

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Joan Oró grants to hire research staff in training (FI 2024)

Section 1 Requirements

1.1. Which requirements do I have to meet when applying for a Joan Oró scholarship?

- You don't have a PhD.
- You don't have benefited from any previous FI or FI SDUR scholarship. Also, you cannot have had more than 6 months of any other contract for predoctoral research staff.
- You have an average grade for undergraduate studies or the equivalent degree equal to or greater than 6.50 (scale from 0 to 10).
- You have completed the studies for admission to a Ph.D. program between the 1st of January 2021 and the start date of your contract.
- At the time of starting your contract, you must have a bachelor's degree, engineering, architecture, or university degree (of at least 300 ECTS credits) university master's degree, or an equivalent degree.

1.2. I received my qualification to access to Ph.D. in 2020. Can I apply?

Exceptionally, you could apply if you finished your studies between 1 January 2018 and the start date of your contract. However, you can only do it if, after finishing your studies, you have had any of these exceptional situations:

- You have been on maternity leave.
- You have been the guardian of children under six years of age.
- You have been the guardian of someone disabled or with a physical, mental, or sensory disability.
- You have suffered from a serious illness or an accident requiring medical leave for six months or more.
- You have suffered any of the situations provided for in article 1 of Organic Law 1/2004, of 28 December, on comprehensive protection measures against gender violence.
- You have been granted refugee status under the terms of the 1951 UN Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees

1.3 I have completed a degree of 240 credits, and I am currently pursuing a master's degree of 60 credits which will end after submitting my application. Am I still eligible?

When starting your contract, you must hold a bachelor's degree, engineering, architecture, or university degree (of at least 300 ECTS credits), a university master's degree, or an equivalent degree. If you graduate before the beginning of your contract, you can submit your application.

Remember that the deadline to start your contract is 1st of May 2024.

1.4. I have more than one postgraduate qualification. Which one should I inform in my application?

We will only consider the completion date/average grade of the postgraduate qualification that gives you access to the Ph.D.

1.5. Can I submit two applications to different universities/research centers

No, each candidate can submit only one application.

1.6. Do I need to be accepted into the doctoral program to apply for the scholarship?

No, you don't need to be accepted into the doctoral program when submitting your application. However, you must be enrolled before starting your contract.

1.7. Does the director Thesis also need to meet the requirements to apply for the grant Joan Oró?

Yes, they must meet the following requirements:

- a) They must have a statutory or employment link with your university or research center. This association should ensure sufficient supervision and monitoring of the individual candidate's doctoral thesis.
- b) Regarding the project/contract/research agreement you are joining, your thesis supervisor must be a principal researcher or member. In the case of research agreements or contracts, they must have a minimum value of €24,000.00.
- c) Be part of a recognized research group within the framework of the call for grants to support the scientific activity of research groups in Catalonia (SGR-Cat 2021).
- d) Thesis supervisors may only appear on one application.

Universities and research centers are responsible for verifying the requirements of thesis supervisors. If in doubt, contact the research grants office of your university.

1.8 What type of contractual relationship of the thesis director is considered valid for the FI application?

Supervisors must have a statutory, employment, or affiliation agreement with the aid beneficiary entity. This association should ensure sufficient supervision for three whole years. Part-time staff, staff on leave, visiting professors, and emeritus professors are not eligible to receive this grant.

1.9 Regarding the competitive research project/contract/agreement to which my thesis supervisor must be linked: Are Ramón y Cajal grants considered competitive research projects?

No. Neither support grants to groups recognized by the Government of Catalonia (SGR) nor grants to incorporate research staff are considered competitive research projects (Ramon y Cajal, Beatriu de Pinós, Marie Curie, etc.).

1.10. Can thesis supervisors submit more than one FI 2024 application with different Ph.D. candidates in this call?

No, each thesis supervisor may only appear on one application for the FI 2024 call.

1.11. Can I include a thesis co-supervisor in the FI 2024 application?

No, you can only include one thesis supervisor in your application. This person is the one who must satisfy all the requirements.

1.12. I can't start my contract before 1 May 2024. In which academic year do I have to be enrolled? 2022-2023 or 2023-2024?

Candidates must be enrolled in a Ph.D. program for the 2023-2024 academic year and must start their contract the 1 May 2024. Exceptionally, candidates of grants awarded by substitution may be accepted to the corresponding Ph.D. program and enroll in the 2024-2025 academic year, according to the enrollment calendars of the different universities.

1.13. Regarding the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan, I'm not sure where to classify my thesis. Is this classification mandatory to get the scholarship?

Yes, it is. The FI 2024 will only fund projects aligned with UE strategic orientations for research and innovation investments. Specifically, your thesis must be related to any of the clusters and intervention areas described in the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan (2021 – 2024). There is a wide list of areas that you can check here. Also, you can read the [Horizon Europe Strategic Plan](#).

These areas are very broad and diverse, and you can find them detailed in [this document](#).

If, even so, you have doubts about classifying your thesis, you can ask your supervisor or you can contact us.

1.14. I have graduated from my studies abroad. How can I calculate the average grade?

If you have graduated abroad (undergraduate or postgraduate studies), you must submit a declaration of equivalences of the average grade. You have to calculate it according to the resolution of the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training on [this website](#).

You are responsible for calculating your average grades, and you do not need further validation or signatures from any public institution. In case you have doubts or problems with their process, you can check their [FAQs](#).

Section 2 Application process

2.1. Do I need a digital signature or certificate to apply?

No, you don't. The procedure can be carried out without an electronic signature.

2.2. Which documents should I attach to the application form?

Along with the application, you must attach the following documents:

1. Annex form: The model is available on the AGAUR website and contains a brief CV and a technical report with a summary of the training and research activities that are expected to be achieved throughout the work plan during the three-year duration of the aid.
2. Documentation that identifies the competitive research project, the contract, or the research or transfer agreement and attests to the fact that the director of the thesis is the main researcher or member of this project, contract, or agreement. If this documentation is public, the link or links to the corresponding website can be included in this document.
3. Academic records: You must submit the academic transcripts of your qualifications (undergraduate AND postgraduate studies), with the date of obtaining the degree and its average grade.
4. If your qualifications have been completed abroad, the average grade on the academic record must be calculated according to the equivalent average grades set forth in the current resolutions of the Ministry of Universities. To obtain this document, you must access the [website of the Ministry of Universities](#) and access the online service (you must register beforehand). The form must then be filled in according to the instructions and the scales by country of equivalence. The form will automatically calculate the final grade point average and allow you to download the result, which must be attached to the application in PDF format.
5. If applicable, a document certifying the case of exceptionality specified in question [number 1.2](#) of this document.

2.3. It is the last day to apply, and it is 14:01h. I am trying to submit my form, but the application interface is showing an error. Can I send my application by mail?

No. It is very important to fill out and submit your application on time to succeed in case of technical issues. The deadline to submit your application is at 14:00h, and no application will be accepted after the deadline.

If you have problems with the form or the application website, remember AGAUR is always available to assist you if you contact us with enough time.

2.4. In which language must be written the annexed documentation to the application form?

The application documents can be written in Catalan, Spanish or English.

2.5. Where do I have to attach my academic transcript?

In the same form, there are two sections where you can upload the bachelor's file and the master's file separately.

2.6. I'm having technical issues attaching my documents to the application form. Why?

To attach the attached documentation without errors, you must verify that the following is met:

- 1) File size: The maximum total size of the request is 5MB. One of the files you have attached may be too heavy. Try reducing its size and reattaching.
- 2) Name of the files: The names of the attachments must be short and without special characters. To ensure that the names are correct, do not enter any capital letters, numbers, or special characters.

If technical issues persist, please contact AGAUR for assistance.

2.7. If I have more than one postgraduate qualification to access my Ph.D., which average grade do I have to include in my application? And if I have more than one undergraduate qualification?

In your application, you only must include those grades related to your Ph.D. When informing your undergraduate qualifications, only submit the qualification more related to your Ph.D. If you want to inform us about all your qualifications, you can do it on your CV (Annexed form).

2.8. I didn't finish my postgraduate studies, which gives me access to the PhD, but I already have passed 60 ECTS. Which average grade should I inform?

In that case, universities will evaluate your application only on your undergraduate average.

Remember that, when you start your contract, you must have completed the studies leading to the doctorate and be enrolled.

2.9. Once I submit my application, do I have to initiate any other procedure?

No, you don't have to carry out any other procedure. Universities and research centers are responsible for confirming or rejecting your application.

They will post on their website a list with all the amendments required. If you are on the list, you will need to modify or attach further documentation to your application directly to your university.

Section 3 Scholarship conditions

3.1. What remuneration corresponds to the researcher beneficiary of the Joan Oró grant?

The salary of predoctoral researchers is established by the [Estatuto de Personal Investigador en Formación \(EPIF\)](#). According to its latest update, the minimum gross salary is:

- First and second year: 17.651,68 annually.
- Third year: 18.912,52 annually.

The monthly salary after taxes depends on the personal situation of the employee. If you aren't sure about your tax application, you must contact your employer (university/research center).

3.2. How will I receive the €3,000 scholarship for training activities? How should I manage it?

First, your thesis supervisor must approve the training activity. You must submit your application (you can find it on AGAUR's website) before starting your training activity. AGAUR will transfer the amount for training activities to your university/research center, and they will process the payment.

3.3. If I conduct the Ph. D Project in a center, where can I formalize the Ph. D enrollment?

The Ph.D. enrollment must be formalized by the candidate at the associated university.