Opportunities for an excellent scientific career in Galicia by strengthening access options and benefits associated with ERC grants
Oportunius Programme offers opportunities to develop an excellent scientific career in Galicia by complementing the European Research Council (ERC) grants and reinforcing the access options of potential candidates.

Initiative promoted by the Xunta de Galicia, with the collaboration of the Galician University System (SUG) and the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC). Open to the incorporation of research organisations from the entire Galician Science and Innovation System.

**CUSTOM ITINERARIES for:**

- **ERC Grantees**: Incentives for ERC grantees who choose Galicia to develop their project.
- **ERC Finalists**: Financial support and training to reinforce the options of finalists who want to develop their project in a Galician entity.
- **ERC Candidates**: Advice and training to prepare a winning candidacy with a Galician hosting institution.

**RESULTS**

- 18 Oportunius contracts for ERC grantees
- 31 ERC grantees supported
- 39 ERC grants
- 27 ERC finalists supported
- 277 ERC candidacies evaluated
- 23 training workshops with more than 530 participants

[Data from May 2024]
39 ERC PROJECTS IN GALICIA

20 PHYSICAL SCIENCES AND ENGINEERING

- José Manuel Castro (USC, CiMUS) – StG 2016
- Jacob Copeman (USC, CiSPAC) – CoG 2018
- Felipe Criado-Boado (CSIC, INCIPIT) – SyG 2020
- Martín Fañanás-Mastral (USC, CiQUS) – CoG 2019
- Mª del Carmen Giménez (USC, CiQUS) – StG 2015 PoC 2020
- David Ryan Glowacki (USC, CiTIUS) – CoG 2019
- Carlos Gómez (UDC, CICITIC) – StG 2016 PoC 2022
- Héctor Gómez (UDC) – StG 2012
- Miguel López (USC, CiMUS) – StG 2011
- Olalla López (USC, CRETUS) – CoG 2022
- Jaime Martín (UDC, CITENI) – CoG 2022
- Diego Martínez (USC, IGFAE) – StG 2014
- José Luis Mascareñas (USC, CIQUS) – AdG 2013 PoC 2019
- Javier Montenegro (USC, CIQUS) – StG 2015 PoC 2018
- Daniel Nieto (UDC, CICA) – CoG 2023
- Rubén Nogueiras (USC, CiMUS) – StG 2011 SyG 2018
- Elena Ojea (UVigo, CIM) – StG 2015
- Mario Pansera (UVigo, ECOBAS) – StG 2020
- Elena Pazos (UDC, CICA) – StG 2019
- Beatriz Pelaz (USC, CiQUS) – StG 2020
- Diego Peña (USC, CiQUS) – SyG 2020
- David Posada (UVigo, CINBIO) – StG 2007 CoG 2013
- Yolanda Prezado (USC, CiMUS) – CoG 2018
- José Francisco Rivadulla (USC, CiQUS) – StG 2010 PoC 2016
- Diego Robledo (USC) – StG 2022
- Carlos Salgado (USC, IGFAE) – StG 2011 AdG 2018
- Manuel Souto (USC, CIQUS) – StG 2021
- Jorge de Torres (CSIC, INCIPIT) – StG 2019
- Sara Varela (UVigo, CIM) – StG 2020
- Carlos Sebastián Villasante (USC, CRETUS) – CoG 2020
- Ashwin Woodhoo (USC, CiMUS) – CoG 2019

31 ERC GRANTEES

Oportunius Distinguished Researcher contract with the Axencia Galega de Innovación
Researchers of any nationality, beneficiaries of an ERC grant who wish to carry out their project in a host institution in Galicia.

Option of a distinguished researcher contract* with the Axencia Galega de Innovación for the development of the project and the research career: stable working framework with evaluation every 5 years and attractive remuneration, which can be improved according to the results of each evaluation.

PRO-ERC aid: financial resources complementary to ERC funding, provided by the Consellería de Educación, Ciencia, Universidades e Formación Profesional, and by the Axencia Galega de Innovación for the duration of the project:

ADVANCED GRANT
€100,000 /year

CONSOLIDATOR GRANT
€81,000 /year

STARTING GRANT
€65,000 /year

POST-ERC aid: financial support for continuity after the end of the ERC grant period

Aid to reinforce projects of excellence, provided by the Consellería de Educación, Ciencia, Universidades e Formación Profesional, and by the Axencia Galega de Innovación:

UP TO €50,000 /year for 4 YEARS

Oportunius Programme retribution, provided by the Axencia Galega de Innovación (for researchers contracted by the SUG or by the CSIC and included in the Oportunius Registry):

ADVANCED GRANT
€80,000 /year

CONSOLIDATOR GRANT
€65,000 /year

STARTING GRANT
€50,000 /year

Support services for excellent science and for the incorporation of new research staff provided by 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 Programme:
  - Law 17/2022, of 5 September, amending Law 14/2011, of 1 June, on Science, Technology and Innovation.
  - Decree 64/2016, of May 26, which regulates research staff contracts by the Axencia Galega de Innovación 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 Axencia Galega de Innovación under the modality of distinguished research staff (Oportunius Programme).
Researchers from any country willing to submit an ERC application with a Galician organisation who have been successful in the first ERC evaluation phase, or hold an assessment, without financial awards, in the ERC access process.

Support to increase chances of success in future calls

- Financial support, provided by the Axencia Galega de Innovación, to reinforce the scientific project and researcher’s CV, if there is a commitment to reapply.
- Training and expert advice to prepare a new improved proposal, including the recommendations from the previous application assessment.
- €50,000 /2 annuities

Researchers from any background with the potential to apply for ERC calls with any of the hosting institutions in Galicia.

Support to assess and focus a possible candidacy

- Assessment of the chances of success
- Training and expert advice to prepare the application to the different ERC calls
THE RESEARCH SYSTEM IN GALICIA

Galicia has a broad and diverse R&D&I ecosystem that covers the entire value chain – from basic research to industrial production – in strategic sectors such as life sciences and health, agri-food, and ICT. On the other hand, its rich natural and historical-cultural heritage also places studies on sustainability and bioeconomy, and on culture and society at high levels of research excellence.

The three Galician universities and their research centres, the CSIC institutes, as well as the health research institutes, lead this excellent research. Galicia also has the Galicia Supercomputing Center (CESGA), a unique research infrastructure, and several technology centres. All these entities can be host institutions for the Oportunius Programme.

HOST INSTITUTIONS

** PI = Principal investigator

* The number of ERC grants assigned to the universities and CSIC include researchers working in faculties, in their own research centres, and in the interuniversity centres.

** PI**

3 specialised campuses (Vida, Terra, Cidadanía)

300 research groups

22 research centres and institutes

26 ERC grants*

www.usc.gal

Center for Research in Molecular Medicine and Chronic Diseases

Center for Research in Biological Chemistry and Molecular Materials

Centro de Investigación en Tecnologías Intelixentes

Cross-disciplinary Research Center in Environmental Technologies

Galician Institute of High Energy Physics

40 PI**

32 PI and senior researchers

31 PI and senior researchers

32 PI

28 PI and senior researchers

6 ERC

12 ERC

1 ERC

2 ERC

3 ERC

Universidad de Vigo

4 specialised campuses (Mar, Vigo Tecnolóxico, Aigua/Ourense, CREA/Pontevedra)

169 research groups

4 research centres and 3 research institutes

5 ERC grants*

www.uvigo.gal

Research Center for Telecommunication Technologies

Research Center in Nanomaterials and Biomedicine

Research Center in Technologies, Energy and Industrial Processes

70 PI and senior researchers

118 researchers

90 researchers

Persoal investigador: 86 researchers

2 ERC

3 ERC

2 ERC
3 specialised campuses (Innova, Sustentabilidade, Industrial)

127 research groups and units

4 research centres and 5 research institutes

6 ERC grants*

www.udc.es

Interuniversity research centres

92 researchers (USC, UVigo, UDC)

73 researchers (USC, UVigo, UDC, CSIC)

80 permanent researchers (USC, UVigo, UDC)

121 permanent researchers

191 researchers

90 researchers

116 researchers

Galician Centre for Mathematical Research and Technology
citmaga.gal

Interuniversity Research Centre for Atlantic Cultural Landscapes
cispac.gal

Interuniversity Research Centre on Economics and Business Administration for Society
ecobas.gal

Biological Mission of Galicia
mbg.csic.es

Institute of Marine Research
www.iim.csic.es

Padre Sarmiento Institute of Galician Studies
iegps.csic.es

Cultural Heritage Research Institute
www.incipit.csic.es

Centres of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography at Vigo and A Coruña
www.ieo.es/en/web/vigo
www.ieo.es/en/web/coruna

Biomedical Research Institute of A Coruña
www.inibic.es

Biological Mission of Galicia
mbg.csic.es

Institute of Marine Research
www.iim.csic.es

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Centres of the Spanish Institute of Oceanography at Vigo and A Coruña
www.ieo.es/en/web/vigo
www.ieo.es/en/web/coruna

Health Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela
www.idisantiago.es

Health Research Institute Galicia Sur
www.iisgaliciasur.es

Biomedical Research Institute of A Coruña
www.inibic.es

Health Research Institute of Santiago de Compostela
www.idisantiago.es

Health Research Institute Galicia Sur
www.iisgaliciasur.es

Biomedical Research Institute of A Coruña
www.inibic.es

Leadership and participation in +40 R&D projects every year
Computing services for +170 third-part projects

Galicia Supercomputing Center
www.cesga.es

* The number of ERC grants assigned to the universities and CSIC include researchers working in faculties, in their own research centres, and in the interuniversity centres.

** PI = Principal investigator
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