

I CALL “APADRINA LA CIENCIA” SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

1. Purpose of the call

One of the goals of the non-profit association “Apadrina la Ciencia” is to support scientific research in all fields of knowledge, because advanced knowledge has a direct impact on people’s well-being and society’s economy.

Research and innovation are the driving force for socio-economic development and they rely on well-trained scientists. The main goal of this proposal is to establish mobility bursaries financed by “Apadrina la Ciencia” –with the participation of **SENSE Foundation**- for Ph.D. students and early career postdoctoral investigators –particularly women- from developing regions with limited financial resources for research and education, in Asia, Latin American or African countries.

The call aims to boost academic excellence and the exchange between Spanish research institutions and researchers from less favored countries. Bearing this in mind, **international scientific collaborations** are promoted among research groups belonging to public institutions in Spain (hereinafter, host group) and research groups belonging to public institutions in Asia, Africa and Latin American countries receiving ODA* (Official Development Assistance) (hereinafter, group of origin). The collaboration will be carried out through **training and specialization stays of researchers** from countries receiving ODA in Spanish host groups.

The bursary will contribute to training researchers and enhancing their professional careers, as well as developing research projects in the researchers’ home countries and we trust that it will lay the foundations for future joint research projects.

* <https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-standards/DAC-List-of-ODA-Recipients-for-reporting-2022-23-flows.pdf>

2. Call conditions

Up to 2 grants of 9 to 12 months in duration will be given, being €14,000 (9 months) and €18,000 (12 months) the maximum amount per project for accommodation and maintenance. Additionally, travel expenses (round-trip tickets in economy class from the home town), attendance to congresses and soft skills training courses (up to €3,000), visa expenses, civil liability, accident, and health insurance will be covered. Exceptionally, upon request, the Board of Directors of “Apadrina la Ciencia” may approve other essential expenses for the stay or any other change in the expenses due to unforeseen circumstances.

The monthly bursary will be paid into a personal bank account in the name of the beneficiary.

Round-trip tickets will be purchased by “Apadrina la Ciencia”. Accident, civil liability, and health insurance policies will be taken out by “Apadrina la Ciencia”.

Modality A: Applicants who prove to be early-career researchers who are doing their doctoral thesis in a public institution. Proposals recommending the Ph.D. thesis co-direction of the person in charge of the host research group will be valued positively in the evaluation phase.

Modality B: Applicants who prove to have obtained a Ph.D. in the last five years and who prove links with the group of origin.

In both modalities, accredited scientific contributions or funded projects between the research groups of origin and the host groups of the applicants will be valued positively in the evaluation phase.

3. Requirements for research groups

A. Research team of origin: The foreign team in the group of origin will be composed of no less than one principal investigator (PI) and the applicant.

B. Host research team: The PI of the research group of origin will be responsible for supervising the stay of the beneficiaries and will participate, if applicable, in the co-direction of the doctoral thesis.

Both host groups and groups of origin will agree on a training research project that will be carried out by the beneficiaries of the bursary in the host group.

3. Procedures and submission deadline

The proposal and the required documentation will be submitted in a single request by the PI -and coordinator of the project- of the Spanish group via email apadrinalaciencia.proyectos@gmail.com adding the subject line: **I CALL “APADRINA LA CIENCIA” SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT**. Moreover, it is also necessary to fill out the application form at this [link](#).

Applications will be written in English.

A **single pdf** will be sent with a maximum of 5MB including:

- a) Title of the project
- b) Scientific-technical report (up to 2 pages in a minimum 12 font size) of training activities and objectives of the stay with a section clearly explaining the benefits of the stay for the beneficiary and the host group, the impact of the stay on the group of origin, and whether the possibility of continuing the collaboration after the stay is contemplated. The proposals should consider measures to ensure the adequate cultural integration of the beneficiary in the host institution, such as the inclusion of a contact person or “cultural buddy” who will facilitate the beneficiary’s adaptation to the new environment.

- c) 2-page summary of the host institution and the PI's achievements in the host group, including suitability.
- d) 2-page summary of the institution of origin, the PI's achievements in the host group, and the achievements of the person carrying out the stay in the host group.
- e) Acceptance letter by the person in charge of the department, center, or institution to which the host group belongs, committing to receive the beneficiary in order to carry out the planned activities in the scientific-technical report.
- f) Commitment letter (following the given model) by the researchers in charge of the beneficiary of the stay in the groups of origin and host groups, which must be signed by the interested parties (both PIs and applicant) declaring that they are responsible for the execution of the planned activities in the scientific-technical report.
- g) Responsibility statement by the applicant confirming that he/she meets all the necessary requirements to join the host group and commits to carrying out the necessary procedures to obtain the travel permits. In the event that the necessary travel permits are not obtained, the applicant will lose the bursary and the first person on the substitution list will be granted.

The **deadline** for submitting applications will end on **October 7th, 2023, at 11:59 p.m.** Incomplete applications or those not fulfilling the requirements established in this resolution on the closing date will be automatically rejected.

Once the application submission period is over, a provisional list of admitted and excluded applicants will be published. There will be no time to correct errors.

The personal data collected in the application will be subject to the protection established by Organic Law 3/2018 and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament. On the basis of articles 6 and 7 of the aforesaid Regulation, by sending the request, the processing of personal data will be understood as authorized.

4. Evaluation

The evaluation committee will be composed of 1-2 members from "Apadrina La Ciencia" and 2-4 external evaluators. The evaluators will assess the suitability of the supervisor and the host institution, the merits of the candidate and the synergy between the candidate and the host institution, the impact and the quality of the project, the ability of the project to promote scientific exchange between the host institution and the home institution of the beneficiary, as well as the impact that the bursary will have for the beneficiary's career and for the research carried out at the host institution. The decision will be notified to all the admitted applicants and will be published on the "Apadrina la

Ciencia” website. The decision will contain the names of both beneficiaries of the bursaries as well as a list of up to four substitutes.

5. Obligations of the beneficiaries and supervisors

Within three months after the end of the stay, the beneficiary must submit a 2-page final report, signed by the supervisor of the host group, summarizing the main achievements of the project as well as a follow-up plan to implement the acquired knowledge in their home countries and the effect the project has had on their career progression.

The beneficiaries must also send a 2-3 minutes video presentation explaining the scientific objectives of the stay and the impact on their scientific careers and their group of origin.

It is very important that both the video presentation and the final report include an **explicit acknowledgment to “Apadrina la Ciencia” and SENSE Foundation**, which contributes to financing the bursaries. The support from “Apadrina la Ciencia” and SENSE Foundation should be duly acknowledged in the dissemination publications of the results achieved during the stay in the “Acknowledgement” section and send the information to the e-mail: apadrinalaciencia.proyectos@gmail.com.

Additional measures to disseminate the results of the project should include, among others, the use of social networks or similar platforms, collaboration with the communication office at the host institution, and participation in activities aimed at promoting scientific communication to broad audiences, including active collaboration in events organized by “Apadrina La Ciencia”.

7. Queries

apadrinalaciencia.proyectos@gmail.com



Commitment Letter

To: Apadrina la Ciencia Association

By signing below, Dr., in charge of the group
of origin, Dr., in charge of the host group,
together with the applicant commit to carry out the
planned activities in the scientific-technical report titled
....., complying with the requirements of the I call
Apadrina la Ciencia Scientific Cooperation for Development.

Signed:

Person in charge of the group of origin:

Person in charge of the host group:

Applicant:

Date: