

# MSCA- COFUND PROGRAMME

OPENING UP NEW  
HORIZONS FOR  
RESEARCHERS  
ONGOING COFUND  
PROGRAMMES IN SPAIN.  
MARCH 2021-ONWARDS(\*)

(\*) An updated version with new upcoming calls from ongoing and new projects funded will be issued in September 2021



## **MSCA-COFUND PROGRAMME: OPENING UP NEW HORIZONS FOR RESEARCHERS**

### ONGOING COFUND PROGRAMMES IN SPAIN: EXPECTED CALLS FOR THE RECRUITMENT OF RESEARCHERS

ONGOING COFUND PROGRAMMES IN SPAIN: MARCH  
2021-ONWARDS

This document compiles information relative to those ongoing MSCA-COFUND PROGRAMMES in Spain with open calls for the recruitment of researchers. Further information about other opportunities for researchers in Spain can be found at EURAXESS SPAIN under section "Science in Spain": <https://www.euraxess.es/>

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## INTRODUCTION

MSCA-COFUND programmes are European Commission initiatives that offer additional funding for new or existing regional, national and international programmes to provide an international and intersectoral dimension to research training and career development. Doctoral programmes as well as fellowship programmes for experienced researchers can be supported.

Therefore these actions are meant for organisations that fund or manage doctoral programmes or fellowship programmes for researchers.

Each COFUND proposal should have a sole participant, which could be a government ministry, regional authority, funding agency, university, research organisation, research academy or enterprise.

Once the COFUND proposal is selected to be funded, the applying organisation will open up a call to select researchers to enroll its doctoral or fellowships programmes.

### How to apply to COFUND-PROGRAMME positions?

Open positions from funded COFUND projects are published on EURAXESS Jobs Website. Furthermore, the beneficiaries will use their own mechanisms to disseminate the open calls (COFUND programme website, social media, etc.)

### Who can apply to COFUND-PROGRAMME positions?

1. Support cannot be awarded to researchers who are already permanently employed by the organisation hosting them.

#### 2. Experience:

- For COFUND Doctoral Programmes (DP) researchers must be early-stage researchers (ESR), i.e. at the date of recruitment or the deadline of the co-funded programme's call, be in the first four years (fulltime equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.
- For COFUND Fellowship Programmes (FP) researchers must be experienced researchers (ER), i.e. at the date of recruitment or the deadline of the co-funded programme's call, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

**3. Mobility rule:** Researchers supported under this scheme shall comply with the mobility rule of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie actions: researchers may not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host organisation for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the call deadline, or recruitment date (COFUND).

### What can be funded?

The organisation must recruit each eligible researcher under an employment contract or 'equivalent direct contract' with full social security coverage (including sickness, parental, unemployment and invalidity benefits, pension rights, benefits in respect of accidents at work and occupational diseases) except where national legislation prohibits this possibility.

When an employment contract cannot be provided, the organisation must recruit the researcher under a 'fixed-amount fellowship'. In this case, the living allowance will be halved and the beneficiary must ensure that the researcher enjoys minimum social security coverage.

**Researcher's remuneration:** The EU contribution must be used exclusively as contribution to the management of the programme and to the living allowance of the researchers, which is solely for the benefit of the researchers appointed under the programme and includes all compulsory deductions under national legislation. A top-up (funded through other resources including EU programmes other than Horizon 2020), to cover other cost items (such as research costs, travel, family and mobility allowances, and indirect costs) may be paid to the researchers in order to complement this contribution.

In addition to the living allowance, the beneficiary must pay a mobility allowance and for some categories of researchers, a family allowance.

For example, the living allowance (salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs included in the remuneration), and the mobility allowance for the benefit of the researchers must be for researchers recruited under an employment contract: not lower than EUR 2 709 (for early-stage researchers) and EUR 3 836 (for experienced researchers);

## **MSCA COFUND ONGOING PROGRAMMES IN SPAIN 2020-2021**

There are currently 40 MSCA-COFUND ongoing programmes in Spain. These are 16 doctoral programmes and 24 fellowship programmes. This does not mean that all of them have foreseen open calls; in fact many of them have ongoing contracts for the researchers but will not launch new calls.

In this document we present those ongoing programmes which will launch recruitment processes for researchers in the upcoming months. These are 2 doctoral programmes and 3 fellowship programmes.

An updated version of this document will be issued in September 2021.

# EXPECTED CALLS FOR EARLY STAGE RESEARCHERS

MARTÍ I FRANQUÈS COFUND PLUS DOCTORAL PROGRAMME (MFP PLUS)

SDGINE FOR HEALTHY PEOPLE AND CITIES (SDGINE)



## **Martí i Franquès COFUND Plus Doctoral Programme (MFP Plus)**

**Coordinator of the action:** Universitat Rovira i Virgili.

**Areas of research:** All areas of research.

**Candidates:** Early Stage Researchers.

**Offer:** 3-year contracts (renewable every 12 months upon assessment).

**Webpage:** [www.urv.cat/cofund](http://www.urv.cat/cofund)

**Contact:** [mfp.cofund@urv.cat](mailto:mfp.cofund@urv.cat)

The Rovira i Virgili University, URV, (Tarragona, Spain) was founded in 1991 from the already existing university faculties and schools, effectively restoring the Tarragona University of the 16th century. URV is made up of 12 Faculties and Schools, with 24 Departments, having 1,000 permanent teaching staff that welcome annually 12,000 undergraduate students, 2,000 Master students and 1,200 PhDs (20% of them full time employees).

URV is a modern, public higher education institution, internationally recognised for providing high quality teaching and top-of-the-line research, as shown in the [international rankings](#).

This year, the URV has entered the top 200 universities in the world, in the Impact Ranking of the Times Higher Education 2020. The Times Higher Education Impact Ranking assesses the social and economic impact of universities in terms of meeting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

As an institution, URV seeks to promote gender equality and increase diversity, in all of its forms, throughout all of its programmes and especially through Martí i Franquès COFUND Plus Doctoral Programme. URV supports the European Commission's initiative [Science4Refugees](#).

MFP Plus is a redesign of the existing URV's Martí i Franquès programme, offering 50 doctoral contracts (in two editions: 2020, 2021) at the [Universitat Rovira i Virgili](#) (URV). In the 2020 call we offered 31 PhD positions, one of them exclusively reserved for researchers with disabilities. The programme is uniquely shaped to offer the best training stemming from the "triple i" principles of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral. In order to achieve these goals, we combine leading research groups at URV with scientific partners from world-class institutions, such that the fellows are exposed to interdisciplinary training as well as mentoring from the industrial sector. The MFP Plus is formally supported by 59 partner organizations (21 non-academic), 2 of them co-funding the programme. The positions are based on individual projects encompassing all areas of research at URV: Sciences, Health Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Engineering, Social and Legal Sciences. Through MFP Plus, URV is in a unique position to offer the best conditions for doctoral training, based on the principles of the [European Charter for Researchers](#) and the [Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of](#)

Researchers (guaranteed by the HR logo award that URV has received in 2014), as well as the EU Principles for Innovative Doctorate Training.

The **successful candidates** will be offered the following:

- Medium term contract (up to 36 months), full time position.
- A very attractive salary, on par with European offerings (gross monthly salary of approximately €2200).
- 3-6 months secondments to international (and in some cases intersectoral) partner organisations.
- Access to a comprehensive training package, with a strong interdisciplinary focus, together with an attractive transversal skills programme.
- Contribution to research and training activities: a yearly allowance (up to €7500) will be granted to the research group to carry out training and scientific activities of the fellow.

#### **Requirements:**

- Comply with the ESR eligibility criteria: Early-stage researchers (ESR) shall at call deadline be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Comply with the MSCA mobility rule: The candidate must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before call deadline.
- Comply with the conditions for PhD enrollment at URV.

**Next call expected for 2021**



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 713679 and No. 945413.*

## SDGine for Healthy People and Cities (SDGine)

**Coordinator of the action:** Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM).

**Areas of research:** Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, and Applied Mathematics (STEAM) & Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Candidates:** Early-Stage Researchers.

**Offer:** 3-year contracts.

**Webpage:** <https://www.upm.es/Investigacion/SDGine> (provisional)

**Contact:** [sdgine@upm.es](mailto:sdgine@upm.es)

SDGine aims to devise technologies and tools that contribute to accelerate the compliance of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by tackling climate change and contributing to the needed social transformations in urban contexts. Through a world-class education and research programme, this European funded action grants 12 Early-Stage Researchers (ESRs) the opportunity to complete Industrial and International Doctorates at Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM).

This programme seeks to train a high-skilled and versatile future generation of researchers to become successful, responsible and sustainable leaders in their fields. SDGine will provide them with the knowledge and skills to be able to embark on careers both in academia and the private sector as well as become venture creators, while contributing to align policies and corporate strategies with the SDGs.

SDGine is a 60-month COFUND project funded by the European Union under a Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement. The action, with an overall budget of 1,952,640.00€, will run from 1st October 2020 to 31st September 2025. Half of these funds are provided by the European Union while the other half comes from the industrial partners who have joined this initiative.

This action enhances mobility between countries, disciplines, and sectors, as it involves industries. Trained ESRs will become highly employable for future research positions in academia and non-academia worldwide, while our industrial partners will have a pool of industry-savvy, innovative researchers to shape new research fields. The whole program will also have an institutional impact on gender equality. Moreover, SDGine will have an overall high societal impact through the SDGs, especially those related to “Healthy People and Cities”.

The researchers will have the chance to complete a PhD degree with a 36-month employment contract which will be co-supervised by a UPM professor and a representative from one of the companies that are participating in this project. ESRs are required to have a STEAM background (Science, Technology, Engineering, Architecture, and Applied Mathematics).

The selection and evaluation process will be open, merit-based, transparent, and based on international and inter-sectoral peer review. All applicants will be able to choose from

a predefined list of 24 topics including matching supervisors and secondments on a thematic basis.

The innovation & entrepreneurship dimension of the PhD thesis projects will be enhanced. As the main Spanish technical university and a key source of high impact knowledge, it connects the participants with an innovation platform and a systemic approach, aligned with major international research programs in which UPM participates, such as different EIT projects and Horizon Europe Missions.

SDGine follows the Seven EU principles on Doctoral Training, contemplating the Triple-“i” dimension through: i) International secondments; ii) Inter-sectoral collaboration agreements with industry; and iii) Interdisciplinary PhD supervision. Besides, UPM's International Doctorate School offers a range of 44 Doctoral Programmes.

The action is also aligned with the “Charter & Code” policies for researchers' recruitment as UPM has received the HR Excellence in Research award. Moreover, the programme will provide excellent training in research, complementary and transferable skills (cross-cutting disciplinary seminars, summer schools, writing days...).

**Call expected for: April 2021**



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 945139*

# FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

I2: ICIQ IMPULSION, ICIQ IMPULSE FOR TALENTED POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

TECNIOSPRINGINDUSTRY, ACCIÓ PROGRAMME TO FOSTER MOBILITY OF RESEARCHERS WITH A FOCUS IN APPLIED RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

UNA4CAREER: UNA EUROPA, AN ALLIANCE OF UNIVERSITIES FOR THE EMERGENCE OF TALENT AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF RESEARCH CAREERS (UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID)

## I2: ICIQ Impulsion; ICIQ Impulse for Talented Postdoctoral Fellows

**Coordinator of the action:** Fundació Institut Català d'investigació Química (ICIQ).

Areas of research: Agrofood and Health Technologies.

**Candidates:** experienced researchers.

**Offer:** 2-years contracts.

**Salary range:** average gross salary (including living and mobility allowances) of 35,250 €/year.

**Webpage:** <http://iciq-impulsion.eu/iciq-impulsion/>

**Contact:** [info@iciq-impulsion.eu](mailto:info@iciq-impulsion.eu)

I2-ICIQ Impulsion aims at boosting the professional career of 12 highly talented international fellows through the development of an innovative research programme based on interdisciplinarity, internationality and intersectoriality.

**Fundació Institut Català d'investigació Química (ICIQ).** Founded in 2000 by the Government of Catalonia, the Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia started its research activities in 2004. ICIQ is member of The Barcelona Institute of Science and Technology (BIST) and Centre of Excellence Severo Ochoa (distinction awarded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation).

ICIQ is committed to performing excellent research at the frontier of knowledge in two main areas: Catalysis and Renewable Energy. The institute also has two other commitments: knowledge and technology transfer to the chemical, pharmaceutical and energy industrial sectors and that of training the future generation of scientists by offering high-quality educational programmes to master and PhD students and postdoctoral researchers as well.

ICIQ's mission is to lead, from the vantage point of molecular science, cross-strategies for solving major social and economic challenges, such as climate change and sustainable supply of energetic and raw materials, thereby contributing to the establishment of a knowledge-based economy and improving quality of life for all.

**I2-ICIQ Impulsion** fellowships will include a mandatory secondment (2 to 6 months) in a different research entity (academic and/or non-academic). I2:ICIQ Impulsion offers 16 research groups led by internationally renowned senior and tenure track researchers that develop excellent interdisciplinary chemical research in different areas of the chemical sciences (Catalytic activation of chemical feedstock/Renewable energies from sunlight/CO<sub>2</sub> capture and valorization).

I2-ICIQ Impulsion fellows will have the freedom to define an innovative research project within one of these areas of research, choose the Group Leader they would like to work with and choose a partner organisation to develop a secondment.

Being part of the I2: ICIQ Impulsion community will allow fellows to have:

- Outstanding working conditions
- Close supervision and mentoring by internationally renowned Group Leaders
- Access to state-of-the-art scientific equipment and facilities.
- A personalised Career Development Plan
- A tailored Training Programme
- Secondments in international institutions
- Networking opportunities
- Dissemination and public engagement activities

I2: ICIQ Impulsion is a very attractive programme for highly talented postdoctoral researchers looking for further opportunities in research. It has been designed to enable the maximum impact on immediate and long-term career prospects for the fellows, both in academia and in the private sector. I2-ICIQ Impulsion will also contribute to improve the attractiveness of Catalonia, Spain and Europe as a leading destination for research and innovation, boost the international visibility of ICIQ and further increase the quality of research and innovation developed in the European Research Area (ERA).

**Call for applications will be open from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 801474.*

## Tecniospring INDUSTRY, ACCIÓ programme to foster mobility of researchers with a focus in applied research and technology transfer

**Coordinator of the action:** ACCIÓ, the Catalan Agency for Business Competitiveness.

**Areas of research:** Food Industries; Industrial systems; Sustainable mobility; Experience-based industries; Chemical, Energy and natural resources; Design-based Industries; Health industries.

**Candidates:** experienced researchers.

**Offer:** 2-year employment contracts.

**Salary range:** Salary costs (58.500 €/year) + Research costs (18.240 €/year) + Mobility costs (1920 €/year).

**Webpage:** <http://catalonia.com/innovate-in-catalonia/tecniospringplus/>

**Contact:** [tecniospring.accio@gencat.cat](mailto:tecniospring.accio@gencat.cat)

Catalonia has about 7,5 million inhabitants and a GDP of 209 billion EUR. In 2014, there were in Catalonia about 44,500 people engaged in R&D activities and more than one and a half million workers in activities of science and technology, representing about 37% of the workforce.

The Catalan economy aims to remain competitive by promoting innovation and the incorporation of technology in production processes and organizations, thus, **attracting and training competitive human resources is fundamental**.

**Tecniospring INDUSTRY** Fellowship Programme is proposed by ACCIÓ, the Catalan Agency for Business and Competitiveness, attached to the Ministry of Business and Knowledge of the Government of Catalonia. With a budget of 11,085,120 € (46% EU contribution, 54% ACCIÓ own funds) and a duration of 5 years, Tecniospring INDUSTRY will address experienced researchers who will develop their research career in their area of interest, with focus on technology transfer. Tecniospring INDUSTRY programme will receive joint applications of an experienced researcher and the host organisation of his/her choice (the beneficiary). Host organisations will be Catalan companies, Catalan Technological Centres and entities of the Catalan Research and Technology Transfer System, recognized with the TECNIO accreditation.

The programme will fund **72 fellowships**, offering high-quality professional opportunities, with living plus mobility allowance well above the amount set by MSCA, through its two types of mobility schemes, incoming and **outgoing+return**. Tecniospring INDUSTRY covers applied research projects with a clear market focus. Projects must be aimed at developing a new technology and bringing it to the market. Researchers benefit from excellent career progression and top-notch training in technology transfer.

ACCIÓ has already managed two COFUND fellowship programmes, TECNIOspring under FP7 (GA n° 600388) and Tecniospring PLUS under H2020 (GA n° 712949). TECNIOspring INDUSTRY will consolidate success and go beyond the earlier grants to increase impact and alignment with MSCA best practices by further opening the programme to industry, improving conditions for researchers and enlarging training offer.

**Call for applications will be open from April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021**



*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.*

## UNA Europa, an alliance of universities FOR the emergence of talent and the development of research CAREERs (UNA4CAREER)

**Coordinator of the action:** Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM).

**Areas of research:** Humanities, Social Sciences, Experimental Sciences and Health Sciences.

**Candidates:** experienced researchers (post-doctoral).

**Offer:** 3-year contracts.

**Salary range:** Total Employment Cost (living allowance) for UNA4CAREER fellows will be 46.032 €/year under an employment contract.

**Webpage:** [www.una4career.eu](http://www.una4career.eu)

**Contact:** [una4career@ucm.es](mailto:una4career@ucm.es)

The Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM), founded in 1499, stands as one of the top ranked Universities in Spain in terms of size (80,000 students, 13% of them international), being 2<sup>nd</sup> Spanish university in terms of employability of its graduates and 3<sup>rd</sup> of the quality of the academic training offer, with an outstanding H2020 experience. UCM is also member of prestigious international associations like Europaeum, UNICA, UIU, Utrecht Network, EAIE, and others (Further info about UCM in Section 3). However, Post Doctorate programmes, as a tool to attract top talented researchers, and a way to keep and improve the degree of excellence of research developed in the University need to expand and get more funding (as UNA4CAREER, proposing to mobilize over 7M€) besides current programmes offered at UCM and at Regional level, to make the Region even more attractive to outside talent.

UNA4CAREER is a multiannual fellowship programme (60 months) lead by the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM) that will attract 40 experienced researchers in two international calls (20 researchers each one) disseminated all over the world. The fellows will incorporate into one of the 94 excellence groups in the UCM that cover almost all the thematic areas of knowledge, since will gear around 4 fields of knowledge with clear interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral approach: humanities, social sciences, experimental sciences and health.

UNA4CAREER will leverage in Una Europa Alliance members, a type of network highly encouraged by EC (i.e. European Universities Initiative) that gathers together 8 universities from 7 different countries (Spain, Italy, France, Belgium, Germany, UK, Finland and Poland) recently created (March 2018) that will be part of UNA4CAREER as Partner Organisations (POs), offering secondments and access to their vast networking opportunities.

Fellows will have full trans-national mobility experience accessing to research facilities of the partners of UNA4CAREER, their international networks and non-academic partners in Germany, Italy, Poland, France, Belgium, UK, Finland and Spain. The sum up of the

international capabilities of these institutions provide the UNA4CAREER fellows great opportunities to make a significant impact in their contribution to the excellence in the European Research Area and in development of their research career both in Academic and non-Academic environments.

At individual (Fellows) level, UNA4CAREER, will promote employability capabilities in both Academic and non-Academic environments, through: specific research training; teaching training (with up to 40 hours of collaboration on teaching assignments); complementary skills, with over 50 courses available to the 40 fellows (entrepreneurship, communication, science culture, and gender, among others); and finally, the secondments experience mainly towards members of the Una Europa Alliance including contacts and connections with non-Academic entities. Additionally, specific support on entrepreneurship training and companies / spin-off creation will be provided by the members of UNA4CAREER.

This will enable UNA4CAREER to bring a particularly strong expertise in those fields at both European and international level to the 40 involved Fellows, making the programme highly attractive to potential applicants and increasing general attraction of Europe as a preferred destination for researchers from in and outside EU.

The programme will include the launching of two calls for 20 postdoctoral positions each. Three-year contracts will be offered. Total Employment Cost (living allowance) for UNA4CAREER fellows will be 46.032 €/year under an employment contract. Social Security contributions are included in total employment cost: the contributions arising from the employment contract will be paid by the employer (UCM) implying all the corresponding benefits: full social healthcare coverage, pension, unemployment compensation and maternity/paternity leave of 16 weeks for women and 4 weeks for men according to Spanish law. Paternity leave could be joined indistinctly by mother or father, after the week seven from date birth.

### **Second call is expected to be launched in late spring 2021**



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**Maria Salomea Skłodowska-Curie  
(1867 - 1934)**

She was a Polish and naturalized-French physicist and chemist who conducted pioneering research on radioactivity.

Her achievements included the development of the theory of radioactivity (a term that she coined), techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes, and the discovery of two elements, polonium and radium.

She shared the 1903 Nobel Prize in Physics with her husband Pierre Curie and with physicist Henri Becquerel. She won the 1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry.

She was the first woman to win a Nobel Prize, the first person and only woman to win twice, the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences, and was part of the Curie family legacy of five Nobel Prizes. She was also the first woman to become a professor at the University of Paris, and in 1995 became the first woman to be entombed on her own merits in the Panthéon in Paris.

This document compiles information relative to those ongoing MSCA-COFUND PROGRAMMES in Spain with foreseen open calls from April 2021. An updated version of the document will be issued in September 2021. Further information about career opportunities for researchers in Spain can be found at



Check "Science in Spain" section at [www.euraxess.es](http://www.euraxess.es)



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