

**Decision of the University of Alicante of 1 July 2021 to call for funding, within the framework of Royal Decree 289/2021 of 20 April and Order UNI/551/2021 of 26 May of the Spanish Ministry of Universities, for the 2021-2023 Spanish university system requalification.**

In accordance with Royal Decree 289/2021 of 20 April 2021, which regulates the direct award of state-aid funding to public universities for the requalification of the Spanish university system, and in accordance with Order UNI/551/2021 of 26 May, which allocates the University of Alicante a direct funding of €6,930,434, this call for state-aid funding is aimed at the training of young PhDs, at the requalification of university lecturers and at the attraction of international talent to be carried out in 2021-2023.

This is a multiannual competitive call for state-aid funding, in line with the principles of openness, transparency, objectivity, equality and non-discrimination, as well as with those of effectiveness in achieving set objectives and efficiency in the allocation and use of public resources. This call is issued in accordance with the provisions of Law 38/2003 of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding and its Regulation RD 887/2006 of 21 July, and the University of Alicante Strategic Plan for State-Aid Funding.

By virtue of the above and in accordance with the powers conferred on me by the University of Alicante Statute approved by Decree 73/2004 of the Valencian Government, of 7 May, I hereby decide on this call for funding.

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## **CHAPTER I. Common provisions**

### **Article 1. Purpose**

1. The purpose of this Decision is to approve a competitive call for the award of the state-aid funding provided for in Royal Decree 289/2021 of 20 April for the requalification of the Spanish university system.
2. These fellowships will include the following programmes:
  - a. *Margarita Salas* fellowship programme for the training of young PhD holders.
  - b. Fellowship programme for the requalification of university lecturers who are civil servants or under contract.
  - c. *María Zambrano* fellowship programme for international talent attraction.

The University of Alicante will reserve at least 50% of the total state-aid funding for the Margarita Sala fellowships. In the event that this credit is not used up, either because the candidates admitted have not reached the minimum score required to obtain a fellowship or because there are not enough candidates, this credit will be reserved for a supplementary call for funding to be approved and published a maximum of 18 months after the final decision of the first call for funding. In the case of the programme for the requalification of university lecturers and the María Zambrano programme, the funds not allocated may be used to increase the budget for the other programmes.

### **Article 2. Fellowship recipients**

1. Research staff who, on the closing date for the submission of applications, meet the requirements established in this call for funding for each of the programmes envisaged in this decision, may be awarded state-aid funding.
2. Fellowship recipients must comply with the obligations set out in Article 14 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding, in Order CNU/692/2019, of 20 June, and those specifically established herein.
3. Candidates who meet any of the circumstances established in Article 13 of the General Law on State-Aid Funding may not be recipients of any of the fellowships.
4. Persons hired under these fellowship programmes may engage in teaching collaborations at the host university for up to 60 hours per academic year, at their own request and with the approval of the host institution where the research visit is to be undertaken.

### **Article 3. Application procedure**

1. Applications for this call for applications will be submitted electronically through the University of Alicante **Electronic Office**, which can be accessed by the applicant through this link: <https://seuelectronica.ua.es/>.

2. Next, applicants must select the "Trámites" section on the horizontal tool bar and once there, click on "SOLICITUD DE AYUDAS A LA I+D+I" within the 'Docencia e Investigación' section. Access to the procedures is provided by any of these steps:

- UA user and password (for UA members)
- Digital certificate (e-DNI, ACCV, FNMT or other)
- Cl@ve
- Access for foreign applicants (<https://sgi.ua.es/es/proyectos-publicos/documentos/convocatorias/documentos/instrucciones-acceso-extranjeros.-solicitudes.pdf>)

On the application screen, you must select the "Tipo de ayuda" in which you wish to participate, and you must fill in the electronic form and provide the documents required by the aforementioned call for funding.

3. Once the form has been completed, the applicant will submit it electronically by clicking on the "SEND" button and after that, the application will be registered. Only one application per person may be made for each of the fellowships established in the annexes of this call for funding, so that the subsequent generation of a new application for the same type of fellowships will cancel the previous application file and only the last one submitted will be taken into consideration.

If any failures are found by the applicant before the deadline for submission of applications, they will submit a new application, which will replace the one previously submitted.

4. Applications not submitted in accordance with these provisions will not be accepted.

In cases where, due to a verifiable computer failure in the University of Alicante servers, it is not possible to submit the application electronically, applications may be submitted in the manner provided for in Article 16 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations. When such a circumstance occurs, the applicant must inform of the computer failure by email to [convopu@ua.es](mailto:convopu@ua.es) before the deadline for submission of applications, attaching all the documentation relating to the application.

5. The requirements demanded for each of the fellowships must be fulfilled on the date of the deadline for the submission of applications.

6. The documentation required for each type of fellowships will be set out in the section governing the relevant type of fellowship. When a standard form is established that requires the signature of natural persons, it must be signed

electronically, as far as possible, by means of an electronic ID card or other valid electronic certificate.

If the documentation provided is incomplete or contains errors that can be rectified, the interested parties will be requested to amend errors or attach the required documents through the Electronic Office within 10 days, with a notice saying that if they fail to do so, their application will be not taken into consideration, in accordance with the provisions of Article 68 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, and with the effects provided for in Article 21.1 of the aforementioned Law.

7. Only merits, if any, that have been included in the application form, duly accredited and obtained by the closing date for the submission of applications will be taken into account.

8. The personal data collected in the application form will be subject to the protection established by Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights.

In this sense, the personal data contained in the application form will be processed by the University of Alicante, in its capacity as the organisation responsible for these data, and incorporated into the specific activity. The purpose of this processing of personal data will be the management and decision of the call for funding. The legitimacy of this processing is based on the fulfilment of a public interest mission and on the consent of the data subject. Within the framework of the aforementioned processing, your data will not be disclosed to third parties unless legally obliged to do so. Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, deletion and portability of their data, limitation and opposition to their processing, as well as the right not to be subject to decisions based solely on the automated processing of their data, where appropriate, before the University of Alicante Office of the Comptroller, the General Registry or through its Electronic Office (<https://seuelectronica.ua.es>).

#### **Article 4. Notifications**

Notifications will be made through publication on the website of the Public R&D Projects Section (within the Research Management Service) for all intents and purposes of notification requirements.

Additionally, for some phases of the procedure, individual notification may be made through the University of Alicante's Electronic Office, in accordance with the provisions of the University of Alicante's Electronic Notification Regulations, approved by the Governing Council on 26 October 2016 (Official Journal of the University of Alicante of 28/10/2016).

Notwithstanding the provisions of the previous section, both in the case of the proposed final decision and in the case of the decision to award fellowships and further actions that bring the procedure to an end, the individual notification

provided for in the previous section will be replaced by the relevant publication on this website: <https://sgi.ua.es/es/proyectos-publicos/convocatorias/novedades.html> for all intents and purposes of notification requirements.

### **Article 5. Assessment**

The Office of the Vice President for Research will appoint an Assessment Panel for each fellowship programme, and its composition will be published once the final lists of successful applicants have been published.

The Assessment Panels will be made up in compliance with the principle of equal opportunities between the sexes in the selection process in accordance with the provisions of Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March, for the Effective Equality of Women and Men, promoting balanced representation between women and men. The selection process will comprise a single phase where candidates will be selected after assessing the applications submitted and the issuing of the corresponding report-proposal.

The Vice President for Research will appoint an Assessment Panel for each of the scientific areas. Each Panel will be made up of three members who are experts of recognised prestige in their corresponding areas of knowledge: the president (appointed from among the University of Alicante academic and research staff), the secretary and a member (both external to the University of Alicante). Prior to carrying out their mission, the members of the Panels will be required to declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

Each Panel will evaluate each of the applications submitted with a score between 0 and 100 points, according to the following evaluation criteria:

- a) Candidate's abridged CV, up to 50 points.
- b) Scientific and technical background of the host group, up to 30 points.
- c) Report justifying the research project to be undertaken and the impact of the visit on the advancement of the candidate's teaching and research career.

The minimum score required to pass the evaluation will be 80 points.

After the evaluation, the Panel will issue the corresponding proposal that will be submitted for a decision by the Vice President for Research. This proposal will include the fellowship recipients and the members in the candidate pool to cover any possible resignations or vacancies. In the event that these occur, a single additional award decision will be made using the candidate pool

As far as possible, the Assessment Panel will distribute the fellowships of this programme equally among all the fields of knowledge according to the number of applications that pass the established cut-off mark.

In the case of equal merit among the proposals submitted, positive discrimination in favour of the under-represented sex will be applied.

Depending on budget availability and the number of fellowships awarded, the University of Alicante may approve proposals modifying the duration of the research visit initially requested by the candidate.

#### **Article 6. Decision**

In view of the proposal drafted by the Panel, the fellowships will be provisionally awarded by decision of the Vice President for Research, establishing a period of 10 working days for claims.

Notifications will be made by publication on the web page of the Public R&D Projects Section (within the UA Research Management Service), for all intents and purposes of notification requirements. Additionally, for some phases of the procedure, individual notification may be made through the University of Alicante Electronic Office, in accordance with the provisions of the University of Alicante Regulations on Electronic Notifications, approved by the Governing Council of 26 October 2016 (Official Journal of the University of Alicante of 28/10/2016).

The final decision of the procedure will be notified to the interested parties in accordance with the provisions of Article 40 et seq. of Law 39/2015 of 1 October, of the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations, through eAdministration by means of a notification associated with the application submitted.

Fellowship recipients must express their acceptance or waiver of the funding granted through the eAdministration electronic file within a maximum period of 5 calendar days from the notification. If a recipient does not expressly accept the fellowship, it will be deemed to have been accepted under the conditions set out in the terms and conditions and in the award decision.

In any case, the final decision for these fellowships will take place before 1 December 2021.

The University of Alicante may, within eighteen months of the publication date of the final decision, approve and publish additional terms and conditions in any of the programmes established in this decision with the funds resulting from vacancies due to non-acceptance of the fellowships or waivers by the interested parties.

#### **Article 7. Modification of fellowships**

The fellowships must be executed in an appropriate and timely manner, as determined in the award decision. However, when specific circumstances arise that alter the conditions, such as postponements or changes in the dates the post is taken up, interruptions, etc., these must be authorised by the Office of the Vice President for Research in accordance with the conditions established in Royal Decree 289/2021 and Order UNI/551/2021. However, under no circumstances may these circumstances lead to the termination of the research visit beyond 31 December 2024.

Extension periods of the fellowships may be authorised as long as there is budgetary availability and they are requested at least two months before the end of the research visit. Extensions will be allocated on the basis of the same criteria on which the fellowships were awarded.

### **Article 8. Appeals**

An appeal for reconsideration may be lodged against the decision to award fellowships under these terms and conditions, which terminates the administrative procedure, before the body that issued it within one month of its notification or publication, in accordance with Articles 112, 123 and 124 of Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure of the Public Administrations.

Without prejudice to the above, a contentious-administrative appeal may be lodged against the decision of the award procedure, before the High Court of Justice of the Region of Valencia, within a period of two months from the day following the notification or publication of the appeal decision, in accordance with Articles 10 and 46 of Law 29/1998, of 13 July, regulating the jurisdiction of contentious-administrative courts.

### **Article 9. Monitoring and oversight**

Justification, monitoring and oversight of each fellowship programme will be carried out in accordance with the provisions of the corresponding section of these terms and conditions. The submission will be made using the standardised models, available at <https://sgi.ua.es/es/proyectos-publicos/calendario-justificacion-ayudas-ua.html> by means of a generic request through the University of Alicante eAdministration addressed to the Public R&D Projects Section (within the UA Research Management Service).

Fellowship recipients will be subject to oversight by the financial control authorities of the University of Alicante. They will also be required to provide any information needed for this purpose.

### **Article 10. Non-compliance**

Failure to comply, in full or part, with the requirements and obligations set out in this decision and other applicable regulations, or with the conditions that may be established in the relevant award decisions, will lead to the opening of proceedings for breach of contract which, after hearing the interested party, may give rise to the revocation of the fellowship awarded, partially or totally and, where appropriate, to the obligation to return the corresponding amount.

### **Article 11. Financing**

1. The total amount of the fellowship awarded under this call for funding will be €6,930,423 and will be charged to budget application 10.30.6P.00.01 of the University of Alicante expenditure budget. These fellowships are financed by the Spanish Ministry of Universities, by means of direct award, as set out in order UNI/551/2021 of 26 May and RD 289/2021 of 20 April.

2. In order to promote equal opportunities and the inclusion of people with disabilities, two percent of the amount will be reserved for people with recognised disabilities equal to or greater than thirty-three percent, in any of the three programmes. The funding reserved for persons with disabilities that are declared null and void will be accumulated with the rest of the fellowships.

3. In accordance with the provisions of Article 56.2 of Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July, approving the Regulations of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding, the award of funding is conditional upon the existence of adequate and sufficient credit at the time of the award decision.

#### **Article 12. Publicity**

The institutional logo of the University of Alicante and of the Spanish Ministry of Universities must be visibly incorporated in all actions deriving from these fellowships, and the publicity and dissemination obligations established by the European Union and Spanish regulations on the use of funds linked to the European Recovery Instrument must be complied with, through the use of the Union emblem and an appropriate funding statement indicating "funded by the European Union-Next Generation EU", in particular when promoting the actions and their funded results, providing coherent, effective and proportionate information targeted at multiple audiences, including the media and the general public.

#### **Article 13. Applicable law**

In addition to the provisions of this decision and Royal Decree 289/2021, the following national regulations will be applicable:

- a) Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights.
- b) Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding and its Regulation, approved by Royal Decree 887/2006, of 21 July.
- c) Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation.
- d) Law 39/2015, of 1 October, on the Common Administrative Procedure for Public Administrations (hereinafter, Law on the Common Administrative Procedure for Public Administrations).
- e) Law 40/2015, of 1 October, on the Legal Regime of the Public Sector.

f) Regulation (EU) 2021/241 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 12 February 2021 establishing the Resilience and Recovery Facility, as well as other European Union provisions that may be applicable.

**Article 14. Additional provision**

In application of Organic Law 3/2007, of 22 March, for the Effective Equality of Women and Men, as well as Law 9/2003 of 2 April, of the Valencian Government for Equality Between Women and Men, all references in these terms and conditions to persons, groups or positions, whose gender is male, will refer to the neutral grammatical gender, including, therefore, the possibility of referring to both women and men.

## **CHAPTER II. Specific provisions on the Margarita Salas fellowship programme for the training of young PhDs**

### **Article 15. Purpose**

1.- These fellowships are intended for the training of young PhDs through training visits at a Spanish public university or at foreign universities and research centres, as well as at Spanish public research institutions. The fellowships may have a duration of two or three years and the research visits will be undertaken on a continuous basis. In the event that the fellowships are requested for research visits abroad, or at Spanish public research centres, the last year must be spent at a Spanish public university selected by the candidate, which may be the University of Alicante.

2.- To this end, the aim of the fellowships is to fund, in accordance with Royal Decree 289/2021 of 20 April and Order UNI/551/20221 of 26 May, regulating the direct award of state-aid funding to public universities for the requalification of the Spanish university system, the costs derived from the postdoctoral contracts entered between the fellowship recipient and the University of Alicante.

### **Article 16. Details of the fellowship**

1.- A minimum of 28 fellowships will be offered, to be arranged through a contract for PhD researchers to enter the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System between the University of Alicante and the selected researcher, pursuant to Article 22 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June.

2.- The gross monthly amount of the Margarita Salas fellowship programme for young PhDs will be €3,500 during the research visit abroad and €2,800 gross for Spain. These amounts will cover remuneration as well as Social Security contributions to be made by the employer under the employment contracts.

In addition, there will be a one-off payment of up to €3,500 for relocation expenses to be paid at the beginning of the research visit.

Fellowship recipients are required to take out accident and civil liability insurance, and, in the case of countries for which there is no arrangement in place with the Spanish Social Security system or when the cover under said arrangement is inadequate, medical insurance offering coverage in the host country. Such insurance will cover the effective fellowship period in its entirety.

### **Article 17. Eligibility requirements**

The requirements for applicants will be the same for both programmes:

1.- To hold a PhD degree and to have obtained the degree at the University of Alicante or at a private Spanish university or to have Spanish nationality and a PhD degree from a foreign university.

2.- No more than two years have elapsed since obtaining the PhD certificate at the closing date for the submission of applications.

In the case of candidates who hold more than one PhD certificate, the above requirements will refer to the first of the degree certificates obtained.

However, the aforementioned two-year period will be extended when any of the following situations apply:

a. Birth of a child, or care of a child in cases of adoption or in cases of guardianship for the purpose of adoption or permanent fostering, provided that the date of birth or, where appropriate, of the judicial or administrative decision has occurred between the date of obtaining the PhD degree and the closing date for the submission of applications. An extension of one year will be applied for each child.

b. Temporary disability during pregnancy due to pregnancy-related causes, suspension of the contract due to risk during pregnancy or due to risk during breastfeeding of a child under nine months of age. An extension equal to the justified period will be applied.

c. Temporary disability for reasons other than those in the previous point for a period of at least three consecutive months. An extension equal to the justified period will be applied.

d. Leave of absence for child care, family care, gender violence and terrorist violence, for a minimum period of three months. An extension equal to the justified period will be applied.

e. Reduction of the working day for legal guardianship, for direct care of a family member, or for care of a minor affected by a serious illness, for a minimum period of three months, calculated in full working days. An extension equal to the justified period will be applied.

f. Care for dependent persons, in accordance with the provisions of Act 39/2006, of 14 December, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons, for a minimum period of three months. An extension equal to the justified period will be applied. These periods will be indicated and duly accredited at the time of submitting the application. The application of more than one of the situations foreseen in this section will be compatible, and different periods may be accumulated, provided that the justified periods do not coincide in the same period of time. The calculation of the extension to be applied will be made by rounding up to full months the justified period or, if several periods apply, the sum of the justified periods. For these purposes, the justified period for the birth or care of a child will be one year for each child, counting from the date of birth or the date of the judicial or administrative decision.

g. An extension of two additional years will be applied for persons with a recognised disability equal to or greater than thirty-three percent.

3.- To apply to join a public university or research center other than the one from the PhD.

### **Article 18. Application period and procedure**

1.- The application period will start on the day following the date of publication of the terms and conditions in the Official Journal of the University of Alicante and end on 6 September 2021.

2.- Applications will be submitted in accordance with Article 3 hereof.

3.- The below documents will be electronically attached to the application form:

- a) Copy of the PhD certificate and, where applicable, documentary proof of payment of the fees for its issue.
- b) Candidate's abridged CV.
- c) Scientific and technical background of the host group.
- d) Report justifying the research project to be undertaken and the impact of the visit on the advancement of the candidate's teaching and research career.
- e) Document of acceptance of the research visit by the host centre or centres.
- f) Endorsement of the Research Group and the Department or Institute of the University of Alicante the fellowship recipient will be affiliated to.

### **Article 19. Assessment of applications**

The Assessment Panel will assess applications in accordance with Article 5 hereof.

### **Article 20. Decision**

Decisions and notifications concerning these fellowships will be governed by Article 6 hereof.

### **Article 21. Entering into contract**

Contracts will be entered within the timeframe set in the award decision. Fellowship recipients who fail to take up their post within the set timeframe will be deemed to have waived their right.

Upon taking up their post at the host centre, fellowship recipients will request the responsible researchers to fill out a certificate stating that the post has been taken up. The certificate will be sent to the University of Alicante within one week of the date the fellowship recipient took up the post.

### **Article 22. Eventualities during the research visit**

Any eventualities that may arise during the research visit (changes, temporary disability, interruptions and waivers) will be reported within 10 days to the Public R&D Projects Section for authorisation by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

During the first year of participation in the programme, changes will be authorised only in the event of force majeure circumstances, as determined by the Office of the Vice President of Research.

In any case, any authorised changes will be such that no imbalance arises in the circumstances that led to the contract being awarded, particularly, the scores given for each of the assessment criteria.

In situations of temporary disability, risk during pregnancy, maternity, adoption or fostering, risk during breastfeeding and paternity, the contract period will be suspended.

Failure to take up the post once the authorised absence, disability or interruption period is over will be deemed a waiver and lead to the corresponding proceedings for breach of contract.

### **Article 23. Monitoring and oversight**

Fellowship recipients will be subject to monitoring and oversight by the University of Alicante and, for such purposes, they will be required to submit:

- a) An interim monitoring report, within one month of the end of the first half of the visit period.
- b) A final report, within one month of the end of the fellowship period.

The template reports will be available on the website of the Research Management Service (SGI), Public R&D Projects Section.

Both reports will be signed by the fellowship recipient and by the researcher responsible for their visit at the host centre, who will be the same person as the one who signed the acceptance document.

Reports will be submitted as provided in Article 9 hereof.

### **Article 24. Non-compliance**

Failure to comply, in full or in part, with the requirements and obligations set out in this decision and any other applicable regulations, or with the conditions that may be established in the relevant award decisions, will lead to the opening of proceedings for breach of contract, followed by the loss of the right to receive the fellowship amount and, where applicable, by the obligation to return said amount and corresponding late payment interest, pursuant to the General Law on State-Aid Funding and its Implementing Regulation.

### **Article 25. Incompatibility**

1. The receipt of funding under this fellowship programme is incompatible with any other funding, income or resources under other calls for the same purpose, awarded by any administration or public or private entity, whether at national, European Union or international organisation level.

2. However, funding awarded under this fellowship programme will be compatible with that received in respect of:

- a) Research tasks directly associated with the training project developed by the fellowship recipient, which are performed on a non-regular basis and do not undermine or interrupt the training process the fellowship was awarded for. Said

activities will have to be authorised by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

b) Funding for attending conferences, meetings or scientific events.

3. Fellowship recipients will immediately inform the Office of the Vice President for Research if they are awarded other fellowships, funding, income or resources to fund those activities for which the fellowship was awarded.

#### **Article 26. Rights and obligations of the fellowship recipient**

1. On a general basis, fellowship recipients will have the right to:

a) Receive any help and support they need from the host centre for the normal conduct of their research and training.

b) Receive the sum of money they are entitled to under the programme as provided herein.

c) Enjoy the benefits offered by the host centre to fellowship recipients.

2. On a general basis, fellowship recipients will be required to:

a) Take up their post at the host centre within the timeframe specified in the award decision.

b) Fulfil their obligations to participate, and make the most of such participation, in the research and training projects they get involved in at the host centre.

c) Comply with the host centre's regulations concerning work commitments, duties to be fulfilled, work hours and holidays.

d) Request authorisation from the entity for any temporary absence.

e) Complete the reports and any other monitoring documents listed in Article 23 hereof, as well as any other documents required from them by the University of Alicante in relation to the fellowship.

f) Report any incident to the responsible unit at the host centre within ten days of the date of said incident.

g) State the fact that they have received funding from the Spanish Ministry of Universities, the European Union and the University of Alicante in all publications, papers and other activities aimed at disseminating the scientific results developed or obtained during the fellowship period, in accordance with Article 12 hereof.

h) Fulfil the requirements set out in Article 13 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding, and the obligations laid down in Article 14 of said Law for fellowship recipients and funding recipients.

i) If they waive their right to receive the fellowship, inform the University of Alicante of said waiver, at least 15 calendar days in advance.

2. By accepting the fellowship, recipients agree to comply with the provisions herein, as well as with those that may be established for overseeing and evaluating the development of their work and those derived from said contract, in accordance with Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation.

In respect of industrial property rights and those property rights included in intellectual property that may be generated during the entire fellowship period, Articles 53 et seq. of Law 2/2011, of 4 March, on Sustainable Economy will apply, as well as Article 35 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, and the University of Alicante's own regulations.

### **Chapter III. Specific provisions on the fellowship programme for the requalification of university lecturers who are civil servants or under contract**

#### **Article 27. Purpose**

1.- These fellowships are intended for the requalification of university lecturers, whether civil servants or under contract, through training visits at a prestigious public university or research centre other than the University of Alicante.

2.- To this end, the aim of the fellowships is to fund, in accordance with Royal Decree 289/2021 of 20 April and Order UNI/551/20221 of 26 May, regulating the direct award of state-aid funding to public universities for the requalification of the Spanish university system, the costs derived from the training visit of university lecturers at the host centre.

3.- The funding received under this fellowship programme will be awarded on a competitive basis and in line with the principles of openness, transparency, objectivity, equality and non-discrimination, as well as with those of effectiveness in achieving set objectives and efficiency in the allocation and use of public resources, set out in Article 8.3 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding.

#### **Article 28. Details of the fellowship**

1. A minimum of 10 one-year fellowships will be offered, 5 of which will be targeted at PhD assistant lecturers. Extensions of 1 full year may be granted, according to professional category and subject to budgetary availability.

2. The amount of these fellowships will be equivalent to the basic salary plus the allowances received annually by the fellowship recipient, plus an additional bonus for mobility costs that will amount to 20% of the basic salary. Moreover, a one-off payment of up to €3,500 will also be made for expenses incurred for relocation to the host centre.

3. Should extensions be granted, the University of Alicante, subject to budgetary availability, may establish additional funding to make up for the loss of compensation arising from the application of the University of Alicante Regulations on Educational and Research Leaves.

4. Fellowship recipients will not be able to teach online at the University of Alicante and the hours of collaboration in teaching at the host center are not considered in this type of fellowship.

5. PhD assistant lecturers will not lose their position or seniority at the University of Alicante during the visit period funded by this fellowship.

6. The visit will end no later than 31 December 2024. It will be undertaken either in a single period or in two different periods.

### **Article 29. Eligibility requirements**

To be eligible for this fellowship, candidates are required to:

- 1.- Have an employment relation with the University of Alicante and be in active service as a teaching or research staff member in any of the following categories:
  - a) Senior lecturer
  - b) PhD contract lecturer
  - c) PhD assistant lecturer. In this category, the visit will necessarily be undertaken before the termination date of their contract with the University of Alicante.
- 2.- Apply for a post at a public university or research centre other than the University of Alicante.
- 3.- In the case of senior lecturers and PhD contract lecturers, have a maximum of ten years' service in such positions.

### **Article 30. Application period and procedure**

- 1.- The application period will start on the day following the date of publication of the terms and conditions in the Official Journal of the University of Alicante and end on 6 September 2021.
- 2.- Applications will be submitted in accordance with Article 3 hereof.
- 3.- The below documents will be electronically attached to the application form:
  - a) Candidate's abridged CV.
  - b) Scientific and technical background of the host group.
  - c) Report justifying the research project to be undertaken and the impact of the visit on the advancement of the candidate's teaching and research career.
  - d) Document of acceptance of the research visit by the host centre.
  - e) Report by the head of the department the candidate is affiliated to, authorising the activity to be undertaken.

### **Article 31. Assessment of applications**

The Assessment Panel will assess applications in accordance with Article 5 hereof.

### **Article 32. Decision**

Decisions and notifications concerning these fellowships will be governed by Article 6 hereof.

### **Article 33. Taking up of post at the host centre**

1. Fellowship recipients will take up their post at the host centre on the start date set out in the decision award.
2. If the month in which the post is taken up is different from that of the requested and granted start date, the taking up of the post will only be effective if the

modification of the granted period was previously requested and authorised, in accordance with Article 7 hereof.

3. Once they have taken up their post at the host centre, fellowship recipients will request the researchers responsible for the host groups to fill out a certificate stating that the post has been taken up. The certificate will be sent to the University of Alicante within 10 days of the date the fellowship recipient took up the post.

#### **Article 34. Eventualities during the research visit**

Any eventualities that may arise during the research visit (changes, temporary disability, interruptions and waivers) will be reported within 10 days to the Public R&D Projects Section for authorisation by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

In any case, any authorised changes will be such that no imbalance arises in the circumstances that led to the contract being awarded, particularly, the scores given for each of the assessment criteria.

Failure to take up the post once the authorised absence, disability or interruption period is over will be deemed a waiver and lead to the opening of proceedings for breach of contract.

#### **Article 35. Monitoring and oversight**

Fellowship recipients will be subject to monitoring and oversight by the Office of the Vice President for Research and, for such purposes, they will be required to submit, within 20 working days of the date the visit has ended, a report on the work carried out, containing the results and stating that the person responsible for the host research group or team gave his or her approval. Candidates will also submit a certificate of the research visit issued by the legal representative of the host centre. The certificate will include the start and end dates of the visit, with the approval of the person responsible for the host team or group.

The template reports will be available on the website of the Research Management Service (SGI), Public R&D Projects Section.

Reports will be submitted as provided in Article 9 hereof.

#### **Article 36. Non-compliance**

Failure to comply, in full or in part, with the requirements and obligations set out in this decision and any other applicable regulations, or with the conditions that may be established in the relevant award decisions, will lead to the opening of proceedings for breach of contract, followed by the loss of the right to receive the fellowship amount and, where applicable, by the obligation to return said amount and corresponding late payment interest, pursuant to the General Law on State-Aid Funding and its Implementing Regulation.

### **Article 37. Incompatibility**

The receipt of funding under this fellowship programme is incompatible with any other funding, income or resources for the same purpose and to fund the same costs, awarded by any administration or public or private entity, whether at national, European Union or international organisation level, other than the salary fellowship recipients receive as lecturers or researchers.

### **Article 38. Rights and obligations of the fellowship recipient**

1. On a general basis, fellowship recipients will have the right to:

- a) Receive any help and support they need from the host centre for the normal conduct of their research and training.
- b) Receive the sum of money they are entitled to under the programme as provided herein.

2. On a general basis, fellowship recipients will be required to:

- a) Take up their post at the host centre within the timeframe specified in the award decision.
- b) Provide the Office of the Vice President for Research with the certificate set out in Article 33 hereof, stating that the post has been taken up.
- c) Fulfil their obligations to participate, and make the most of such participation, in the research and training projects they get involved in at the host centre.
- d) Comply with the host centre's regulations concerning work commitments, duties to be fulfilled, work hours and holidays.
- e) Request authorisation from the entity for any temporary absence.
- f) Complete the reports and any other monitoring documents listed in Article 35 hereof, as well as any other documents required from them by the University of Alicante in relation to the fellowship.
- g) Report any incident to the Office of the Vice President for Research within ten days of the date of said incident.
- h) State the fact that they have received funding from the Spanish Ministry of Universities, the European Union and the University of Alicante in all publications, papers and other activities aimed at disseminating the scientific results developed or obtained during the fellowship period, in accordance with Article 12 hereof.
- i) Fulfil the requirements set out in Article 13 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding, and the obligations laid down in Article 14 of said Law for fellowship recipients and funding recipients.
- j) If they waive their right to receive the fellowship, inform the Office of the Vice President for Research of said waiver, at least 15 calendar days in advance.
- k) Take out accident and civil liability insurance, and, in the case of countries for which there is no arrangement in place with the Spanish Social Security system or when the cover under said arrangement is inadequate, medical insurance offering coverage in the host country. Such insurance will cover the effective fellowship period in its entirety.

2. By accepting the fellowship, recipients agree to comply with the provisions herein, as well as with those that may be established for overseeing and evaluating the development of their work and those derived from this situation. In respect of industrial property rights and those property rights included in intellectual property that may be generated during the entire fellowship period, Articles 53 et seq. of Law 2/2011, of 4 March, on Sustainable Economy will apply, as well as Article 35 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, and the University of Alicante's own regulations on industrial and intellectual property.

## **Chapter IV. Specific provisions on the María Zambrano fellowship programme for international talent attraction**

### **Article 39. Purpose**

1. These fellowships are intended to help Spanish public universities attract teaching and research staff having pursued a postdoctoral career at foreign universities or research centres.
2. To this end, the aim of the fellowships is to fund, in accordance with Royal Decree 289/2021 of 20 April and Order UNI/551/20221 of 26 May, regulating the direct award of state-aid funding to public universities for the requalification of the Spanish university system, the costs derived from the postdoctoral contracts entered between fellowship recipients and the University of Alicante.
3. The funding received under this fellowship programme will be awarded on a competitive basis and in line with the principles of openness, transparency, objectivity, equality and non-discrimination, as well as with those of effectiveness in achieving set objectives and efficiency in the allocation and use of public resources, set out in Article 8.3 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding.

### **Article 40. Details of the fellowship**

- 1.- A minimum of 10 one-, two- or three-year fellowships will be offered, to be arranged through a contract for PhD researchers to enter the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System or, where applicable, through a distinguished researcher contract between the University of Alicante and the selected researcher, pursuant to Articles 22 and 23, respectively, of Law 14/2011, of 1 June.
- 2.- The visit will be undertaken at the University of Alicante throughout the entire fellowship period and on a continuous basis.
- 3.- The gross monthly amount received will be €4,000. These amounts will cover remuneration as well as Social Security contributions to be made by the employer under the employment contracts. A one-off payment of up to €3,500 will also be included to cover expenses incurred for relocation from the home centre.
4. In respect of those having received a three-year fellowship, the University of Alicante:
  - a. May, subject to budgetary availability, extend their postdoctoral contract provided that the fellowship recipient has been awarded, before the end of the fellowship period, a project on a competitive basis, at national or European level. The fellowship recipient must be the principal investigator of the project, to be undertaken exclusively at the University of Alicante. The contract will be entered in accordance with applicable regulations and until the end date of the project.

b. Will count the fellowship awarded under this programme as an outstanding merit if the fellowship recipient, in the capacity of director, applies for a fellowship for the recruitment of predoctoral researchers within the University of Alicante programme in support of R&D&I.

#### **Article 41. Eligibility requirements**

To be eligible for this fellowship, a candidate is required to:

- 1.- Be a teaching or research staff member who is a national of Spain or of any other country, with a postdoctoral career of at least 24 months at Spanish or foreign universities or research centres other than that where the PhD thesis is to be defended.
- 2.- Be involved, at the time of submitting the application, in research projects and/or in teaching at universities, research centres or organisations outside Spain.
3. Reside in the country where the foreign university or research centre at which the candidate's activity is undertaken at the time of submitting the application.

#### **Article 42. Application period and procedure**

- 1.- The application period will start on the day following the date of publication of the terms and conditions in the Official Journal of the University of Alicante and end on 6 September 2021.
- 2.- Applications will be submitted in accordance with Article 3 hereof.
- 3.- The below documents will be electronically attached to the application form:
  - a) Copy of the PhD certificate and, where applicable, documentary proof of payment of the fees for its issue.
  - b) Candidate's abridged CV.
  - c) Documentary proof of having pursued a postdoctoral career at research centres after earning their PhD.
  - d) Documentary proof of their relationship with the home centre at the time of submitting the application.
  - e) Documentary proof of residence in the country where they undertake their teaching/research activity at the time of submitting the application.
  - f) Scientific and technical background of the host group.
  - g) Report justifying the research project to be undertaken and the candidate's suitability for the research and knowledge transfer needs of the host group, as well as the expected impact.
  - h) Document stating acceptance of the visit by the host department or research institute at the University of Alicante.

#### **Article 43. Assessment of applications**

The Assessment Panel will assess applications in accordance with Article 5 hereof.

#### **Article 44. Decision**

Decisions and notifications concerning these fellowships will be governed by Article 6 hereof.

#### **Article 45. Entering into contract**

Contracts will be entered within the timeframe set in the award decision. Fellowship recipients will be required to take up their post on the day following the date the contract is entered into. Fellowship recipients who fail to take up their post within the set timeframe will be deemed to have waived their right.

#### **Article 46. Eventualities during the research visit**

Any eventualities that may arise during the research visit (changes, temporary disability, interruptions and waivers) will be reported to the Public R&D Projects Section for authorisation by the Office of the Vice President for Research.

In any case, any authorised changes will be such that no imbalance arises in the circumstances that led to the contract being awarded, particularly, the scores given for each of the assessment criteria.

In situations of temporary disability, risk during pregnancy, maternity, adoption or fostering, risk during breastfeeding and paternity, the contract period will be suspended.

Failure to take up the post once the authorised absence, disability or interruption period is over will be deemed a waiver of the right to receive the fellowship and lead to the corresponding proceedings for breach of contract.

#### **Article 47. Monitoring and oversight**

Fellowship recipients will be subject to monitoring and oversight and, for such purposes, they will be required to submit:

- a) An interim monitoring report, within one month of the end of the first half of the visit period.
- b) A final report, within one month of the end of the fellowship period.

The template reports will be available on the website of the Public R&D Projects Section.

Both reports will be signed by the fellowship recipient and by the researcher responsible for their visit at the host centre, who will be the same person as the one who signed the acceptance document.

Reports will be submitted as provided in Article 9 hereof.

#### **Article 48. Incompatibility**

Contracts funded by sums awarded under this fellowship programme will be incompatible with any other simultaneous employment contract entered by staff hired under the programme.

Persons hired under this fellowship programme may additionally engage in teaching collaborations at the same institution for up to 60 hours per academic year, at their own request and with the approval of the Office of the Vice President of Research, in compliance with any incompatibility regulations applicable to staff employed by public administrations.

Hired staff may receive allowances granted under R&D projects and, where applicable, under contracts entered in accordance with Article 83 of Organic Law 6/2001, of 21 December, on Universities, and with Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation, as well as supplementary funding financed by the European Commission to promote research staff training and mobility, provided that such funding does not involve entering into employment contracts.

#### **Article 49. Rights and obligations of the fellowship recipient**

1. On a general basis, fellowship recipients will have the right to:

- a) Receive any help and support they need from the host centre for the normal conduct of their research.
- b) Receive the sum of money they are entitled to under the programme as provided herein.
- c) Enjoy the benefits offered by the University of Alicante to fellowship recipients.

2. On a general basis, fellowship recipients will be required to:

- a) Take up their post at the host centre within the timeframe specified in the award decision.
- b) Fulfil their obligations to participate, and make the most of such participation, in research and training projects.
- c) Comply with the University of Alicante's regulations concerning work commitments, duties to be fulfilled, work hours and holidays.
- d) Request authorisation from the University of Alicante for any temporary absence.
- e) Complete the reports and any other monitoring documents listed in Article 47 hereof, as well as any other documents required from them by the University of Alicante in relation to the contract.
- f) Report any incident to the responsible unit within the Office of the Vice President for Research within ten days of the date of said incident.
- g) State the fact that they have received funding from the Spanish Ministry of Universities, the European Union and the University of Alicante in all publications, papers or other activities aimed at disseminating the scientific results developed or obtained during the fellowship period, in accordance with Article 12 hereof.
- h) Fulfil the requirements set out in Article 13 of Law 38/2003, of 17 November, on the General Provisions Governing State-Aid Funding, and the obligations laid down in Article 14 of said Law for fellowship recipients and funding recipients.
- i) If they withdraw from the contract, inform the Office of the Vice President for Research of said withdrawal, at least 15 calendar days in advance.

2. By accepting the fellowship, recipients agree to comply with the provisions herein, as well as with those that may be established for overseeing and evaluating the development of their work and those derived from said contract, in accordance with Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation.

In respect of industrial property rights and those property rights included in intellectual property that may be generated during the entire fellowship period, Articles 53 et seq. of Law 2/2011, of 4 March, on Sustainable Economy will apply, as well as Article 35 of Law 14/2011, of 1 June, and the University of Alicante's own regulations on industrial and intellectual property.

Alicante, 1 July 2021.

The University President.

Signed by the delegated officer (pursuant to the Decision of 22 December 2020)  
The Vice President for Research  
Juan Mora Pastor