

# Short Guide to Predoctoral Fellowships

Standardized draft based on information collected by PhD students of the Doctoral Programme in Political Science, Public Policy and International Relations

*Updated version as of April 13, 2026*

This document compiles information shared by PhD students. It is an initial English version intended to circulate among master's students, potential applicants, and doctoral candidates. The information should always be verified in the official call of each program, since deadlines, funding amounts, and eligibility requirements may change from year to year.

**Important note:** To formally begin doctoral studies in Spain, applicants generally need a total of 300 ECTS credits between the bachelor's and master's degrees. Some fellowships allow applying before the master's degree is completed (e.g., while enrolled), but the 300 ECTS must be completed before registering in the doctoral program.

**Temporal eligibility requirements:** Some calls impose restrictions regarding the date of completion of bachelor's or master's degrees. FPU and FI often require that these degrees were not obtained before a specific date. These temporal restrictions do **not** apply in FI-SDUR or FPI according to the information collected.

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# 1 FPU

**Application deadline:** 17/01/2025 – 14/02/2025.

**Duration:** 4 years.

**Minimum gross annual salary (2024):** 18,269.55€ – 24,468.15€, depending on the year of the contract.

**Minimum gross monthly salary (2024):** 1,522.46€ – 2,039.01€, depending on the year of the contract.

## Main requirements

- Be enrolled in a full-time doctoral program at a Spanish university or, alternatively, be completing an official master's degree granting access to a doctoral program.
- Hold a bachelor's degree of 240 ECTS credits or more, or a shorter degree combined with a master's degree.
- Have completed the degree within the last 5 years.
- Eligibility extensions exist for disability, childcare, serious illness, and caring for dependent relatives.
- In the social sciences, the 2025 call required a minimum GPA of 8.2/10. The exact threshold may vary by discipline and call.

## Requirements regarding thesis supervision

- The supervisor must hold a PhD and have a contractual or civil-service affiliation with the host institution.
- This affiliation must exist when the fellowship is accepted and remain throughout the duration of the fellowship.
- Each supervisor may support only one FPU application per call.
- If the same supervisor endorses more than one application, all applications may be excluded.

**Is a master's degree required?** Not necessarily. Entry may also occur from a 240-credit bachelor's degree or equivalent.

**Incompatibilities with other fellowships or contracts:** The FPU fellowship is incompatible with other funding aimed at training researchers. Applicants who have previously received a similar fellowship for more than 24 months by the expected start date are not eligible.

**Funding for international research stays:** FPU fellows may apply for additional mobility funding specifically for FPU beneficiaries. This funding is not automatically included in the contract but requires a separate call.

**Useful information:** It is advisable to check updated requirements each year, especially those related to GPA and eligibility period.

**More information:** <https://www.ciencia.gob.es/Convocatorias/2024/FPU2024.html>

## 2 FPI

**Application deadline:** 16/09/2025 – 07/10/2025.

**Duration:** 4 years.

**Minimum gross annual salary (2024):** 24,360.00€.

**Minimum gross monthly salary (2024):** 2,030.00€.

### Main requirements

- Hold a master's degree.
- The master's degree does not need to be completed at the time of application but must be completed before the contract begins.
- Admission to a doctoral program is required.

### Strategic information collected from PhD students

- In recent calls it has been possible to apply to more than one project.
- It is recommended to contact projects offering FPI positions where there is a realistic chance of obtaining the fellowship.
- In FPI, both the candidate and the PI are evaluated. The PI's evaluation (as supervisor) has significant weight in the final outcome.
- Nevertheless, applying to several positions can be useful due to possible project changes or candidate withdrawals.

**Is a master's degree required?** Yes.

**Useful information:** It is important to have a digital certificate. If the master's degree is international, ensure that grades are converted to the Spanish grading system using the official Ministry procedure.

**Incompatibilities with other fellowships or contracts:** The fellowship is incompatible with any other employment contract or salary income, as well as other similar fellowships. However, non-salary research supplements, teaching supplements without employment contracts, and mobility grants are allowed.

**Funding for international research stays:** According to the collected information, there is funding associated with the contract of 6,860€ (2022 call) for research stays and doctoral school tuition. The exact amount and conditions should be verified in the current call.

### More information:

<https://www.fpuinvestiga.org/informaci%C3%B3n-%C3%BAtil>

### 3 FI SDUR

**Note:** The FI-SDUR fellowship is a subtype of the FI program. Its continuation in future calls is not guaranteed. **Application deadline:** 01/05/2025 – 14/05/2025.

**Duration:** 3 years. UAB committed to funding a fourth year, but this may not occur in other universities.

**Minimum gross annual salary (2024):** 24,360.00€.

**Minimum gross monthly salary (2024):** 2,030.00€.

#### Main requirements

- At least 300 ECTS credits between bachelor's and master's degrees.
- Departments establish prioritization criteria, so internal departmental rules should be checked.

**Example of departmental criteria:** In the 2025 call, the criteria of the Department of Political Science and Public Law at UAB could be consulted here: <https://www.uab.cat/doc/PrioritzacioDefinitivaFI-SDUR2025>

**Is a master's degree required?** Not necessarily if the applicant completed a degree or master's within the European Higher Education Area.

**Useful information:** Having a digital certificate is recommended.

**Incompatibilities with other fellowships or contracts:** No specific information was included in the shared sheet. The official call should be consulted.

**Funding for international research stays:** The fellowship includes 3,000€ for research stays and international activities (training or conferences). This must be requested from AGAUR and usually requires a host institution acceptance letter.

#### More information:

<https://tramits.gencat.cat/ca/tramits/tramits-temes/Convocatoria-dajuts-de-supert-a-departaments-i-unitats-de-recerca-universitaris-per-a-la-contractacio-de-personal-investigador-predocctoral-en-formacio-a-Catalunya-FI-SDUR-2025>

## 4 “la Caixa” Fellowships

**Application deadline:** 26/11/2024 – 18/02/2025. The 2026 call was open when the information was collected.

**Minimum gross annual salary (2024):** Approximately 28,405.67€. The amount may vary depending on the university.

**Minimum gross monthly salary (2024):** Approximately 2,367€.

### Main requirements

- Applicants must not have previously started a PhD.
- Applicants must not have resided or worked in Spain or Portugal for more than 12 months during the previous 3 years.
- The doctoral university must be different from the one where the bachelor’s degree was completed.
- English certificate at B2 level required.

**Is a master’s degree required?** Only at the moment of hiring.

**Useful information:** The *Retaining* fellowships are intended for those wishing to remain in Spain or Portugal. Other “la Caixa” fellowships exist for pursuing a PhD abroad. The foundation transfers 35,800€ annually to the host university, of which at least 25,000€ must go to the fellow’s salary.

**Incompatibilities with other fellowships or contracts:** These fellowships are incompatible with any other paid employment, fellowship, or financial support unless explicitly authorized by the “la Caixa” Foundation.

**Funding for international stays and other research expenses:** In addition to salary, the fellowship includes 3,500€ annually for research expenses, including research stays, conferences, and data collection.

**More information:** <https://fundacionlacaixa.org/es/becas-doctorado-inphinit>

## 5 FI Joan Oró

**Note:** According to available information, the FI Joan Oró fellowship is expected to continue in future calls.

**Application deadline:** 2026 call: 14/01/2026 – 30/01/2026 at 14:00.

**Duration:** 3 years. UAB committed to funding a fourth year, but this may not occur in other universities.

### Main requirements

- Submit a document certifying the average grade of the graduating cohort.
- Example: if someone graduated in Political Science in 2024 at the Complutense University of Madrid, they must provide the average grade of the Political Science cohort graduating in 2024 at that university.

**Other criteria:** Applicants must not have completed more than 4 years of research activity before the call deadline.

**Useful information:** It is advisable to check in advance how to obtain official certification of the cohort's average grade, since it may require administrative procedures with the home university.

More information: <https://agaur.gencat.cat/es/beques-i-ajuts/convocatories-per-temes/Ajuts-Joan-Oro-per-a-la-contractacio-de-personal-investigador-predoctoral-en-formacio-FI-2023>

## 6 Final remarks

- This guide standardizes information from multiple sources and therefore does not replace the detailed reading of official calls.