

Call for Applications for IN3-UOC Grants for PhD theses in Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme – 2013-2014

Resolution of December, 17th, 2012 whereby the Vice President for Research and Innovation invites applications for IN3-UOC grants to undertake PhD theses in Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme within the framework of the Statute for Research Staff in Training.

The Vice President for Research and Innovation, in exercising his authority in terms of the training of researchers, hereby invites applications for IN3-UOC grants for PhD theses in Information and Knowledge Society Doctoral Programme for research staff undertaking pre-doctoral training, within the framework of the Law 14/2011 of 1 of June 2011, for Science, Technology and Innovation and the Statute for Research Staff in Training approved by Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006.

This programme is funded by the Foundation of the Open University of Catalonia (FUOC) through its research institute, the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3).

1. Aim of the call for applications

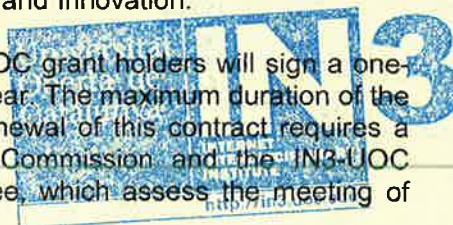
In order to promote the training of researchers in the different research groups at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) and in the University as a whole, the IN3 is awarding 10 grants for PhD theses in the framework of the Information and Knowledge Society PhD Programme.

This call is made in accordance with the criteria set forth by the IN3-UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee for PhD theses, appointed by the University's Governing Council.

2. Programme structure

The IN3-UOC grant programme for PhD theses is regulated by Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, which approved the Statute for Research Staff in Training, and Law 14/2011 of 1 June 2011, on Science, Technology and Innovation.

In accordance with Article 21 of Law 14/2011, IN3-UOC grant holders will sign a one-year pre-doctoral contract, which is renewable each year. The maximum duration of the contract, including any extensions, is four years. Renewal of this contract requires a favourable report from the programme's Doctoral Commission and the IN3-UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee, which assess the meeting of



the training and research objectives agreed to by the grant holder in the period established.

Grant holders may opt to request an extension for a fourth year of the contract if they have satisfactorily defended their doctoral thesis before the end of the third year of the contract and have been awarded the highest academic mark. The extension for a fourth year of the contract will depend on the budget available at the institution and requires a favourable report from the thesis director and the IN3-UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee. In this case, the grant holder may spend this fourth year producing scientific work related to their doctoral thesis.

In any case, a student's defence of their thesis before the end of their annual contract will not automatically terminate the contract nor, as a result, will it represent the end of the related economic income.

3. Terms and Conditions of Grants

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 IN3.

The status of research intern with an IN3-UOC grant is incompatible with any contractual or statutory commitments that may restrict researchers' abilities to devote themselves fully to research. Nevertheless, the management of IN3 and the PhD programme may consider requests to carry out teaching activities (giving courses, presentations, speeches, etc.), collaboration in R+D+I work or contracted R+D+I work that is directly related to the training and research undertaken by the research intern, so long as these are occasional and not regular activities. These activities may not take up more than 30 hours per year.

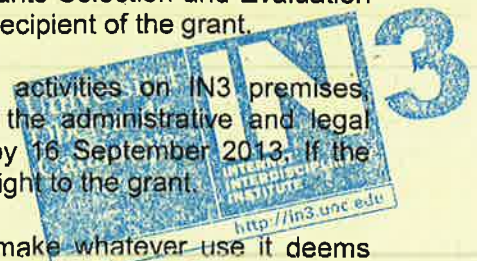
If the research intern receives remuneration from any of the activities mentioned above, this may not exceed 30% of the gross annual sum of the grant.

If the teaching activity takes place at the UOC, the research interns will not receive any additional remuneration to the amount paid by means of the grant.

The maximum duration of grants is four years and they must be renewed annually. This will depend on the evaluation made by the IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee of the objectives and results achieved by the recipient of the grant.

Research staff in training will develop their research activities on IN3 premises wherever these may be, and will have to provide all the administrative and legal documentation required for their employment contract by 16 September 2013. If the intern cannot start by the above date, they will lose their right to the grant.

The research intern expressly authorises 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) to undertake whatever proceedings may



be necessary with the individuals or institutions that may be partially or fully funding the grant awarded.

However, in accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006, approving the Statute for Research Staff in Training, 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.

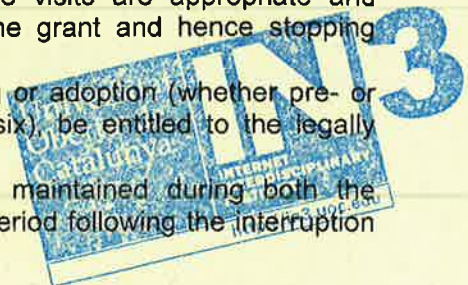
4. Requirements

The potential beneficiaries of an IN3-UOC grant include individuals who, at the time of submitting an application, fulfil (or could fulfil in September 2013) the access requirements for the organised research period on the Information and Knowledge Society PhD Programme at the Universitat Oberta de Catalunya.

5. Rights of research trainees

Without being exhaustive in nature, and in all cases in line with the provisions of Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006 approving the Statute for Research Staff in Training, anyone receiving a grant has the right to:

- Obtain the necessary support from the FUOC to carry out their research activities.
- Use the services of the UOC/IN3 and take part in their activities as a whole in accordance with internal regulations.
- Participate in IN3 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.
- Receive the funding described in the "Provision and Method of Payment" section of this document.
- If budgetary provisions allow, recover the grant in the event of interruptions caused by force majeure.
- Carry out teaching activities, collaborate in R+D+i work or undertake contracted R+D+i work subject to the prior authorisation of the management of IN3 and the PhD programme and in accordance with the requirements set out in this document.
- Make research visits to other centres. In each case, the management of IN3 and the PhD programme will decide on whether these visits are appropriate and whether this will involve temporarily suspending the grant and hence stopping payments.
- In the case of maternity leave or leave for fostering or adoption (whether pre- or permanent adoption of children under the age of six), be entitled to the legally established benefits.
- Full payment of the corresponding grant will be maintained during both the interruption and the recovery period. The recovery period following the interruption



cannot be extended for more than 16 weeks after the conclusion of the 4 years of the grant.

- For beneficiaries of grants who are non-resident in Spain, when the grant is awarded they 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 authorisation from the management of IN3 and the PhD programme.
- Beneficiaries of grants who are not resident in Barcelona when it is awarded will be granted a one-off payment of €600 to defray the costs of moving to Barcelona.

6. Obligations of research trainees

Without being exhaustive in nature, and in all cases in line with the provisions of Royal Decree 63/2006 of 27 January 2006 approving the Statute for Research Staff in Training, grant beneficiaries have the obligation to:

- Carry out the research work in accordance with the criteria established by the management of the IN3 and the PhD programme and the Group Research Coordinator from the UOC assigned to the programme.
- Carry out regular research at IN3 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.
- In any written documents deriving from the research work undertaken, state their affiliation to the University with the expression "With the support of a PhD grant from the IN3-UOC".
- In addition to the training activities that are a required part of the PhD programme: attend and participate in the PhD and group research seminars, and attend and take advantage of the research seminars, workshops and other activities organised by the IN3 and the UOC for research personnel, as well as any initiatives organised 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 IN3 in particular and the UOC community in general in the spirit of scientific collaboration.
- In the year prior to joining the PhD 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 they may be entitled to (due to their personal circumstances or activity) to pursue these PhD studies, or otherwise undertake these procedures during the first year of the grant.
- Notify the IN3-UOC 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 organisations 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 from the management of the IN3 and the PhD Programme to undertake research stints at other centres.
- Notify the management of maternity leave or leave to adopt or foster children under the age of six.



- Accept any obligations incumbent upon him/her 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.
- Respect the ethical implications of the research activity being carried out.
- Comply with the objectives and requirements for remaining on the PhD 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 organisation and operation of the UOC, and the rights and obligations in the Charter of Commitments for PhD students, all of which have been established in accordance with the applicable academic laws.
- Adhere to the conditions and obligations set forth in this document.

Should any of these obligations not be fulfilled, the IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will have the right to revoke the grant.

7. Documentation to be presented

Candidates will need to complete a grant application form which, once signed, should be sent in digital format to the following address: ddoctorat@uoc.edu along with the documentation required for accessing the Information and Knowledge Society PhD Programme (academic record; in the case of candidates from non-English-speaking countries, accreditation English language skills equivalent to level C1,¹ etc.) which is given in detail on the IN3 website.

8. Selection

The IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee is the body responsible for evaluating and selecting candidates who have submitted applications for this Call, based on the proposals and prior appraisal of the PhD Programme Committee. The Committee will decide upon the awarding of grants at a single session, after their proposal has been approved by the Governing Council.

To assess the applications, the Committee will take into account the following criteria:

1. The academic excellence of the candidates (university degree and Master's academic transcript).
2. Adaptation of the candidates' education, experience and research interests to fields of knowledge or subject areas associated with the doctoral programme

Candidates' prior scientific production will also be valued as an additional merit.

¹ Accreditation of English language skills must be certificated before May, 31st, 2013.



In any event, the selection process also promotes entry to the doctoral programme by candidates who have recently graduated for a university Master's degree and who have completed a research pathway who do not generally have extensive previous scientific production.

The decision on the selection of candidates to be awarded a grant will be made public before April, 13th, 2013. Candidates will be notified by email at the address given on the application form, and the ruling will be published on the IN3 website. The beneficiary must formally accept the grant by means of a standardised document and submission of the corresponding documents within a maximum of 30 days of the ruling.

9. Grant amount and form of payment

Being awarded a grant requires the signing of a one-year pre-doctoral employment contract, which is renewable annually, for a gross annual amount of 15,000 euros, which will be taxed in accordance with the legislation in force. This amount will be paid in 12 monthly payments via bank transfer to the account indicated by the trainee researcher.

Grant holders with a pre-doctoral contract will have all those employment and other rights relating to social security deriving from the contract signed with the FUOC.

The institution will be responsible for the expenses involved in enrolling for the organised research period of the Doctorate Programme on the Information and Knowledge Society, and also for payment of the qualification certificate.

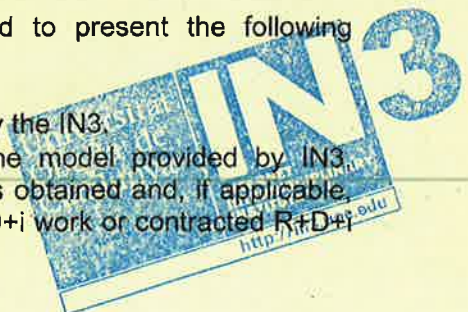
The grant includes a final payment of €1,500, which is payable if the doctoral thesis has been defended and assessed before the end of the third year of the research organised research period, and so long as the student has obtained the highest academic qualification at the thesis reading. This payment will be made to the beneficiary along with the final instalment of the grant that year.

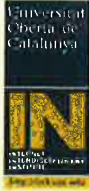
In addition, the beneficiaries of the grant programme who undertake a viva more than three months before the end of the third year or course of the organised research period who obtain the highest academic qualification will receive an additional remuneration of €1,500 gross.

10. 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 IN3.
- An explanatory report which, in accordance with the model provided by IN3, describes the research carried out thus far, the results obtained and, if applicable, the results of any teaching activities, collaborative R+D+i work or contracted R+D+i





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.

The Academic Commission of the programme will make public the criteria for renewing the IN3-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 to the research interns affected.

In any case, the programme's Doctoral Commission and the IN3-UOC Research Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will base their decision on renewal of the contract on the doctoral student's 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 IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee may decide not to renew the grant.

The IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will issue its decision on the renewal of grants before July, 31st, 2014. This decision will be duly communicated to all applicants.

Barcelona, December, 17th, 2012.

Vice President for Research and Innovation
Signed: Teresa Sancho Vinuesa

