



"la Caixa" receives 4.7 million euros from the European Commission for a new INPhINIT Grant programme, aimed at attracting the best international scientific talent

- INPhINIT grants are open to the best international researchers to pursue doctoral projects at research centres of excellence around Spain.
- The new project will invite applications for 57 annual grants in the academic years 2017 and 2018, and "la Caixa" will be adding its own investment of 6.5 million euros per round of applications to this scheme.
- For the first time, the European Commission is to cofinance a project organised by "la Caixa" Foundation. Its contribution of 4.7 million to the new programme recognises over three decades in which "la Caixa" has awarded grants.
- For Isidre Fainé, President of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, "Support for training through grants has always been a priority for our organisation. The assistance of the European Commission in this programme is, as well as a responsibility, a stimulus of the first order to continue on this path."

Barcelona, 12th August 2016. Within the framework of its 2016 - 2019 Strategic Plan, for the coming academic year "la Caixa" Foundation is to start up a new international doctoral grant programme with the support of the European Commission.

Through the COFUND action by the Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie programme, the European Commission supports the best European mobility grant programmes with the aim of giving training an international, cross-sector dimension and promoting professional development in the research field.



The INPhINIT programme of grants by "la Caixa" plans to award 42 three-year grants a year per round of applications, representing an investment of nearly 6.5 million euros in each round.

In the first two rounds of applications, however, 57 grants a year are on offer, thanks to the 4.7 million euros contributed by the European Union.

The aim of this project is to attract the best international research talent to the research centres and units approved by the Spanish ministry of the economy and competitiveness and holding the Severo Ochoa and María de Maeztu seals of excellence, as well as the Carlos III health research institutes.

Isidre Fainé, President of "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, declares that "Support for training through grants has always been a priority for our organisation. The assistance of the European Commission in this programme is, as well as a responsibility, a stimulus of the first order to continue on this path."

Committed to science and technology

The INPhINIT grant programme is aimed at students in the areas of health and life sciences, technology, engineering and mathematics, areas in which Spain excels internationally.

These disciplines correspond to the main challenges faced by today's society as identified by the European Commission: health and ageing, food safety, climate change and environmental protection.

In this context, support for young scientific talents interested in these disciplines is essential to assure a generation of researchers able to provide effective responses to these challenges.



Scientific research in Spain

Some details of the international relevance* of Spanish scientific research in these disciplines.

- The 30 best research centres work in fields related to science, technology, engineering, mathematics and life and health sciences.
- There has been exponential growth in science and technology parks (nearly 80), research centres and technology institutes. Their facilities use cutting-edge technology to pursue projects in life science disciplines.
- There is an extensive network of 800 hospitals, both public and private, supported by first-class research centres. The system is ideal for carrying out projects in the areas of translational medicine, new drugs and advanced therapies. Biotechnology companies are growing faster than in other countries, and the pharmaceutical industry leads spending on R&D in Spain.

* CYD (Knowledge and Development Foundation) report, 2014:

<http://www.fundacioncyd.org/wps/portal>

Three decades committed to the future of new generations

Since the beginning of the postgraduate grant programme in 1982, and up to the 2016 round of applications, "la Caixa" has allocated an accumulated investment of over 213 million euros to the training of 4,350 students. In its first year the programme had a budget of 368,000 euros. The investment by "la Caixa" in the 2016 round of applications comes to 18 million euros.

"la Caixa" Foundation Communication Department

Ariadna Puig: 626282905 / apuig@fundaciolacaixa.org

Multimedia Press Room: <http://premsa.lacaixa.es/obrasocial>

 [@FundlaCaixaCAT](https://twitter.com/FundlaCaixaCAT)