uc3m | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

2026 EDITION OF

UC3M-ATRAE-EXCELENCIA-INTERNACIONAL GRANTS

Resolution by the Rector of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid announcing the call for the 2026 Edition of the UC3M-ATRAE-Excelencia Internacional Grants

Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (hereinafter, UC3M) is a renowned international reference in research, prominently positioned and recognized as being among the world's top universities. At the regional level, UC3M has the highest rate of research productivity among the Madrid universities, officially recognized in the "sexenios" research periods of its research and academic staff. The University's high standing is fostered through the UC3M Own Research Program with the incorporation of outstanding international research talent, which generates inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary synergies that consolidate the University's leadership in securing competitive funding.

First. Objective

Six grants are hereby announced, aimed at facilitating incorporation of internationally renowned researchers into UC3M who are currently conducting their professional activity abroad. These six grants include:

- Three grants to attract international excellent research talent from universities holding top global rankings.
- One grant for Departments accredited as a "María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence" by the State Research Agency.
- Two grants for researchers in the area of Education Sciences.

Second. Funding

This call will be funded through the University general budget, and in particular through budgetary code AD11 of the UC3M Own Research Program.

Third. Grant beneficiaries

The beneficiaries for these grants will be the University departments with which the researcher shall be affiliated, within the framework of their incorporation through the grant.

Fourth. Requisites for researchers joining UC3M within the framework of the grants

Researchers, who at the moment of application are carrying out their professional career abroad at a center of renowned prestige, can be incorporated into the university within the framework of these grants, provided they are able to accredit having conducted a research career internationally during at least four years. A center of recognized prestige for the purposes of this call are those classified in 2025 as R1 (Very

High Spending and Doctorate Production) in the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, or those ranked in the top 25 positions of the QS World University Rankings 2026: Top global universities.

In the case of researchers in the area of Education Sciences or in the case of Departments accredited as a "María de Maeztu Unit of Excellence" by the State Research Agency, it will solely be necessary to have carried out a research career abroad during at least four years, and have a recognized academic and research career path in their field.

Fifth. Items to be covered by the grant

The total amount of the grants are to:

5.1. Cover the employment costs of the contracts of the researcher who joins UC3M. This cost shall be sufficient to ensure a salary, including all associated expenses, in the amount of 100,000 euros annually in the first yearly payment under the contract. Subsequently, corresponding salary increments in accordance with the law will be applied. The contract will be of a duration of three years, and may be extended for two additional years, conditional on fulfillment of certain requisites, as established in article 7.4. The employment relationship will be through the modality of a Distinguished Researcher contract, established in article 23 of 14/2011, of June 1, of Science, Technology and Innovation, modified by Law 17/2022, of September 5.

5.2. Endow a research fund for each one the researchers that become affiliated with UC3M with a total amount of 100,000 euros for the five years.

Sixth. Obligations of the beneficiaries

The obligations of the departments are:

6.1. Carrying out the necessary actions within the grant's framework to facilitate incorporation of the researcher who is to be affiliated with the department during the period of the grant's validity, with regard to accessing the installations and spaces.

6.2. Ensuring that, before the period of contract execution has finalized and within its offer of public employment positions, a call for a permanent position will be proposed in the researcher's field of knowledge and will then be filled, understood as the awardee's incorporation into the position in the corresponding selection process.

Seventh. Obligations of the researcher joining UC3M within the framework of these grants

7.1. The researcher joining the departments through the grants will be contracted by UC3M on a full-time basis. Said researcher may not engage in any other professional contractual obligations with other entities while his or her UC3M contractual relationship is in effect.

7.2. The contracts will begin as of the date of the call resolution, and the researchers must join a University department before December 31, 2026.

7.3. The researcher must join the beneficiary departments for these grants, where they will carry out their research and foster participation in the research groups of their field in competitive projects, especially at the international level. At the same time, they will enhance research at the department level, prioritizing publication in high impact Q1 journals and submitting proposals for prestigious international calls for public grants such as "María de Maeztu Units of Excellence" at the national level, or calls from the European Research Council at the European level, among others.

7.4. The researcher joining a department through these grants must submit a proposal for the calls for Starting, Consolidator, Advanced and/or Synergy Grants of the European Research Council (ERC) within the Research and Innovation Program Framework of the European Union (Horizon Europe) during the first three years of their incorporation at the University, with UC3M being the "host institution" in the proposal. Non-compliance with this obligation could lead to non-renewal of the last two years of the contract.

7.5. The contracted researchers can engage in teaching for a maximum amount of 100 teaching hours per year, in accordance to what is established for Distinguished Researchers, Law 14/2011, of June 1, of Science, Technology and Innovation, modified by Law 17/2022, of September 5.

Eighth. Formalization and deadline for applications

8.1. This call will be announced in the UC3M Official Electronic Bulletin and will be published on the University webpage.

The head of the applicant departments should record the application on the online form available for this purpose in the Research Portal, providing the documentation detailed in point 8.2 of this Resolution. Use of the available model is obligatory, which can be downloaded directly onto the application. Upon sending the application, an official receipt of application is generated.

To finalize the process, the application will be formally recorded electronically in the University General Registry, through the electronic Registry, by presentation of a general application, addressed to the Research Service, attaching the final receipt generated by the app, which must be turned in and signed by the applicant.

Applications that have not been formalized through the electronic registry within the deadline indicated in point 8.3 will not be considered.

8.2. In the applications, the following information must be provided:

- Application form, which contains:
    - Identification of area and department that the researcher will join.
    - Identifying information for the researcher, including their ORCID (Open Researcher and Contributor ID).
- Certificate or accrediting certificates of professional services rendered in international center or centers.

- PhD Diploma.
- An abbreviated CV of the researcher to be presented following the standardized model available on the webpage of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT).
  In the abbreviated CV any merits obtained at any time during the researcher's scientific career can be included. At the same time, any circumstances that have affected research activity may also be included.
- An explanatory research report on the research project that is to be undertaken during the five year period. The report should be a maximum of 12 pages and is to be presented following the predefined template for this call.
- Expected impact on the department making application, signed by the department head.
- Commitment by the department, approved by the department board, that before the period of contract execution has ended, and within its offer of public employment positions, a call for a permanent position in the researcher's field of knowledge will be proposed, and the position subsequently filled.
- Commitment by the researcher to present a proposal for European Research Council calls during the first three years of their joining the University.

8.3. The period for presentation of applications will begin on the day following publication of the announcement in the UC3M Boletín Oficial Electrónico (BOEL), and will remain open until January 28, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (Spanish peninsula time).

Ninth. Procedure instructions

9.1. The entity in charge of instructions for the process will be the Vice-Rector for Research and Transfer, who will responsible for all the actions necessary to determine, ascertain, and verify all the data based on which the resolution will be made.

9.2. At the end of the application period, the provisional lists of accepted applications as well as those excluded from the selection process will be published on the page of Own Research Program on the UC3M webpage. The causes of said exclusions will be included so that the applicant can present any statements or arguments deemed pertinent within a 10 day period. At the end of the previous period, a definitive list of excluded applications will be published, including those withdrawn at the applicant's request. If the applications do not comply with all of the terms or are not accompanied by the documentation listed in point 8.2., the applicant will be required to rectify the mistake or provide the obligatory documents within a maximum of 10 days, indicating that if not done, the application will be considered withdrawn. The Research Report and the researcher's CV cannot be rectified.

Tenth. Evaluation of applications

10.1. The applications will be evaluated by an Evaluation and Monitoring Committee, according to the following criteria:

1. Curriculum Vitae of the researcher to be joining UC3M (50 points)
2. Explanatory Report on research project (25 points)

3. Expected impact of the activity that the researcher is to carry out in strengthening and/or diversifying the department's research lines. In the area of Education Sciences the expected impact on the University must be substantiated. (25 points)

10.2. The Evaluation and Monitoring Committee will be composed of the Vice-Rector for Research and Transfer, who will preside over the committee, three members designated by the Vice-Rector, and the Deputy Vice Rector for Research and Transfer in charge of the Research Support Center. An expert will advise the Committee for each of the areas of the applications, but as a non-voting member. In addition, a member of the University Research Service will act as Committee secretary.

Eleventh. Resolution proposal

The Evaluation and Monitoring Committee will draw up the resolution proposal, which may include a numbered list of alternate applications, as well as declaring any application void.

Twelfth. Resolution and notification

12.1. The present call will be concluded with the resolution by the Rector, in light of the proposal drawn up by the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee.

12.2. Notification of this resolution, concluding the administrative process, will be made to the beneficiary department, stating possible mandatory technical and economic conditions that could be established.

12.3. The resolution awarding the grants will be published in the UC3M Official Electronic Bulletin and on the UC3M webpage.

Thirteenth. Research fund

13.1. Once the researcher has initiated their contractual period at UC3M, the research fund of 100,000 euros will be activated through a cost center on the app Universitas XXI-Investigación.

13.2. The researcher may use this fund for expenditures related to their research activity. Specifically, eligible expenses are those involving acquisition of inventoried and expendable material; contracted personnel costs (in any of the modalities permitted); subcontracting third parties; travel, per diem allowances, and registration fees for conferences/congresses and work meetings, etc. All expenses are subject to the expenditure regulations of the Public Administration and the similar UC3M regulations.

13.3. In no case, can this fund be used to make payments for collaboration in research activities.

Fourteenth. Monitoring and justifying grants

14.1. The researcher contracted must draw up a scientific-technical report during their third year of the contract. This report will consist of two parts: on one hand, the scientific-technical progress of the research project should be detailed, and on the other hand, it also must point out the actions undertaken to boost research in their department, the research groups in their area, and specifically, it must include a list of proposals presented to competitive public calls, new projects funded, high-impact publications, etc. Along these lines, it is essential to substantiate having presented a proposal for a European Research Council call, in accordance with what is established in point 7.4 of this present call. This report should be sent to the office of the Research Service three months before the end of the contract's third year. Renewal of the contract for the remaining two years will be conditional on a favorable evaluation of this report. This evaluation will be made by the Evaluation and Monitoring Committee.

14.2. At the same time, the contracted researcher must present a final report two months before finalizing their fifth year of the contract. This report should compile all of the activity carried out during the five years, specifically:

- A final scientific-technical report on the research project carried out and the accompanying economic report.
- National, regional, European, and international funding secured.
- International projects of reference in those strategic areas, as well as interdisciplinary areas.
- High-impact publications**.**
- Highly relevant and impactful contracts and agreements for resolving challenges for companies and institutions.

In addition, it should be indicated how different research groups have been involved based on the subject matter, requisites and needs of the projects, as well as how they have worked to generate ideas and explore technological challenges, and finally, how the incorporation of the researcher has bolstered UC3M as an international reference in the researcher's subject area.

Fifteenth. Resources.

Appeal involving any administrative acts deriving from the present resolution can be made by interested parties in the circumstances and forms established in Law 39/2015, of October 1, of Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

FINAL PROVISION

Single clause

The Vice-Rector of Research and Transfer is authorized to interpret and resolve issues arising from application of this resolution, proceeding, when necessary, to issue and publish the instructions necessary for its execution and compliance.

In Getafe, on the date of the electronic signature

The RECTOR

Signed: Ángel Arias Hernández

The present Resolution exhausts the administrative route, and appeal may be made before the Contentious-Administrative Court of Madrid, within a two-month period from the day following publication, or an optional appeal for review before the Office of the Rector within one month from the day following publication, in accordance with the provisions of Law 39/2015, of October 1, of Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.