

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**  
**Call for Predoctoral Research Contracts**

1. **Can a single applicant submit an application for each of the modalities included in the call?**  
No. Each applicant may submit only one application under this call for applications, selecting in Annex I the modality for which they wish to apply.
2. **Is it necessary for the applicant to have completed their bachelor's and/or master's degree at the University of Salamanca?**  
No. Students from other universities may apply, provided that they are pre-admitted or enrolled in a doctoral programme at the University of Salamanca and meet the remaining requirements set out in Article 2 of the call for applications.
3. **Is it necessary to have applied for predoctoral grants in previous competitive calls for applications in order to apply to this one?**  
No. In the 2025 call, having previously applied for other predoctoral grants is considered a merit, not a requirement.
4. **What happens if an applicant completes their doctoral thesis before the end of the contract?**  
If the doctoral degree is obtained before the start of the final year of the grant, the continuation of the contract in the postdoctoral orientation period may be requested one month prior to the thesis defence date. In this stage, the supervisor of the contract will be the same person who has supervised the predoctoral period.
5. **Is it possible to request an extension of the predoctoral training grant or of the postdoctoral orientation period?**  
No. These grants have a maximum duration of four years, including the postdoctoral orientation period, which may last for a maximum of one year regardless of the date on which it is formalised.
6. **Can a contract beneficiary be enrolled part-time in the doctoral programme?**  
No. Full-time enrolment is mandatory.
7. **Which activities are compatible with predoctoral contracts?**  
According to Article 8 of the call for applications, holding a grant under this call requires exclusive dedication and is incompatible with other financial aid of a similar nature funded by public or private sources and, in general, with receiving any amount that has the nature of a salary. In fact, reimbursement of the subsidy may be requested, without detriment to the corresponding responsibilities, when the Administration becomes aware that a beneficiary has received another subsidy or subsidies that are incompatible with the one granted 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 supplied, that they must remedy the omission or submit the required documentation within ten working days. Failure to do so will result in their application being considered withdrawn (in accordance with the provisions of Article 38 of Law 39/ 2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure for Public Administrations). The applicant's and/or the thesis supervisor's curriculum vitae and the scientific-technical report of the doctoral thesis project are not considered administrative documentation. Consequently, if they are not submitted or are submitted incompletely, they will still be assessed by the selection committee in accordance with the scoring criteria set out in the tables included in the call for applications. Under no circumstances may additional documentation be submitted once the deadline for applications has closed.
9. **What happens if a curriculum vitae is submitted in a format different from the one indicated in the call for applications?**  
If the CV is not submitted in the required format, the merits listed will not be taken into account.
10. **What happens if the applicant or supervisor does not include quality indicators for their publications?**  
If quality indicators are not provided, the publications will not be assessed. Both the publication references and the quality indicators must be included.
11. **Press publications that have not yet been published will only be taken into consideration if there is proof of acceptance from the publisher at the time the deadline for submitting applications closes and if they appear in the curriculum vitae of the applicant or the supervisor.**
12. **Can a doctoral thesis be supervised by a researcher who is not part of the University of Salamanca?**  
Thesis supervisors must have an employment or statutory relationship with the University of Salamanca. Exceptionally, a researcher affiliated with the CSIC may act as supervisor, provided



that they are assigned to a joint USAL-CSIC centre and that this is stipulated in the current collaboration agreement.

If the proposed supervisor is employed by the CSIC, the application must include **confirmation from a University department** agreeing to collaborate in teaching duties.

**13. Can an emeritus professor supervise a doctoral thesis?**

If the supervisor's contractual relationship does not extend beyond the maximum duration of the grant (forty-eight months), a co-supervisor must be appointed.

**14. Can a part-time lecturer supervise a doctoral thesis?**

No. The call for applications states that supervisors must have an employment or statutory relationship with the University of Salamanca in positions with research capacity and full-time dedication.

**15. Can a foreign language assistant, a substitute professor, or a visiting professor supervise a doctoral thesis?**

No. The call for applications states that supervisors must have an employment or statutory relationship with the University of Salamanca in positions with research capacity.

**16. Can an assistant professor supervise a doctoral thesis?**

Yes, but if their contract does not extend beyond the maximum duration of the grant (forty-eight months), a co-supervisor who meets the requirements set out in Article 4 of the call for applications must be appointed.

**17. Can a researcher hired under the Beatriz Galindo programme supervise a doctoral thesis?**

Yes, provided that they meet the requirements set out in Article 4 of the call for applications.

**18. Can researchers hired under ERC Grants (European Union), Marie Curie Individual Fellowships, CERN Senior Fellowships (European Union), Ramón y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva-Incorporación, Miguel Servet (Carlos III Health Institute), or María Zambrano programmes supervise a doctoral thesis?**

Yes, but they must hold the I3/R3 accreditation certificates from the Spanish State Research Agency at the time of submitting the application. If they do not hold this accreditation and their contract does not extend beyond the maximum duration of the grant (forty-eight months), a co-supervisor who meets the requirements set out in Article 4 of the call for applications must be appointed.

**19. Can a post-doctoral researcher supervise a doctoral thesis?**

Yes, but if their contract does not extend beyond the maximum duration of the grant (forty-eight months), a co-supervisor who meets the requirements set out in Article 4 of the call for applications must be appointed.

**20. Can a lecturer who is supervising a pre-doctoral researcher funded under previous calls of the USAL-owned programme and whose contract is still in force supervise a new applicant?**

No thesis supervisor of predoctoral research staff contracted through funding from the 2024 call of the USAL-owned programme and with a contract in force at the time of the application may endorse any application in this call. This exclusion does not apply to contract supervisors who are in postdoctoral orientation period.

**21. What happens if a thesis supervisor endorses more than one application?**

The call for applications only allows one application to be endorsed. Therefore, if several applications are submitted with the same supervisor's endorsement, only the application of the candidate with the highest weighted average grade will be admitted.

**22. When is it necessary for the application to be endorsed by a co-supervisor?**

Only in cases where the supervisor's contractual relationship does not extend beyond the maximum duration of the grant (forty-eight months), and the supervisor is not a Beatriz Galindo researcher, does not hold the R3 certificate while being the beneficiary of an ERC Grant, or is not a postdoctoral researcher funded under Marie Curie Individual Fellowships, CERN Senior Fellowships (European Union), Ramón y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva-Incorporación, or Miguel Servet (Carlos III Health Institute) programmes.

**23. What requirements must the co-supervisor meet?**

All those set out in Section 4 of the call for applications. Consequently, a person may not act as co-supervisor for two applications in this call, nor may they act as co-supervisor if they are already supervising a pre-doctoral researcher funded under the 2024 USAL-owned programme and whose contract is in force at the time of submitting the application.

**24. Is it necessary for the thesis supervisor to be part of a Recognised Research Group (GIR)?**

No, it is not necessary.

**25. Is it necessary for the thesis supervisor to be part of the research team of a research project?**

The supervisor must be part of the research team carrying out a project or, exceptionally, an agreement or research contract (Article 60) with a budget equal to or greater than 10,000 euros.



- 26. Can the thesis supervisor be part of the working team of a project?**  
No. The supervisor must be part of the research team that carries out the project, not the working team.
- 27. Is it necessary for the research project in which the supervisor participates to have the University of Salamanca as the beneficiary entity?**  
Yes, except in two cases: 1) the project may be held by IBSAL provided that the agreement on the economic and administrative management of research funds between USAL and IBSAL is in force; and 2) the project may be held by another entity if the proposed supervisor is co-PI and the project belongs to the *Subprograma Estatal de Generación de Conocimiento* (State Programme for Knowledge Generation) or the *Subprograma Estatal de Transferencia de Conocimiento* (State Programme for Knowledge Transfer) of the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation.
- 28. What happens if more than one application is submitted by members of the same project?**  
Only one application may be submitted per research project (or Article 60), unless the research team has more than ten researchers and does not have an associated predoctoral research contract (FPI programme), in which case two applications may be submitted. In cases where more applications than permitted are submitted, endorsed by members of the team of the same project (or Article 60), only those submitted by the candidates with the highest weighted average grade will be admitted, taking into account the limits indicated above.
- 29. Can the research project in which the supervisor participates belong to the 'Memoria Don Samuel Solórzano Barruso' Foundation's research funding programme?**  
No. The research work submitted by the candidate cannot form part of a project funded by the 'Memoria Don Samuel Solórzano Barruso' Foundation.
- 30. Can the research project in which the supervisor participates belong to a call for University of Salamanca-owned programmes?**  
Only when explicitly stated in the call for Salamanca-owned programmes, that is, when the project belongs to modalities A, B1 or B2.
- 31. Is it necessary for the thesis supervisor to be part of the doctoral programme in which the student is enrolled?**  
No, provided that the thesis has a tutor who is part of the same doctoral programme as the student.
- 32. Which call for applications applies to beneficiaries from previous years: the current one or the one they applied to?**  
The legal status of beneficiaries is governed by the call for applications to which they applied and under which they were selected. Therefore, the changes included in this call do not affect beneficiaries from previous calls.