3rd Call text

Program description
The UPFellows program promoted by Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF, Barcelona, Spain) aims to offer career development opportunities to outstanding postdoctoral researchers of any nationality. UPF Fellows will join one of the most unique and dynamic research environments in Europe, where they will be able to advance in their research and further develop their professional skills with a career development plan guided by a senior scientific mentor. The program aims to attract talented researchers from anywhere in the world to a career in Europe.

UPFellows program will offer 6 international fellowships in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities, Health and Life Sciences and Communication and Information Technologies. Candidates will be recruited in a competitive selection process.

The UPFellows is funded jointly by the Marie Curie COFUND program (7th Framework Program) and the UPF.

Eligibility criteria
Eligibility is determined using the information provided in the application via the online application. For an application to be eligible:

1. It must be received before the deadline.
2. It must be complete, including specifically:
   - a full CV
   - a statement of research interests and plans for the UPFellow period
   - at least two (preferably three) reference letters of scholars

It must prove that the applicant
- holds a PhD or will hold a PhD degree by May 31st, 2015
- will undertake transnational mobility, defined as the applicant not having carried out his or her main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the submission of the application. Short stays, such as holidays, are not considered.

Duration
The fellowship is awarded for a period of 3 years. The candidates should start within 3 months of the acceptance of the fellowship.

Economic conditions and Training
UPFellows will receive a three-year contract with a gross salary/year of 47,300€ plus Social Security costs. In addition, selected candidates will receive:
- Travel allowance: 800€/year
- Contribution to Research costs: 3,000 €/year
- Other economic benefits: UPF has agreements with a number of providers of consumer products and health, leisure, sports, and travel services which offer employees a wide range of benefits that will be also available to the fellows.
Furthermore, candidates will have access to a wide offer of training activities such as seminars, specific training session, etc. They will be provided with the required conditions to develop their research projects with autonomy and within a stimulating environment.

**UPF Research Environment**

UPF fellows will benefit from the UPF Research Environment. The UPF is among the top 20 institutions in Europe funded by grants of the European Research Council and ranks as the number one Spanish university in research productivity, based on journal articles indexed in the JCR, research and development projects in 2010, and doctoral dissertations between 2004 and 2009 (Ranking in research production and productivity in the Spanish university public system, 2010).

Along with internationalization, a key contributor to UPF’s success has been its focus on specific areas of research and interdisciplinary contributions thanks to a small number of departments and affiliated research and technology centers which is organized into three thematic campuses:

- Social Sciences and Humanities, which is particularly strong in Economics and its interfaces with Political Science, Sociology, Law, History, and Psychology
- Information and Communication Sciences, boasting high profiles in Information and Communication Technologies as well as in Computational Sciences and Engineering applied to Health and Life Sciences
- Health and Life Sciences, with strength in multiple areas, including Bioinformatics, Cell Biology, Evolutionary Biology, and Neuropharmacology.

**Application**

Applications for the UPF fellows program are accepted exclusively online through our online application system. The application deadline is April 20th, 2015.

Candidates must register in order to be able to use the online application system. The online application form includes all of the necessary information for the initial stages of the selection process (scientific CV, list of publications, meetings, research experience and interests, fellowships obtained under competitive calls, project the applicant wishes to perform, etc.)

At least two reference letters must be provided, which will be automatically requested from the referees proposed by the candidate through the online system. Candidates must ensure that all information is included before the deadline, including the reference letters. Incomplete proposals will not be considered eligible.

Once the application is submitted, an acknowledgement of receipt will be automatically sent by e-mail to the applicant. A reference number will be assigned, which should be included in any further correspondence.

For any additional information, please contact us at upfellows@upf.edu.

**Selection process**

The selection is supervised by a Selection Committee and based on the candidate’s academic qualifications and research excellence in an open and transparent peer review selection process following the recommendations of the “European Charter for Researchers” and “Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers” and will be organized into the following steps which are eliminatory:

1. Eligibility check
2. First step evaluation: Pre-selection
3. Second step evaluation
4. Candidate selection and acceptance
1. **Eligibility Check:** Applicants who do not meet eligibility requirements will be notified and those who are eligible will move on to the pre-screening process.

2. **Step One Evaluation:** Pre-selection: The pre-selection will be based on
   - the candidate’s CV according to the following criteria i) number and relevance of publications (number of citations, impact factors, and the prestige of the publisher in the case of books and edited volume publications), ii) participation at international meetings (posters, oral presentations, etc), iii) previous grants and awards, iv) professional activity such as reviewing for conferences or journals and v) other merits (teaching, patents, transfer experience, etc) and
   - the quality and relevance of the research statement considering the following criteria: i) originality and potential of the research and ii) written quality/presentation of the research statement.

3. **Step Two Evaluation:** Step Two evaluation consists in an evaluation by remote experts and an interview:
   a) **The evaluation by remote experts** will follow exactly the same criteria as the Step One evaluation describe above.
   b) **The interview** will take the form of a two-day visit to UPF. This visit will take place approximately 2-3 weeks after applicants have been notified of passing Step One. During the first day of the visit the candidates will meet the respective interested supervisors and will have time to visit UPF premises. During the second day candidates will be asked to present their research in a short public talk. After the talk, the applicant will be interviewed by the relevant Selection Committee panel. The interview will be scored according to the following criteria, based on the talk and the applicant’s answers to questions from the audience at the end of the talk and in the interview process:
      - Defense of the research agenda
      - Basic scientific knowledge
      - Capacity to think creatively
      - Presentation skills

4. **Selection:** Following the decision by the Selection Committee, a final ranked list of the successful candidates and a reserve list will be posted on the website using the reference number that will have been assigned to the application.

Candidates will be able to check the status of their application at any time by logging in to the web interface. In addition, at the end of each step in the selection process they will receive an e-mail to inform them whether they have passed to the next stage, and if so, the pertinent details (e.g., scheduling interview dates, deadline for acceptance and start of contract).

**Call calendar**

| Call opening: | 20 February 2015 |
| Call deadline: | 20 April 2015 |
| Step 1: Pre-selection of candidates: | early May 2015 |
| Step 2: Remote evaluation / Oral interviews: | 2nd half of May 2015 |
| Notification to candidates: | end of May 2015 |
| Start date of fellowship: | from June 2015 (+3 months later) |

**Contact**

For any additional information, please contact:

**UPFellows Program Office**

Marta Rodríguez
Research Service
Universitat Pompeu Fabra
upfellows@upf.edu