

## Extract of rules of the Beatriu de Pinós postdoctoral grants (BP 2025) for applicants

**Attention:** This document is an extract of the information contained in the rules governing the Beatriu de Pinós postdoctoral fellowships. It includes the most important points for candidates and entities willing to submit an application. It does not replace the rules established in the legal texts of the grants published in the DOGC.

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### 1. General information

The Beatriu de Pinós postdoctoral grants are intended to support the recruitment and integration of postdoctoral research staff into the Catalan Science and Technology system. The fellowship is awarded through a competitive selection process; i. e., by comparing applications according to the established evaluation criteria. Fellowships are awarded to the highest-ranked applications.

The grants are intended for universities in the Catalan university system, research centres, hospital foundations and the three major infrastructures of the Catalan research system: the Alba Synchrotron of the CELLS Consortium, the MareNostrum supercomputer of the Barcelona Supercomputing Center – National Supercomputing Centre and the National Centre for Genomic Analysis. All beneficiary entities must have operational headquarters in Catalonia.

## **2. Requirements for candidates**

Candidates, of any nationality, must meet the following requirements:

### **1. Obtaining the doctoral degree**

Candidates must have obtained their doctoral degree between 1 January 2018 and 31 December 2023 (for this purpose, the date of completion of the doctoral degree is considered to be the date of the reading and approval of the thesis).

The period for obtaining the doctoral degree shall be between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2023, provided that any of the following circumstances can be justified after the degree was obtained:

- Period of maternity or paternity leave.
- Dependent children under 6 years of age.
- Dependent family members with a legally recognised physical, mental or sensory disability.
- Serious illness or accident requiring major surgery or hospital treatment, resulting in temporary incapacity for the researcher's usual occupation or activity for a continuous period of at least six months. Minor surgery, outpatient surgery and rehabilitation treatments carried out outside the hospital system are excluded.
- Recognised refugee status under the 1951 Geneva Convention.
- Any of the situations provided for in Article 1 of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on comprehensive protection measures against gender-based violence.

For candidates with a degree of disability of 33% or more, recognised by the assessment and guidance team of the centres for people with functional diversity of the Government of Catalonia or an equivalent body, the period for obtaining a doctoral degree shall be between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2023.

### **2. Postdoctoral experience**

Candidates must have at least two years of postdoctoral experience outside Spain on the closing date for the submission of applications (first stage). This postdoctoral experience, regardless of the type of affiliation, may have been carried out in different institutions, as long as the total postdoctoral stay amounts to at least two years.

### **3. Mobility rule**

Candidates may not have resided in Spain for more than twelve months during the last three years before the closing date for submission of applications (first stage). The mobility rule is also not met if candidates have worked in Spain for more than twelve months during the last three years before the closing date for submission of applications.

In the case of organisations considered extraterritorial for these purposes under an agreement applicable in Spain, applicants may not have worked at the institution for more than twelve months during the three years before the closing date for submission of applications. For refugee researchers, the mobility rule applies from the date on which official recognition as a refugee was granted under the 1951 Geneva Convention.

### **4. Reserved fellowships**

One of the fellowships is reserved for candidates with a degree of disability of 33% or more, recognised by the assessment and guidance team of the centres for people with functional diversity of the Government of Catalonia or an equivalent body. In the event that no applications are received for this fellowship, it shall be reallocated to ensure a balanced distribution across fields of expertise on the applications received.

Candidates wishing to apply for this fellowship must state this in the application and provide the supporting documentation when requested by AGAUR. If this supporting documentation is

written in a language other than Catalan, Spanish or English, it must also be accompanied by a sworn translation into one of these languages. If candidates do not provide evidence of their degree of disability, their application will be treated as ordinary. Candidates applying for this fellowship must meet all the candidate's requirements.

5. Candidates who are currently receiving or have previously received (in full or in part) a Beatriu de Pinós fellowship from a prior call for applications may not be awarded a fellowship under this call.

### **3. Responsible Researcher Requirements**

Responsible researchers must meet the following requirement by the closing date for submission of applications:

Have a statutory or employment affiliation or membership agreement with the beneficiary entity. This affiliation must ensure the supervision of the candidate throughout the three-year duration of the fellowship.

For the purposes of these rules, part-time staff, staff on leave, visiting professors and emeritus professors are not considered to fulfil this requirement.

### **4. Incompatibility of the Fellowships with other Subsidies or Grants**

1. The incompatibilities set out in the employment contract and agreed by the contracting institutions or entities, in accordance with applicable legislation, shall apply to the contracts covered by the fellowship.

2. These fellowships are incompatible with any other public or private grants awarded for the same purpose.

3. Applicant entities must provide information on any other grants or subsidies awarded for the same purpose, both at the time of submitting the application and at any time when this situation arises.

4. These fellowships are compatible with other additional salary payments for the development of professional or research activities that are of interest and are directly related to the training and research objectives of the fellowship, including additional salary payments for teaching or research tasks, provided that they do not compromise the purpose of the fellowship. The fellowship is also compatible with subsidies for participation in congresses, meetings or scientific conferences, as well as with grants for short research stays and other training activities. Approval of these compatibilities is the responsibility of the host institution, which must formally notify AGAUR at the time.

### **5. Execution period**

1. The fellowships awarded have a duration of three years.

2. Beneficiary entities must recruit the candidate and formalise the contract within the period between the publication of the final award resolution and 1 March 2027. In the case of fellowships awarded by substitution, the deadline for incorporation is 1 May 2027.

3. Only in exceptional and duly justified cases may a postponement of the hiring date be authorised. Postponements motivated by the professional or family convenience of the candidate, or by foreseeable delays in the ordinary procedures for obtaining visas, residence

permits or work permits required of all non-EU researchers, shall not be accepted. In any case, any extension of the recruitment period must be requested at least one month before its expiry.

## 6. Eligible Expenses and Activities

The BP grant covers the **cost of each contract over the three-year** duration of the fellowship and includes both the researcher's remuneration and the employer's Social Security contribution. Fellowships are subject to the tax regime in force at the time they are awarded. The recruited researcher must receive the minimum gross salary specified in the call: €37,392.00.

The fellowship also includes an amount to cover the **cost of terminating the contract** at the end of the agreed period.

In addition, the fellowship includes an **additional amount of 12,000 euros**. This grant is aimed exclusively at the actions carried out by the candidate during the period of enjoyment of the contract subject to the grant and which must be managed by the beneficiary entity itself.

This complementary aid may include the following items:

1. This amount is intended exclusively for actions carried out by the candidate during the term of the contract covered by the fellowship and must be managed by the beneficiary entity. The additional amount may cover the following:
2. Training activities, such as courses related to both the scientific field and professional skills (management, organisation, entrepreneurship, dissemination and scientific communication, cross-cutting skills, etc.).
3. Travel, accommodation and subsistence expenses necessary for attendance and participation in conferences and congresses, work meetings, fieldwork, or short-term research stays.
4. Expenses related to the research activities carried out by the candidate, including participation in congresses and other events, membership of scientific associations, purchase of bibliographic materials or consumables for office and laboratory use, specialised scientific and technical services not available within the host institution, and purchase of specific software.
5. It may also include expenses related to the publication in scientific journals and the deposit of results and data, including technical editing, translation and adaptation services.
6. Expenses related to intellectual property rights.
7. A computer device (personal computer or tablet) intended for the candidate's research and training activities during the term of the fellowship.

Expenses related to the purchase of office equipment and scientific and technical equipment (including computers of all types, except those referred to in point 6 of this rule) or technical services for the installation, maintenance or repair of office, scientific, technical or IT equipment must be borne by the host institution and are not eligible for this additional amount.

Contributions in kind are also ineligible for this additional amount, particularly those corresponding to internal use of services within the beneficiary entity, even if justified by an invoice or equivalent document, where no actual outflow of funds occurs.

Expenses incurred during periods of suspension of the fellowship (e.g. leave due to sick leave or other reasons) are also not eligible.

If the candidate renounces the BP grant before finishing the 18<sup>th</sup> month of contract, the maximum justifiable amount of the additional amount will be 6,000 euros.

## 7. Applications

Applications must be submitted electronically in two stages:

### **a. First stage (provisional application of the candidate):**

Provisional applications must be submitted electronically by the candidate through the 'Procedures' section of the website of the Government of Catalonia, following the instructions provided therein.

Under these rules, a candidate and a responsible researcher may only appear as such in a single application per call.

The standard application form consists of a general form and a standard annex to be attached to it. The information to be provided in the annex includes: a brief curriculum vitae of the candidate; a description of the most prominent elements of the research group, the researcher who will receive the fellowship and the entity to which the candidate is affiliated; a brief description of the scientific activity to be carried out, including the work plan for the scientific and teaching activities to be carried out; the impact, communication and dissemination of this activity; and the ethical implications of the proposed research project. This information should be divided into the following sections: curriculum vitae, host institution, project, research and training activities, impact and ethical implications. The ethical implications section of the annex shall include a non-evaluative ethical self-assessment table to be completed by all applicant researchers and entities.

As this is a competitive procedure, no improvements to the applications shall be accepted after the application submission deadline. The evaluation shall be based exclusively on the information provided in the form and annexes. If the annex is blank or illegible, the evaluation shall be based solely on the information provided in the application form during the initial submission period.

### **b. Second stage (to be carried out by the beneficiary entity):**

To access the second stage, applicant entities must have previously signed the agreement for processing personal data within the framework of the calls for proposals managed by AGAUR, as well as the agreement for access to its grant management application (BOGA), following the procedure available on the AGAUR website.

Once the deadline for submitting provisional applications has passed, as specified in the relevant call, a period will be opened for applicant entities to access the AGAUR grant management application (BOGA) to confirm or reject the applications submitted by candidate researchers. To confirm a provisional application, the legal representative of the entity must sign the confirmation document generated by BOGA and submit it to AGAUR via the EACAT platform, or any other valid official electronic register, within the deadline specified in the call. The confirmation document must include a self-declaration of compliance with the requirements established in the call legal text. The confirmation document must include a self-declaration of compliance with the requirements established in Rule 6. By signing this document, the entity's legal representative also certifies that the applicants have a statutory or employment affiliation, or a membership agreement with the beneficiary entity, sufficient to guarantee the supervision and monitoring of the candidate during the three-year fellowship. Failure to comply shall result in rejection of the application.

In order to continue with the procedure, the confirmation document must be duly signed and submitted to the AGAUR electronic register within the deadline specified in the call.

Submission of the application form authorises the competent body to verify that the data contained and declared therein is accurate. The inaccuracy, falsity or omission of any essential data in the application form or annex renders the procedure ineffective from the moment it is known and following prior hearing of the interested party, and consequently entails the rejection of the fellowship application. If such inaccuracy or omission is known after the fellowship has been awarded, it shall constitute grounds for revocation and/or sanction.

## 8. Evaluation and selection

The evaluation of applications is carried out in two stages.

### 1. First evaluation stage

Individual and online evaluation of each application by three external experts in their respective fields of expertise (peer reviewers), taking into account the specificities of the relevant research area, according to the following criteria and weightings:

- a) **Curriculum vitae of the candidate (45%).** The following elements will be positively considered: (i) research experience, the quality and relevance of the scientific contributions and results obtained, as well as the development of original and innovative ideas with the potential to contribute to the generation of new knowledge or benefit society; (ii) diversity of collaborations (with research groups, companies and other societal actors), international experience, a multidisciplinary approach, and creativity; (iii) autonomy, independent thinking and proven leadership ability; (iv) evidence of excellent research management (including good practices in open science, data reuse, valorisation of results or knowledge transfer) and complementary activities to the research career (teaching, mentoring of junior researchers, research evaluation, dissemination activities, etc.).
- b) **Host institution (20%).** The following elements will be taken into account: (i) scientific track record and international impact of both the researcher responsible for the fellowship and the host research group, as well as their suitability in relation to the proposed research project; (ii) experience of the responsible researcher, the host research group and the host institution in recruiting and training researchers, and their capacity to implement and coordinate the planned research and training activities, as well as their ability to integrate trained personnel into the research system.
- c) **Research and training activities to be developed during the three-year period (10%).** The following elements will be positively considered: novelty and originality of the proposed research activities, clarity in defining the problem and identifying the objectives, appropriateness of the methodological approach, and feasibility of the work plan, contingency measures and risk management plan; research stays and professional training activities of the candidate, and exchange of knowledge between the host research group and the candidate.
- d) **Expected impact (25%).** This will be assessed according to the following elements:
  - d.1) Impact of the fellowship on the development of the candidate's research career, according to the training activities for the acquisition of new transversal skills and in the scientific field set out in the proposal (in line with the European Competence Framework for Researchers). Credibility of the planned activities to improve the researcher's career and employability prospects, as well as appropriateness of the proposal to their scientific career (10%).
  - d.2) Scientific impact: demonstrable contribution of research excellence to academic advances within and across disciplines, including significant advances in understanding, method, theory and application (5%).
  - d.3) Measures to maximise impact: dissemination activities aimed at members of the scientific community or interested parties, activities for the exploitation of results (where

applicable) and communication and dissemination activities aimed at non-specialised audiences and raising awareness of the value of science for society (5%).

d.4) Societal and economic impact: demonstrable effects or benefits of the research beyond academia. The proposed pathway towards impact shall be assessed, from the results and contributions of the research activities to the expected impacts after the completion of the project, including the identification of the final beneficiaries and the impact indicators that provide evidence thereof. The impact may arise from scientific findings (new knowledge) or from research processes (i.e., the practice of research acting as a catalyst for change) (5%).

As a result of this first evaluation stage, three evaluation reports will be issued with scores on a scale from 0 to 10, with two decimal places, as follows:

- 0 Not assessable
- 1 Deficient
- 2 Poor
- 3 Unsatisfactory
- 4 Adequate
- 5 Satisfactory
- 6 Fair
- 7 Good
- 8 Very good
- 9 Excellent
- 10 Outstanding

In order to ensure full independence and autonomy of judgement, all experts in this first stage evaluate the applications remotely and individually, without knowing the identity of the other members participating in the evaluation process. They are also required to sign a declaration of no conflict of interest and confidentiality. In accordance with the provisions of the Catalan Science Act, the scientific evaluation reports prepared by independent experts are considered internal documents and shall remain confidential in order to guarantee the anonymity of the evaluator.

## 2. Second evaluation stage

After the first stage of individual and online evaluation of each application, evaluation panels will be set up for each scientific field. Each panel will meet to discuss all assigned applications. The evaluation panels will calibrate and assign the final score for each application on the basis of the individual evaluations received, an overall assessment of its strengths and weaknesses, and taking into account the evaluation criteria and weightings set out in this regulation, the specificities of the different areas of knowledge within each field, and the complementary interdisciplinary assessment provided by the members of each panel.

The procedure shall be supervised by the coordinators for each area of knowledge. The evaluation panels shall act according to the principles of impartiality, absence of conflicts of interest, objectivity and scientific rigour.

In the event of a numerical tie at the end of the entire evaluation process, priority shall be given to applications submitted by female candidates. In the event of a tie between candidates of the same gender, priority shall be given to the applications with the higher scores for evaluation criterion a (curriculum vitae of the candidate).

### 3. Scientific field and evaluation panels.

The assessment based on peer review shall be carried out according to the distribution of areas among the seven evaluation panels, which cover all areas of knowledge. The list of scientific fields and the areas of knowledge associated with each field is available on the AGAUR website: <https://agaur.gencat.cat/web/.content/Documents/Avaluacio/ACS-per-ambit-catala-des2021.pdf>

All candidates, according to the areas of knowledge indicated in their application, shall be included in one of the seven evaluation panels. The initial assignment of the proposal to a panel will be based on the preference expressed by the candidate. However, where necessary due to the expertise required for the evaluation, the application may be reassigned to another panel with the agreement of the relevant scientific coordinators. In such cases, applicants will be informed of such reassignment after the fact in the evaluation report.

The participation of female evaluators in the evaluation process shall be at least 40% and AGAUR shall endeavour to achieve parity between male and female evaluators in the overall process.

Candidates have the right to request, on a confidential basis, that AGAUR exclude up to three evaluators, stating the reasons. Recusal is independent and additional to AGAUR's conflict of interest management policy, which all experts must be aware of and comply with.

Each applicant shall receive an evaluation report justifying the final score obtained.

The selection of candidates shall be made by the Selection Committee, which shall take into account AGAUR's general rules, the evaluations made, the assessment criteria, the balanced distribution across areas of knowledge and budgetary availability.

### 9. Draft Award Decision and Acceptance of the Fellowship

The draft award decision contains the list of applicants proposed to be beneficiaries of the grants, as well as those on the reserve list. If any of the applicants proposed as beneficiaries do not accept the fellowship or withdraw their application, the fellowship may be awarded to an applicant on the **reserve list in order of score**, provided that sufficient funds have been released to attend to the following applications with the same score.

The researchers proposed as beneficiaries must **formalise their acceptance of the fellowship within two months** from the day following the publication or notification of the draft award decision.

The acceptance form is available on AGAUR's website and must be submitted to AGAUR's electronic register, via the EACAT platform or through the procedure associated with the relevant AGAUR file (submission of documents and other requests), which is available in the 'Procedures' section of the website of the Generalitat de Catalunya (<<http://web.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/>>).

In addition to the acceptance form, **the following documents must be provided:**

- a) A copy of the candidate's DNI, NIE or passport. If the identity number has changed from that given in the application, a copy of both the current ID document and the one stated in the application must be submitted.
- b) A copy of the candidate's doctoral degree certificate or a document certifying that the candidate has requested the issue of the doctoral degree certificate. If applicable, a

- document indicating the date of the thesis defence (the date of the defence and approval of the thesis shall be considered the date of the award of the doctoral degree).
- c) If applicable, the mandatory documents accrediting the candidate's maternity leave, paternity leave, care of children under 6 years of age, care of people with physical, mental or sensory disabilities, or dependants over 65 years of age requiring special care; or documents evidencing serious illness or accident requiring major surgery or hospital treatment and causing temporary incapacity to carry out their regular work or activity for at least six consecutive months.
  - d) A letter certifying the postdoctoral stays outside Spain, stating the dates of these stays. This letter must be signed by a representative of the host institution, which may be the legal representative, the management or the human resources department.

Entities must also submit the following documentation, provided that they have not submitted it in previous AGAUR calls:

- e) A copy of the deed of incorporation and statutes of the entity with which the fellowship holder is affiliated.
- f) A copy of the identity document of the legal representative of the beneficiary entity and a document certifying the powers of attorney.
- g) Pursuant to Article 15(2) of the Catalan Transparency Act, if the amount of the grant awarded exceeds €10,000, a self-declaration must be provided containing information on the remuneration of the management or administrative bodies of the beneficiary entity, for publication in accordance with the adopted corporate criteria or, where applicable, the relevant regulatory provisions. This document may be replaced by a self-declaration from the entity's legal representative stating that this information is available on the entity's website, under the terms and conditions established by the Catalan Transparency Act and the other applicable regulations.

In the case of institutions that have signed an agreement with AGAUR, the Administration of the Government of Catalonia already has this information; These institutions are therefore exempt from submitting the documents referred to in sections (e), (f), and (g) of this rule.

Entities that fail to submit the acceptance form and the other required documents within the legal time limit and under the conditions set out in these rules and the relevant call for applications shall, without the need for prior request, be deemed to have tacitly renounced the fellowship.

Applicants may submit **allegations** within ten days of notification of the draft award decision. The allegations shall be taken into account when issuing the final decision without any separate decision or report being issued in response. The allegations shall be reviewed for possible procedural flaws, but shall not entail a new scientific evaluation in the event of disagreement with the expert opinion. Likewise, within the aforementioned deadline, applicants may withdraw their fellowship application, without prejudice to the possibility of withdrawal at any other stage of the procedure prior to the award decision. Submission of allegations does not exempt beneficiary entities from the obligation to submit the acceptance form within the deadline set out in these rules.

The final award decision will inform about the final beneficiaries and the amount awarded. After the final award decision is published, **appeals** can be filed within one month.

## 10. Proof of employment and payment

AGAUR will make the payment of the aid to the beneficiary entity as follows:

1. The first payment corresponds to 50% of the grant for the recruitment of the candidate and 100% of the complementary amount, and is processed at the time when the beneficiary entity certifies the employment of the researcher. The accreditation documentation must be sent within a maximum period of **two months** from the day following the publication of the final award decision, and is as follows:
  - a) A standard form certifying the recruitment of the candidate and providing ethical information, duly signed.
  - b) Copy of the signed contract, stating the gross annual remuneration, the duration and dates of the contract, and the place where the researcher is to provide their services.
  - c) If the research project includes any aspect that requires **ethical assessment**, a copy of the favourable report issued by the relevant ethics committee and linked to the host entity. If this report is not available at the time joining the host institution, the candidate must declare that they have initiated the procedure and indicate the expected date of obtaining it in the standard form specified in point a) of this rule.
2. The second payment consists of 30% of the amount for the recruitment of the candidate and must be made when the beneficiary entity submits the scientific and technical follow-up report to AGAUR, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 27.
3. The remaining payment – which consists of 20% of the amount for the recruitment of the candidate and, where applicable, 100% of the end-of-contract compensation – will be made once the justification for the fellowship has been submitted and reviewed.

## 11. Monitoring and justification

In order to assess the fulfilment of the objectives set out in the application, the beneficiary entity shall submit the following documents during the eighteenth month of the fellowship contract:

- a) The scientific and technical monitoring report.
- b) The data management plan of the research project in accordance with the provisions of Rule 36 of the call legal text.

The beneficiary entities must justify the effective execution of the subsidised activities and provide evidence within two months following the end of the fellowship. The documents to be submitted are the following:

- a) Scientific and technical justification report.
- b) Certificate of the candidate's recruitment costs.
- c) Copy of the document issued by the General Treasury of the Social Security "Contribution data report / Employed workers" (IDC).
- d) Itemized list of the expenses incurred with the additional amount.
- e) Where applicable, detailed list of other income or subsidies that have financed the subsidised activity.
- f) A self-declaration from the beneficiary entity.

All the standardised forms for justification that can be found on AGAUR website and must be sent through the electronic register.