Tecniospring
INDUSTRY

Researcher's FAQs
Call 2021

GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA, ACCIÓ

INDEX

ELIGIBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

1. Can I apply if I have not finished my doctorate degree?

Yes. Researchers must, at the time of the deadline for submission of proposals, either be in possession of a doctoral degree plus two years of research experience, or have at least six years of full-time equivalent research experience after obtaining the title/studies that grant access to the PhD studies (be it a BsC, MsC, Advanced Studies Diploma or similar). Please check the complete list of the eligibility criteria.

2. What is the deadline for the obtention of my doctorate degree in order to submit the application form?

The time limit to fulfil all eligibility criteria is the deadline for proposal submission of the relevant call, but to hold a doctorate degree is not mandatory (see the previous answer).

3. Can non-European researchers apply for Tecniospring INDUSTRY?

There are no nationality restrictions. However, in case the host organisation abroad (first year of the Outgoing + Return modality) is located in a country which is not an EU Member State or H2020 Associated Country, the researcher must be a national/long-term resident of an EU Member State or H2020 Associated Country to be eligible for the grant.

Moreover, researchers must undertake transnational mobility, which means that candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain or in the country of destination of the first year on the Outgoing + Return modality, for more than 12 months during the 3 years immediately prior to the call's deadline (this is known as the "mobility rule").

4. Is there any age limit?

There is no age limit. Researchers shall however consider that the impact of the project on their career, which is an evaluation criterion, will be limited if they are at the end of their careers.

5. Should I have chosen a host organisation before applying?

Yes, before applying researchers must have identified a Catalan host organisation and prepare the research project proposal in collaboration with them. The applicant must actually be the organisation/entity, not the researcher.

Tecniospring INDUSTRY will accept Catalan companies, TECNIO accredited organisations or Catalan Technology Centres as host organisations and the researcher's employer. These entities will be the beneficiaries of the grant, not the researchers. ACCIÓ, with the co-financing of the European Commission through the H2020-Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions-COFUND programme, with the Tecniospring projects supports the hiring of experienced researchers by Catalan host organisations.

6. How can I find a suitable host organisation?

You may check the *Vacancies* section on the programme's website1 where the Catalan host organizations have published their vacancies. In this section, you can also publish your CV by filling in a simple template with your relevant information (please, check your eligibility before sending us the template).

Furthermore, host organisations may advertise research positions on EURAXESS,[2] on Linkedin, Research Gate and Academic positions.

While abroad, you may also contact the 40 Catalonia Trade & Investment Offices that ACCIÓ[3] has all around the globe, who will gladly help you with your search.

7. Can I apply if I already have a permanent contract with the Catalan host organisation?

No. Researchers that are already permanently employed by a Catalan company, TECNIO accredited organisation or Catalan Technology Centre will not be eligible for Tecniospring INDUSTRY.

8. I have had a career break; can I still be eligible?

Yes. Exceptions will be made for researchers with documented career breaks such as maternity/parental leave, sick or family care leave, military service, humanitarian aid work, unemployment, etc. It is considered that researchers have had a career break when they were not active in research for a continuous period of at least twelve months within the eighteen months immediately prior to the deadline for submission of proposals.

Candidates must indicate the reason and the exact periods of all their career breaks in the Project Technical Report.

In case of properly detailed and justified career breaks, the mobility rule will be modified as follows: "Experienced researchers will be eligible if they have not resided or carried out their main activity in the country of destination *for more than 3 years (36 months) in the 5 years (60 months)* immediately prior to the relevant deadline for submission of proposals."

9. Do all causes for career break imply the same mobility rule modification?

Yes.

10. Is it an obligation to submit a prior acceptance letter by the host organisation abroad with the application?

Yes, a letter of commitment from the host organisation abroad is required for the application to be eligible. The letter must include a clear statement that the host organization abroad will accept the researcher for a full year if the Tecniospring grant is awarded, and the description of what project tasks will be performed during the stay there.

---

[1] http://catalonia.com/innovate-in-catalonia/tecniospringplus/tecniospringvacancies.jsp
[2] https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs
[3] https://www.accio.gencat.cat/en/serveis/oficines-exteriors/index.html

Make sure that the letter of commitment there is:
- ✓ an official letterhead
- ✓ the signature of the legal representative
- ✓ the date within the year of the call (2021)

11. Is it an obligation for projects including secondments/short stays to submit a prior acceptance letter by the entity in which the secondments/short stays will take place with the application?

Yes, a letter of commitment from the entity in which the secondment/short stay will take place is required for the application to be eligible, in case a secondment/short stay is planned. The letter must include a clear statement that they will accept the researcher if the Tecniospring grant is awarded, for the duration of the secondment/short stay and what project tasks will be performed during it.

Make sure that the letter of commitment there is:
- ✓ an official letterhead
- ✓ the signature of the legal representative
- ✓ the date within the year of the call (2021)

PREPARING THE APPLICATION

12. Is there any template to prepare the application?

Yes. All templates can be found on [Tecniospring INDUSTRY website](http://catalonia.com/innovate-in-catalonia/tecniospringplus/tecniospringcall.jsp)[4]. Candidates should strictly follow the given instructions and make sure that all the needed information is provided. Pages exceeding the maximum number of pages indicated by section will not be taken into account by the evaluators.

Please, check the "Guide for applicant 2021" for more information.

13. Who is the researcher's supervisor?

Host organisations must assign a project supervisor for each proposal. In case of an Outgoing + Return mobility, a supervisor from the host organisation abroad must also be assigned to the project.

She/he is a responsible for the researcher at the host organisation in Catalonia (Catalan company, TECNIO accredited organisation or Catalan Technology Centre) and/or at the host organisation abroad.

Involvement of supervisor(s) in the preparation of the research project proposal along with the researcher is deemed fundamental. Supervisors will be in charge not only of following up the project but also of the training and conceiving and executing a career plan for the researcher.

---

[4] http://catalonia.com/innovate-in-catalonia/tecniospringplus/tecniospringcall.jsp

14. Can a supervisor act as such for more than one researcher?

No, a supervisor can act as such for only one researcher. Should the same supervisor be included in more than one application form, only the first application submitted would be evaluated and the rest rejected. In addition, supervisors of active Tecniospring projects cannot act as supervisors for new proposals.

15. Do I have to submit a research project proposal with the application?

Only a Catalan host organisation can apply to a Tecniospring INDUSTRY call and submit a proposal. Together with the researcher, they must write a research project proposal using the Project Technical Report available on the Tecniospring INDUSTRY website.

16. In which cases do I need to submit an ethics assessment with my proposal?

An ethics aspects table is included in the Project Technical Report. If you answer YES to any of the questions of this table, you should have an ethics assessment made by an ethics committee belonging to the Network of Ethics Committees in Universities and Public Research Entities in Spain[5]. If you do not have access to this Network, Tecniospring INDUSTRY Ethics Committee shall therefore evaluate the ethics issues of the proposal.

17. My host organisation is a Catalan company. Does it need to agree with the European Charter & Code for Researchers[6]?

Yes. All Catalan host organisations, either companies, TECNIO accredited organisations or Catalan Technology Centres, must give their support to the principles of the Charter&Code.

18. My host organisation has less than 4 workers. Is it eligible?

Yes, all Catalan companies are eligible, there is no requirement for a minimum of employees. Catalan organisations must have one of these 4 legal statuses: SL, SA, SRL, SC.

19. Is a secondment/short stay mandatory?

If your host entity is a Catalan company secondments/short stays are not mandatory but will be evaluated positively, especially if they introduce cross-sectoral aspects (e.g. a researcher hired by a company is seconded to a research centre or vice versa).

But, if your Catalan host organisation is either a TECNIO accredited organisation or a Catalan Technology Centre, a secondment/short stay of one to three months in a company (Catalan or not) becomes mandatory. This condition is not required in the case of an outgoing mobility scheme application in which the host organisation abroad is a company, although any secondment/short stay will be positively evaluated.

---

[5] http://www.ub.edu/rceue/
[6] https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/euraxess/charter-code-researchers

The following table summarises when a secondment/short stay is required:

Applicant	Incoming application	Outgoing+return application, host abroad is not a company	Outgoing+return application, host abroad is a company
TECNIO organisation which is not a company / Catalan Technology Centre	Mandatory secondment/short stay to a company	Mandatory secondment/short stay to a company	-
Catalan company	-	-	-

20. I have already been granted funding from TECNIOspring, TECNIOspring PLUS or Tecniospring INDUSTRY. Can I apply for a Tecniospring INDUSTRY grant?

Yes, if you fulfil the following requirements:

- The Catalan host organisation of your new Tecniospring INDUSTRY proposal is a company that has not yet received any funding from TECNIOspring, TECNIOspring PLUS or Tecniospring INDUSTRY programmes.
- Your former TECNIOspring, TECNIOspring PLUS or Tecniospring INDUSTRY project is completed by the deadline of the Tecniospring INDUSTRY call for applications.
- You fulfil all eligibility criteria (e.g. mobility rule).

In any way, grants *cannot* overlap.

21. What is RIS3CAT?[7]

The *innovation strategy for smart specialization of Catalonia* (hereinafter RIS3CAT) is a strategy that was elaborated by the Government of Catalonia with the support of experts. RIS3CAT aims to implement the EU strategy "Europe 2020" for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, rationalising investments in research and innovation and optimising their impact on economic and social development.

In order to be positively evaluated, research projects must show their impact on the relevant sectorial area(s) as defined in RIS3CAT (see evaluation criteria).

SUBMISSION

22. How are applications submitted?

Applications for Tecniospring INDUSTRY will be accepted exclusively online through the online application system, which will be available on the Tecniospring INDUSTRY website. Electronic signature will be needed (see below).

---

[7] http://catalunya2020.gencat.cat/ca/estrategies/ris3cat/

Please, check the "Guide for applicant 2021" for more information.

23. Who submits the application?

The Catalan host organisation (Catalan company, TECNIO accredited organisation or the Catalan Technology Centre) that will hire the researcher must submit the application including all the necessary information related to the researcher and ethics self-assessment (if needed).

24. Do applicants need to register to submit their application?

No, applicants only need to access the platform available on Tecniospring INDUSTRY website to submit their application. Remember: only Catalan companies, TECNIO accredited organisations or Catalan Technology Centres can submit the proposal.

25. Do Catalan host organisations need to send any printed document when submitting the application?

No.

26. Can Catalan host organisations use an electronic signature?

Yes. The Catalan host organisation must submit the application electronically.

27. Do researchers need to submit any additional documentation when submitting the proposal?

Yes. As part of the submission you will have to also submit: the researchers last contract (or a similar document, like a work life certificate from the national authority), an excel with the project's budget breakdown, and the commitment letters for the host entities (both for abroad host entities and secondment/short stay entities). Please, send this additional documentation to your Catalan host organisation, as they must send this documentation with the application.

28. Do researchers need to submit documentation certifying the fulfilment of the requirements of the call (e.g. doctorate degree, etc.)?

No, this documentation must be presented in a later step, and only when the proposal is successful. Selected researchers will be required to present it within 10 working days counting from the day after of the notification of the provisional selection resolution to the Catalan host organisation. Only once the documentation is checked, the definitive resolution will be sent. As there is a 10-day deadline, **we highly recommend having all the documentation prepared beforehand.**

29. Should a pdf file of the NIF, NIE or passport be attached to the application form?

No.

30. I made a mistake in my application and I have already submitted it - can I change it?

Once your proposal has been sent, no modifications are possible.
If you discover a mistake in your application, please talk to your Catalan host organisation and contact tecniospring.accio@gencat.cat

31. How can I check the status of my application after the closing date?

After submission, applicants will be provided with a code with which they will be able to access a platform where to check the status of their application and see if there are any pending requests. This code is provided to the Catalan host organisation.

32. Can I simultaneously submit applications to Tecniospring INDUSTRY and other Marie Skłodowska-Curie programmes?

Yes, but if you are successful, you will have to choose only one of them in case their implementations overlap.

33. In how many proposals can a researcher participate?

Each researcher can only participate in one proposal. Catalan host organisations (Catalan companies, TECNIO accredited organisations or Catalan Technology Centres) on the other hand may submit more than one application as long as they involve different researchers, projects and supervisors.

34. How many applications can a Catalan host organisation submit?

As many as wanted, as long as these proposals meet the requirements of the call. Proposals submitted by the same Catalan host organisation must have a different supervisor, different researcher and must describe different projects.

SELECTION PROCESS

35. Which steps has the selection process?

After the call is closed all the proposals submitted will undergo an eligibility check. Then those proposals deemed eligible (compliant with all the criteria listed in the terms of reference) will undergo the scientific evaluation by a panel of experts who will rate the projects. The best rated projects (up to 350/500) will be conditionally granted the award and will have 10 days to provide the requested documentation. Finally, those projects which have presented all the documentation will be officially granted the Tecniospring project grant.

Please, check the "Guide for applicant 2021" for more information.

36. When will candidates be informed of the final results?

All Catalan host organisations will be officially informed within 6 months after the call is closed. We advise all researchers to stay in close contact with their Catalan host organisation to be informed.

CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CATALAN HOST ORGANISATION

37. If the application is successful, when will the project start?

If the researcher possesses the nationality of an EU Member state or a State of the Schengen area:

- If the destination country is outside the EU or the Schengen area: selected researchers must start their projects no later than 6 months after the day following the notification of the selection decision. This period may be extended, upon request to ACCIO before the end of the initial period, for a period of 3 additional months (6+3).
- If the destination country is member of the EU or belongs to the Schengen area: selected researchers must start their projects no later than 4 months after the day following the notification of the selection decision. This period may be extended, upon request to ACCIO before the end of the initial period, for a period of 2 additional months (4+2).

Also, if the researcher is not an EU or Schengen area national, he/she must start his/her project no later than 6 months after the notification of the selection decision. This period may be extended, upon request to ACCIO before the end of the initial period, for a period of 3 additional months (6+3).

If due to the COVID19 pandemic this period cannot be met, a further extension can be obtained. Beforehand, it is necessary to contact us in order to identify the problem on a case-by-case basis.

38. What type of contract should be signed between researchers and Catalan host organisations?

Contracts must be full-time work and have a minimum duration of 2 years from the date of incorporation of the researcher. A contract date prior to the date of publication of the award decision will not be allowed.

Therefore, any type of contract under the existing labour legislation will be admitted, provided that the duration of this contract is at least 2 years (maximum Tecniospring INDUSTRY funding period).

Contracts may also be permanent or be replaced by other contracts with this character during the period covered by the Tecniospring INDUSTRY funding.

Contracts must specify clearly that the beneficiary institution is employing the researcher to carry out the project referred to in the application and that both, the beneficiary institution and the researcher, accept the obligations arising from Tecniospring INDUSTRY Terms of Reference and accept all employment and tax legislation currently in force. To comply with the rule regarding publicity, the contract **must** include the following text: *"This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 801342 (Tecniospring INDUSTRY) and the Government of Catalonia's Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIÓ)."*

39. How soon shall a researcher join the Catalan host organisation?

A maximum period of 4 to 6 months (depending on the nationality of the researcher and destination country, (please see FAQ 37) from the day following the communication to the Catalan host entity of the award decision will be allowed. In exceptional cases, especially those related to the researchers' activity, ACCIÓ might grant an extension according to administrative procedure laws in force (depending on the nationality of the researcher and destination country, please see FAQ 37).

40. If a selected researcher already has an employment contract with the Catalan host organisation, can the candidate maintain his/her contract?

Researchers that are already permanently employed by the Catalan company, TECNIO accredited organisation or Catalan Technological Centre submitting the application will not be eligible for a Tecniospring INDUSTRY grant.

Researchers already contracted (non-permanently) could potentially keep the contract, but as the conditions might be different, this should be reflected in a separate agreement. In all cases candidates must fulfil the mobility rule and the rest of eligibility criteria.

41. Can contracts starting before the award of the grant request funding?

No. A researcher may keep his/her former contract, but funding will be granted from the date of the selection.