

CALL FOR GRANTS FOR PREDOCTORAL CONTRACTS TO TRAIN PHD CANDIDATES

(FPI) Profile - Project PID2024-161034NB-I00

The PID2024-161034NB-I00 project (funded by the Spanish State Research Agency) at the Department of Geography of the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) announces a call for applications for a doctoral candidate to join the research project “**RESIDENTIAL DEMAND, IMMIGRATION AND GEOGRAPHICAL MOBILITY**”, directed by **JOAQUÍN RECAÑO VALVERDE** and **JUAN ANTONIO MÓDENES CABRERIZO**.

Position Description

The contract is aimed at carrying out research tasks and developing a doctoral thesis within the framework of the project “Residential Demand, Immigration and Geographical Mobility” (DRIM), hosted at the Department of Geography of the UAB.

The selected applicant will become a member of the PID2024-161034NB-I00 research team. In close collaboration with the principal investigators and other team members, the candidate will develop a doctoral thesis on a topic directly related to the project, contribute to the progress of the research activities, present and publish scientific articles based on research findings, and assist in organising and participating in project-related conferences and seminars, as well as other national and international academic events, under the supervision of the two PIs.

Main Responsibilities

- Conduct a comprehensive review of national and international literature on how residential demand, immigration, and geographical mobility shape demographic patterns, housing needs, and population and household projections.
- Harmonise data from relevant surveys and statistical registers for the study of mobility and housing demand.
- Apply advanced statistical techniques, including statistical and geographical regression models and demographic projection methods, to interpret the collected data.
- Develop spatial cartography tailored to the project objectives, providing visual representations that facilitate analysis and dissemination of results.
- Interpret and describe findings, ensuring clarity and accuracy in their presentation.
- To Draft scientific articles based on research outcomes, highlighting methodological rigor and the contribution to advancing knowledge in the field.

Required Profile

Essential Requirements

- 1) Hold a degree qualifying the applicant for admission to the PhD Programme in Demography at the UAB. Preferred academic backgrounds include Geography, Sociology, Economics, Statistics, and Mathematics.
- 2) Prior knowledge of Demography (master’s degree and/or postgraduate studies in Population Studies).

Additional Merits

- 1) Advanced proficiency in English.
- 2) Quantitative analytical skills, with demonstrable experience using standard statistical software (SPSS, Stata, SAS) and statistical analysis techniques.
- 3) Programming skills in R and/or Python.
- 4) Previous experience or academic work related to the project's research topics will be valued.
- 5) Applicants must demonstrate a strong research vocation and interest in demographic challenges.

Brief Description of the Project

The main objective of the PID2024-161034NB-I00 project is to examine the interrelationships between immigration, residential demand, and geographical mobility in a context characterised by a new migration cycle, a structural housing supply crisis, and a post-pandemic mobility scenario that, following the health crisis, has increased the attractiveness of peri-urban spaces and accessible rural areas. Between 2016 and 2023, the Spanish National Statistics Institute (INE) recorded a positive net international migration balance of more than 3.1 million people, in contrast to a negative natural population change of -660,000 individuals. Immigration is therefore the key driver of national population growth.

The relationship between immigration and housing, and its manifestation in geographical mobility, constitutes a demographic challenge that brings together two issues of major social relevance: immigration and access to housing. In the current housing shortage, critical questions arise: where will the new population arriving in Spain be accommodated? How will residential demand evolve in response to such intense migration flows? What implications will this have for geographical mobility in all its forms? Moreover, immigration is a highly volatile component, as evidenced during the Great Recession (2008–2015), when migration inflows contracted significantly, resulting in a negative migration balance over several years. This volatility introduces substantial uncertainty in the evolution of variables such as residential demand, requiring the development of new measurement approaches and analytical frameworks adapted to this changing reality.

These are key questions with extensive social and academic implications that warrant the attention of the scientific community. Addressing them requires the implementation of new instruments for observation and measurement and appropriate analytical techniques. A central part of the project will focus on adapting new data sources and methodologies to the research questions posed.

The general objectives of the project are:

- 1) To analyse the temporal evolution of internal and international migration processes and their interaction over time and space.
- 2) To investigate the persistence and change in residential demand.
- 3) To develop methodologies to harness demographic data sources for studying migratory behaviours and projecting residential and demographic demand at different territorial scales.

Rules. Candidate selection procedure

1. Requirements for applicants

1.1 Applications for this grant may be made by anyone who, at the deadline for submitting applications, meets the following requirements:

- a) Being registered full time or admitted to a doctoral programme for the 2025-2026 academic year at the time of submitting the application. Anyone who, at the time of submitting the application, is not enrolled on, or accepted onto a doctoral programme, but who is enrolled or accepted on the date the contract is formalised, may also apply for this grant.
- b) Not being in possession of a doctoral degree.
- c) Not having defended a doctoral thesis.
- d) Have a thesis supervisor who is part of the research team of the funded project to which they are assigned.
- e) Non-EU foreign nationals and those who cannot be included in the scope of application of the international treaties signed by the European Union and ratified by Spain must have the corresponding work and residence permits in force before formalising their pre-doctoral contract, and these must remain valid throughout the duration of the contractual relationship.

1.2 Interested parties may only submit one application for a single research project.

1.3 At the time the contract is formalised, successful applicants must be enrolled on a doctoral programme. They must remain on the programme for the entire duration of the contract, except during the postdoctoral orientation period.

2. Application and documentation

Interested parties must fill in the **application form**, attach the corresponding documentation and **confirm submission of the form**, which can be accessed on the following webpage through the following [link](#).

Other [link](#) with general information about the call (UAB):

2.1 The following documents must be attached to the application:

- a) A copy of the personal academic transcript of the university studies taken (bachelor's degree, master's degree, etc.) stating the qualifications obtained in the corresponding examinations, in the form of a fail (F), pass (P), good (G), excellent (E) and distinction (D), including the corresponding quantitative qualifications, credits taken and the date on which the qualifications were obtained, as well as the corresponding sworn translation, if applicable.
- b) In the case of studies taken abroad: mandatory a declaration of equivalence of the average mark of the Bachelor's and Master's degree studies, using the [form](#) provided by the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training.
- c) A curriculum vitae mandatory using the [CVA](#) (AEI) template, in which the candidate must list the outstanding merits that he/she considers appropriate.
- d) Documents accrediting the merits of the CV.
- e) Accreditation of the degree of disability, if applicable.

2.2 Presentation of applications

2.2.1 Applications must be submitted from October 29 to **November 19, 2025**.

2.2.2 After, the provisional list of those admitted and excluded will be published.

2.2.3 If the application is incomplete or not accompanied by the necessary documentation, the applicant will be required to rectify this or provide the necessary documentation. If he/she fails to do so, he/she will be considered to have withdrawn their application, with a prior decision to be issued in accordance with the terms of article 21 of Law 39/2015. This requirement will be made through the lists of documentation requests that are published on the UAB Research Portal. During exam periods it is not possible to resubmit any submitted applications.

2.2.4 After, the definitive list of those admitted and excluded will be published.

2.2.5 Once the deadline for submitting documentation has passed, the applications will be evaluated.

2.2.6 For the purposes of the assessment process, only the information contained in the curriculum vitae and in the academic certificate initially submitted with the application form will be considered. It is not possible to update the information contained in these documents later.

2.2.7 The curriculum vitae is an integral part of the application, and therefore it is not amendable, so that failure to present it or a lack of content will result in the application being withdrawn.

3. Assessment and selection

3.1 The applications will be evaluated by the PI of the project, who will submit the award proposal. In the event of concurrence of a cause for abstention or objection such as those provided for in Law 40/2015, of 1 October, the application will be assessed by another member of the project team. A maximum of 100 points will be awarded and a minimum of 50 points must be passed, according to the following criteria:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA	POINTS (max. 100 points)
1. Candidate's academic and/or scientific/technical background	From 0 to 50 points
1.1. Scientific and technical contributions	From 0 to 45 points
1.2. Mobility and internationalisation	From 0 to 5 points
2. Candidate's suitability for the research activities to be conducted in the funded project	From 0 to 50 points

3.2 Candidate's academic and/or scientific/technical background:

- a) Scientific and technical contributions: the applicant's academic record and other curricular merits will be assessed, as well as the applicant's suitability for the tasks to be conducted, based on his/her educational and professional experience.
- b) Mobility and internationalisation: the relevance and impact on their research career of stays at national and international centres and/or in the industrial sector will be assessed, considering the prestige of the host institution and the activities conducted.

3.3 Suitability of the applicant to the research activities to be conducted: the suitability of the candidate for the project or research activities to be conducted will be assessed, based on their prior education and experience. Consideration will be given to the added value that

the project represents for their research career, as well as the value contributed to the centre and the host team. In the case of applications with equal final scores and for the purposes of resolving a tie, the tie will be resolved in favour of the application with the highest score for criterion 1.

3.4 Once the PI of the project has assessed the applications, their proposal will be submitted to the Research Committee, which will make the final proposal, if appropriate. Once the final proposal has been made, the Vice-Rectorate for Research will formulate the provisional award resolution based on the points awarded, as well as the rejected applications, with an indication of the reasons for rejection.

3.5 The decision on the provisional award of grants and rejected applications will be published on the UAB Research Portal. Interested parties will be given a period of ten working days to present any objections they deem appropriate. Once this period has elapsed and any corresponding appeals have been resolved, the Vice-Rector for Research, by delegation of the Rector, will resolve the call for applications, which includes the list of successful applicants for the grants and the reserve list.

3.6 The final decision on the award of grants and all the information related to this call for applications must be published on the website Calls for competitions for temporary lecturers - Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona - UAB Barcelona and on the UAB Electronic Office.