

CATALONIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS

2025 edition

One of the objectives of the Government of Catalonia is to promote the social recognition of science, and to raise public awareness in Catalonia of the international scientific activity carried out by researchers with ties to our country. This also includes the work of organisations that foster knowledge transfer and innovation, scientific philanthropy and public-private collaboration, science communication, and the creation of science-based companies. These aims are pursued, among others, through the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI).

For this reason, the Government of Catalonia, through the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), announces the following awards:

- Catalanian National Research Award
- Catalanian National Research Award for Young Talent
- Catalanian National Research Award for Knowledge Transfer and Innovation
- Catalanian National Research Award “Joan Guinovart i Cirera” for Scientific Communication
- Catalanian National Research Award for Scientific Philanthropy and Public-Private Collaboration
- Catalanian National Research Award for Creating a Science-based Enterprise

RULES FOR THE CATALONIAN NATIONAL RESEARCH AWARDS

Both this call and its outcome and implementation are governed by these rules. Submission of an application implies full acceptance of the terms set out herein.

The submission of any application shall constitute full acceptance of these rules.

1. CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

The Catalanian National Research Awards are open to natural persons and/or legal entities, as well as, in general, all agents forming part of the Catalan research and innovation system.

The call for applications comprises two individual categories and four institutional categories.

a) Catalonian National Research Award

Purpose:

The aim of this award is to recognise a researcher from the Catalan research and innovation system—including companies and foundations—who, whether working in Catalonia or abroad, has contributed throughout their professional

career to the advancement of a scientific discipline in any of the following fields: humanities and social sciences, life and health sciences, and experimental sciences and technology.

In addition, consideration will be given to other aspects such as technology transfer, the social impact of their research, and their experience in communicating and disseminating their research.

Eligibility:

- Applications may be submitted by universities (governing bodies, faculties, schools, departments), research centres, university research institutes, academies, companies and foundations, previous winners of the former Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation Award or the Catalan National Research Award, and, more generally, all agents within the Catalan research and innovation system.
- It is not required that applicants be originally from Catalonia, nor that they currently work or have worked in the region.
- Candidatures must be submitted by a representative of the entities. Self-nominations and posthumous nominations will not be accepted.

Award:

- The prize consists of a recognition statuette and a sum of €40,000. If the prize is awarded to two recipients, the monetary award will be split equally (€20,000 each).

b) Catalonian National Research Award for Young Talent

Purpose:

The aim of this award is to encourage and recognise the efforts of young researchers within the Catalan research and innovation system—including companies and foundations— whether they conduct their activities in Catalonia or abroad, who have contributed throughout their professional career to the advancement of a scientific discipline in any of the following fields: humanities and social sciences, life and health sciences, and experimental sciences and technology.

Consideration will also be given to other aspects such as technology transfer, the social impact of their research, and their experience in science communication and dissemination of their work.

Eligibility:

- Candidatures may be submitted by universities (governing bodies, faculties, schools, departments), research centres, university research institutes, academies, companies and foundations, previous winners of the former Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation Award or the Catalan

National Research Award for Young Talent, and, more generally, all agents within the Catalan research and innovation system.

- Eligible candidates are active researchers up to 40 years old, having reached this age between 1 January and 31 December of the year of this call, and who are currently conducting their scientific work in Catalonia and/or abroad. Candidatures must be submitted by a representative of the entities. Self-nominations and posthumous nominations will not be accepted.
- For female researchers, an additional year will be added to the maximum age for each child they can certify. In the case of male researchers who have taken a paternity leave of 16 weeks, an additional year will also be added to the maximum age for each certified child.

Award:

- The prize consists of a recognition statuette and the sum of €15,000. If the prize is awarded to two recipients, the monetary award will be split equally (€7,500 each).

c) Catalan National Research Award for Knowledge Transfer and Innovation

Purpose:

The aim of this award is to recognise excellence among agents within the research and innovation system involved in knowledge transfer between different stakeholders, working collaboratively to generate impact in the economic, social, cultural, and environmental spheres of the region.

This prize acknowledges efforts to promote and enhance the valorisation and transfer of scientific knowledge and innovation that creates a tangible impact on society and the economy. It honours initiatives, organisational models, procedures, programmes or services with a significant impact on the transfer model, particularly those developed by knowledge transfer units within the Catalan research and innovation system.

Eligibility:

Universities, research centres, technology centres, foundations, and other entities and agents within the Catalan research and innovation system that have demonstrated excellence in promoting and managing knowledge transfer and its socioeconomic impact may submit candidatures.

Award:

The prize consists of a recognition statuette and a sum of €10,000.

d) Catalanian National Research Award “Joan Guinovart i Cirera” for Scientific Communication

Purpose:

The aim of this award is to recognise science communication activities and their promotion, with the goal of fostering public interest in science. The award is named in honour of biochemist Joan Guinovart i Cirera (1947–2025), a key figure in advancing the Catalan research and innovation system and in the dissemination of scientific knowledge.

Eligibility:

Initiatives in science communication and dissemination carried out in Catalonia are eligible, in any format or media (print or digital publications, radio and television programmes, websites, social media, exhibitions, festivals, among others), as well as the work of professionals in these fields. Posthumous candidatures will not be accepted.

Award:

The prize consists of a recognition statuette and a sum of €10,000.

e) Catalanian National Research Award for Scientific Philanthropy and Public-Private Collaboration

Purpose:

The aim of this award is to provide institutional recognition and to encourage public-private collaboration in the field of R&D, as well as philanthropic contributions to research in Catalonia and internationally.

Eligibility:

Individuals, companies, or entities that provide or contribute to the generation of philanthropic resources supporting scientific projects and research centres in Catalonia are eligible. Also eligible are those recognised for their initiatives promoting cooperation between the public and private sectors in research activities and the advancement of private funding programmes for research and innovation. Posthumous candidatures will not be accepted.

Award:

The prize consists of a recognition statuette.

f) Catalan National Research Award for Creating a Science-based Enterprise

Purpose:

The aim of this award is to recognise the creation of a science-based company originally arising from the Catalan R&D&I system and stemming from an academic environment.

Its purpose is to encourage the creation of science-based companies, acknowledge their importance, promote and raise awareness of the translation of research results into society, and highlight the increase in socio-economic potential and societal wellbeing through the formation of companies emerging from research.

Eligibility:

Universities, research centres, technology centres, foundations, and other entities and agents within the Catalan research and innovation system that have distinguished themselves in the creation of a research-based company no older than four years are eligible.

The award is addressed to the university, research centre, or entity responsible for the creation.

Award:

The prize consists of a recognition statuette.

2. SUBMISSION OF CANDIDATURES

Submission of candidatures will be made through the National Research Awards website (<https://www.fundaciorecerca.cat/pnr>), where all necessary information on how to submit a candidature and access the platform to upload documentation is available.

Once the application form and the technical description have been completed, and the corresponding documentation attached, the submission must be finalised through the same platform, with no possibility for subsequent modifications.

A single candidature may only be awarded in one category.

Submitting a candidature implies acceptance of all communications related to this call, which will be sent to the email address necessarily provided by the applicant.

If the submitted candidature does not meet the requirements set out in this call or is incomplete, it will be excluded from the selection process.

Catalonian National Research Award and Catalonian National Research Award for Young Talent:

- The information to be provided on the platform shall include identification details of the proposed candidate, including general data and additional information (publications, number of theses, number of patents, awards, distinctions, etc.); the complete curriculum vitae of the proposed candidate (in PDF format); and a summary of the candidate's merits on which the candidature is based.

Catalonian National Research Award for Knowledge Transfer and Innovation; Catalonia National Research Award "Joan Guinovart i Cirera" for Scientific Communication; Catalonian National Research Award for Scientific Philanthropy and Public-Private Collaboration and Catalonian National Research Award for Creating a Science-based Enterprise:

- The information to be provided shall include identification details of the entity/initiative or proposed candidate; a summary of the candidature; a full description of the entity/initiative or proposed candidate (in PDF format); and, where applicable, the social, economic, and international impact of the candidature.
- The Board of Trustees of the FCRI has the authority to suggest and submit candidatures of individuals, entities, and initiatives in any of these four categories. Likewise, the awards jury may suggest and submit candidatures in the same four categories; however, such candidatures will not be considered until the following call for awards.

3. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION

The deadline for submitting candidatures is **Monday, 13 October 2025**, at 14:00 (CEST, Central European Summer Time). Any candidature submitted after this deadline will be automatically rejected.

4. JURY COMPOSITION AND AWARD DECISION

The jury shall be composed of:

- The Chairperson of the FCRI, who will act as the Chair of the jury.
- The Director-General for Research of the Government of Catalonia.
- The Director-General for Knowledge Transfer and Society of the Government of Catalonia.

- Eight external experts of recognised prestige, appointed by the Chairperson of the jury.
- The CEO of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation, who shall act as Secretary, with voice but no vote.

The jury will decide on the names of the winning individuals and entities before 31 December 2025.

The prize may be declared void in any of its categories.

5. AWARDS CEREMONY

The names of the winning individuals and entities will be published on the FCRI website (www.fundaciorecerca.cat).

The awards ceremony will be held in Barcelona and will be presided over by the Hon. President of the Government of Catalonia.

Winning individuals and entities attending the awards ceremony expressly authorise the recording of their image and voice during the event by means of photography and/or video, as well as their use under the terms established in clause 6.

6. INFORMATION ON THE PROCESSING OF PERSONAL DATA OF CANDIDATES (INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES)

In accordance with the current regulations on the protection of personal data, specifically Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council (GDPR), and Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December (LOPDGDD), it is hereby informed that personal data will be processed with strict confidentiality by the entities responsible for such processing: the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (FCRI), for the purpose of managing participation in this edition of the awards.

The personal data of winning individuals and entities, including the explicit recording of their image and/or voice during the awards ceremony, will be used to promote the awards and may be published on the website, digital platforms, and social media profiles of the organising entity, the media, and collaborating entities (listed on the National Research Awards website: <https://www.fundaciorecerca.cat/pnr>). By participating, candidates give their explicit consent to the organising entity and waive any remuneration and/or claims under any circumstances.

Furthermore, images published by winning individuals on social media may also be used by the organising entities for promotional purposes.

The responsibility for the accuracy and truthfulness of the data lies exclusively with the data holders. It will be assumed that the information provided is truthful and current, thereby releasing FCRI from any liability arising from unreported inaccuracies.

FCRI will retain the data and images/voice for the time necessary to manage the call and according to the applicable legal retention period.

Data subjects or their representatives may exercise their rights of access, rectification, deletion, data portability, and restriction or objection to processing free of charge, by submitting a written and signed request addressed to the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation (Passeig Lluís Companys, 23, 08010 Barcelona), or by email to proteccio.dades@fcri.cat. The request must include the full name of the data subject, an address for notifications, referencing "LOPD FCRI", as well as the content of the right they wish to exercise.

Additionally, data subjects are informed that they may contact the competent supervisory authority to file any complaints they deem appropriate.

Participation in these awards implies full acceptance of these rules.

Barcelona, 30 July 2025

Miquel Gómez Clares
CEO of the Catalan Foundation for Research and Innovation