Transfer Committee a person to act as instructor, as well as a secretary where applicable, to be responsible for the withdrawal procedure. The instructor shall issue the report to the beneficiary, and the latter will have ten [10] days from their receipt of the report to lodge an appeal.

Once the appeals have been reviewed, the Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship shall issue a ruling within thirty [30] days confirming or withdrawing the grant.

## **16. Data protection**

This call for postdoctoral research stays at the UOC's research centres and faculties is governed by the personal data protection regulations indicated below.

In compliance with Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December on the protection of personal data and guarantee of digital rights and Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (hereinafter "GDPR"), candidates are informed as follows:

### **Data controller**

Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, with tax ID G60667813 and registered address at Rambla del Poblenou, 154-156, 08018, Barcelona, Spain.

If you have any questions about the processing of personal data, you can contact the data protection officer at the following email address: [dpd@uoc.edu](mailto:dpd@uoc.edu)

### **Purposes of the processing**

- To organize, manage and decide on this call for postdoctoral research stays at the UOC's research centres and faculties (hereinafter the "Activity").
- To publish the first name and surnames of each of the beneficiaries of the grants on the UOC's e-Noticeboard and research website.
- To assess and monitor the Activity by means of statistics and satisfaction surveys relating to the Activity.

### **Legal basis:**

- The processing of the data for the organization and administration of the Activity and its related decisions are based on the performance of a contract (the rules of the call for the Activity).
- The publication of each beneficiary's first name and surnames on the UOC's e-Noticeboard and research website is based on the performance of a contract (the rules of the call for the Activity).
- The processing of personal data for the assessment and monitoring of the Activity through related statistics and satisfaction surveys is based on the legitimate interest.

### **Storage period**

The personal data will be retained for as long as necessary to carry out the stated purposes. At the end of the indicated period, the UOC will keep the personal data blocked for the period necessary to comply with the legal obligations resulting from any liability that may arise in relation to the indicated purposes. When these liabilities expire, the personal data shall be permanently erased.

### **Recipients**

Your personal data may be disclosed to third parties in order to comply with any applicable legal obligations.

In addition, the UOC works with a number of service providers that assist it in performing different tasks related with the processing of personal data.

### **Security measures implemented to protect personal data**

The UOC processes personal data with the utmost confidentiality. In addition, it has implemented appropriate technical and organizational measures to guarantee its security and prevent its destruction, loss, illicit access or illicit tampering. Criteria such as the scope, context



and purpose of the processing, the current state of the art and the existing risks have been taken into account when deciding on these measures.

### **Data subjects' rights**

Data subjects have the following personal data protection rights:

<b>RIGHT</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Right of access	Consult what personal data are held.
Right to rectification	Modify the personal data held when they are not accurate.
Right to object	Ask that we do not process personal data for certain specific purposes, or to not be subject to automated individual decisions.
Right not to be subject to automated individual decisions	Ask not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning them or similarly significantly affects them.
Right to erasure	Ask for personal data to be erased.
Right to restriction of processing	Ask for processing of personal data to be restricted.
Right to data portability	Ask that we give you the information we have in digital format.
Right to file a complaint with the supervisory authority	Without prejudice to the right to exercise their rights before the data controller, the right to file a complaint with the supervisory authority in order to defend their rights, through the website <a href="http://www.apdcat.cat">www.apdcat.cat</a> .

Data subjects may withdraw their consent at any time, as well as exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, objection, portability and restriction of processing by contacting the UOC

at [fuoc\\_pd@uoc.edu](mailto:fuoc_pd@uoc.edu), with "Data protection" as the subject and, if applicable, attaching a copy of their ID card (DNI) or equivalent identity document, and including the minimum content set forth in the applicable regulations. If the request does not meet the specified requirements, the UOC may ask you to make the necessary corrections. There is no charge for exercising these rights, although a fee may be charged for requests that are groundless, excessive or repetitive.

### **Inclusive management of personal data**

The UOC guarantees the right of every person to be addressed and referred to with their chosen name and pronouns in order to ensure that their identity is respected by all members of the organization.

### **17. Response to enquiries**

The UOC provides participants with an email address for enquiries regarding the terms and conditions of participation and, in general, all the aspects governed by this document: [internal\\_grants\\_ri@uoc.edu](mailto:internal_grants_ri@uoc.edu).

### **18. Jurisdiction**

The present rules are governed by Spanish laws.

Any disputes or litigation arising from these rules and the grants awarded will be resolved by the courts of the City of Barcelona. The participants in this call waive any other jurisdiction that may apply to them.

Barcelona, 11 November 2024

Xavier Vilajosana Guillen  
Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship

## Appendix I. UOC faculties and research centres

- Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences
- Faculty of Health Sciences
- Faculty of Law and Political Science
- Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences
- Faculty of Economics and Business
- Faculty of Computer Science, Multimedia and Telecommunications
- Health Center
- Internet Interdisciplinary Institute

Details of the research groups at the UOC's various faculties and research centres can be found at <https://transfer.research.uoc.edu/en/mapa-ambits-recerca/mapa-ambits-recerca.html>

## Appendix II. AQU (Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency) areas and fields

Area	Field
Humanities	Philology
	History and Art
	Philosophy
Social Sciences	Political Science and Sociology
	Law
	Communication and Documentation
	Economics and Business
	Education
	Psychology
	Geography
Sciences	Physics
	Geology
	Mathematics
	Chemistry
Life Sciences	Cellular and Molecular Biology
	Organisms and Systems
Medical and Health Sciences	Biomedicine
	Medicine
	Veterinary Medicine
Engineering and Architecture	Architecture
	Information and Communication Technologies
	Industrial Technologies
	Agricultural Engineering
	Civil Engineering

### Appendix III. Example of the scientific output format

The aim of my scientific output and, therefore, of the selected publications, is to provide reliable information that can be used for health-related decision-making (at the macro, meso and micro levels) with the best available scientific evidence. In other words, the objective is to reduce the gap between research and its application to the health system by means of translational research.

The following articles are written in the field of health technology assessment (HTA), which includes the comparative clinical and cost-effectiveness of health interventions. I have written several HTA reports and published articles in scientific journals. They all seek to add to the knowledge base to be used by policymakers, doctors and patients to support their decision-making.

- Serra-Prat, M., Gallo, P., Jovell, A. J., Aymerich, M. & Estrada, M. D. Trade-offs in prenatal detection of Down syndrome. *Am J Public Health* 1998;88:551-7.
- Serra-Prat, M., Jovell, A. J. & Aymerich, M. [Efficacy and safety of thrombolytic therapy in pulmonary embolism: meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials. *Med Clin (Barc)* 1999;112(14):685-9.
- Garcia-Altés, A., Jovell, A. J., Serra-Prat, M. & Aymerich, M. Management of *Helicobacter pylori* in duodenal ulcer: a cost-effectiveness analysis. *Aliment Pharmacol Ther* 2000;14:1631-1638.

The following publications relate to research on quality of life in connection with health, specifically for vulnerable populations (such as those suffering from neurodegenerative diseases or psychiatric illness, or children). The aim is to provide doctors and patients with additional information and tools to assess the effectiveness of a given health intervention.

- Aymerich, M., Berra, S., Guillamón, I., Herdman, M., Alonso, J., Ravens-Sieberer, U. & Rajmil, L. [Development of the Spanish version of the KIDSCREEN, a health-related quality of life instrument for children and adolescents]. *Gac Sanit* 2005;19:93-102.
- Aymerich, M., Guillamón, I., Perkal, H., Nos, C., Porcel, J., Berra, S., Rajmil, L. & Montalbán, X. [Adaptation into Spanish of the specific questionnaire MSQOL-54 for patients with multiple sclerosis]. *Neurología* 2006;21(4):181-7.
- Aymerich, M., Guillamón, I. & Jovell, A. J. Health-Related Quality of Life Assessment in People with Multiple Sclerosis and their Family Caregivers. A Multicenter Study in Catalonia, Southern Europe. *Patient Preference and Adherence* 2009;3:311-321.

The following articles focus on the *ex-ante* and *ex-post* assessment of biomedical research to generate knowledge to support decision-making on research in order to establish both its quality and the impact of its results on healthcare.

- Berra, S., Sánchez, E., Pons, J. M. V., Tebé, C., Alonso, J. & Aymerich, M. Setting priorities in clinical and health services research: properties of an adapted and updated method. *Int J Technol Assess Health Care* 2010;26:217-224.
- Aymerich, M., Carrion, C., Gallo, P., García, M., López-Bermejo, A., Quesada, M. & Ramos, R. Measuring the payback of research activities: a feasible *ex-post* evaluation methodology in epidemiology and public health. *Social Science & Medicine* 2012;75:505-510.

Recent work has focused on translational research and e-health and seeks to provide the best scientific evidence for decision-making in the field of health at all times.

- Gené-Badia, J., Gallo, P., Caïs, J., Sánchez, E., Carrion, C., Arroyo, L. & Aymerich, M. The use of clinical practice guidelines in primary care: professional mindlines and control mechanisms. *Gac Sanit* 2016; 30(5):345-351.
- Zamora, A., Carrion, C., Aymerich, M., Castells, X., Blanco, L., Martin-Urda, A., Paluzie, G., Capella, D. & Elosua, R. Evaluation of a Clinical Decision Support System for Dyslipidemia Treatment (HTE-DLPR) by QoE Questionnaire. *Int J Cardiovasc Pract* 2017;1.10-16.

## Appendix IV. Assessment rubric



### Avaluació estades de recerca postdoctorals

2024

Exposició a recerca internacional 10 punts						
Criteri	Sub-criteri	Puntuació	0		10	Puntuació de 0 a 10
Exposició a recerca internacional a nivell postdoctoral (estades o contractes en un país diferent d'on s'han cursat els estudis de doctorat) en els darrers 4 anys	S'atorgarà un [1] punt per cada mes d'exposició internacional en un centre de recerca de fins a un màxim de 10 punts, sempre que al CV es justifiquin degudament els objectius, tasques desenvolupades, coherència de cada centre en relació amb el projecte desenvolupat i resultats de l'estada per a la trajectòria investigadora del candidat	10 punts	No s'acredita exposició a recerca internacional		S'acrediten 10 o més mesos d'exposició a recerca internacional	0
<b>Total</b>						<b>0</b>

Contribució a la ciència 15 punts						
Criteri	Sub-criteri	Puntuació	0		15	Puntuació de 0 a 15
Aquesta secció pretén oferir a les persones candidates un lloc on puguin descriure qualitativament les seves contribucions més significatives a la ciència	La persona candidata haurà de llistar les publicacions o conjunt de publicacions i explicar breument la seva aportació científica. Les cites de l'article o altres mètriques es poden indicar, però no són imprescindibles	15 punts	Aquest criteri no es pot avaluar a causa de manca d'informació		Les aportacions són excel·lents i justifiquen una carrera consolidada que aporta valor afegit a la seva proposta científica donat que la complementen o suposen valor un afegit.	0
<b>Total</b>						<b>0</b>

Assoliments 30 punts						
<p>La persona candidata haurà d'explicar els assoliments de manera breu, qualitativa, i destacant la importància en la seva carrera i en el seu impacte científic i/o social i en obert (si aquest criteri resulta aplicable), a més de l'encaix amb el projecte que es presenta a la UOC. Els assoliments poden incloure, entre d'altres, preprints, publicacions, formació impartida, contribució a consorsis, divulgació científica, patents, bases de dades clau, programari, tasques d'estandardització, white papers, treball a la indústria o altres sectors, etc. No s'ha d'indicar el factor d'impacte de la revista en cas de llistar articles o publicacions. Es poden incloure publicacions que la persona candidata ha ja fet constar a l'apartat anterior (contribució a la ciència). Les cites de l'article o altres mètriques es poden esmentar, però no són imprescindibles.</p> <p>Entenem l'impacte social de la recerca des d'una perspectiva àmplia que inclou qualsevol contribució de la recerca a la societat, com ara relacions amb el sector econòmic i industrial, transferència i co-creació de coneixement amb organitzacions de la societat civil i altres actors de la societat o col·laboració amb el sector públic i altres actors interessats. Es valora qualsevol retorn positiu de diferents actors interessats sobre la recerca realitzada, la seva influència en polítiques públiques, la participació de pacients o altres col·lectius afectats per la recerca en els processos de creació de coneixement, així com la difusió i divulgació dels resultats de la recerca.</p>						
Criteri	Sub-criteri	Puntuació	0		6	Puntuació de 0 a 6
Qualitat científicotècnica i rellevància dels assoliments en la seva carrera acadèmica.	Excel·lència científica dels assoliments (les aportacions es consideren excel·lents des d'un punt de vista qualitatiu i contextualitzat, és a dir tenint en compte també el marc de cada disciplina, o disciplines, involucrades. Es valoraran qüestions com: la solvència dels marcs teòrics i/o metodològics utilitzats i el caràcter trencador i innovador dels assoliments).	30 punts	Els assoliments no tracten el criteri o aquest no es pot avaluar a causa de manca d'informació		Els assoliments presentats són excel·lents.	0
	Progrés tecnològic, teòric i/o metodològic (avencos i fortalesa acumulativa de les aportacions il·lustrats)		Els assoliments no tracten el criteri o aquest no es pot avaluar a causa de manca d'informació, o bé no arriba al mínim per tenir una qualificació de 1 en el criteri.		Els assoliments presenten avenços tecnològics, teòrics i metodològics molt consolidats.	0
Impacte social dels seus assoliments	Valor afegit i diferencial (es valoraran aspectes com: creativitat, interdisciplinarietat, lideratge i artiscament dels assoliments)	30 punts	Els assoliments no permeten avaluar aquesta dimensió per manca d'informació.		Els assoliments aporten moltes evidències de valor afegit.	0
	Entenem l'impacte social de la recerca des d'una perspectiva àmplia que inclou qualsevol contribució de la recerca a la societat, des de relacions amb el sector econòmic i industrial, transferència i co-creació de coneixement amb organitzacions de la societat civil i altres actors de la societat o col·laboració amb el sector públic i altres actors interessats. Es valora qualsevol retorn positiu de diferents actors interessats sobre la recerca realitzada, la influència de la mateixa en polítiques públiques, la participació de pacients o altres col·lectius afectats per la recerca en els processos de creació de coneixement així com la difusió i divulgació dels resultats de la recerca.		No hi ha impacte científic ni social donat que el candidat o la candidata únicament enumera o descriu assoliments acadèmics sense descriure el seu impacte científic i social		S'evidencia que els assoliments presentats han tingut un impacte substancial en l'àmbit acadèmic i social i han aportat valor afegit.	0
Encaix dels assoliments en la seva proposta científica			No es pot avaluar		Els assoliments presentats són els que justifiquen la seva proposta científica i aporten valor afegit.	0
<b>Total</b>						<b>0</b>

Memòria científicotècnica 35 punts						
Criteri	Sub-criteri	Puntuació	0		5	
			Puntuació de 0 a 5			
Qualitat científicotècnica, rellevància i viabilitat de la proposta.	Excel·lència científica (maduresa del projecte presentat tenint en compte també el marc de cada disciplina, o disciplines, involucrades)	30 punts	El projecte no aporta referències científiques ni una fonamentació metodològica. O bé, la proposta no s'entén.		El projecte aporta referències científiques en el tema i planteja una recerca teòrica i/o metodològicament ben fonamentada. Fa un cronograma de les fases de la recerca en si. Aporta informació sobre fonts de finançament per la seva proposta	0
	Potencial transformador, valor afegit i avenços teòrics, tecnològics o metodològics. Es valorarà també la creativitat i la transdisciplinarietat		La proposta no representa cap avenç ni teòric, ni tecnològic ni metodològic.		La proposta implica aprofundir en noves teories, desenvolupar noves tecnologies o noves metodologies. Busca la transdisciplinarietat, la justifica adequadament i planteja accions concretes i factibles per aconseguir-la	0
	Avaluació del marc teòric		No hi ha una revisió de les fonts rellevants, ni citació de les obres més pertinents en el camp. No hi ha síntesi i organització de la literatura que està vinculada a el problema d'investigació		Hi ha una revisió extensa de les fonts rellevants, citació de les obres més pertinents en el camp. La síntesi i organització de la literatura és excel·lent i està clarament vinculada al problema d'investigació.	0
	Correspondència amb les línies estratègiques de recerca de la Universitat: La interacció entre la tecnologia i les ciències humanes i socials.		No hi ha relació directa, o la persona no aporta evidències per poder-ho valorar		La proposta encaixa en més d'una línia estratègica de recerca de la Universitat i s'ha fet explícit en la seva proposta.	0
Valoració General			0	10	Puntuació de 0 a 10	
			D: Pobra; Hi ha mancances serioses i costa d'entendre la proposta.		A: Excel·lent. La proposta s'entén molt bé i tracta tots els punts rellevants. Qualsevol deficiència és menor.	0
Encaix de la persona candidata i la seva proposta amb el grup de recerca receptor	Correspondència amb les línies estratègiques de recerca dels grups amb el projecte presentat. Enllaç als grups de recerca	5 punts	0	5	Puntuació de 0 a 5	
			Molt poca relació i la persona no aporta evidències per poder-ho valorar		La proposta presentada està totalment alineada amb les línies de recerca del grup receptor i queda totalment explícit en la seva proposta	0
			Total		0	

Mèrits del mentor del grup de recerca receptor 10 punts						
Es tindrà en compte exclusivament la informació que consti en GIR del mentor a la data de finalització del període de presentació de candidatures.						
Criteri	Sub-criteri	Puntuació	0		5	
			Puntuació de 0 a 5			
Cinc [5] punts, si el mentor ha dirigit, almenys, una [1] tesi doctoral defensada en els últims sis [6] anys.		5 punts	No ha dirigit cap tesi doctoral defensada en els últims 6 anys		Ha dirigit almenys una tesi doctoral defensada en els últims 6 anys	0
Captació de recursos en convocatòries competitives de finançament. Només es tindrà en compte aquells projectes UOC o co-liderats on el mentor actuï/hagi actuat com a investigador principal, del projecte competitiu en els últims sis [6] anys.	S'atorgaran cinc [5] punts, si el mentor ha tingut un projecte competitiu com IP en els darrers 6 anys.	5 punts	El mentor no ha estat IP d'un projecte competitiu en els darrers 6 anys		El mentor ha estat IP d'un o més projectes competitius en els darrers 6 anys	0
			Total		0	
					<b>Puntuació total</b>	<b>0,00</b>

Observacions generals	

Puntuació ponderada en cas de modalitat interdisciplinària			
Puntuació dels criteris generals	0,00	Ponderació (70%)	0,00
Puntuació criteris interdisciplinarietat (fins a 4 punts, a emplenar per l'ARI)	0	Ponderació (30%)	0,00
<b>Puntuació total (modalitat interdisciplinària)</b>			<b>0,00</b>



## Appendix V. Acceptance document

# Acceptance form for postdoctoral research grants at the UOC

### Personal details:

First name and surname(s):		Tax ID / passport number:	
Address:		Date of birth:	
Post code:	Town or city:		
Telephone no.:	Email address:		

### Declaration:

I, \_\_\_\_\_, with Tax ID / passport no. \_\_\_\_\_, hereby accept the UOC's postdoctoral research grant and undertake to comply with the terms set forth in the **call for postdoctoral research grants at the UOC to be carried out at its faculties and research centres**.

### Grant amount and payment method

Beneficiaries must enter into a three [3] year doctoral research staff access contract for a gross amount of up to €32,236.20 per year.

### Signature:

Place and date:

[place], [day] [month] 2025