



Universidad
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Resolution of 9 January 2026, of the Rector of the University of Zaragoza, approving the call for grants for pre-doctoral contracts under the 2024-2027 State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research.

On 12 December 2024, the extract from the Order of 9 December approving the 2024 call for grants for "Knowledge Generation Projects" and for actions for the training of pre-doctoral research staff associated with these projects, within the framework of the 2024-2027 State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research, was published in the Official State Gazette.

This call was approved under Order CIN/1025/2022 of 27 October.

As in previous calls, there has been a significant change in the structure of grants for pre-doctoral training associated with projects, integrating into a single award procedure grants for research projects for the generation of knowledge and actions for the training of pre-doctoral research staff associated with these projects. These actions aimed at pre-doctoral training are a continuation of the grants for pre-doctoral contracts for the training of doctors that have been announced since 2013 within the framework of the various state plans.

The process of evaluating and selecting the person to be hired, which must guarantee the principles of competition, publicity and transparency, will be the responsibility of the beneficiary entity, which may carry out these activities prior to the publication of the award decision.

This important development will improve the efficiency and flexibility of pre-doctoral grants, as it will speed up the incorporation of pre-doctoral staff in training into the implementation of projects and will also make the use of funds more versatile, as it allows for their use in cases of resignation.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 21 of the call for applications, once the evaluation process of the applications carried out in accordance with Article 20 thereof has been completed and in view of the report issued by the selection committee, the body responsible for the call issued the provisional resolution proposal, published on 29 July 2025 on the website of the State Research Agency, identifying in Annex I the grants with proposed funding for which the financing of pre-doctoral contracts is proposed.

On 5 November 2025, the final draft resolution is published on the Agency's website, identifying the grants with funding proposals for which pre-doctoral contracts are proposed to be funded.

On 9 December 2025, the resolution granting the knowledge generation projects and the actions for the training of pre-doctoral research staff associated with these projects is published on the Agency's website.

Consequently, the Rector, acting on behalf of the University of Zaragoza in accordance with Article 50 of Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the University System and Article 78 of the Statutes of the University of Zaragoza, approved by Decree 23/2025 of 28 February of the Government of Aragón, and appointed to that position by Decree



**Universidad
Zaragoza**



37/2025, of 9 April, of the Government of Aragon, published in the "Official Gazette of Aragon" number 70 dated 10 April 2025, resolves to approve the following.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE CALL

FOR ENTRIES CHAPTER I.

GENERAL ASPECTS

Article 1. Purpose and objective of the grants.

1. The purpose of this resolution is to approve the call for applications for pre-doctoral grants awarded to the University of Zaragoza, in the list of selected projects with funding proposals for pre-doctoral contracts, according to the award resolution published on the website of the State Research Agency on 9 December 2025.

2. The grants for the training of pre-doctoral research staff (hereinafter, pre-doctoral grants) are intended to train new doctors by completing a doctoral thesis associated with a research project, under the modality of a pre-doctoral contract. The funding includes the costs of hiring pre-doctoral research staff, stays at R&D centres and tuition fees for doctoral studies.

Likewise, within the framework of the grants, a postdoctoral orientation period (hereinafter POP) will be funded, once the doctoral degree has been obtained, aimed at the professional development and specialisation of this research staff, provided that the degree is obtained during the period of implementation of the action for the training of pre-doctoral research staff and for a maximum period of twelve months.

3. Twenty-eight grants are available. The projects are listed in Annex II of this resolution, published on the Official Notice Board of the University of Zaragoza (hereinafter TOUZ).

Article 2. Grant scheme and applicable regulations.

1. The grants provided for in this call for applications will be awarded on a competitive basis, in accordance with the principles of publicity, transparency, objectivity, equality and non-discrimination, seeking effectiveness in the fulfilment of objectives and efficiency in the allocation and use of public resources, as established in Article 8.3 of Law 38/2003 of 17 November, the General Subsidies Law.

2. The grants are subject to the regulatory bases contained in Order CIN/1025/2022, of 27 October, published in the Official State Gazette of 29 October, which approves the regulatory bases for the granting of public aid corresponding to various programmes and sub-programmes of the 2021-2023 State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation, managed by the State Research Agency (hereinafter, regulatory bases).



They are also regulated by Order of 9 December 2024 approving the 2024 call for grants for "Knowledge Generation Projects" and for actions for the training of pre-doctoral research staff associated with these projects, within the framework of the 2024-2027 State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research.

3. Pre-doctoral grants for the financing of contracts will be co-financed by the European Social Fund Plus (hereinafter ESF+), within the ESF+ Programme for Employment, Education, Training and Social Economy, and will therefore be governed by Community rules and by the national rules implementing or transposing those rules, as set out below:

a) Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 on Common Provisions.

b) Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021 establishing the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) and repealing Regulation (EU) No 1296/2013.

c) Order TES/106/2024 of 8 February determining the expenditure eligible for the European Social Fund Plus during the 2021-2027 programming period.

4. In addition to the above regulations, the provisions of the regulatory bases, in the Order of 9 December 2024, as well as the following national regulations, shall apply on a supplementary basis:

a) Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on General Subsidies, and its Regulations, approved by Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July.

b) Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, amended by Law 17/2022, of 5 September.

c) Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

d) Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

e) Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

f) Royal Decree 103/2019, of 1 March, approving the Statute of Pre-doctoral Research Staff in Training, in the case of pre-doctoral grants.

5. In accordance with the provisions of Article 2.1.1 of the Commission Communication on the Framework for State Aid for Research and Development and Innovation (2022/C 414/01), published in the Official Journal of the European Union C 414 of 28 October 2022, the provisions of Article 107.1 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union shall not apply to the grants provided for in this order, which shall be awarded to research organisations for non-economic activities. Beneficiary entities which, in addition to non-economic activities, carry out economic activities must report the respective funding, costs and revenues separately.

Where the research organisation carries out almost exclusively non-economic activities, it may be excluded in its entirety from the scope of Article 107(1) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, provided that its economic activities are



Universidad
Zaragoza



purely ancillary, i.e. they correspond to an activity that is directly related to its operation or is necessary for the operation of the research organisation or is closely linked to its main non-economic use, and is limited in scope. This shall be considered to be the case where the economic activities consume exactly the same inputs (such as material, equipment, labour and fixed capital) as the non-economic activities and the capacity allocated each year to those economic activities does not exceed 20 % of the total annual capacity of the entity concerned.

6. In accordance with the provisions of the previous section, the aid referred to in this order shall not be considered State aid.

7. Beneficiary entities must comply with Law 31/1995 of 8 November on the prevention of occupational risks and its implementing regulations, in particular Royal Decree 171/2004 of 30 January which implements Article 24 of Law 31/1995, of 8 November, on the Prevention of Occupational Risks, in relation to the coordination of business activities. They must also comply with the obligations regarding gender equality established in the applicable regulatory framework in force, particularly those included in Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, on effective equality between women and men, and related regulations, and in Law 14/2011, of 1 June, amended by Law 17/2022, of 5 September.

8. Activities carried out under the aid scheme must comply with international principles and current regulations applicable to the field of knowledge and action in which they are carried out, in accordance with Annex IV.

9. The European Commission Recommendation (2005/251/EC) of 11/03/2005 ("Official Journal of the European Union" L75 of 22/03/2005), relating to the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, shall apply to the grants announced in this order.

Article 3. Bodies responsible for the investigation, evaluation and resolution of the procedure.

1. The competent body for the investigation of the procedure for awarding the grants covered by this call shall be the Rector of the University of Zaragoza.

2. The competent body for the assessment and selection of applications shall be the Evaluation Committee, composed for each grant as indicated in Article 12. The composition of each Evaluation Committee shall be published together with the final list of accepted and rejected applications.

3. The competent body for issuing the decision to grant the aid shall be the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Zaragoza.



**Universidad
Zaragoza**



Article 4. Communications between the University of Zaragoza and interested parties.

1. All communications regarding the actions taken in the grant award procedure shall be made through the electronic means established in this call for applications.
2. The use of the established electronic means shall be mandatory both for notification and for the publication of the administrative acts issued.
3. Any acts that must be notified to applicants shall be published in the TOUZ.
4. This publication shall replace the notification, having the same effect, in accordance with the provisions of Article 45.1.b) of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations. Thus, the dates of publication of the various acts and resolutions in the TOUZ shall determine the start of the calculation of time limits. The University of Zaragoza may require the interested party to correct the error or provide the required documents, with a warning that, if they fail to do so, their application will be considered withdrawn, in accordance with the provisions of Article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations. The decision taken in this regard shall be notified to the interested party through the system provided for in the previous paragraph.

CHAPTER II

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION

Article 5. Requirements for applicants.

All persons who are enrolled or admitted to a doctoral programme for the 2025/2026 academic year at the time of submission of the application may apply. All persons who, at the time of submitting the application, are not enrolled or admitted to a doctoral programme but are in a position to be so on the date on which the contract is formalised may also be applicants. In any case, the formalisation of the contract shall be conditional upon the presentation of enrolment in a doctoral programme at the University of Zaragoza for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Those who meet any of the following circumstances may not apply or be eligible for the incentive contract:

- a) Have begun their pre-doctoral training with funding from other grants for pre-doctoral training through the development of a doctoral thesis awarded under the 2021-2023 State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research.
- b) Hold a PhD degree from any Spanish or foreign university.
- c) Have held previous pre-doctoral contracts at this or another institution, which, added to the duration of the contract for which they are applying, exceed the maximum time legally permitted under Article 21 of Law 14/11 of 1 June. If you have previously been employed by this or another institution under this type of pre-doctoral contract, the duration of the previous contracts will be deducted from the maximum duration legally permitted for this type of contract.



CHAPTER III

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACTIVITIES AND ECONOMIC REGIME

Article 6.1 Characteristics of the actions.

1. The activities aimed at the training of pre-doctoral research staff covered by this call for applications will be linked exclusively to one of the funded research projects.

The actions shall have a maximum duration of four years, and the implementation period shall begin on the date on which the contracted research staff take up their posts at the University of Zaragoza, without prejudice to the provisions on interruptions and extensions of the implementation period of the action.

Within the framework of the actions and within the maximum duration indicated in the previous paragraph, a postdoctoral orientation period will be funded once the doctoral degree has been obtained, provided that the degree is obtained during the period of implementation of the action, with a maximum duration of twelve months, aimed at the professional development and specialisation of this research staff, without prejudice to the provisions on interruptions and extensions of the implementation period.

2. The process of evaluating and selecting the persons to be hired, which must guarantee the principles of competition, publicity and transparency, is the responsibility of the beneficiary entity.

The evaluation process must comply with the following criteria and sub-criteria:

Criterion 1. Academic and/or scientific-technical background of the candidate (up to 50 points).

Sub-criterion 1.a): Scientific and technical contributions (up to 45 points). The candidate's academic record and other curricular merits will be assessed, as well as their suitability for the tasks to be performed based on their training and professional experience.

Subcriterion 1.b): Mobility and internationalisation (up to 5 points). The relevance and impact on the candidate's research career of stays at national and international centres and/or in the industrial sector will be assessed, taking into account the prestige of the host institution and the activity carried out there.

Criterion 2. Suitability of the candidate for the research activities to be carried out (up to 50 points). The suitability of the candidate for the programme, project or research activities to be carried out will be assessed on the basis of their previous training and experience. To this end, the added value that the project will bring to their research career will be taken into account, as well as the value contributed to the host centre and team.

Article 6.2. Financial arrangements

The actions will finance the following items: the cost of hiring, the cost of compensation at the end of the contract, and the expenses arising from stays at R&D centres and enrolment in doctoral programmes.

1. The selected candidates must be hired under a pre-doctoral contract, regulated by Article 21 of Law 14/2022, of 1 June, and Royal Decree



103/2019, of 1 March, and the incorporation must take place as indicated in Article

14. In the event that individuals have previously been hired under a pre-doctoral contract, the duration of the contract may not exceed the maximum established in Article 21.c) of Law 14/2011, of 1 June.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the remuneration under the contract may not be less than 75% of the salary set for equivalent categories in the collective agreements applicable to them during any of their years of service. Nor may it be less than the minimum interprofessional salary established each year, in accordance with Article 27 of the Consolidated Text of the Workers' Statute Law. For the establishment of the above remuneration, the minimum reference shall be the category corresponding to Professional Group M3 of staff in the salary table included in the single collective agreement for staff of the General State Administration.

2. Aid to cover expenses arising from stays at R&D centres and enrolment in doctoral programmes may be used for:

- Funding for stays undertaken by contracted researchers throughout the period of the grant, both at the pre-doctoral stage and in the POP phase, at R&D centres other than those to which they are attached, so that they can carry out activities that will improve their training and promote the development of their thesis, as well as complete and consolidate the research training they have acquired. The stays must ensure a degree of mobility and/or internationalisation that would not have been possible through previous academic training or other factors such as residence or nationality, and in no case should they cause a delay in the completion of doctoral studies. In the POP phase, these stays may be used to complement pre-doctoral training and guide future lines of work in the post-doctoral stage.

Stays may be carried out at other public or private R&D centres, including foreign or Spanish companies, provided that the centres are located in a different town from the centre where the activity is carried out. The stays must have a minimum duration of one month without interruption, counted from the date of incorporation into the host centre and within the period of execution of the grant. The choice of the R&D centre for the stay, the activities to be carried out during the stay and the authorisation for the execution of the stay shall be the responsibility of the beneficiary entity.

3. The financing of tuition fees arising from the doctoral studies of contracted pre-doctoral research staff - academic supervision and training credits - at a Spanish university, public or private, corresponding to the courses in which they are enrolled during the period of validity of the grant for pre-doctoral recruitment.

For the purposes of the concurrence of the duration of the grant and the academic years, each academic year shall run from 1 September of the corresponding year to 30 June of the following year, both days inclusive. Notwithstanding the above, the tuition fees for the 2024/2025 academic year are considered eligible regardless of the duration of the recruitment grant.



Article 7. Eligible items.

1. In relation to the grant for the financing of the contract, the personnel costs arising from the recruitment (salary and employer's social security contributions) generated by the pre-doctoral research staff in training hired during each of the years, considered independently, are considered eligible items.

2. The following personnel costs shall be considered eligible expenses, in accordance with Article 8 of the order establishing the rules:

a) The gross remuneration agreed with the contracting entity or established in a collective agreement, within the limits set out in this call for applications. This concept includes the following salary components: base salary, seniority supplements, supplements for special knowledge, shift work, night work, arduous work or other supplements derived from the activity, extraordinary payments, production incentives, overtime and residence supplements. Gross remuneration includes social security contributions and taxes payable by the contracted personnel.

b) Social security contributions payable by the company.

The contracting R&D centre must assume any recruitment costs that exceed the aid granted, arising from increases in the salaries of pre-doctoral research staff in training, increases in the employer's Social Security contribution, increases in the salary scales of the corresponding applicable agreements, the application of Article 21.d of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, or any other circumstance.

3. In relation to expenses relating to contributions, in order to calculate the eligible amount, the amount corresponding to any rebates or reductions that may be associated with the payment of this contribution must be deducted.

The following items shall not be eligible as personnel costs:

a) Salaries corresponding to profit sharing.

b) Benefits in kind and allowances for travel, accommodation and meals.

c) Non-salary payments agreed with the contracting entity or established in a collective agreement for distance and transport allowances, paid by the contracting entity to contracted staff for the purpose of reducing or covering their travel to their usual place of work.

d) Training expenses for contracted personnel.

e) Any other item other than those mentioned above as eligible expenses.

To calculate personnel costs, only the actual time spent performing the work covered by the contract shall be taken into account, including holidays, days off or time spent attending training courses related to the job, provided that such activities are connected with the work covered by the contract.

contract. For these purposes, situations with the right to remuneration in which no actual service is provided, such as absences or temporary incapacity, or the situations set out in Article 37.3 of the revised text of the Workers' Statute Law, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2015 of 23 October, shall not be taken into account. In these cases, the proportionate part of Social Security contributions must also be excluded from the amount of reimbursable personnel expenses.

4. With regard to aid to cover the cost of compensation at the end of the contract, the compensation to which pre-doctoral research staff in training are entitled at the end of the contract due to the expiry of the agreed term, in accordance with the provisions of Article 21.e) of Law 14/2011 of 1 June, is considered eligible for funding.

The cost incurred for this purpose throughout the period of implementation of the aid shall be eligible for funding.

5. With regard to additional aid for financing stays, the eligible expenditure shall be that established in Article 11.3.b) of the Order of 9 December, which approves the call for early processing for the year 2024 of the procedure for granting aid to Knowledge Generation Projects, for research stays, considering pre-doctoral research staff in training hired as staff participating in the execution of the project, without prejudice to the provisions of Article 6.2.2 of this call, on the duration and purpose of the stays.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 17.1.d of Law 35/2006, of 28 November, on Personal Income Tax and partially amending the laws on Corporation Tax, Non-Resident Income Tax and Wealth Tax, the financial grants referred to in this section, which are intended to offset the travel, subsistence and accommodation expenses incurred in connection with temporary stays at universities and research centres other than those to which they are attached in order to complete the research training of pre-doctoral research staff in training, shall not be considered as income from work and shall therefore be exempt from personal income tax.

6. With regard to additional aid intended to finance tuition fees arising from doctoral studies, the eligible expenditure may not exceed the maximum amounts of the public fees for the provision of university academic services established by the corresponding autonomous community for public universities.

The expenditure may correspond to the payment by pre-doctoral research staff in training of the corresponding public fees or to compensation to universities for the amounts of public fees due to the exemption of pre-doctoral research staff in training from paying them.

In accordance with the provisions of Article 7.j) of Law 35/2006, of 28 November, and Article 2 of the Personal Income Tax Regulations, approved by Royal Decree 439/2007, of 30 March, these financial allowances intended to finance the cost of formal studies are exempt from personal income tax withholding.



**Universidad
Zaragoza**



Article 8. Concurrence and accumulation of grants.

1. Pre-doctoral grants may not be financed from sources that are incompatible with the ESF+, in accordance with the specific regulations governing that fund.
2. Contracts financed by pre-doctoral grants shall be incompatible with any other employment contract entered into by pre-doctoral research staff in training and with the receipt of any amount of a salary nature, when this is detrimental to the research and training purpose of the grant and/or occurs during the same working hours, as well as with the receipt of other grants with a similar purpose.

Notwithstanding the above, pre-doctoral research staff in training may receive non-salary supplements from R&D projects and contracts, supplements for teaching tasks that do not involve a contractual relationship, as well as supplementary grants to promote the mobility of research staff, provided that these grants do not involve the formalisation of employment contracts, or other grants for attendance at conferences, meetings or scientific seminars. In any case, the activities from which the above supplements or grants are derived must not undermine or interrupt the purpose of the pre-doctoral grant.

3. Staff hired under the pre-doctoral grant who work at a university may collaborate in teaching tasks in a university department, with the prior authorisation of the university itself, for a maximum of 180 hours during the total duration of the grant, and in no case may they exceed 60 hours per year. When the work is carried out in non-university centres, pre-doctoral research staff in training may perform these tasks at the university with which the centre has an agreement in this regard. Under no circumstances may teaching tasks detract from the research and training purposes of the contract.

CHAPTER IV INVESTIGATION

PROCEDURE

Article 9. Deadline for submitting applications.

The deadline for submitting applications shall begin on the day following the publication of this resolution in the Official Gazette of Aragon and shall end on 13 February 2026.

Article 10. Applications.

Applications must be sent to the Research Management Service of the University of Zaragoza. To formalise the application, you must access the website <https://sede.unizar.es/solicita> using an electronic certificate, the Cl@ve identification system or agreed passwords (PIN and password) valid at the University of Zaragoza, and follow these steps:

1. Select the Options/Start new application menu.
2. Identify yourself.



Universidad
Zaragoza



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3. Select the application entitled "Pre-doctoral contracts associated with PID2024 projects" from the catalogue of applications "highlighted and frequently used procedures", indicating the number of the position for which the candidate wishes to apply (according to the number indicated as "pre-doctoral grant reference" in the individualised annexes II published in the TOUZ).

Foreign nationals not resident in Spain who are interested in applying should write toregistro@unizar.es to request an access code, indicating the selection process they are applying for and providing a copy of their valid national identity document and/or a copy of their valid passport, at least three days before the deadline for submitting applications, or, failing that, submit the application through a representative.

Each person may only submit one application. The application must refer to one of the research projects awarded to the University of Zaragoza by resolution of the State Research Agency on 9 December 2025.

In the event of multiple applications being submitted, the last one submitted through the above procedure will be considered valid.

The following documentation must be attached to the application in PDF format:

a) Valid ID card, foreign resident ID card or passport. Passports may only be submitted in the case of foreign nationals who are not resident in Spain.

b) University degrees, or proof of payment of the fees for issuing them, and official academic certificates corresponding to the degrees obtained on the date of submission of the application, issued by the academic institution. The certificate must include the grades obtained and the dates on which they were obtained for the subjects that make up the programme of the degrees or courses listed.

If the academic certificate is issued in a language other than Spanish or English, it must be accompanied by a certified translation into one of these two languages.

In the case of certificates issued by foreign institutions, the maximum and minimum grades within the corresponding assessment system and the minimum grade required to pass must also be stated.

c) Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae, in Spanish or English, with a maximum length of four pages.

d) Official documents certifying all the merits listed in the Curriculum Vitae.

e) Document of enrolment or admission to a doctoral programme for the 2025/2026 academic year (or a commitment, signed by the interested party, to be in a position to enrol in a doctoral programme sufficiently in advance of the date of signing the contract).



Universidad
Zaragoza



f) Sworn statement by the candidate according to the standard model (Annex I).

g) Persons with a degree of disability equal to or greater than 33% must attach the document certifying said disability.

Submission of the application implies consent to the processing of the applicants' personal data for the purpose of resolving the call for applications, within the framework of Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the protection of personal data and the guarantee of digital rights, as well as consent to verify or collect from other bodies, administrations or providers, by electronic means, information on the circumstances of the applications which, in accordance with the call for applications and the applicable regulations, are relevant to the investigation of the procedure.

Submission to the competition implies a declaration that the documents and merits provided are true, and the University of Zaragoza may request the original supporting documentation at any time before or after the evaluation of applications. Failure to provide the required documentation or the discovery of false information in the documentation or merits provided will entitle the University of Zaragoza to take any legal action it deems appropriate against the applicant and, where appropriate, to terminate the contract if it has been awarded.

Article 11. Review and correction of applications.

1. The provisional list of admitted and excluded persons will be published in the TOUZ, granting a period of 5 working days from said publication for interested parties to correct any errors, provide the required documentation or submit any arguments they deem relevant. Applicants who do not provide the required documentation or correct any errors will be considered to have withdrawn their application.

2. Once the arguments and documentation submitted have been reviewed, the final list of accepted and rejected applications will be published in the TOUZ, and the accepted files will be sent to each Evaluation Committee.

Article 12. Evaluation and selection of applications.

1. Each Evaluation Committee will be made up of three members of the project research team (preferably including one of the project's principal investigators), or, failing that, other researchers from the same field of knowledge.

The composition of the evaluation and selection committees for this call will adhere to the principle of gender balance, and mechanisms will be included to avoid gender bias.

Each Evaluation Committee shall prepare a report describing the evaluation and selection process and justifying the suitability of the selected person, based on the aforementioned criteria and sub-criteria. This report shall remain in the possession of the beneficiary entity, as its custodian, and may be requested at any time during the period of execution or justification of the grant, without prejudice to the information that must be provided in the



Universidad
Zaragoza



interim monitoring report of the related project. Reports from external experts to the committee may be sought if deemed appropriate.

2. Applications will be subject to a report on the suitability of candidates for the research activities to be carried out by the Evaluation Committee, in accordance with the published evaluation criteria. They will assess all applications assigned to their project and prepare an evaluation report for each application. This report will explain the reasons for the evaluation result.

3. For each of the grants associated with each research project, the application with the highest score in each of the projects will be proposed for funding, provided that the applications have a score of 75 points or higher. In cases where applications receive the same score and it is necessary to break the tie, the decision will be made in favour of the application with the highest score in Criterion 1 of Article 6 (Academic and/or scientific-technical background of the candidate). If the tie persists, priority will be given to female beneficiaries.

Similarly, a list of reserve applications will be established to replace the proposed applicant in the event of their withdrawal, for each of the grants associated with each research project, ordered according to their score with all those applications that have a score equal to or greater than 75 points and that have not been proposed for funding.

Article 13. Resolution and publication.

1. The provisional reasoned decision proposal shall be published in the TOUZ, with a period of 5 working days from the day following its publication for the submission of appeals against it.

2. Following the assessment and resolution of any appeals lodged against the provisional award decision, the final award decision will be published in the TOUZ, along with the list of reserves for each position, where applicable. Those not included on this list shall be considered definitively unsuccessful. The contracts offered may be declared unfilled if the candidates do not achieve the minimum score or if there are no valid applications.

Article 14. Acceptance and signing of the contract.

Pre-doctoral research staff must take up their positions at the University of Zaragoza within a maximum period of six months from the day following the publication of the award decision on the Agency's website. Pre-doctoral research staff must take up their positions on the first day of the corresponding month, with a deadline of 1 June 2026.

In exceptional, duly accredited cases, an extension of the deadlines established in the call for applications for the formalisation and presentation of contracts and for the incorporation of those hired by the University of Zaragoza may be authorised.

Any modification of the initial conditions for the award of grants and the deadlines for their implementation must be authorised by the awarding body, which may request any reports it



it deems appropriate and give rise to the modification of the terms of the award by means of a new resolution, in application of the provisions of Article 25 of the regulatory bases order (Order CIN/1025/2022 of 27 October 2022).

1. Once the final decision to award the grant has been published, beneficiaries must accept the contracts within three days. If the grant is not expressly accepted within the specified period, the beneficiary shall be deemed to have waived the grant awarded.
2. In order to sign the contract, each beneficiary must provide proof of enrolment in the doctoral programme.

Article 15. Resignations and incorporation of reserves.

1. Resignations by selected candidates prior to the start of their contract may give rise to the incorporation of reserve candidates. Failure by selected candidates to meet the necessary requirements for recruitment during the corresponding period for the formalisation of contracts may also give rise to the incorporation of reserve candidates.
2. The incorporation of reserve candidates shall be carried out in accordance with the following procedure:
 - a) In the event of withdrawal or failure to comply by the selected candidate, the reserve candidate ranked first in the project in question shall be considered for incorporation.
 - b) If the vacancy cannot be filled by the first reserve candidate, the next reserve candidate or candidates for the project will be considered, if any, in order of priority.
 - c) If the vacancy cannot be filled by any reserve candidate from the research project, the incorporation of a reserve candidate from another research project at the University of Zaragoza who exceeds the cut-off mark in the new evaluation by the Evaluation Committee may be requested.
3. If, during the execution of the grant, the contract is terminated or withdrawn by the contracted person, the University of Zaragoza may evaluate, select and hire another person, complying with the requirements established in this article, in the applicable labour legislation, as well as in Royal Decree 103/20190, of 1 March.

The period between the termination or withdrawal of the contract and the incorporation of a new person may not exceed three months (unless expressly authorised by the State Research Agency).

Regardless of whether different persons may be hired within the framework of the action, the maximum duration of the action shall, in any case, be four years and the amount of the grant shall be that set out in Article 6.



Universidad
Zaragoza



CHAPTER V MONITORING AND CONTROL OF GRANTS

Article 16. Obligations of beneficiaries.

1. The obligations of beneficiaries shall be as follows:

- Joining the centre where the activity covered by the contract will be carried out.
- Mentioning the funding entities in publications and activities derived from the activity.

For these purposes, reference to funding by the State Research Agency must be made. be made as following way: "The contract/publication/result/equipment/video/activity/other is part of the grant REFERENCE OF THE GRANT, funded by MICIU/AEI/10.13039/501100011033 and by the ESF+".

as applicable, being: AID REFERENCE the aid reference appearing in the grant decision; MICIU the acronym for the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities; AEI the acronym for the State Research Agency; 10.13039/501100011033 the Agency's DOI (Digital Object Identifier); and ESF+ the acronym for European Social Fund Plus.

The following logos must also be included, in the order listed:

- 1.º The logo of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities.
- 2.º The emblem of the European Union and, alongside the emblem of the Union, the text "Co-funded by the European Union".
- 3.º The logo of the State Research Agency.

The graphic standards for the Union emblem and the standard colours set out in Annex IX to Regulation (EU) 2021/1060 on Common Provisions shall be taken into account. This statement must be visible and always clearly separated and highlighted from the logos of other entities that have made a smaller financial contribution.

Instructions and graphic standards in this regard may be issued on the agency's website.

- Provide any other information or documentation requested by the University of Zaragoza in order to justify the aid granted.
- Contract staff must provide the information necessary for the correct preparation of indicators required by the ESF+, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2021/1057 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 June 2021, based on the instructions given on the website of the State Research Agency. The provision of information may be required before, during and after the completion of the action.
- Notify the University of Zaragoza of any incident that prevents or hinders the performance of the activity covered by the contract.



Article 17. Modification of the award decision.

1. Beneficiary entities may request the interruption and extension of the term of execution of the pre-doctoral grant for the duration of the interrupted contract due to any of the situations or benefits set out in the fourth paragraph of Article 21.c) of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, amended by Law 17/2022 of 5 September 2022.

In the event of temporary incapacity during pregnancy for reasons related to the pregnancy, it will be possible to request the interruption and extension of the deadline for completion of the action for the duration of said temporary incapacity. In all other cases of temporary incapacity, it will be possible to request the interruption and extension of the deadline for completion of the action when said temporary incapacity lasts for a period of at least two consecutive months.

Interruptions for reasons other than those listed above or those communicated outside the period established in this section shall not give rise to an extension of the execution period.

The request for interruption and extension of the execution period of the action must be made within two months from the date on which the event causing the interruption occurs. Requests shall be made in accordance with the instructions published on the website of the State Research Agency. The interruption and extension must be authorised by the granting body, which may request any reports it deems appropriate.

When the interruption and extension are authorised, the expenses arising from the contract that may be incurred by the beneficiary entity (remuneration and employer's Social Security contributions) during the period of interruption shall not be considered eligible.

In general, the annuity in which the interruption occurs will be extended for a period identical to the duration of the interruption. However, in cases of periods of time spent on part-time leave or reduced working hours, due to any of the situations listed in the fifth paragraph of Article 21.c) of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, during the term of the contract, the duration of the benefit shall be extended for a period equivalent to the extension of the contract, which shall be for a period equivalent to the reduction in working hours.

The authorisation of the interruption and extension of the subsidy shall in no case entail an increase in the amount of the subsidy initially granted. Any increase in the payment of the employer's Social Security contribution as a result of the extended period shall be borne by the beneficiary entity.

2. During the implementation of actions for the training of pre-doctoral research staff, a change of beneficiary entity may be requested. The granting body, when in its opinion there are exceptional circumstances that warrant authorisation of the change, shall decide to modify the grant decision. In any case, the conditions stipulated in Article 25 of the regulatory bases must be met.

In the application, the new entity must expressly declare that it will comply with the requirements and obligations imposed on beneficiary entities and that it accepts the conditions imposed on them.



Universidad
Zaragoza



If, in addition to the change of beneficiary entity, there is a change in the project to which the trainee research staff are assigned, the new project must be funded within the framework of the

"Knowledge Generation Projects" of the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research.

Applications shall be made by the beneficiary centre, using the form available on the agency's website and following the instructions indicated therein, and shall include the acceptance of the change by the researcher and the new centre to which they wish to join, as well as a justification of the reasons for the change.

If the modification of the resolution is granted, the new beneficiary centre will have a period of 20 working days from the day following receipt of the resolution to formalise the contract with the researcher in training and inform the granting body of the date of their incorporation.

Likewise, in relation to the annuity in which the change occurs, the initial beneficiary entity must transfer to the new beneficiary entity the amount allocated to financing the cost of hiring the researcher, which, on a pro rata basis, corresponds to the period from the date of termination of the researcher's contract until the end of the annuity. The aid corresponding to the following annuities will be paid to the new beneficiary entity. In relation to the grant to cover the cost of compensation and additional aid, the amount resulting from the difference between the grant awarded and the amount spent by the initial beneficiary entity, on the date of approval of the change, must be transferred by the latter to the new beneficiary entity.

In the case of requests for changes to research projects within the University of Zaragoza, requests shall be made by the centre through the electronic headquarters of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities, using the form available on the agency's website and following the instructions indicated therein, and shall include the researcher's acceptance of the change, as well as a justification of the reasons for the change.

Notwithstanding the above, if the project to which the trainee researcher is assigned ends during the term of the pre-doctoral grant, authorisation to change projects will not be necessary if the trainee researcher is assigned to a new project or line of research coordinated by the researcher responsible for the project that is ending. In this case, the entity shall only be required to notify the granting body of this circumstance in the corresponding monitoring report, indicating the new project or line of research and any other information it considers relevant.

Article 18. Scientific and technical monitoring.

1. The scientific and technical monitoring of the work carried out by pre-doctoral research staff in training is the responsibility of the granting body, which will carry it out through the Scientific and Technical Thematic Programmes Subdivision. The granting body shall establish the appropriate procedures for this purpose and may designate the bodies, commissions or experts it deems necessary to carry out the appropriate monitoring of the application of the grant and to request the submission of any additional information it deems appropriate.



2. Pre-doctoral research staff in training must prepare two scientific-technical monitoring reports, one interim and one final, the latter covering the entire period of the grant, using the templates available on the website of the State Research Agency. The beneficiary R&D centres must submit to the granting body, in the manner determined in the Order of 9 December 2024, the interim report during the period between the twentieth and twenty-first months of the grant's implementation, counting from the start date of the pre-doctoral activity, and the final report during the month following the end of the grant's implementation period.

These reports shall include a description of the work carried out and compliance with the training programme during the period covered by the report and, where appropriate, a work plan for the remainder of the period of implementation of the grant, with specific reference to the status, progress and completion of the doctoral thesis. In the case of stays abroad, the reports shall include a description of the stay (host centre and group, duration, etc.) and the activities carried out.

In addition, the updated curriculum vitae of the research staff in training shall be attached to the monitoring reports.

The result of the evaluation of the interim report indicated above will be decisive in determining the continuity of the contract funding.

3. In addition to the provisions of point 2, together with the final report, the research staff in training or doctoral students must complete the scientific-technical indicators form defined by the State Research Agency to assess the impact of the action. The values indicated must match those referenced in the attached curriculum vitae.

4. The granting body may establish the need to submit additional monitoring reports to those indicated or modify their content, for which purpose it will provide the corresponding forms on its website. Likewise, the granting body may organise face-to-face meetings to present results and/or any other type of activities related to the scientific and technical monitoring of the grants awarded.

5. In addition, beneficiary R&D centres must provide the information necessary for the preparation of indicators required by the ESF+, in accordance with the instructions given on the website of the State Research Agency. At any time, even after the action has been completed, the submission of any data necessary for the preparation of the required indicators may be requested.



**Universidad
Zaragoza**



CHAPTER VI

ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

First additional provision. Supplementary regulations. In all matters not covered by these rules, the Resolution of 16 May 2019 of the Rector of the University of Zaragoza establishing the general terms and conditions for recruitment calls that will govern the procedures established for the incorporation into the University of Zaragoza of researchers with employment contracts of the specific types provided for in Law 14/2011 of 1 June.

Second additional provision. Urgent processing. In accordance with the provisions of Article 33 of Law 39/2015 on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, it is agreed that this selection procedure will be processed urgently, whereby the deadlines established for the ordinary procedure are reduced by half, except for those relating to the submission of applications and appeals. This measure is adopted for reasons of public interest, due to the limited selection period, which requires a selection process that, while guaranteeing the principles of equality, merit, ability and publicity, also responds to the principle of speed.

This Resolution exhausts the administrative route in accordance with the provisions of Article 38.4 of Organic Law 2/2023 of 22 March on the University System and may be challenged before the social courts, in accordance with the rules set forth in Article 10.4 of Law 36/2011, of 10 October, regulating social jurisdiction, within a period of two months from the date of this publication, in accordance with the provisions of Article 69.2.

In Zaragoza, on the date of signature, The Rector, Signed electronically and with verifiable authenticity in accordance with Article 27.3-c) of Law 39/95.