

JAE Chairs PROGRAMME PILOT PROGRAMME GUIDELINES OF THE 2023 CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Fundación General CSIC (hereinafter, the **Foundation**) is a private non-profit organisation, whose main objective is to cooperate with the Agencia Estatal Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (hereinafter, **CSIC**) and to promote and articulate private funding for the development of public-private initiatives in the CSIC and other public R&D entities. Through public-private collaboration programmes, it aims, among other objectives, to help the CSIC achieve its primary objectives, which include attracting talent and increasing the scientific and technical impact of research.

The CSIC is a public research organisation whose mission is to promote, coordinate and disseminate multidisciplinary scientific and technological research in order to contribute to the advancement of knowledge and to economic, social and cultural development, as well as to train personnel and advise public and private entities in these areas.

The [CSIC Strategy 2025](#) proposes as a global challenge to position the institution internationally as one of the most attractive organisations for developing science in Europe. In this regard, a total of six challenges for change are proposed, including collaboration to tackle scientific challenges with high motivation/emotion and social impact; attracting and retaining professional talent; increasing scientific and technical impact in research, development and innovation; increasing international visibility and contributing to global science policy through its positioning; and consolidating a robust organisational and scientific management structure that facilitates the attraction of resources, transparency, accountability and efficiency.

To respond to these global challenges, the CSIC needs to be more scientifically competitive by remaining at the forefront of research. In this regard, the Foundation is launching the **JAE Chairs pilot programme** with the aim of stimulating collaboration and identifying emerging, disruptive and promising lines of research that can bring added value to the CSIC. This first call aims to open the way to attract top-level scientific talent to the CSIC, within the framework of a research project that can generate real impact on the Spanish public science, technology and innovation system, acting as a catalyst for emerging and disruptive science.

1. Purpose and articulation

This call aims to promote the scientific excellence of the CSIC through a **JAE Chair grant** for the close collaboration of an internationally renowned researcher (hereinafter, the **Chairholder**) with one of the CSIC's research institutes or national research centres (hereinafter, the **host Institute**).

The *Chairholder* will be supported by a research team composed of researchers from the host Institute to carry out his/her activity, within the framework of a research project (hereinafter, **JAE Chair project**) to be submitted by the researcher from the host Institute, who will act as Principal Investigator (PI) of the project (hereinafter, the **Coordinator**), co-leading the project together with the *Chairholder*. The JAE Chair grant will also entail the recruitment of new staff at the cost of the grant (see Section 4).

The *Chairholder* shall carry out annual stays, with a minimum duration of two months during each of the four years of the duration of the grant. The two months may be spent in a single continuous period, or in a maximum of four periods, the minimum duration of each period being 15 days.

The incorporation of the *Chairholder* into the host Institute will enable the following objectives to be achieved:

1. To increase the excellence and research quality of the host Institute and, by extension, of the CSIC, as a result of the *Chairholder's* interaction with the Institute's researchers, both from the group associated with the JAE Chair project and from the rest of the Institute's groups.
2. To position the CSIC internationally as an attractive organisation for developing science in Europe, increasing its international visibility and that of its institutes.
3. Strengthen existing relationships between CSIC researchers and top-level international researchers, developing stable collaborations and sharing research experiences.
4. To promote the increase and improvement of the levels of excellence and internationalisation of CSIC institutes, research groups and researchers, as well as to strengthen their scientific-technical capacities in emerging and disruptive lines of research that may have a high impact in the future.
5. To improve the scientific training of doctoral and post-doctoral students who will be able to participate in the scientific activities forming part of the proposal.

The CSIC has the necessary funding for the effective implementation of the JAE Chair grant awarded as a result of this call, in application of the agreement with the Foundation.

2. Requirements for the personnel involved

The *Chairholder* must:

- Be a world-leading researcher in his/her field.
- Come from foreign research institutions.
- To have received high-level recognition and awards, such as the Nobel Prize, Abel, Holberg, Turing, Breakthrough, Lasker, Johan Skytte, Craaford, the Fields Medal, the Prince/Princess of Asturias, or the BBVA Frontiers of Knowledge Award, among other outstanding awards.

The **Coordinator** must:

- Be a CSIC researcher linked to the CSIC through a civil servant or employment relationship, during the entire period of execution of the grant.
- Present the project proposal in which the *Chairholder's* participation will be framed.

3. Research project requirements

The projects may correspond to any area of knowledge, and the proposal must indicate which CSIC area it corresponds to.

The projects submitted must:

- Be original, seeking answers to relevant scientific and/or technological demands.
- Have the potential to generate results with a real impact on the scientific ecosystem, the productive fabric and/or society.
- Be carried out at an appropriate CSIC Institute, and a letter of conformity from the Director of the host Institute must be attached as part of the application.
- Integrate and enhance the impact that the *Chairholder's* stays at the host Institute can have on the project itself, on the Institute, and on the CSIC, with special attention to the possible creation of new disruptive lines of research.
- Be programmed within a four-year implementation period.

4. Description, duration and amount of the grant

During this pilot programme, **one grant will be awarded** among the proposals received, which will last for **four years**.

The total maximum allocation for the four years is set at **600,000 euros**. This amount may be increased by **co-financing from the Institute** receiving the grant.

The amount corresponding to each year **must be around 150,000 euros** (unless co-funded by the Institute), although carryovers from one year to the next will be permitted provided that they are duly justified. If the Institute makes a co-funding commitment, this must be reflected in the documentation accompanying the application, in the letter of conformity of the Director of the Institute and in the Scientific-technical and economic proposal of the JAE Chair project.

The JAE Chair grant includes:

- An endowment for **expenses associated with the *Chairholder's* stays** at the host Institute, which must be stable in amount over the four years.
- An endowment for **staff recruitment** (also stable over the four years). As a minimum, the following mandatory recruitments must be made:
 - A PhD student, which will be co-directed by the *Chairholder* and a member of the host team.
 - One postdoctoral researcher (PhD FC2).
- Complementary allocations for possible **travel expenses for the teams** from the host Institute and the research team from the *Chairholder's* home institution, which may spend time at the *Chairholder's* institution and at the host Institute respectively; for the **organisation of conferences and congresses** related to the project; and for other **expenses necessary for the correct development of the approved research project** to be carried out at the CSIC Institute.

The above endowments will be used to finance the costs directly related to the development and implementation of the activities associated with the JAE Chair grant, in accordance with the annual distribution and eligible costs reflected in the following table. The amounts included in the table include the costs associated with the corresponding deductions and taxes applicable in each case.

Type of cost	Eligible expenditure	Maximum amount
Costs arising from <i>Chairholder</i> stays	<i>Chairholder's</i> subsistence and travel allowance	Up to 22,000 euros per year, of which the stay allowance will be a maximum of 300 euros per day for accommodation and subsistence, and the travel allowance will be a maximum of 4,000 euros per year
Staff recruitment costs	The following recruitments must be compulsorily included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A PhD student, which will be co-directed by the <i>Chairholder</i> and a member of the host team. ○ One full-time postdoctoral researcher (PhD FC2) 	-
Costs related to visits and stays between the proposal team and researchers from the <i>Chairholder's</i> home institution.	Travel and subsistence for both teams	Up to 10,000 euros per year
Costs related to the organisation of <i>workshops</i>, congresses and conferences	Expenditure associated with the organisation of <i>workshops</i> , congresses and conferences	Up to 70,000 euros for the 4 annuities
Other costs associated with the JAE Chair project	Expenses necessary for the correct development of the project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ consumables and reagents ○ service provision ○ subcontracting, up to 25% of expenditure ○ other expenses arising from research activity, for which the prior written approval of the Foundation and the CSIC is required. 	Up to 30,000 euros per year
INDICATIVE TOTAL ANNUAL EXPENDITURE		Up to 150,000 euros
TOTAL EXPENDITURE 4 YEARS		Up to 600,000 euros

Note: The above costs may be increased by co-financing from the host Institute.

5. Application procedure and deadlines

The electronic proposal form and other complementary documentation to be provided in order to participate in this call for proposals shall be submitted electronically through the application available at <https://fgcsic.es/convocatoria-evento/jaechairs2023-es/> from **20 July 2023 until 14:00h (Spanish peninsular time) on 28 September 2023.**

Each application shall be registered on a single form, prepared by the **Coordinator**, and shall be accompanied by the following documentation, to be uploaded to the form in PDF format, written in English or Spanish:

- a) Scientific-technical and economic proposal of the JAE Chair project, according to the template available in the application, prepared by the Coordinator and with his/her electronic signature, with the sections shown below.

Scientific-technical and economic proposal of the JAE Chair project
<p>→ Project title JAE Chair</p> <p>→ Name of the host CSIC Institute</p> <p>→ Project Coordinator (PI) information (contact details)</p> <p>→ Proposed Chairholder information (contact details)</p> <p>→ General information on the JAE Chair project</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acronym ● Key words ● CSIC Area ● Summary <p>→ Scientific-technical and economic proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Scientific and technological relevance and justification ● Originality and innovative, disruptive and emerging character ● Opportunity of the proposal to open up new disruptive lines of research at the host Institute. Alignment with the Strategic Plan of the host Institute. Added value for the CSIC ● Work plan: Objectives and milestones (with assessment of their feasibility), methodology and timeline ● Expected results and their potential impact in terms of science, transfer, innovation, visibility, dissemination and/or social impact ● Total project budget and breakdown ● Ethical and/or biosafety aspects (if applicable) <p>→ Relevant information about the Chairholder</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Brief scientific description of the <i>Chairholder</i> (awards, distinctions, scientific milestones, etc.) ● Justification of the appropriate integration of the <i>Chairholder</i> (commitment, previous relationship, etc.) in the working team and in the host Institute <p>→ Capacity of the research team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Data and roles of team members ● Track record and suitability of the team

- b) The **Chairholder's curriculum vitae** in free format.
- c) The **CV of the Coordinator**, in the Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (**CVA**) format of the Spanish Research Agency / Ministry of Science and Innovation. The CVA that is automatically generated from the FECYT Standard Curriculum Vitae application will also be valid.
- d) The **CVs of up to five members of the participating research team**, regardless of whether there are more members, in CVA format.
- e) Letter of **agreement from the Director of the host Institute** to the development of the JAE Chair project, if awarded, providing support in the organisation of all activities related to the grant, including the associated *Chairholder* stays. Signed electronically.
- f) Letter of **conformity of the Chairholder** to the JAE Chair proposal submitted and to the commitments included that apply to it. Signed manually or electronically.

In the case of projects involving research activity, experimentation or interventions in any of the following areas and/or for any of the following purposes, a prior and mandatory favourable report from the CSIC Ethics Committee will be required before the start of the project:

- Use and processing of personal data
- Research and interventions on human subjects and/or use of biological samples of human origin
- Use of animals for experimental and other scientific purposes
- Research on genetically modified organisms
- Research with biological agents of risk to humans, animals, plants and/or the environment

Applications are limited to one per Institute.

Queries regarding the application process will be dealt with via email jaechairscsic@fgcsic.es.

6. Admissibility and correction of proposals

Once the call for applications is closed, the Foundation will check compliance with the eligibility requirements and the validity of the electronic signatures included in the documentation attached to the application. The Foundation will contact those candidates whose application contains rectifiable errors or is unacceptable. Communication will preferably be by e-mail. The corresponding correction of errors must be made within **7 calendar days** of the communication.

The Foundation may, at any time, request from candidates additional documentation to that included in the application form.

7. Evaluation and selection of applications

Phase 1: Scientific-technical evaluation (relative weight of 80%):

The evaluation will be carried out by independent and experienced evaluators of recognised prestige and expertise in the scientific/technical areas of the proposals. Each proposal will be evaluated by a minimum of two experts. A prioritised list will be drawn up, accompanied by the evaluation reports.

Criteria for scientific and technical evaluation:

EVALUATION CRITERION	RELATIVE WEIGHT
JAE CHAIR PROJECT	50%
Scientific and technical quality and relevance	10%
Originality and innovative, disruptive and emerging character	10%
Opportunity of the proposal to open up new disruptive lines of research at the Institute. Alignment with the Strategic Plan of the host Institute. Added value for the CSIC	10%
Feasibility of the work plan and adequacy of the budget	10%
Impact of results in terms of applicability, transferability, innovation, visibility, dissemination and social impact.	10%

CHAIRHOLDER	30%
Profile of the <i>Chairholder</i> (CV): Professional career including publications and most relevant contributions, participation in international consortia, awards, recognitions and other academic merits.	25%
Integration of the <i>Chairholder</i> into the proposed work team and the host Institute	5%
RESEARCH TEAM	20%
Coordinator's profile (CV): Professional career and proven ability to lead projects and achieve scientifically relevant, original and innovative objectives and their transfer to the productive fabric or to society.	15%
Adequacy and scientific quality of the research team	5%

Phase 2: Personal interviews (relative weight of 20%):

The Coordinators responsible for the highest rated proposals will be interviewed in person or by videoconference by a Scientific-technical committee made up of external experts, as well as representatives of the Foundation and the CSIC.

Final selection:

The final selection will be made by the above-mentioned Scientific-technical committee on the basis of the results of the scientific-technical evaluation and the personal interviews, taking into account their respective relative weights.

8. Resolution

The resolution of the call, scheduled for November 2023, will be made public after the agreement of the Scientific-technical committee, through the website www.fgcsic.es.

The Coordinator of the selected application will also be informed by e-mail and will have to reply within 5 working days as to whether he/she accepts or rejects the grant. In case of rejection, the grant will be offered to the next best rated proposal.

Unsuccessful projects will not be made public.

The call may be declared void.

The decision shall be final.

9. *Chairholders' Statute*

Chairholders will have the status of visiting staff, as established in the CSIC Personnel Management Manual, with the designation "JAE Chair". Their incorporation into the host Institute will be formalised by means of the corresponding agreement in accordance with the procedures for the reception of personnel from outside the CSIC.

10. Commitments linked to the receipt and implementation of the grant

The planned start date for the approved project at the host Institute is **1 January 2024**.

The **Coordinator** shall:

- Act as PI of the JAE Chair project, being responsible for ensuring the correct development of the project, as well as for all the actions linked to it.
- Organise a workshop at the beginning of the JAE Chair grant in which the state of the art of the scientific discipline in which the *Chairholder* develops its activity will be presented, with the aim of establishing possible disruptive lines of work in that field.
- Organise an international conference at the end of the JAE Chair grant, with the participation of experts in the scientific field of the activities carried out in the grant.
- Organise conferences, workshops or seminars related to the *Chairholder's* area of work on a regular basis during the implementation of the JAE Chair grant.
- Ensure the appropriate management of the resources allocated in the JAE Chair grant in order to achieve the proposed and approved objectives, allocating the grant exclusively to the eligible expenditure items described in Section 4 of this Call Guidelines.
- To consult the Foundation and the CSIC about any variation of the JAE Chair project that it considers necessary for the adequate development and achievement of the objectives, so that they may examine and eventually approve the convenience and necessity of such a modification.
- To inform the Foundation and the CSIC, as a matter of urgency, of any possible conflict that may be restricting the fulfilment of their obligations in accordance with these conditions, in sufficient time for them to adopt the necessary measures.
- Prepare and submit to the Foundation the monitoring reports of the JAE Chair project (see section 11 of this call).
- In general, to maintain dialogue with the Foundation and the CSIC on all matters relating to the obligations and commitments associated with the JAE Chair grant.

The **Chairholder** shall:

- By accepting the grant, make a commitment to the JAE Chairs programme, the Foundation, the CSIC and the host Institute for the duration of the project.
- Co-lead, together with the Coordinator, the JAE Chair project focusing on disruptive lines of research that foster close scientific collaboration with researchers from the Institute and the proposing group.
- Co-direct, together with a member of the host team, the doctoral thesis of the PhD student contracted under the JAE Chair grant.
- Make annual stays at the host Institute, with a minimum duration of two months during each of the four years of the JAE Chair project. The two months may be spent in a single continuous period, or in a maximum of four periods, the minimum duration of each period being 15 days.

- Allow the use of his/her first and last name(s) to be used to designate the beneficiary JAE Chair, following the formula "JAE Chair - First name - Last name(s)".
- Mention its affiliation to the CSIC in the research results generated as a result of its activities in the framework of the JAE Chair.

Other commitments to be made by all staff involved in the implementation of the JAE Chair grant (*Chairholder, Coordinator, research team, etc.*):

- To respond to requests made by the Foundation for their availability or intervention, in person or remotely, to be consulted on the development of the JAE Chair project or for actions to disseminate the programme.
- Accept the use of their image for all those dissemination actions of the JAE Chairs programme that may be required of them during the period of execution of the grant. Dissemination actions may include acts, events, resources and dissemination and communication spaces organised by the Foundation and the CSIC.
- Comply with the following requirements regarding the publication of results and communication activities related to the JAE Chair project:
 - Inform the Foundation and the CSIC of any publication or public dissemination of the results of the JAE Chair project, regardless of whether the communication is of a scientific or informative nature, and whether it is aimed at a specialised, general or business audience.
 - Include, in any scientific publication, application for industrial protection, activity or communication material related to the results derived from the JAE Chair research project, acknowledgement or mention of the funding from the JAE Chairs programme, the CSIC and the Foundation.
 - Display, in any activity or communication material related to the JAE Chair project, the JAE Chairs programme logo, as well as the logos of the Foundation and the CSIC (they will be made available to the Coordinator once the grant has been awarded).
- Immediately notify, in writing, the CSIC and the Foundation of any result of the JAE Chair project which, due to its novelty and potential for industrial application, is susceptible to protection by means of a patent or any other industrial property protection instrument.
- Assume that the CSIC is the owner of the industrial property generated within the framework of the JAE Chair project, without prejudice to the recognition of its authorship and the rights that the regulations recognise for inventors in terms of industrial property.

- Assume that, in the absence of proof to the contrary, inventions for which an application for a patent or other exclusive protection is filed within one year of the termination of the employment or service relationship are presumed to have been made during the term of the employment or service relationship.

11. Project monitoring

The Coordinator undertakes to draw up and submit to the Foundation, following a standard form that the Foundation will make available, an **intermediate scientific and financial justification report two years after the start of the grant and another at the end of the four years**. This must include:

- Description of the activities carried out, the results obtained and the degree of compliance with the proposed objectives.
- Justification of the expenditure incurred.

The approval of the mid-term report shall be a prerequisite for the continuation of the grant up to a maximum of four years.

12. Confidentiality

The Foundation undertakes to guarantee the confidentiality of the ideas and projects, although it may use, for promotion and dissemination purposes, general information included for this purpose in the summaries of the reports. A confidentiality agreement will be signed with any person or entity that will have access to project information when necessary for the evaluation and selection of proposals.

13. Protection of personal data

The Foundation fully complies with current legislation on the protection of personal data.

All personal data belonging to applicants, which are included in the documents referred to in these rules, will be processed by the Foundation in order to manage and process the applications or queries made by the applicants, always complying with the corresponding legal obligations.

Applicants accept the Foundation's [Legal Advice](#) and [Privacy Policy](#) by completing the online application form for the JAE Chairs programme.

Applicants may at any time revoke the consent given and exercise their rights of access, rectification, suppression, limitation, opposition and portability of their personal data by sending an e-mail to info@fgcsic.es or by sending a letter by post to c/ Joaquín Costa 12, Madrid (28002) with the reference "exercise of rights".

14. Acceptance of the Call Guidelines

Participation in this call for proposals implies the acceptance by the Coordinator of the terms and conditions of this call for proposals. It also implies acceptance that the evaluators and members of the Scientific-technical committee may have access to the information contained in his/her application.

The Foundation reserves the right of interpretation and resolution of doubts, controversies and exceptions in all matters foreseen and not foreseen in these rules.

Fundación General CSIC
Madrid, 18 July 2023