Tecniospring INDUSTRY

Guide for applicants Tecniospring Industry Call 2021

GENERALITAT DE CATALUNYA, ACCIÓ

This Guide for applicants is not a binding document. Only legal provisions published in Catalan and in Spanish in the Official Gazette of Government of Catalonia [Diari Oficial de la Generalitat de Catalunya, or DOGC] shall have binding effects. Thus, in case of discrepancy, the versions published in the DOGC shall prevail, taking into account that pursuant to Catalan Law 2/2007, only the DOGC in digital format is to be considered official and authentic.

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What is Tecniospring INDUSTRY?

Tecniospring INDUSTRY provides financial support to **individual mobility** proposals presented by **experienced researchers** in liaison with a company based in Catalonia, a TECNIO accredited organisation or a Catalan Technology Centre. The duration of the projects is 2 years.

Experienced researchers applying to this action need to develop an **applied research project** with a focus on technology transfer for the total duration of the project that will enable them to progress in the development of their careers. The project is expected to be part of a structured, long-term personal career development plan that is coherent with past achievements and clearly defines the future aims of the researcher.

Tecniospring INDUSTRY is managed by the Catalan Agency for Business Competitiveness (ACCIÓ) of the Government of Catalonia and it is co-financed by the European Union through the **Horizon 2020 [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)** "Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)". Therefore, successful researchers will be Marie Skłodowska-Curie and Tecniospring INDUSTRY researchers.

Types of projects

Tecniospring INDUSTRY offers two different mobility schemes:
- Outgoing + return: during the first year, researchers of any nationality develop the project at a research or technology centre or R&D department of a private company located outside Spain. During the second year, researchers come back to their host organisation in Catalonia.
- Incoming: for researchers of any nationality willing to join a Catalan company, a TECNIO entity or a Catalan Technology Centre for two years.

In both modalities, researchers will be employed by the Catalan organisation for 2 years.

Who can apply?

Tecniospring INDUSTRY **applications are submitted by the Catalan host organisation** in liaison with an experienced researcher.

Catalan host organisations may be **companies located in Catalonia, [TECNIO organisations](#)[1] accredited by ACCIÓ (Government of Catalonia) or Catalan Technology Centres**.

The **beneficiaries are the Catalan organisations**, who will employ the experienced researcher for the duration of the project, 2 years.

Before preparing and submitting the proposal, Catalan entities **must have already reached an agreement with the experienced researcher**.

Eligibility Criteria for researchers and host organisations

The researchers and the host organisation, at the time of the relevant deadline for submission of proposals, must fulfil the following conditions:

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[1] accio.gencat.cat/tecnio

- Level of experience: Experience required is the same for the two types of mobility. The researcher must hold a **doctoral degree and at least two additional years (24 months) of full-time research experience** after obtaining it; **or have at least six years (72 months) of full-time equivalent research experience**, including the period of research training, after obtaining the degree which would formally entitle them to start the PhD (or any other doctorate) studies.

  Tecniospring INDUSTRY also welcomes experienced researchers who come after a career break. 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.

- Mobility conditions: Criteria vary with the type of mobility scheme:

  o **Outgoing + return**: the researcher must not have resided or carried out her/his main activity (work, studies) in the country of the host organisation abroad for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for the submission of applications.
  o **Incoming**: the researcher must not have resided or carried out her/his main activity (work, studies) in Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the deadline for the submission of applications.

  As an exception, only for properly detailed and justified career breaks (as explained above), experienced researchers will be eligible if they have not resided or carried out their main activity in the country of their host organisation for more than 3 years in the 5 years immediately prior to the deadline for the submission of proposals.

  Stays shorter than 45 days, such as holidays, are not taken into account.

- Nationality conditions: There are no nationality restrictions. However, in case the host organisation abroad during the first year of the Outgoing + Return modality is 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.

- Commitment to the Charter&Code: The Catalan company, the TECNIO accredited organisation or the Catalan Technology Centre with which the researcher submits the joint application must commit to follow the "European Charter for Researchers" for the two year project implementation.

- Participation of companies in the project: In the event that the applicant organisation is a TECNIO accredited organisation with a legal status other than a company or a Catalan Technology Centre, the project for which funding is requested must contemplate the participation of at least one company (Catalan or not) by including **secondments/short stays** (minimum 1 month, maximum 3 months) during the project and in relation to its subject. This condition is not required in the case of an outgoing mobility scheme application in which the host organisation abroad is a company. Secondments/short stays are not mandatory for companies, but they will be positively evaluated.

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	-	-	-

WARNING
Applicants who do not fulfil all of the above conditions will not be eligible and their proposals will not be evaluated.

How to choose a research topic?

Projects must be technological and address one of the areas covered by RIS3CAT[2] strategy. RIS3CAT identifies seven leading sectors in which Catalonia has competitive advantage, critical mass and future opportunities (Energy and resources, Food, Industrial systems, Sustainable mobility, Design industries, Health industries, Culture and experience-based industries); and six cross-cutting enabling technologies (ICT, Nanotechnology, Advanced Materials, Photonics, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing).

There are no predefined priority areas.

I am a host organisation; how can I find a researcher?

Catalan host organisations are encouraged to **publish their vacancy** by completing the form available in our *Vacancies section* on the programme's website[3]. In this Vacancies section, you will also find CVs of researchers looking for a Catalan host organisation. This web page is updated regularly, so we encourage you to consult it quite often. This section is aimed at facilitating the matching between researchers and host organisations.

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 801342

Once host organisations publish their job offer on the Tecniospring website, ACCIÓ's 40 international offices[4] will disseminate the vacancies.

Catalan host organisations may also publish their open positions at **EURAXESS**[5]. We also encourage host organisations to publish their job offers on Linkedin, Research Gate and Academic positions.

When selecting the researcher for their open positions, **host organisations shall follow the principles of the "European Charter & Code for Researchers"**[6], **thus, implementing open, efficient, transparent and supportive selection procedures,** in accordance with the recruitment and selection standards required within a Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme.

When the researcher and the host organisation agree on a research project of interest for both, they are ready to start preparing their application.

I am a researcher; how can I find a host organisation?

Researchers may check the *Vacancies* section on the programme's website[7] where the Catalan host organizations have published their vacancies. In this section, researchers can also publish their CV by filling in a simple template with their relevant information.

Also, researchers may find potential positions on EURAXESS, Linkedin, Research Gate and Academic positions. They may also address to ACCIÓ's 40 international offices stablished all around the globe.

How to prepare a successful project proposal?

To be successful, a researcher should contact a host organisation as soon as possible, in order to have enough time to agree on an applied research project proposal of interest.

Host organisations should assign a project **supervisor** to each proposal. A supervisor can only be assigned to one proposal, and supervisors of active Tecniospring projects cannot act as supervisors for new proposals. In case of the outgoing + return modality, a supervisor from the host organisation abroad should also be assigned to the project.

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

Proposals must be **focused on applied research and technology transfer**. Applicants should check whether their proposal provides enough information about:
- The researcher's level of expertise in research.
- The researcher's expertise on the project's field and how her implication will help developing the technology.

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[4] https://www.accio.gencat.cat/en/serveis/oficines-exteriors/index.html
[5] https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs
[6] https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/euraxess/charter-code-researchers
[7] http://catalonia.com/innovate-in-catalonia/tecniospringplus/tecniospringvacancies.jsp

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- The level of expertise of the supervisor(s).
- The trajectory of the host organisation(s) and its capability to execute the project (e.g. having all the needed equipment in their premises)
- Training plan and career development plan for the researcher.
- The quality and viability of the project
- Expected results regarding technology transfer and/or an exploitation plan of the results.
- Expected impact on the market (e.g. return to society, new company branches, possibility of a patent or a spin-off, new employments, increase Catalan and/or European industrial competitivity, etc.).
- Collaborations with industry, naming existing and/or foreseen company contacts (secondments/short stays, lab visits, other collaborations).

> Section 8 of the call's Regulatory Bases describe in detail the evaluation criteria, please remember to read it carefully and answer all the questions of the Project Technical Report taking into account these evaluations criteria.

The project should aim to reach a **realistic and well-defined objective**. Ideally developing a technology closer to the market/society/industrial sector for its exploitation.

How to apply?

The proposal must be submitted electronically **by the Catalan host organisation (applicant)**.

First, applicants should complete and submit an application form. The link to the tool will be available on the [Tecniospring INDUSTRY website](#). The application form contains basic data such contact details of the host organisation(s) and the researcher among other.

Moreover, applicants shall attach the following documents:

- Project Technical Report: a template can be found at Tecniospring INDUSTRY website. Applicants should strictly follow the template provided.
- Detailed budget of the project: a template can be found at Tecniospring INDUSTRY website. Applicants should strictly follow the template provided.
- Only for Outgoing + Return mobility: a letter of commitment from the host organisation abroad. Duly signed by the legal representative and dated within the year of the publication of the call (2021).
- Letter of commitment from the company in which the secondment/short stay will take place. (Secondments/short stays are mandatory for TECNIO accredited organisations which legal status is neither a company nor a Catalan Technology Centre). Duly signed by the legal representative and dated within the year of the publication of the call (2021).
- Copy of the researcher's last or current employment contract, or an employment record issued by the Social Security for the month prior to the date of submission of the application.

> ***WARNING***
> Applicants must keep their proposal within the page limits indicated on the templates provided. Any excess pages will be disregarded.

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Application language
The working language of the expert evaluators is English. Therefore, the Project Technical Report must be preferably submitted in English.

Withdrawing a proposal
Applicants may withdraw their proposal after the deadline by sending the proposal's details (proposal code and acronym) to tecniospring.accio@gencat.cat, clearly indicating on the e-mail subject "Withdrawal of Tecniospring INDUSTRY proposal".

Multiple Submissions
Only one proposal per researcher may be submitted to a Tecniospring INDUSTRY open call. One organisation may be the host organisation for more than one proposal as long as they involve different researchers, different projects and different supervisors.

An individual researcher may apply to Tecniospring INDUSTRY open call and another Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant at the same time but cannot benefit from both if selected. Thus, the researcher will have to choose one of them in case they overlap.

Secondments/short stays and lab visits

Applications may introduce secondments/short stays within their project plans in any part of the world (including Catalonia). The aim is for researchers to have opportunities to explore other areas of interest and seek enriching collaborations. Among the evaluation criteria, Tecniospring INDUSTRY will take into account the planned cross-sectoral secondments/short stays. **Visits to other laboratories will be as well positively evaluated**.

For example, a researcher hosted by a research centre may be seconded to a company interested in the outcomes of the applied research project. And vice versa, a researcher hosted by a company may be seconded to a research or technological centre to gain insights in some theoretical aspect needed for his/her research.

Please bear in mind that **proposals submitted by TECNIO accredited organisations or Catalan Technology Centres may need to include a secondment/short stay to a company to be eligible** (see eligibility criteria table above, page 4).

Secondments/short stays may take place at any moment of the project, with a duration of one to three months. Researchers shall provide details on the secondment/short stay plan (duration, information about the host, expected outcomes).

The 40 Catalonia Trade & Investment Offices of ACCIÓ[8] may support applicants by providing information about entities for potential secondments/short stays.

Training activities

The main activities of the Tecniospring INDUSTRY researcher will be based on a training-through-research project that he/she prepared in liaison with the host organisation, as described above.

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[8] https://www.accio.gencat.cat/en/serveis/oficines-exteriors/index.html

A **Career Development Plan** should be established jointly by the supervisor(s) and the researcher. In addition to research or innovation objectives, this plan comprises the researcher's training and career needs, including training on transferable skills, teaching, planning for publications and participation in conferences.

Tecniospring INDUSTRY seeks to help researchers develop more industry- or even technology transfer-oriented research careers. Therefore, applicants will need to specify the researcher's training needs to attain this goal and how they intend to cover it. Training activities might include:

1. Training on technology transfer management organised by ACCIÓ: One mandatory training on technology transfer as well as other courses on different subjects (e.g. IP management, technology valuation and commercialisation, exploitation of research results, entrepreneurship, etc.). ACCIÓ's available courses will be published in Tecniospring INDUSTRY working group.

2. Additional training offered by the host organisation(s): applicants may propose other courses that will provide the researcher with necessary soft skills (e.g. oral and written presentation of scientific research results; grant planning and writing; project management).
   Other activities may also be proposed as part of on-the-job training (e.g., assuming technical and managerial responsibilities; setting-up collaboration with other research centres or with SMEs and industry; organisation of trans-national workshops, meetings and networking activities to facilitate sharing of knowledge and culture between the participants; etc.).

Ethics aspects

Applicants should consider ethics aspects while writing their proposal. All research carried out must respect fundamental ethics and security principles, including those reflected in the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union. These principles include the need to ensure the freedom of research and the need to protect the physical and moral integrity of individuals and the welfare of animals.

Any ethics aspects that may arise must be identified and addressed in the project proposal. In particular, applicants should outline: how ethics aspects raised by the proposed research will be handled; the benefit and burden of the experiments; and the effects these may have on the research subject.

Tecniospring INDUSTRY explicitly excludes several areas from funding, just as the European Commission's H2020 does:

– Research activity aiming at human cloning for reproductive purposes.
– Research activity intended to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (research related to cancer treatment of the gonads can be financed).
– Research activities intended to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

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Activities involving research on human embryos or human embryonic stem cells will require explicit approval from the European Commission. The activities under the project must have an exclusive focus on civil applications.

For outgoing + return modality, the same rules will apply to research undertaken in both the outgoing and return phases of the grant, i.e. whilst working outside Spain, researchers must agree to abide by the recommendations of their Catalan host organisation.

Applicants shall fill up the ethics aspects table and, if need be in accordance to this table, submit an ethics self-assessment made by an ethics committee belonging to the Network of Ethics Committees in Universities and Public Research Entities in Spain[9].

For applicants who do not have access to an ethics committee, the application shall be evaluated by the programme's own Ethics Committee.

In any case, all applications that pose further ethical concerns will be flagged by the experts during evaluation and sent to the programme Ethics Committee.

How much funding is involved per grant?

Directly transferred to the Catalan host organisation, the grant funds the salary, research costs, mobility costs and Open Access publications costs of the researcher. ACCIÓ's contribution for the grant is:

- **salary costs** are of **€117,000** per researcher for the 2 years (total company costs). For the Outgoing + Return modality, a [correction factor](#) for the cost of living during the stay abroad (first year) is applied.
- up to **€15,240** per researcher for 2 years will be granted as **research costs** (e.g. equipment; consumables and supplies needed for the researcher and/or the research project; travelling and participating into conferences; mobility for secondments/short stays, IPR costs, etc),
- **€3,000** for 2 years per researcher will be granted as **Open Access publications**,
- and **up to €1,920** for 2 years per researcher will be granted as **mobility/travel allowance costs** to join the host organisation abroad and/or the host organisation in Catalonia and returning, if needed, to their country of origin at the end of the project.

For a detailed description of eligible costs please look at section 4.7 of the Regulatory Bases of the call.

Key aspects of the host-researcher agreement

Incoming researchers will join the host organisation of their choice located in Catalonia, Spain. The Catalan host organisation will provide the researcher with a full-time employment contract for 2 years.

Outgoing + return researchers will join a host organisation located in any country of the world outside Spain, for one year and have a return phase to the Catalan host organisation of their

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choice for one more year. The Catalan host organisation will also provide the researcher with a full-time employment contract for 2 years.

The agreement between the Catalan host organisation and the researcher should be made in the light of the principles of the 'European Charter for Researchers' and the 'Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers'.

With regards to IPR, publicity and confidentiality aspects, Catalan host organisations will need to abide by the conditions set by the European Commission for COFUND projects.

Researchers that are already permanently employed by the Catalan host organisation cannot be eligible.

The project should be executed on the host organisation(s)' premises.

Agreements between host organisations participating in the project

Host organisations participating in the project will need to sign agreements between themselves that regulate the project implementation, including IPR dispositions. Namely, ACCIÓ will require the following agreements from successful candidates at the moment of awarding the grant:

- Agreement between the Catalan host organisation and the host organisation abroad, for the Outgoing + Return modality (Section 7.9 of the Regulatory Bases of the Call).
- Agreement between the Catalan host organisation and the organisation to which the researcher will be seconded, whenever the project includes a secondment/short stay. (Section 6.6 of the Regulatory Bases of the Call).

Evaluation process

Evaluation process will be based on open, widely advertised competition, with transparent international peer review and selection of researchers based on their merits. Applications will be evaluated under a common multi-disciplinary Evaluation Panel.

Each proposal that fulfils the eligibility criteria described above will first be independently assessed by experts belonging to the Evaluation Panel. All applications will be classified by area of expertise. Evaluators will be assigned to applications according to their scientific and technological expertise. ACCIÓ will assess assignments case by case in order to detect possible incompatibilities and to assure there is no conflict of interest between the evaluator and the proposal.

The scoring scale is the following:

Assessment criteria	Maximum value
Curriculum vitae of the researcher	150
Technological and scientific career, implementation capacity and suitability of the host organisation	100
Feasibility and quality of the project	100
Technological transfer and impact	150

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> **The maximum score is 500 and the minimum grade required for funding is 350.**

Applications that pose ethical concerns will be flagged during the evaluation by the experts and sent to the programme Ethics Committee. The Ethics Committee may seek a clarification from the applicant before taking a final decision.

Final selection of researchers

The Selection Committee will be responsible for the final selection of researchers. The Selection Committee will be formed by members of the Evaluation Panel and representatives of ACCIÓ.

The Selection Committee will select the applications to be funded based on their ranking. Successful applications must have reached the required threshold to receive funding. The applications with the highest scores will be funded until the available budget is used up. Following applications will be put on a reserve list.

All applicants will receive an Evaluation Summary Report. Successful researchers will be granted a conditional resolution and be asked to produce and provide evidence of their University degrees, research experience and career breaks prior to signing their contracts. **The deadline to provide this documentation will be of 10 natural days** counting from the day the conditional resolution was issued. All compliant projects will then be granted the final official resolution with their Tecniospring Industry 2021 grant. As there is a 10-day deadline, **we highly recommend having all the documentation prepared beforehand.**

Evaluation criteria

Eligible applications will be evaluated against predetermined evaluation criteria, applying predefined weighting factors and thresholds. This is a summary of the evaluation criteria, **please read carefully section 8 of the Regulatory Bases**.

– *Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the experienced researcher and the suitability to his/her scientific skills and knowledge for the development of the project*
  – Scientific and technical skills and knowledge of the researcher in connection with the project to be carried out.
  – Quality and originality of the results of research work and activities (recent scientific publications, patents, participation in international conferences, posters, etc.)
  – Experience in technology transfer activities.
  – Experience in the management of research groups.
  – Geographical mobility experience, mobility between academy and industry and interdisciplinary background. Teaching, supervision, teamwork, innovation and public awareness activities, especially recent ones.

– *Scientific and technological trajectory, and technology transfer capacity of the selected host organisation(s) and their suitability in connection with the project and CV of the experienced researcher*
  – Record of the institutions involved, in both research and technology transfer.
  – Suitability of the institutions for an applied research project geared to technology transfer and for the researcher's experience

- CV of the researcher's supervisor(s) in their research area and in technology transfer and existing mentoring schemes at the host organisation(s).
- Working conditions offered by the host organisation(s) to the researcher (appropriate research equipment and material, a training programme in science and technology transfer) and administrative facilities for the implementation and management of the project, plus logistical support for the researcher's onboarding process (incoming, outgoing and/or return host as applicable).

- *Quality and feasibility of the project*
  Applicants must propose a project that contemplates activities related to applied research and/or technology transfer. The following will be evaluated:
  - Applied research and technology transfer objectives, methodology, work plan and results expected
  - Originality and innovative nature of the project in relation to the 'state of the art' of research in the field.
  - Adequacy of research costs regarding the project.
  - Sex/gender analysis in the project's context, if applicable.

- *Technology transfer and impact*
  - Exploitation plan of the expected research results.
  - Scientific dissemination activities envisaged
  - Impact of the project in the market on the relevant sectorial area(s) as defined in the regional innovation strategies for smart specialisation of Catalonia (RIS3CAT strategy).
  - Contribution to European excellence and competitiveness
  - Establishment of international cooperation that can boost innovation and lead to a mutual benefit via cooperation between institutions (secondments and/or visits)
  - Impact on the researcher's career of the competences acquired while the project is being carried out.

Scientific achievements will be evaluated for the active research period.
Evaluation scores will be awarded by criteria, and not by sub-criteria.
Remember that an overall threshold of 350 over 500 points will be applied.

Checklist of common errors when preparing your application

Before submitting your application, review it to make sure it is correct and complete. The following checklist may help you to avoid common errors:

- Double check the research experience of the researcher to ensure compliance with the experience criteria and be sure the dates indicated are correct and in dd/mm/yyyy format.
- Career breaks are triggered after 12 full months of "non-research-related" activities.
- Missing description of the Catalan host organisation or host organisation abroad: applicants for Outgoing + Return mobility should make sure that both the Catalan host organisation and the host organisation abroad are described.
- Missing CV or information about the supervisor's career.
- An excessive number of pages: templates indicate the maximum number of pages per section. Excess pages will not be evaluated.
- Missing description and justification of research and mobility costs foreseen for the project.
- Proposal not focused on applied research and technology transfer.

– Proposal lacking an exploitation plan and its impact on the several stakeholders: the company/entity, the researcher, the market, the Catalan and European industrial sectors, etc.
– Missing mandatory secondment/short stay for TECNIO accredited organisations and Catalan Technology Centres (Outgoing + Return modality):
– All the letters attached to the proposal must be duly signed by the legal representative and dated on the same year of the actual active open call (2021).

Indicative timetable for this call

Official publication of the Regulatory Bases of the call: 23 June 2020 (COVID19 Modifications published 18 December 2020)
Official publication and opening of the call: April 2021
Deadline of the call: June 2021
Evaluation of proposals: until October 2021
Evaluation Summary Reports sent to candidates: October 2021
Start of the contract: from October 2021 to April 2022

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