

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Call for pre-doctoral contracts

- 1. Is it possible for the same candidate to submit an application for each of the modalities covered by the call?**
No, it is not possible. Each candidate can only submit one contract application for this call, choosing on the application form the modality for which he/she is applying.
- 2. Is it necessary for the applicant to have studied the Bachelor and/or Master at the University of Salamanca?**
No, students from other universities can apply for the contract, as long as they are pre-admitted or enrolled in a doctoral programme at the University of Salamanca, and fulfil the rest of the requirements established in article 2 of the call.
- 3. Is it necessary to have applied for pre-doctoral grants in any of the last competitive calls to apply for this call?**
No, in the 2024 call the fact of having previously applied for other pre-doctoral grants is a merit for the applicant, not a requirement.
- 4. What happens if an applicant completes his/her doctoral thesis before the end of the contract?**
If the doctoral degree is obtained before the start of the last year of the grant, the continuation of the contract in the post-doctoral orientation phase may be requested one month before the date of the thesis reading. In this phase, the director of the contract will be the same who has directed the pre-doctoral stage.
- 5. Is it possible to apply for an extension of the predoctoral training grant or the postdoctoral orientation period?**
No, the grants will have a maximum duration of four years (including the postdoctoral orientation phase, which, regardless of the date on which it is formalised, will have a maximum duration of one year).
- 6. Can a beneficiary of the contract be enrolled part-time in the doctoral programme?**
No, this is not possible. Full-time enrolment is compulsory.
- 7. What activities are compatible with pre-doctoral contracts?**
According to article 8 of the call, the receipt of a grant under this call implies exclusive dedication, and is incompatible with other economic aid of a similar nature, financed with public or private funds, and, in general, with the receipt of any amount of a salaried nature, provided that this affects the training and research purpose of the grant. In fact, the reimbursement of the grant will be demanded, without prejudice to the corresponding responsibilities, when the Administration becomes aware that a beneficiary has received another or other grants that are incompatible with the grant awarded without having made the corresponding waiver.
- 8. What happens if the documentation submitted with the application is incomplete?**
If the administrative documentation provided is incomplete, the interested party will be notified, preferably via the e-mail address they have designated, that they must rectify the lack or provide the required documentation within ten working days, with the warning that, if they fail to do so, they will be considered to have withdrawn their application (in accordance with the provisions of article 38 of Law 39/ 2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations). However, the curricula vitae of the applicant and/or thesis supervisor and the scientific-technical report of the doctoral thesis project are not considered as administrative documentation, so that if they are not submitted or are incomplete, they will also be assessed by the selection committee according to the scales established in the assessment criteria tables included in the call for applications, without the possibility of providing new documentation once the deadline for submitting applications has closed.
- 9. What happens if a curriculum vitae is presented in a different model to the one indicated in the call for applications?**
If the curriculum vitae is not submitted in the model indicated in the call for applications, the merits will not be taken into account.
- 10. What happens if the curricular information of the applicant or the director does not include the quality indexes of the publications?**
If the information on the quality indexes is not provided, the publications will not be evaluated. Both the reference of the publications and the indications of quality must be included.

11. **Can a researcher who does not belong to the University of Salamanca be a thesis supervisor?**
Thesis supervisors must be linked to the University of Salamanca by employment or by statute. Exceptionally, a researcher linked to the CSIC may be a supervisor, provided that he/she is attached to joint centres of the University-CSIC and that this circumstance is provided for in the collaboration agreement in force. In the event that the proposed thesis supervisor is employed by the CSIC, the application must include the agreement of a University Department to collaborate in the teaching tasks.
12. **Can an emeritus professor be a thesis supervisor?**
In this case, in which the contractual relationship of the supervisor does not last longer than the maximum period of the grant, established at a maximum of forty-eight months, the figure of the co-director is necessary.
13. **Can an associate professor be a thesis supervisor?**
No, since the call establishes that thesis supervisors must be linked to the University of Salamanca by employment or by statute, through figures with research capacity, with full-time dedication to the University of Salamanca.
14. **Can a reader, a substitute lecturer or a visiting lecturer be a thesis supervisor?**
No, since the call for applications establishes that the directors must be linked to the University of Salamanca by employment or by statute, through figures with research capacity.
15. **Can a doctoral assistant professor be a thesis supervisor?**
Yes, but if their contract does not have a duration longer than the maximum period of the grant, established at a maximum of forty-eight months, it will be compulsory to appoint a co-director who meets the requirements demanded in article 4 of the call.
16. **Can a researcher contracted under the Beatriz Galindo programme be a thesis supervisor?**
Yes, as long as he/she meets the requirements of article 4 of the call.
17. **Can a researcher contracted under the ERC Grant (European Union), or Marie Curie Individual Fellowships, CERN Senior Fellowships (European Union), Ramón y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva incorporation, Miguel Servet (Instituto de Salud Carlos III, María Zambrano) postdoctoral contract programmes be a thesis supervisor?**
Yes, but they must have the I3/R3 accreditation certificate from the State Research Agency at the time of submission of the application, but if they do not have this accreditation and their contract does not have a duration longer than the maximum period of the grant, set at a maximum of forty-eight months, it will be compulsory to appoint a co-director who meets the requirements of Article 4 of the call.
18. **Can a postdoctoral contracted researcher be a thesis supervisor?**
Yes, but if the duration of the contract does not exceed the maximum period of the grant, set at a maximum of 48 months, it will be compulsory to appoint a co-director who meets the requirements of Article 4 of the call.
19. **Can a lecturer who directs a pre-doctoral researcher contracted with funding from previous years' calls of the USAL's own programme and with a contract in force at the time of this application be a thesis supervisor?**
No thesis supervisor of predoctoral research staff hired with funding from the 2023 calls of the USAL's own programme and with a contract in force at the time of the application may endorse any application in this call. This exclusion does not affect the directors of contracts that are in the postdoctoral orientation phase.
20. **What happens if a thesis supervisor endorses more than one application?**
The call only allows only one application to be endorsed, so if several applications are submitted by the same supervisor, only the application of the applicant with the highest weighted average mark will be accepted.
21. **When is it necessary for the application to be supported by a co-director?**
Only in those cases in which the contractual relationship of the director does not have a duration longer than the maximum period of the grant, established in a maximum of forty-eight months, and is not a Beatriz Galindo contract holder, or does not have the R3 certificate being a beneficiary of an ERC Grant (European Union), or a postdoctoral contract holder of excellence Marie Curie Individual Fellowships, CERN Senior Fellowships (European Union), Ramón y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva incorporation, Miguel Servet (Instituto de Salud Carlos III).
22. **What requirements must the co-director fulfil?**
All those detailed in section 4 of the call. Consequently, you cannot be co-director of two applications in this call and you cannot be co-director if you are already a thesis supervisor of pre-doctoral research staff contracted with funding from the 2023 calls of the USAL's own programme and with a contract in force at the time of the application.
23. **Is it necessary for the thesis supervisor to be part of a GIR?**
No, it is not necessary.



- 24. Does the thesis supervisor have to be part of a research project team?**
No. The supervisor must be part of the research team developing a project or, exceptionally, a research agreement or contract (article 60) with a value of 10,000 euros or more.
- 25. Can the thesis supervisor be part of the working team of a project?**
No, the supervisor must be part of the research team developing the project, not of the working team.
- 26. Is it necessary that the research project of which the director is a member of the team has the University of Salamanca as a beneficiary entity?**
Yes, except in two cases: 1) the project may be owned by the IBSAL provided that the "Definition of economic and administrative management of research funds between USAL and IBSAL" agreement is in force and 2) the project may be owned by another entity if the proposed thesis supervisor is co-IP and the project belongs to the calls "State Sub-programme for Knowledge Generation" and "State Sub-programme for Knowledge Transfer", of the Ministry of Science and Innovation.
- 27. What happens if more than one application is submitted by members of the same project?**
Since the call only allows the submission of one application per project (or article 60), unless the research team of the project is made up of more than 10 researchers and does not have an associated FPI contract, in which case two applications may be submitted. In case there are more applications than those indicated, supported by team members of the same project (or article 60), only the applications with the highest weighted average score will be accepted taking into account the limits indicated above.
- 28. Is it possible for the research project of which the director is a member to belong to the research grant programme of the Fundación "Memoria Don Samuel Solórzano Barruso"?**
No, the research work presented by the candidate cannot form part of a project of the "Memoria Don Samuel Solórzano Barruso" Foundation.
- 29. Is it possible for the research project of which the director forms part to belong to the call for the University of Salamanca's own programmes?**
Only in cases where this is explicitly stated in the call for own programmes, i.e. when the project is of the A, B1 or B2 modalities.
- 30. Is it necessary for the thesis supervisor to be part of the doctoral programme in which the student is enrolled?**
No, as long as the thesis has a tutor who is part of the same doctoral programme as the student.
- 31. What is the legal status of the beneficiaries from previous years, the current one or the one they applied for?**
The legal situation of the beneficiaries is governed by the call to which they applied and for which they were selected, so the changes included in this call do not affect the beneficiaries of previous calls.