



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

APPLICATION PROCESS

How do I apply?

Applications should be submitted through the [VHIO VIDA online submission platform](#). Before applying, please read carefully the “[How to apply](#)” section to make sure you meet all the requirements.

Which research projects are offered for the fellowships?

Applicants freely choose the research thematic area, research topic and hosting group they want to apply for. Eligible candidates will be required to develop their independent research proposals and are free to choose their host laboratory from a list of available options in the section “Research Groups” on the programme’s website. VIDA will not predefine the research projects to be carried out by the selected fellows.

Can I apply if I have lived or worked in Spain previously?

If applicants have worked in Spain for more than 12 months in the last 36 months prior to the deadline of the call, they are not eligible for VIDA. Proof of residence will need to be submitted during the application process.

Can I apply if I still haven’t obtained my PhD diploma?

Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but have not yet been awarded the doctoral degree will be considered eligible to apply as postdoctoral researchers. To be considered eligible, a PhD certificate should be obtained before the candidate’s incorporation date at VHIO.

Candidates who have not yet been awarded their PhD degree will need to submit a letter from the institution conferring the degree with an estimated date for obtaining the certificate. If the estimated award date does not fit with the evaluation timeline, the candidate will be considered not eligible.

How do I access the application platform?

After having checked the requirements for a successful application, candidates may start the submission process on [VHIO-VIDA application portal](#). All applications must be submitted through the online application platform to be considered eligible. The platform will guide applicants through the process, who will be asked to answer an application questionnaire and to upload specific documentation. The

application can be saved at any point and completed at any time until the call deadline. Only complete applications are eligible for evaluation.

The application platform will be open for submission from the official call opening date to the call deadline.

Is uploading the contacts of referees mandatory and will they be contacted?

Candidates will be asked to submit the contact of at least two referees as part of their application. As referees may provide important information during the evaluation process, it is mandatory to provide their contact details. The referees will receive an automatic email to submit the reference letter through the application platform. Candidates will be able to see when and whether the reference letters have been submitted.

It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure that referees provide the necessary information and documentation before the call deadline. Applications missing the contact information of at least two referees will be considered incomplete. Insufficient feedback from referees may negatively impact on the candidate's application.

Is it possible to update my application after submission?

No, you cannot make changes to submitted applications, and we will not do so on your behalf. Therefore, please doublecheck your application before submission.

Can I follow the state of my application?

Applicants will be informed of the progress of their application at all stages of the process. E-mail is the main instrument for communication during the process.

When and how will be the final results communicated?

Candidates are informed approximately 3 to 4 weeks after the call deadline whether they will be granted a VIDA fellowship. Successful and non-successful candidates will be informed via email.

Candidates who are being offered the VIDA fellowship have one week to accept the offer. If they don't, reserve list candidates will be contacted. Once awardees accept the fellowship, they receive an appointment letter from VHIO.

APPOINTMENT CONDITIONS

What is the monetary value of the fellowship?

Fellows will be employed 36 months by VHIO under a work contract with full social security and a competitive salary that includes annual mobility allowance, family allowance (if applicable), and research costs:

- 42.857,14 EUR/year before taxes (Spanish tax and social security deductions apply), including mobility allowance and family allowance.

- 41.956,71 EUR/year before taxes (Spanish tax and social security deductions apply), for fellows with no family allowance.

All fellows will be granted a total amount of 22.178,18 EUR/year (managed by VHIO) corresponding to Research Costs, Training and Networking activities.

The precise net salary depends on the candidate's particular situation and the additional income they may have. Candidates can estimate the value of their salaries through the following website: <https://www.calcularsueldoneto.com/csn-en-calculate-net-salary.php>

The estimated net values are only informative, tentative and not binding for the final fellowship.

Can the VIDA fellowship be extended?

The duration of the fellowship is 36 months and cannot be extended.

When should the fellowship start?

Once candidates receive the appointment letter from VHIO, they can start the preparation of formal issues (work permits, visa, etc.). It is expected that fellowship awardees start their projects two months after having received the appointment letter (incorporation is expected before December 2026 to ensure the full length of the fellowship).

Where can I find practical information regarding living and working in Spain?

An excellent updated guide for people arriving to Barcelona can be found on the website of [Barcelona International Welcome Desk](#). Additional information can be found on the “Practical Information” section of the VHIO-VIDA's website.

What are the languages of VHIO?

All researchers working at VHIO are required to be proficient in English. Catalan and Spanish are commonly used languages at VHIO.