

Job announcement: ECON-PSR-INDF-2026-16

Full-time research assistant in Industrial Organization/International Trade/Spatial Economics, Department of Economics and Business, Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona

Position overview

Starting in July 2026, Professor Manuel García-Santana seeks to hire a full-time RA for his ERC project to assist him with equilibrium and structural models (full details in section below). This position would suit candidates with a strong background in terms of experience and qualifications, as well as having advanced econ-related IT skills.

Job location

Barcelona (Spain), Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), Ciutadella Campus, Department of Economics and Business. **The work is to be carried at the campus.**

About UPF: <https://www.upf.edu/web/universitat/>

About the Department of Economics and Business: <https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/publications>

Funding body and project

This contract is funded by the EU's Horizon Europe Programme, European Research Council (ERC) Consolidator Grant 'Government Intervention and the Macroeconomy: Micro-evidence on the Transmission of Government Procurement', 2025–2030, grant agreement ID: 101125744.

This project studies the role of public procurement in the overall economy.

More information can be found here: <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101125744>

Principal Investigator

Professor Manuel García-Santana (PhD CEMFI) is a Tenured Associate Professor at Pompeu Fabra University, Affiliated Professor at the Barcelona School of Economics, and CREI Research Associate. Since 2024 he is co-leader of CEPR-STEG Theme 5: The Role of the Public Sector. At present he serves as an Associate Editor of the *Journal of International Economics* and the *Journal of the Spanish Economic Association*.

He is an applied macroeconomist with interests in trade, growth and development. His research

focuses on understanding how trade, government policies, and market distortions affect aggregate productivity and welfare by changing the way resources are allocated across firms.

<https://sites.google.com/view/manugarciasantana/home>

Job offer

Research Support Staff (*personal de suport a la recerca*), Department of Economics and Business, Pompeu Fabra University.

Type of contract: Open-ended, in accordance with Decree RD 32/2021 of 28 December 2021.

Incompatibilities: This contract might be incompatible with other contracts.

Employer: Pompeu Fabra University.

Starting date: July 2026.

Job description

The chosen candidate will help the PI with:

* Developing and analyzing partial-equilibrium models of firm entry and market participation under imperfect competition, accounting for strategic interactions, market interdependencies, and heterogeneous firm behavior.

* Designing and implementing computationally efficient solution algorithms for complex equilibrium models, with a focus on scalability, numerical accuracy, and applicability to large-scale empirical settings.

* Applying structural models of market entry and competition to government procurement markets, examining firms' bidding, participation, and strategic responses to procurement design and policy interventions.

* Estimating and validating structural models using advanced nonlinear econometric techniques, including simulation-based methods, maximum likelihood estimation, and other computational approaches suitable for high-dimensional settings.

REQUIREMENTS

EXPERIENCE

1. Demonstrated research expertise at the intersection of industrial organization and spatial economics; relevant work in progress and/or publications will be an asset.
2. Strong experience with computational methods for solving partial-equilibrium models of firm entry, market participation, and strategic interaction under imperfect competition.

QUALIFICATIONS

Minimum: Completed masters' degree in Economics. High GPA required. Further education will be an asset.

SKILLS/KNOWLEDGE

- Scientific software: Advanced or proficiency command of Python, Matlab, Stata, R, QGIS. Version control and debugging is a plus.
- Language: Advanced or proficiency level in English, both spoken and written.
- Courses and/or knowledge: Industrial Organization, International Trade, Spatial Economics.

Expected remuneration

Annual gross salary: 56804,68 euros.

Group and level: Group 1, level D

Working hours: Full-time, 35 hours/week

SELECTION PROCESS

1 June 2026 Job advertisement is posted in:

- EURAXESS, <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/441504>
- Department of Economics and Business (Pompeu Fabra University):
<https://www.upf.edu/web/econ/research-project-positions>
Job opportunities > Research Project Positions > Research Support Positions
Position reference: ECON-PSR-INDF-2026-16

All the announcements about the selection process for this position will be posted on the Pompeu Fabra University website.

16 June 2026 Application period ends.

Next steps:

Publication of the list of admitted and excluded candidates to take part in the selection process. The list includes the motivation for exclusion from the selection process, and 5 working days are given to submit allegations.

The Selection Committee preselects the candidates to be evaluated based on their CVs and motivation letter. Rating will be given according to the candidates' match to the required experience, qualifications and skills/knowledge. At the discretion of the Committee, preselected candidates can be asked for an interview.

After the publication of the selection process results, allegations can be submitted in the following 5 working days.

The candidate with the highest score in the selection process will be awarded the job. The minimum score needed to pass the selection process is 85 points.

General rating system

Experience: 35%

Qualifications: 15%

Skills/knowledge: 50%

Selection Committee

Chair: Manuel García-Santana

Committee members: Isaac Baley (UPF) and Priit Jeenas (UPF)

Application documents

- CV in English (maximum: two pages).
- Motivation letter in English explaining the applicant's interest in and fit for the position.
- Scanned copy of the master's degree diploma.
- Master's degree grades transcript.
- If applicable: PDF files or links of ongoing or published work.
- Names, positions and contact details of 1 or 2 referees (NB no referee will be contacted without the candidate's prior permission).

Submitting an application

- A zip file containing all the application documents should be sent to Mariona Novoa via email (mariona.novoa@upf.edu), **with the subject line ECON-PSR-INDF-2026-16. Please name the zip file ECON-PSR-INDF-2026-16_Lastname_Firstname.**
- The application submission deadline is 16 June 2026, 23:00pm (UTC+1).

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

Data protection

Please refer to: <https://rat.upf.edu/en/ll014>

UPF Equality Plan: <https://www.upf.edu/web/pla-igualtat>

Date of publication: 2 June 2026

More information

Please send any inquiries about this vacancy to:

Mariona Novoa

Department of Economics and Business

Pompeu Fabra University

mariona.novoa@upf.edu