

**Call for grant applications for doctoral theses in the doctoral programmes in Society, Technology and Culture; Network and Information Technologies; Education and ICT (E-learning); Humanities and Communication; Health and Psychology, and Law, Politics and Economics – 2023/2024**

**Resolution of 8 November 2022 whereby the Vice President for Strategic Planning and Research invites applications for UOC grants to undertake doctoral theses in the doctoral programmes in Society, Technology and Culture; Network and Information Technologies; Education and ICT (E-learning); Humanities and Communication; Health and Psychology, and Law, Politics and Economics within the framework of the Statute for Research Staff in Training.**

The Vice President for Strategic Planning and Research, on exercising her authority in terms of training researchers, hereby invites applications for UOC grants for doctoral theses for research staff undertaking predoctoral training, within the framework of Law 14/2011, of 1 June 2011, on Science, Technology and Innovation and Law 14/2013, of 27 September 2013, on Support for Entrepreneurs and Internationalization.

This programme is funded by the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (FUOC).

### **1. Aim of the call for applications**

- I. In order to promote the training of researchers in the different research groups at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (UOC), the UOC is awarding grants<sup>1</sup> for doctoral theses in the framework of the doctoral programmes in Society, Technology and Culture; Network and Information Technologies; Education and ICT (E-learning); Humanities and Communication; Health and Psychology, and Law, Politics and Economics.
- II. This call is made in accordance with the criteria set forth by the UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee for doctoral theses, appointed by the UOC's Governing Council.

### **2. Programme structure**

- I. The UOC grant programme for doctoral theses is regulated by Law 14/2013, of 27 September 2013, on Support for Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization, and Law 14/2011 of 1 June 2011, on Science, Technology and Innovation.
- II. In accordance with Article 21 of Law 14/2011, UOC grant holders will sign a three-year predoctoral contract. Renewal of this contract requires an annual favourable report from the programme's Academic Committee and the UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee, which assess whether the training and research objectives agreed to by the grant holder are met in the period established.
- III. The predoctoral contract will be terminated at the end of the three-year period when the annual assessment of predoctoral research staff is not passed or for any other cause covered by law.

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<sup>1</sup>The number of grants is subject to the approval of the corresponding budget allocation by the University's governing body.

### **3. Grant amount and form of payment**

- I. Being awarded a grant requires the signing of a one-year predoctoral employment contract for a gross annual amount of €17,000, which will be taxed in accordance with the legislation in force. This amount will be paid in twelve [12] monthly payments via bank transfer to the account indicated by the trainee researcher. The gross annual amount is established according to Law 103/2019, of 1 March 2019, which approves the Statute of Research Staff in Training.
- II. Grant holders with a predoctoral contract will have all those employment and other rights relating to social security deriving from the contract signed with the UOC.
- III. The institution will be responsible for the expenses involved in enrolling for the organized research period of the doctoral programme, and also for payment of the qualification certificate only if the thesis has been deposited before the end of the third year of the research grant. The grant includes a final payment of €1,500 gross which is payable if the doctoral thesis has been defended before the end of the third year of the research grant, and so long as the student has obtained the highest academic grade at the thesis defence. This payment will be made to the beneficiary along with the final instalment of the grant for that year.
- IV. All the beneficiaries must take into account that the month of **August shall not be counted, on considering it to be outstanding**, and the evaluation process can take two months to carry out.

### **4. Requirements**

- I. The potential beneficiaries of a UOC grant for doctoral programmes include individuals who, at the time of submitting an application, fulfil (or could fulfil by **3 July 2023**) the access requirements for the organized research period on a doctoral programme at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

The specific requirements of each doctoral programme can be consulted on the [website of the UOC Doctoral School](#) (in the information on each doctoral programme: Call for Applications > General requirements and Admission requirements).

### **5. Documentation to be presented**

- I. Candidates will need to complete a grant application linked in the admission form from the Virtual Campus, along with the documentation required to access the specific doctoral programmes (academic record; in the case of candidates from non-English-speaking countries, accreditation of English language skills, etc.) which is given in detail on each doctoral programme [website](#) (Apply for admission section). The application will be submitted at the same time as the doctoral programme application. The deadline for applications is **12 February 2023**.

### **6. Selection and Evaluation Committee**

- I. The UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee is responsible for evaluating and selecting candidates who have submitted applications for this Call, based on the proposals and prior appraisal of the doctoral programme Committee.

Each doctoral programme has its own Evaluation Committee, made up of experts from the specific area of the programme.

Moreover, there is a General Evaluation Committee, whose members are the directors of each doctoral programme:

- Dr David Masip Rodo
- Dr Ferran Adelantado Freixer
- Dr Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol
- Dr Iolanda Garcia González
- Dr Rubén Nieto Luna
- Dr Joan Pujolar Cos

- II. The Committee will decide upon the awarding of grants in a single session, after their proposal has been approved by the Governing Council, in accordance with the selection criteria established in clause 7 of this call.
- III. The Committee may, if it deems it necessary, request the necessary information from the candidates to suggest, expand and / or modify the initial project proposal submitted.
- IV. The Committee reserves the right to declare the scholarships vacant and is competent to resolve any issue not expressly regulated in these rules

## **7. Selection criteria**

- I. To assess the applications, the Committee will take into account the following criteria:
  1. The academic excellence of the candidates (bachelor's degree and master's degree academic transcript).
  2. Adaptation of the candidates' education, experience and research interests to fields of knowledge or subject areas associated with the doctoral programme.
  3. The criteria put forward by the respective academic committees according to the strategic priorities of the programmes.
  4. Candidates' prior scientific production will also be valued as an additional merit.
- II. The specific evaluation criteria of each doctoral programme can be consulted on the [website of the UOC Doctoral School](#) (section Call for Applications/ Evaluation criteria) and within Annex II.
- III. In any event, the selection process also promotes entry to the doctoral programme by candidates who have recently graduated for a master's degree and who have completed a research pathway, who do not generally have extensive previous scientific production.

## **8. Provisional selection of candidates**

- I. The provisional selection of the candidates approved for the grant will be published on the [UOC's e-Tauler website](#) and the [UOC's Doctoral School](#) on **2 May 2023**.

## **9. Appeals**

- I. All applicants will then have a period for appeals starting from 2 May 2023 **until 19 May 2023**.

Appeals should be sent to the UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee, as a formal letter, through the Procedures within the Virtual Campus.

- II. The UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee undertakes to decide on the appeals received, and the final selection of candidates to be awarded a grant for the doctoral programmes will be published on the [UOC's e-Tauler website](#) and [the UOC's Doctoral School](#) before **26 May 2023**.

#### **10. Final selection of candidates**

- I. The beneficiaries must formally accept the grant within a maximum period of ten [10] days after the final decision by signing a standardized document and submitting the corresponding documentation.
- II. Any beneficiary who does not submit the acceptance of the grant mentioned above within the period stated in the previous paragraph will be considered to have waived the grant.
- III. The selected candidates must be able to present, before 30 June 2023, the documents listed in Annex I of this document.
- IV. If the selected candidates do not possess the master's degree on 12 February 2023, but could fulfil all the requirements to access one of the doctoral programmes before 3 July 2023, they must submit all the documents with the legalized master's degree, which can be submitted before 3 July 2023.
- V. In the event of resignation of any of the beneficiaries, the place will be awarded in descending order to the person who has obtained the highest score and who is on the waiting list, until 1 November 2023.
- VI. From the date mentioned above, and in the event that the predoctoral positions where there have been resignations have not been filled with the people on the waiting list, the UOC will publish an extraordinary call.

#### **11. Terms and Conditions of Grants**

- I. The grants awarded are subsidiary to any other equivalent grants from public or private institutions. Therefore, grant-holders will be obliged to apply for equivalent grants from those public or private institutions deemed appropriate by the UOC. The status of research intern with a UOC grant is incompatible with any contractual or statutory commitments that may restrict researchers' abilities to devote themselves fully to research. Nevertheless, the UOC management and the doctoral programme may consider requests to carry out teaching activities (giving courses, presentations, speeches, etc.), collaboration on RDI work or contracted RDI work directly related to the training and research undertaken by the research intern, so long as they are occasional and not regular activities. These activities may not take up more than 60 hours per year.
- II. If the research intern receives remuneration from any of the activities mentioned above, this may not exceed 30% of the gross annual sum of the grant.
- III. If the teaching activity takes place at the UOC, the research interns will not receive any remuneration additional to the amount paid by means of the grant.
- IV. The length of the contract will be extended to cover any period of temporary incapacity, risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding, maternity, paternity, adoption or foster care. The same is true for any other situation covered by law.

- V. Trainee research staff will develop their research activities at the UOC's Research Hub in Barcelona. The predoctoral contract for the doctoral programmes –that is, the grant–, will begin on 1 October 2023 and in accordance with the provisions of clause 3 of this call the research interns should join the University centre by 1 October 2023. The start date for non-Spanish students depends on when they receive the permits and documents required to sign the contract.
- VI. Grant holders for doctoral programmes have to provide the UOC's Personnel department with the administrative and legal documents required for their employment contract before 20 September 2023: Census Registration in Spain, valid DNI/NIE (Spanish Identity Document/Foreigner Identity Number), Spanish Social Security Number, Spanish bank account number. They also have to provide their employment history report or an affidavit stating they are not and have not been employed under a research personnel in training contract. If the intern cannot provide the documents before 20 September 2023, they will lose their right to the grant.
- VII. The research intern expressly authorizes the UOC to make whatever use it deems appropriate of the findings and reports submitted for the grant application or to justify the work carried out (except their publication) and to undertake whatever proceedings may be necessary with the individuals or institutions that may be partially or fully funding the grant awarded.
- VIII. However, in accordance with Law 14, of 27 September 2013, on Support for Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization, they may exercise the intellectual property rights deriving from their own research training activities, depending on their contribution, as established in the revised text of the Intellectual Property Act, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April 1996.

## **12. Rights of trainee research staff**

Without being exhaustive in nature anyone receiving a grant has the right to:

- Obtain the necessary support from the UOC to carry out their research activities.
- Use the services of the UOC and take part in their activities as a whole in accordance with internal regulations.
- Participate in UOC calls for applications for grants.
- Exercise the intellectual property rights deriving from their own research training activities, depending on their contribution, as established by the revised text of the Intellectual Property Act approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996 of 12 April 1996, and the UOC's internal Intellectual Property regulations
- Receive the funding described in clause three [3] "Grant amount and form of payment" of this call.
- If budgetary provisions allow, recover the grant in the event of interruptions caused by force majeure.
- Carry out teaching activities, collaborate on RDI work or undertake contracted RDI work subject to the prior authorization of the management of the doctoral programme and in accordance with the requirements set out in this document, and in the current internal intellectual property regulations.
- Make research visits to other centres. In each case, the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme will decide on whether these visits are appropriate and whether this will involve temporarily suspending the grant and hence stopping payments.
- The occurrence of the temporary incapacity situations legally established in article 21, section c) of Law 14/2011 during the length of the contract will suspend the execution of

the contract, which will be extended to cover the period of temporary incapacity. The extension period will correspond to the amount of time of the interruption.

- Beneficiaries of grants who are non-resident in Spain when the grant is awarded will be entitled to a return journey from/to their country of origin. This journey should be taken in one of the official holiday periods during the grant and is subject to prior authorization from the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme. The journey request may only be sent via JIRA Suport UOC / *R&I Expenses / Travel and registration to conferences*, identifying the type of trip in the *Reason for expense* section.
- Beneficiaries of grants who are not resident in Barcelona province when it is awarded will be granted a one-off payment of €600 gross to defray the costs of moving to Barcelona. The applications may only be sent through the GIR Researchers' site. Log in to the link "*Presentació de sol·licitud*" in the call's file.

Once the application has been completed on the GIR tool, the applicant must send a message to the address [internal\\_grants\\_ri@uoc.edu](mailto:internal_grants_ri@uoc.edu) notifying their request.

The grant cannot be requested until the contract with the UOC has been signed. At the time of application, the beneficiary must provide documentary evidence proving the change of address.

The amount of the grant shall be received in the form of a single payment on the FUOC payroll and shall be subject to the withholdings established in applicable regulations.

### **13. Obligations of trainee research staff**

Without being exhaustive in nature, and in all cases in line with the provisions of Law 14, of 27 September 2013, approving the Support for Entrepreneurs and their Internationalization, grant beneficiaries have the obligation to:

- Carry out the research work in accordance with the criteria established by the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme and the Research Group Coordinator from the UOC assigned to the programme.
- Study and pass the training activities included in the personal Training Plan.
- Carry out regular research at the UOC's Research Hub facilities without prejudice to any temporary stints that may be necessary during the course of this activity in other higher educational centres or research centres and any travel undertaken for fieldwork and to disseminate the research work.
- Apply for Grants for the recruitment of early-stage research staff (FI). The beneficiaries of these grants will receive the salary stipulated herein, and will need to renounce the UOC grant.
- In any written documents deriving from the research work undertaken, state their affiliation to the University with the expression "With the support of a doctoral grant from the UOC".
- In addition to the training activities that are a required part of the doctoral programme: attend and participate in the doctoral and group research seminars, and attend and take advantage of the research seminars, workshops and other activities organized by the UOC for research personnel, as well as any initiatives organized or facilitated by the UOC to enhance their training or to promote their integration in the university community and the host country.
- Integrate in the scientific community of the Doctoral School in particular and the UOC community in general in the spirit of scientific collaboration.
- In the year prior to joining the doctoral programme they should have taken the necessary steps to apply for and obtain from the State or any other public or private institution any grants or subsidies to which they may be entitled (due to their personal circumstances or activity) to pursue these doctoral studies, or otherwise undertake these procedures during the first year of the grant.
- Notify the UOC in writing if any other grant or similar subsidy is awarded or there is any interruption to the grant period due to force majeure.

- Accept the grants that the UOC may obtain from other individuals or organizations to partially or fully offset the grant, so long as this substitution does not involve the research intern having to accept lower remuneration.
- Request permission through the means established for this from the management of the Doctoral School and the doctoral programme to undertake research stints at other centres.
- Notify the management of maternity or paternity leave to adopt or foster children or any disability leave.
- Accept any obligations incumbent upon them as a result of being covered by the Social Security system.
- Abide by the internal regulations of the UOC, especially employment conditions and health and safety regulations.
- Adopt an attitude and conduct commensurate with the values of a culture of peace and democracy.
- Reside in Barcelona or its metropolitan area, within a maximum distance of 120 km.
- Respect the ethical implications of the research activity being carried out.
- Comply with the objectives and requirements for remaining on the doctoral programme, established in accordance with the applicable academic regulations.
- Comply with the regulations governing the rights and obligations of students at the UOC, the Charter of Commitments for accessing and using the virtual campus, the rules governing the organization and operation of the UOC, and the rights and obligations in the Charter of Commitments for doctoral students, all of which have been established in accordance with the applicable academic laws.
- UOC grant holders will be located in UOC's Research Hub in Barcelona.
- Non-EU foreigners who want to travel or carry out a research stay in which they must remain outside the country for more than 6 months, must previously contact Personnel at [persones@uoc.edu](mailto:persones@uoc.edu) to receive information and support on the procedure and the necessary documentation.
- Provide to the UOC, before **1 June 2023**, the necessary documents (Listed in Annex I) to undertake the process for residence permits, and in accordance with the provisions of clause ten [10] of this call
- The admission documents must be provided before **12 February 2023** (with the exception of the master's degree in those cases in which it will be awarded in the spring term), and in accordance with the provisions of clause five [5] of this call. If the PhD student does not provide the documents requested on time, the University cannot guarantee the starting date of the contract of 1 October 2023
- Enjoy their holidays during the natural year, like the UOC staff. If the PhD student does not apply for their holidays, these days will be lost and irrecoverable. They will not then be paid in the final payslip.  
The holidays must be accepted by the Doctoral School management before enjoying them and must be applied for through the Endalia tool.
- Adhere to the conditions and obligations set forth in this document, and all applicable internal regulations

Should any of these obligations not be fulfilled, the UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will be entitled to revoke the grant.

#### **14. Renewal**

In order to renew the grant, the beneficiary will need to present the following documents 30 days before the end of the grant period:

- The application form for renewing the grant provided by the programme.

- An explanatory report which, in accordance with the model provided by the programme, describes the research undertaken thus far, the results obtained and, if applicable, the results of any teaching activities, collaborative RDI work or contracted RDI work carried out. If beneficiaries submit as research articles any papers or presentations that have been accepted for a congress or scientific meeting, but which have not yet been published or presented, they will need to provide a declaration of their commitment to participate in the congress or event in question.
- Updated report of the project to be carried out.

The Academic Committee of the programme will make public the criteria for renewing the UOC grants. In the event that it feels it is necessary to set any additional requirements or criteria for renewing grants, this information will be duly notified by email to the research interns affected.

In any case, the programme's Academic Committee and the UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will base their decision on renewal of the contract on the doctoral student meeting the objectives set for the period in question.

Should they not meet the criteria for renewal set or fulfil their duties as described herein, the UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee may decide not to renew the grant.

The UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee for the doctoral programmes will issue its decision on the renewal of grants before 31 August 2023. All applicants will be duly notified of this decision by email.

### **15. Data protection**

In fulfilment of Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on protection of personal data and guarantee of digital rights and of Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (hereinafter "GDPR"), we hereby inform the participating persons of the following aspects.

#### **Data controller:**

Fundació per a Universitat Oberta de Catalunya  
Avinguda del Tibidabo, 39-43, Barcelona  
National tax ID number (NIF) G60667813

In the event of having questions about the handling of personal information, you can contact the Data Protection Officer at email address [dpd@uoc.edu](mailto:dpd@uoc.edu).

#### **Purpose of the processing:**

Your personal data will be processed with the aim of organizing, managing and resolving the present Call for grant applications for doctoral theses in doctoral programmes in Society, Technology and Culture; Network and Information Technologies; Education and ICT (E learning); Humanities and Communication; Health and Psychology, and Law, Politics and Economics – 2023/2024, (hereinafter "the Activity").

Carrying out an assessment and a follow-up of the activity through statistics and satisfaction surveys related to this activity.

Publishing the first names and surnames of the people benefiting from the Activity on [the UOC's e-Tauler website](#).



**Legitimacy:**

The management of the grant, and the publication of the beneficiary persons are based on the execution of the contract (the bases of the call for the Activity).

Legitimate interest in the evaluation and the follow-up of the activity through statistics and satisfaction surveys related to this activity.

**Conservation terms:**

The personal data will be kept during the time for which the present call is carried out. At the end of the indicated period, the UOC will keep the personal data blocked during the period necessary to comply with the legal obligations that could generate legal responsibilities regarding the indicated purposes. When the responsibilities expire, the personal data will be permanently eliminated.

**Recipients:**

If necessary, the UOC will disclose the personal data you send us through this form to other third parties in order to comply with any corresponding legal obligations.

Likewise, the data provided may be transferred if this is expressly established in the rules of participation of the Activity.

The UOC has several providers that assist it in carrying out different tasks related to the processing of personal data.

**Rights of interested parties:**

You have the following data protection rights:

<b>RIGHT</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Right of access	Check what personal data is held.
Right of rectification	Modify personal data held when inaccurate.
Right of opposition	Request that personal data not be processed for some specific purposes or not be subject to automated individual decision-making, including profiling.
Right of suppression	Request that personal data be deleted.
Right of limitation	Request that the processing of personal data be limited.
Right of portability	Request that the information available be delivered to them in a computer format.

Right to lodge a complaint with the competent authority	File a claim. Without prejudice to the exercising of their rights before the controller, at any time they may lodge a complaint with the competent authority to defend their rights through the website <a href="http://www.aepd.es">www.aepd.es</a> .
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To exercise such rights, send an email to [fuoc\\_pd@uoc.edu](mailto:fuoc_pd@uoc.edu), with the reference "Data Protection". The application shall contain a copy of your identification document, as well as minimum content provided for in the applicable regulations. If the application does not meet the specified requirements, you may be required to amend it. The exercising of these rights is free, although a fee may be charged when applications are unfounded, excessive or repetitive.

### **16. Reply to inquiries**

The UOC makes available to participants in this call an email address for inquiries regarding the conditions of participation, deadlines, and, in general, all aspects regulated in these rules: [phd\\_school@uoc.edu](mailto:phd_school@uoc.edu)

### **17. Jurisdiction**

These conditions are governed by the laws of Spain.

Any dispute or litigation arising from these rules and the grants awarded will be submitted to the courts and tribunals of the city of Barcelona. Applicants and beneficiaries waive any other jurisdiction that may apply to them.

Barcelona, 1 December 2022.

Vice President for Strategic Planning and Research  
Signed: Marta Aymerich Martínez

## ANNEX I

In order to process residency permits, the UOC must provide the Spanish Ministry with scanned copies of the following documents by **1 June 2023**:

- **Police record** from all the countries that the candidate has been resident in over the last five years. This certificate must have the Hague Apostille and be translated into Spanish by a sworn translator or at the Spanish Embassy.
- **Medical certificate** certifying that the candidate does not suffer any illness that could have a serious impact on public health, in accordance with the International Health Regulations of 2005. This certificate must be translated into Spanish by a sworn translator or at the Spanish Embassy.
- Spanish insurance history drawn up by *Ministerio de Empleo y Seguridad Social* (only applies for those who have been contracted under Spanish legislation).
- Full **passport**.

In order to be admitted to the programme, the **bachelor's** and **master's degree certificates in digital format** must be provided by **12 February 2023**.

If the selected candidates still do not possess the master's degree on 12 February 2023, but could fulfil all the requirements to access one of the doctoral programmes before 3 July 2023, they must submit all the documents with the legalized master's degree, which can be submitted before 3 July 2023.

- **Bachelor's and master's degree certificates**. They must have the Hague Apostille and be translated into Spanish by a sworn translator or at the Spanish Embassy.

At the time of definitive registration, candidates must be able to prove they meet the legal access requirements.

Candidates must bear in mind that if they wish to bring family members with them they need to present these same documents for each of them (excluding the bachelor's and master's degree certificates).

**We recommend that all those thinking about applying find out about the procedures required to obtain these documents in the corresponding countries well before the closing date.**

**Take into account that if the UOC does not have all the documents required before the stipulated date, the University cannot be held responsible if the candidate encounters delays in obtaining their visa to enter the country. With this in mind, the UOC cannot guarantee that the grant will remain available.**

## ANNEX II

**Doctoral programme in Education and ICT (E-learning)** candidates will be assessed based on the criteria and merits defined in the following table of points:

Items	What does each item involve?	Maximum points for each item
<i>Cover / motivation letter</i>	A cover and motivation letter specifying the subject or project to be developed, and the link to the researcher or research group contacted	6 points
<i>Academic Record</i>	Average bachelor's degree mark Average master's degree mark	3 points
<i>Research training</i>	Attending and participating in seminars, conferences, and research stays	2 points
<i>Scientific output</i>	Research career (conferences, academic publications, scientific collaboration)	2 points
<i>Professional experience in the field of Education and ICT</i>		2 points
<i>Interview</i>		5 points
<b>TOTAL MAXIMUM POINTS</b>		<b>20 points</b>

**Doctoral programme in Society, Technology and Culture** candidates will be assessed based on the criteria and merits defined in the following table of points:

Criterion	Variable	Total weighting of the criterion
Academic excellence	2/3 bachelor's degree average academic record + 1/3 master's degree average academic record	30%

Research experience	Congresses, publications, grants and participation in projects related to the subject of the thesis.	10%
Letter of introduction/motivation	Research vocation and maturity (based on experience). Evidence of specific research interests, and of theoretical and methodological knowledge of the field.	30%
Commitment and seriousness	Evidence of vocational commitment and seriousness in the presentation of the application and documentation.	10%
Suitability for the doctoral programme	Fit with the priorities of potential thesis supervisors and research groups.	20%
Total		100%

The minimum score to access the programme will be 50 points, calculated according to the criteria listed above. If there are not enough candidates with 50 points in a call, the places left over will be considered void.

For applications for UOC grants, the doctoral programme's Academic Committee will make a preliminary selection of two applicants from each of the following research areas, based on the averages from their academic records: Area 1 (Social, Political and Economic Changes); Area 2 (Gender, Communication and Inequality Studies); Area 3 (Biopolitics and Technoscience and Society); Area 4 (Sustainability, Urbanization and Socio-technology Policies); Area 5 (Culture, Digital Humanities and Society).

These candidates will be invited to participate in a selection interview. Furthermore, given the interdisciplinary nature of the STC programme, the Academic Committee will assign them the maximum score in the sections for the bachelor's degree and postgraduate academic record.

Applicants applying for a UOC grant will be assessed based on a total of 110 points, which will be distributed as follows:

- A maximum of 20 points for the bachelor's degree academic record (or equivalent), which is weighted by the average grade on the academic record. This is calculated using the usual scale: 1 for pass, 2 for merit, 3 for excellent and 4 for excellent with distinction.
- A maximum of 10 points for the master's degree academic record (or equivalent), which is weighted by the average grade on the academic record. This is calculated using the usual scale: 1 for pass, 2 for merit, 3 for excellent and 4 for excellent with distinction.
- A maximum of 10 points for research experience, with the appropriate weighting, which takes into account participation in conferences, publications, grants and participation in research projects related to the subject of the thesis.
- Up to 30 points for the letter of introduction/motivation (maximum length 2,500 words). Research vocation and maturity (depending on experience) will be taken into account, as well as evidence of specific research interests, as will theoretical and methodological

knowledge of the subject matter of the thesis. The formal correctness of the letter will be taken into account.

- A maximum of 10 points for commitment and seriousness. Demonstration of a vocational commitment to producing a doctoral thesis, and seriousness when submitting the application and documentation, including letters of recommendation (complete, correct, etc.) will be taken into account).
- A maximum of 20 points for suitability for the doctoral programme. This suitability will be assessed not only in terms of the doctoral programme's research lines, but with regard to the priorities of the possible thesis supervisors and the research groups where they are undertaking their research. The letter of support/recommendation from a research professor associated with the STC doctoral programme advocating the suitability will also be taken into account.
- Up to 10 points for the interview. The key aspects of access (motivation, maturity, ability to define, develop and complete the thesis) as well as the suitability for the doctoral programme and the research lines of the person who is anticipated to supervise the thesis will be assessed in overall terms.

**Doctoral programme in Network and Information Technologies** Candidates will be assessed based on the criteria and merits defined in the following table of points:

Candidates shall be assessed on a 100-point scale, weighted as follows:

- A maximum of 25 points for the undergraduate academic transcript (or equivalent). If the weighted average of the transcript (using the number of credits for each course as the weight for each mark) is calculated using the habitual scale: 0 for Fail, 1 for Pass, 2 for Good, 3 for Merit and 4 for Distinction, points shall be assigned as follows:
  - 0 points if the mark is less than 1.
  - 5 points if the average mark is between 1 and 1.5.
  - 10 points if the average mark is between 1.5 and 2.
  - <> 15 points if the average mark is between 2 and 2.5.
  - 20 points if the average mark is between 2.5 and 3.
  - 25 points if the average mark is 3 or above.
- A maximum of 15 points for the master's-level academic transcript (or equivalent). If the weighted average of the transcript (using the number of credits for each course as the weight for each mark) is calculated using the habitual scale: 0 for Fail, 1 for Pass, 2 for Good, 3 for Merit and 4 for Distinction, points shall be assigned as follows:
  - 0 points if the mark is less than 1.
  - 4 points if the average mark is between 1 and 2.
  - 8 points if the average mark is between 2 and 2.5.
  - 12 points if the average mark is between 2.5 and 3.
  - 15 points if the average mark is 3 or above.
- A maximum of 10 points for prior scientific production by the candidate, with the following weighting:
  - 10 points if the candidate accredits a paper published or accepted in a JCR-indexed journal (or another reference index that the Academic Committee considers valid).

- 8 points for a paper published or accepted in a non-JCR-indexed journal or another reference index that the Academic Committee considers valid), as long as the publication process for the journal involves peer review.
- 6 points for a paper published or accepted at an international conference with peer review.
- 4 points for a paper published or accepted at a national conference with peer review.
- 2 points for a final thesis in a research-oriented master's degree.
- A maximum of 5 points for accrediting a level of English equal to or higher than B2 in the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR):
  - 5 points for accrediting a level of English of C2 in the CEFR, for example: 96 or more points in the Internet-based TOEFL, Cambridge University Certificate of Proficiency in English, or 7.5 or higher in the IELTS examination
  - 3 points for accrediting a level of English of C1 in the CEFR, for example: 79 or more points in the Internet-based TOEFL, Cambridge University Certificate of Advanced English, or 6.5 or higher in the IELTS examination
  - 1 point for accrediting a level of English of B2 (minimum level required by the programme) in the CEFR, for example: 65 or more points in the Internet-based TOEFL, Cambridge University First Certificate in English, or 5.5 or higher in the IELTS examination
- A maximum of 10 points for the letter of introduction: 4 points for correct composition of the letter and 6 points for adequately justifying the relevance of the proposal or the candidate's research interest to the research lines indicated in the call for applications.
- A maximum of 10 points for the personal interview: the candidate's knowledge of the programme, interest in its research lines and the consistency of the interview with the letter of introduction shall be assessed. A faculty member who is responsible for the preferred research line expressed in the candidate's application and at least one other faculty member who is also a member of the Academic Committee for the programme shall participate in the interview.
- A maximum of 10 points for the suitability of the training, experience and relevance of the candidate's research interests to the programme and to one of its research groups and lines. This scoring system is consistent with that stated in the Regulations for UOC doctoral studies. These points shall be assigned based on the letter of introduction, the personal interview and the documentation submitted by the candidate.
- A maximum of 5 points for references: 1 point for each of the references supplied (up to three) and 2 additional points for submitting complementary information (such as curriculum vitae, personal or academic relationship to the candidate and letters of recommendation).
- A maximum of 10 points for other qualifications submitted by the candidate, such as accreditation of prizes, patents, grants, research fellowships at reference centres or prior professional experience in RDI.

The minimum score for admission to the programme is 50 points based on the aforementioned criteria. In the event of insufficient candidates with scores of at least 50 points in a call for applications, positions shall remain unfilled. Regardless of the total score obtained, at least one point in English is mandatory for admission to the programme.

Places on the programme will be awarded taking into account the available positions in each of the research lines being offered. Therefore, more competitive lines may require a higher score for

admission than other lines once the candidates have been ranked by score. In any case, a minimum score of 50 points will be required for all lines.

**Doctoral programme in Humanities and Communication** Candidates will be assessed based on the criteria and merits defined in the following table of points:

Applying for admission to the doctoral programme or for the doctoral grants programme are two separate things, but both processes use the same registration form. Applications for admission to the programme are assessed using the criteria established in the doctoral programme's official specifications, as published both in the Spanish Government's Official Gazette and on the UOC's website. Meanwhile, applications for the grants programme are assessed using the criteria established in the call for applications, and each programme assesses the applications taking into account specific criteria to classify them.

Nevertheless, both processes use the same points system. This table shows the scale and a description of how the doctoral programme in Humanities and Communication's Academic Committee processes the applications.

Assessment scale for applicants for admission and the grants programme	<a href="#">Link</a>
Description of the process and classifications	<a href="#">Link</a>

**Doctoral programme in Health and Psychology** Candidates will be assessed based on the criteria and merits defined in the following table of points [link](#).