

## Information on calls and contracts for research staff and the renewal of adjunct professor contracts

Dear colleagues,

With this e-mail I wish to inform you of news regarding contracts and calls for research staff and the renewal of adjunct professor contracts.

a) Additional Provision 13 of Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of 31 March (*Official Gazette of the Spanish Government*, 1 April), introducing additional urgent social and economic measures to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, provides for the possibility of extending fixed-term research staff employment contracts that are funded under programmes for which public calls for applications were issued.

### a.1) Contracts funded by the Spanish Research Agency

It is anticipated that the Spanish Research Agency will issue a decision authorising the extension of contracts concluded between the beneficiary entity and researchers hired within the framework of the aid indicated in the appendix to the decision. Initially, it will be possible to fund extensions with a maximum duration equivalent to that of the state of alarm plus three additional months, up to a maximum of five months. Initially, it will be possible to fund extensions with a maximum duration equivalent to that of the state of alarm plus three additional months, up to a maximum of five months. With respect to extensions executed during the state of alarm, if this situation lasts longer than anticipated at the time when a contract is concluded, a second extension may be agreed for the period not covered by the initial extension, provided that the total duration of the two extensions does not exceed five months.

The calls affected are indicated in the table below, and extensions will be applied to contracts that end within one year of the entry into force of the Royal Decree-Law (i.e. between 2 April 2020 and 1 April 2021).

Line of funding	Call identifier in the National Subsidies Database (BDNS) <sup>1</sup>					
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Predoctoral contracts			301764	301865	316231	361817
Ramón y Cajal	N/A	201420131 383211	301792			
Juan de la Cierva	N/A					
Juan de la Cierva – Training					323637	367245
Juan de la Cierva – Hiring				201520151 330831	323654	367252
Technical Support Staff				403256	323657	
Torres Quevedo			301822	301898	323502	



Industrial Doctorates			301824	301900		
EMPLEA					302602	
Predoctoral contracts – INIA				309018	316162	
Postdoctoral contracts – INIA		309020				

a.2) Contracts funded by the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR)

With respect to the extension of Researcher Training (FI) and Beatriu de Pinós (BP) contracts, the Secretariat for Universities and Research has announced that, through the Agency for the Management of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), it will compensate Catalan universities and research centres that extend contracts in accordance with the terms set out in the Royal Decree-Law. Therefore, these contracts will be handled in the same way as those funded by the State Research Agency (see previous section).

a.3) Contracts under the UPC's Trainee Research Staff Programme

a.3.1) The Board of Trustees has authorised the rector to enter into the budget an appropriation as required to cover the cost of extending contracts under the UPC's Trainee Research Staff Programme that end within one year of the entry into force of Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of 31 March. The length of extensions will be equal to the duration of the state of alarm, and they will be fully funded by Chapter 1 of the budget.

a.3.2) The Board of Trustees has authorised the rector to enter into the budget an appropriation as required to cover the cost of extending contracts that are co-funded under the UPC's Trainee Research Staff Programme (in the percentage in which they were funded by Chapter 1 of the budget) that end within one year of the entry into force of Royal Decree-Law 11/2020, of 31 March. The length of extensions will be equal to the duration of the state of alarm, and this partial funding will be conditional on the research group responsible for each contract bearing the remaining percentage of the cost of the extension.

a.3.3) In the case of trainee research staff contracts that are fully funded by research groups, the decision on whether to extend contracts will be taken by each research group, and these groups will also bear the cost of contract extensions of the same length as the state of alarm.

b) Renewal of adjunct professor contracts

The suspension of deadlines and procedures as a result of the state of alarm, as well as the problems in getting the documents needed to renew contracts and in bringing together the selection committees, makes it very difficult to run adjunct professor hiring procedures in the 2020-2021 academic year.



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Given this situation and the exceptional circumstances, we are considering the possibility of agreeing to automatically extend selected contracts after the planning meetings, as well as the possibility of concluding any new contracts that are necessary by means of direct appointments, for reasons of urgency. We feel that given the circumstances, which are exceptional and unprecedented, we need flexibility and the support of the authorities. On 16 April, the chair of the teaching staff committee of the Conference of Rectors of Spanish Universities (Professor Mavi Mestre, rector of the University of Valencia) had an online meeting with the Minister for Universities, at which she pledged to put these arguments forward.

Sincerely,

**Miquel Soriano**

Vice-rector for Teaching and Research Staff Policy