

## FAQS TECNIOspring PLUS

### ELIGIBILITY OF RESEARCHERS

#### **Can I apply if I have not finished my PhD?**

Yes. Researchers must, at the time of the deadline for submission of proposals, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience. Please check the complete list of the eligibility criteria.

#### **What is the deadline for obtaining the degree of doctor in order to submit the application form?**

The time limit to fulfil all eligibility conditions is the deadline for proposal submission of the relevant call. (Please remark the degree of doctor is not necessary).

#### **Are non-European candidates eligible to apply for TECNIOspring PLUS?**

There are no nationality restrictions, but candidates must undertake trans-national mobility, which means that candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain or in the country of destination for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the call deadline.

#### **Is there any age limit for taking part in the selection?**

There is no age limit. Candidates shall however take into account that the impact of the project on the career of the researcher, which is an evaluation criteria, will be of limited nature for candidates at the end of their careers.

#### **Should I have chosen a host organisation before applying?**

Yes, before applying you should have identified the Catalan host organisation of your choice and jointly prepare your research project proposal.

TECNIOspring PLUS will accept applications involving both Catalan companies and TECNIO centres acting as host organisations and hiring the researchers.

#### **How can I find a suitable host organisation?**

You may address your question to TECNIOspring PLUS' help desk ([tecniospring.accio@gencat.cat](mailto:tecniospring.accio@gencat.cat)) While abroad, you may also contact one of the 36 Catalonia Trade & Investment Offices of ACCIÓ<sup>1</sup>.

#### **Can I apply if I have already a permanent contract with the Catalan host organisation?**

No. Researchers that are already permanently employed by the Catalan company or TECNIO centre submitting the application will not be eligible for TECNIOspring PLUS fellowship.

#### **I have had a career break, can I still be eligible?**

Yes. Exceptions for required periods will be made for researchers with documented career breaks such as maternity/parental leave, sick or family care leave, military service, humanitarian

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<sup>1</sup> <http://catalonia.com/en/trade-investment-offices.jsp>

aid work, unemployment, etc. Candidates must indicate the reason and the exact periods of all career breaks in the application form.

As an exception, only for career breaks, properly detailed and justified, the mobility rule will be as follows: "Experienced researchers will be eligible if they have not resided or carried out their main activity in the country of destination for more than 3 years in the 5 years immediately prior to the relevant deadline for submission of proposals."

**Do all causes for career break imply the same exception of the required periods?**

Yes

**Should outgoing applicants submit the prior acceptance by the outgoing host organisation with the application?**

Yes, a letter from the host organisation abroad must be included in the application.

## **PREPARING THE APPLICATION**

**Is there any template in order to prepare the application?**

Yes. All templates can be found on TECNIOspring PLUS website. Candidates should strictly follow the instructions given and make sure all information needed is provided. Pages exceeding maximum number of pages will not be read. An incomplete template will make the application ineligible.

**Who is the researcher' supervisor?**

She/he is a senior researcher in charge of the fellow at the host organisation in Catalonia (Catalan company or TECNIO centre) and/or at the host organisation abroad.

**Can a supervisor act as such for more than one candidate?**

No, a supervisor can only act as such for one candidate. Should the same senior researcher be included as supervisor in the application form of more than one candidate, all those applications will be rejected.

**Do I have to submit a research project proposal with the application?**

Yes. In collaboration with the Catalan company or TECNIO centre of your choice, you will have to write a research project proposal using the project template available on the TECNIOspring PLUS website.

**When do I need to submit an ethics assessment with my proposal?** The ethics issues table is part of the application form. If you answer YES to any of the questions of this table, you will need to submit an ethics assessment made by an ethics committee belonging to the Network of Ethics Committees in Universities and Public Research Entities in Spain<sup>2</sup>. If you do not have access to the Network, the programme Ethics Committee shall evaluate the ethics issues of the proposal.

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<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ub.edu/rceue/>



**Is a secondment mandatory?**

No. Candidates may propose any secondments that they consider of interest within their projects. Secondments that introduce cross-sectoral aspects (e.g. a fellow hired by a company is seconded to a research centre or vice versa) will be positively evaluated.

**What is RIS3CAT?<sup>3</sup>**

The innovation strategy for smart specialization of Catalonia (hereinafter RIS3CAT) has been prepared by the Government of Catalonia with the support of experts in intelligent specialization, research, innovation, productive and civic contributions. RIS3CAT will help to implement the EU strategy "Europe 2020" for a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, rationalising investments in research and innovation and optimising their impact on economic and social development.

In order to be positively evaluated, research projects must show their impact on the relevant sectorial area(s) as defined in RIS3CAT (see evaluation criteria).

**SUBMISSION**

**How are applications submitted?**

Applications for the TECNIOspring PLUS programme will be accepted exclusively online through the online application system, which will be available on the TECNIOspring PLUS website. Moreover, the Catalan host organisation (Catalan company or TECNIO centre) will need to submit applications in-person.

**Who submits the application?**

The Catalan host organisation (Catalan company or TECNIO centre) that will hire the researcher must submit the application, including all data related to researchers.

**Do applicants need to register to submit an application?**

No, applicants have to go to the website and download the software that allows them to fill in the form. Catalan companies or TECNIO centres submitting the joint application should take care of this.

**Do Catalan host organisations need to send any printed document when submitting the application?**

Yes. Further than the on-line submission, the Catalan host organisation submitting the application (Catalan company or TECNIO centre) will need to submit applications in person.

**Should Catalan host organisations submit applications by using electronic signature?**

There is no electronic signature. The Catalan host organisation (Catalan company or TECNIO centre) must submit the application both in-person and by electronic means.

**Do researchers need to submit documentation certifying the fulfilment of the requirements of the call (e.g. PhD certificate, etc.)?**

No, this documentation is not needed at the moment of submitting the application. Successful candidates will be required to present it prior to accepting the grant.

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<sup>3</sup> [http://www20.gencat.cat/docs/economia/85\\_Catalunya%202020/Documents/Arxius/RIS3CAT\\_gener\\_%202014.pdf](http://www20.gencat.cat/docs/economia/85_Catalunya%202020/Documents/Arxius/RIS3CAT_gener_%202014.pdf)



**Should a pdf file NIF, NIE or passport be attached to the application form?**

No.

**I made a mistake in my application and I have submitted it - can I change it?**

Errors discovered by the applicant in proposals can be rectified by simply submitting a corrected version. After the in person submission by the Catalan host organisation (Catalan company or TECNIO Centre), no further additions, corrections or resubmissions will be accepted".

**How can I check the status of my application after the closing date?**

After submission, applicants will be provided with a code. With this code applicants will be able to track the status of their application.

**Can I simultaneously submit applications to TECNIOspring PLUS and other Marie Skłodowska-Curie programmes?**

Yes, but if you are successful you will have to choose one of them in case they overlap.

**How many applications may a researcher submit?**

Each researcher may submit only one application. Catalan host organisations (Catalan companies and TECNIO centres) may submit more than one application involving different researchers, projects and supervisors.

**How many applications may a Catalan host organisation submit?**

As many as wanted, although proposals submitted must meet the requirements of the call, with regard to both candidates, projects and supervisor, as indicated above.

## **SELECTION PROCESS**

**Does the selection process involve an interview?**

Although it is not the general rule, in special cases pre-selected candidates might be invited to attend an oral interview. TECNIOspring PLUS Selection Committee might use video conferencing for oral interview, where appropriate.

**When will candidates be informed about the final results?**

All candidates will be informed within 4 months after closing the call.

## **CONTRACTUAL RELATIONSHIP WITH CATALAN HOST ORGANISATION**

**If my application is successful, when will the fellowship start?**

Selected candidates should start their fellowships not later than four months after the selection decision.

**When should contacts between researchers and Catalan host organisations initiate in order for the researchers to join the centre?**

Once the selection of researchers has been communicated to applicants, selected researchers and their corresponding Catalan company or TECNIO centre will have a period of 30 calendar



days for communicating to ACCIÓ the terms of the future contract and expected date of incorporation of the researcher (not later than 4 months after the selection resolution).

In any case, researchers and Catalan companies and/or TECNIO centres may start working on these agreements as soon as they submit the application, so that, in the event that the researcher is selected, contracts can be signed quickly and easily.

**What type of contract should be signed between researchers and Catalan host organisations?**

Contracts must be full time and have a minimum duration of 2 years from the date of incorporation of the researcher. A contract date prior to the date of publication of the award decision will not be allowed.

Therefore, any type of contract under the existing labour legislation will be admitted, provided that the duration of this contract is at least 2 years (maximum TECNIOspring PLUS funding period).

Contracts may also be permanent, or be replaced by other contracts with this character throughout the period of support, without thereby altering any of the provisions in the subprogram.

**How soon shall a fellow join the Catalan host organisations?**

A maximum period of four months from the date of the communication to the fellow of the award decision will be allowed, always in accordance with the Catalan company or TECNIO centre. In exceptional cases, especially those related to the fellow's research activity, ACCIÓ might grant an extension of this time.

**In case of a selected candidate that has already a contract with the Catalan company or TECNIO centre, can the candidate maintain his/her contract?**

Researchers that are already permanently employed by the Catalan company or TECNIO centre submitting the application will not be eligible for TECNIOspring PLUS fellowship.

Fellows already contracted (non-permanently) could potentially keep the contract, but as the conditions might be different this should be reflected in a separate agreement. In all cases must candidates fulfil the mobility rule and the rest of eligibility criteria.

**Can a selected candidate maintain his/her contract in his/her country of origin while having a new contract with the Catalan host organisation?**

Incoming fellows could maintain their job position in their country of origin. Obviously, this should not affect the full-time engagement under the TECNIOspring PLUS project.

**Can contracts starting before the award of the fellowship request funding?**

No. A fellow may keep his/her former contract, but funding will be granted from the date of the selection of the candidate on.

**Will the salary of TECNIOspring PLUS fellows be protected against wage cuts?**

TECNIOspring PLUS fellows' salary will be specified in the call and will not be affected by any cuts.

