Opportunities for an excellent scientific career in Galicia

XUNTA DE GALICIA
The **Oportunius Program** generates opportunities for excellent researchers who want to develop their scientific careers in Galicia by supporting the access options and benefits associated with the **European Research Council (ERC)** grants.

Initiative promoted by the **Xunta de Galicia**, with the collaboration of **Galician universities**, and the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**. Open to the incorporation of research organizations throughout the Galician Science and Innovation System.

**CUSTOM ITINERARIES** for:

- ERC Grantees
- ERC Finalists
- ERC Candidates

**RESULTS**

- 5 Oportunius contracts for ERC grant holders
- 24 ERC grant holders
- 31 ERC grants
- 15 ERC finalists
- 126 ERC candidatures assessed
- 12 × 240 training workshops with over 240 participants

[Data from May 2021]
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**CUSTOM ITINERARIES**

**Opportunities for an excellent scientific career in Galicia**

**RESULTS**

- ERC Finalists: 15
- ERC Candidates: 126
- ERC Grantees: 31
- ERC Grant Holders: 24
- ERC Grants: 15
- ERC Candidatures Assessed: 126
- Training workshops with over 240 participants: 12 x 240

[Data from May 2021]

Research environment that advances towards excellent and competitive science at an international level investing in talent through Oportunius, in addition to other programs to structure and consolidate the R&D System.

Diverse offer of research organizations with the potential to host ERC researchers:

- 3 universities accredited with HR Excellence in Research (HRS4R) seal
- 3 health and biomedical research institutes
- 5 Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) centres

Support of research by the Xunta de Galicia, as the main source of knowledge for innovation and growth in Galicia:

> Structural financing for the most competitive groups,
> Supporting the creation of supra-group scientific structures with the potential to form centres of excellence,
> Supporting knowledge transfer,
> Supporting research careers at different stages: predoctoral and postdoctoral.

Access to financing of state research programs affiliated with the Spanish R&D system.

Choose Galicia to combine an excellent scientific career, a wise decision for your professional environment and quality of life.

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**CHOOSE GALICIA**

3 INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS

PUBLIC HEALTH AND EDUCATION

HIGH QUALITY OF LIFE

HIGH SAFETY INDEX

MILD WEATHER

EXTRAORDINARY GASTRONOMY

NATURAL SPACES AND RICH HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

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OPORTUNIUS AID

3 ITINERARIES

Incentives for those who have already received ERC funding and choose Galicia to develop their project

Help to achieve ERC assistance from Galicia

You want ERC funding

You have come close to obtaining it

ERC Finalists

You are applying for the first time

ERC Candidates

You have already received an ERC grant

ERC Grantees

You want ERC funding

ERC Finalists

ERC Candidates

ITINERARY 1

ITINERARY 2

ITINERARY 3
Researcher of any nationality benefiting from an ERC grant willing to develop their projects in research organizations in Galicia.

Option for a distinguished researcher contract* with the Galician Innovation Agency to facilitate the development of the project and the researcher’s career: stable work framework with an evaluation every 5 years, with attractive incentives, increasing with the Oportunius Program payment:

- **ADVANCED GRANT**: €80,000/year
- **CONSOLIDATOR GRANT**: €65,000/year
- **STARTING GRANT**: €50,000/year

PRO-ERC aid: financial aid supplementary to ERC financing, provided by the Consellería de Cultura, Educación e Universidade and by the Axencia Galega de Innovación for the duration of the project:

- **ADVANCED GRANT**: €80,000/year
- **CONSOLIDATOR GRANT**: €65,000/year
- **STARTING GRANT**: €50,000/year

POST-ERC aid: continuation of financial aid after the ERC aid term ends:

- Aid to reinforce projects of excellence, provided by the Consellería de Cultura, Educación e Universidade and by the Axencia Galega de Innovación

- **UP TO €50,000/year for 4 YEARS**

Oportunius program grants, invested in by the Galician Innovation Agency (for ERC researchers hired Galician universities or the CSIC and registered at the Oportunius Registry):

- **ADVANCED GRANT**: €8,000/year
- **CONSOLIDATOR GRANT**: €6,500/year
- **STARTING GRANT**: €5,000/year

Support services for scientific excellence and hosting of new researchers offered by the host institutions: scientific and family welcome events, work integration and orientation, specific technical support and additional financial support for research career development.

* Regulatory framework of the Oportunius program:
  - Law 14/2011, of 1 June, of Science, Technology and Innovation.
  - Decree 64/2016, of May 26, which regulates research staff contracts by the Galician Innovation Agency under the modality of distinguished research staff.
  - Order of August 29, 2018, which develops the procedure and scale for the assessment of the research activity of personnel hired by the Galician Innovation Agency under the modality of distinguished research staff (Oportunius Program).
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**ERC FINALISTS**

Researchers affiliated with any of the host institutions in Galicia who have been successful in the first ERC evaluation phase, and hold assessment A, without financial awards, in the ERC access process.

Financial support and expert support to increase chances of success in future calls

Financial aid to support the scientific project and curriculum, provided by the Galician Innovation Agency, with commitment to re-apply:

€50,000 /2 annuities

Training and expert advice to improve the proposal presented incorporating the recommendations from the application assessment regarding scientific production, new research results, etc.

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**ERC CANDIDATES**

Research staff with the potential to attend ERC calls and affiliated with any of the Galician research organizations.

Support to assess and focus on possible candidacy

Assessment of the chances of success

Training and expert advice for the preparation of candidacy for the different ERC calls
The host institutions for ERC researchers include:

**University of Santiago de Compostela (USC)**
- 3 specialised campuses:
  - Campus of International Excellence - Campus ‘Vida’
  - Campus ‘Terra’
  - Campus ‘la Ciudadanía’
- 300 research groups
- 4 SUG Research Centres (one being the IGFAE, The Galician Institute of High Energy Physics, renowned as María de Maeztu Centre of Excellence by the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities)
- 11 research institutes
- 3 strategic research groupings

**Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**
- 5 Research Institutes:
  - **Biological Mission of Galicia (MBG)**
    - Scientific areas: plant genetics, crop biochemistry, crop improvement, viticulture, ecology and forest genetics
    - 7 Research groups
    - Number of principal investigators: 15
  - **Institute of Marine Research (IIM)**
    - Scientific areas: Oceanography, ecology and marine resources, biotechnology and aquaculture, food technology
    - 14 Research groups
    - Number of principal investigators: 33
  - **Agrobiological Research Institute of Galicia (IIAG)**
    - Scientific Areas: Soil biochemistry and plant biotechnology
    - 7 Research groups
    - Number of principal investigators: 10
  - **Institute of Galician Studies Padre Sarmiento (IEGPS)**
    - Scientific Areas: Social history of power since the Middle Ages
    - 1 Research group
    - Number of principal investigators: 4
  - **Institute of Heritage Sciences (INCIPIT)**
    - Scientific Areas: Transdisciplinary studies on cultural heritage and its valorization processes
    - 1 research group
    - No. of principal investigators: 16

They could also be host institutions for ERC researchers:
- The 3 public health research institutes of Galicia
- Any other research organization of Galicia