"la Caixa" Foundation

# Rules of participation

## Doctoral INPhINIT Fellowships at research centres and universities in Spain and Portugal

*2027 Call for applications*



# Introduction

The "la Caixa" Foundation, which firmly believes that scientific progress, research, mobility and professional qualification are key to the development of society, is launching a doctoral fellowships programme for early stage researchers of any nationality **at any university or research centre in Spain or Portugal.**

The programme aims to promote scientific excellence while providing fellows with a comprehensive research and training environment that supports their scientific, professional and personal development. In addition to their doctoral research, fellows have access to training in transversal skills, international mobility opportunities and exposure to different research and innovation environments.

**The programme is designed to support the development of a new generation of researchers equipped to contribute to scientific progress and to address societal challenges through excellent, responsible and impactful research.**

The programme promotes **excellence-based and transparent evaluation, equal treatment of applicants, interdisciplinary approaches, international mobility, Open Science, research ethics and integrity, and the development of transferable skills**, in line with current European principles for research and researcher development.




# 1. Call for applications

1.1. The "la Caixa" Foundation is offering **30 fellowships** to take up official doctoral studies at any university or research centre in Spain or Portugal.

1.2. The call for applications is intended for **the pursuit of a doctoral degree in all areas of knowledge.** Applicants must meet the admission requirements for a doctoral programme, fulfil the mobility criteria detailed in section 4.5, and **not have previously begun any doctoral studies**.

1.3. The fellowship is made effective when the selected candidates and the host institutions reach an agreement regarding their recruitment. Once an agreement has been reached, the host organisation will hire the fellow using the funds provided by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

1.4. Fellows should start at the host institutions **between September and November 2027.** Nevertheless, in duly justified cases, the "la Caixa" Foundation may allow this to be delayed until January 31 2028.

1.5. The fellowship will have a **duration of up to four years**. Each year, the fellow must submit progress reports to verify their performance. The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to cancel the fellowship if performance is deemed insufficient.

1.6. The call for applications opens on the date it is published and closes on **March 2 2027 at 14:00:00h** (mainland Spain time).

## 2. Fellowship amount

2.1. The "la Caixa" Foundation will sign an agreement with the host institution, which will receive the fellowship payments directly. This amount must be wholly allocated to cover the fellow's costs as broken down below:

/ **€35,800** per year to cover the fellow's **labour costs**. This amount includes the Social Security cost and any other compulsory fee or compensation, whether current or that may be provided for in a future legal framework, that are linked to the fellow's labour contract, as well as the fellow's annual gross salary.

In any case, the **minimum annual gross salary** to be offered to the fellow by the host institution must be **€25,000**. If the total labour costs exceed the maximum amount offered by the "la Caixa" Foundation, the host institution will cover the excess.

In the case of being recruited by a Portuguese host institution, the economic conditions will be the same as those described above, regardless of the type of relationship established between the fellow and the host institution (employment contract or fellowship contract), in accordance with the current Portuguese legislation.

/ **€3,500** per year for **research costs** such as conferences, courses, research stays, consumables, equipment, charges for the use of intellectual property, etc. This amount will be managed by the host institution for the benefit of the fellow and must be justified separately.

/ The **tuition fees** to the official doctoral programme where the fellow will be admitted to.

/ **Special needs allowance of up to €4,000** to cover expenses related to assistive products or technologies and/or transport or travel assistance for the duration of the fellowship. This allowance is available to fellows with a certified disability officially recognised by the relevant national authority or authorities, provided that their disability entails the need for specific adaptations or support to enable them to carry out their research activities. When requesting the special needs allowance, the host institution must confirm both the official recognition of the disability and the need for such adaptations or support. The allowance is subject to verification and approval by the "la Caixa" Foundation and may only cover costs that are not funded by the host institution or through any other specific fellowships.

2.2. The contractual relationship between the fellow and the host institution must comply at any time with the provisions of the host country's current legislation. **In any case, the start date of the contract must coincide with the start date of the fellowship.**

## 3. Complementary training

In addition to financial support, the fellowship includes a mixed **training programme (face-to-face and online) on transversal skills**, which has been specially designed by leading international institutions in the sector.

This programme includes aspects such as technology transfer, entrepreneurship, commercialisation of innovation, intellectual property, leadership, creativity, communication skills, teamwork, personal development, planning, assertiveness and networking.

Three sessions will be held over the duration of the fellowship. Each session will last between 3 and 5 days, and attendance is mandatory for all fellows. The "la Caixa" Foundation will cover all costs for these sessions, as well as the fellows' accommodation and travel expenses.

The training programme, valued at approximately €7,500 per fellow, constitutes a core element of the fellowship and provides structured opportunities for skills development, career preparation and exposure to diverse research and innovation environments.

## 4. Requirements for applicants

### 4.1. Nationality

Early stage researchers of **any nationality** are eligible to apply for the Doctoral INPhINIT Retaining Fellowships Programme.

### 4.2. Studies pursued

Applicants must hold a higher education degree that makes them eligible to enrol in a doctoral programme before starting at their host institutions.

The host university will verify, upon starting the admission process to the doctoral programme, that the studies taken up by the selected candidates make them eligible to enrol in an official doctoral programme in accordance with the regulations in force in Spain or Portugal. Should they be found not eligible after verification, the fellowship will be withdrawn.

**Candidates must not have been enrolled in a doctoral programme prior to the start of the fellowship.**

### 4.3. Language proficiency

Applicants must accredit their proficiency in the English language by submitting any of the certificates mentioned below. **Under no circumstances will any other certificate be accepted**, despite being issued by the same organisations and/or accredit equivalence with any of the accepted levels.

**English certificates accepted**

| | |
|---|---|
| **Cambridge Certificates** | |
| First Certificate in English | Minimum score: 176 |
| Certificate in Advanced English | Minium score: 180 |
| Certificate of Proficiency in English | Minium score: 200 |
| IELTS or IELTS UKVI: Academic or General Training version | Minimum score: 6,5 |
| Linguaskill online test | Minimum score: 176 |
| **TOEFL: Internet-based test** | Minimum score: 4,5 (1-6 scale)<br>Minimum score: 83 (0-120 scale) |
| **Duolingo English Test** | Minimum score: 110 |
| **School of Modern Languages (EIM) of the University of Barcelona** | B2 level or higher * |
| **Official Language Schools (EOI) in Spain** | B2 level or higher * |

**B2.1 certificates will not be accepted, since they accredit a lowr level than B.2.*

Candidates who are nationals of any of the countries listed below, as well as applicants who have pursued their bachelor's studies (minimum of 3 years on a full-time basis) or postgraduate studies (minimum of 2 years on a full-time basis) in person at any of these countries are **exempt from submitting the English language proficiency certificate**:

- Antigua and Barbuda
- Australia
- Bahamas
- Barbados
- Belize
- British Overseas Territories
- Canada*
- Dominica
- United States
- Grenada
- Guyana
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Malta
- New Zealand
- United Kingdom
- Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Saint Kitts and Nevis
- Saint Lucia
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Trinidad and Tobago

**Applicants who submit transcripts of academic records from Canada do not need to submit the English language proficiency certificate provided that their transcript of academic records shows that English was the language of instruction.*

**4.4. Research experience**

On the deadline for applications, applicants must still be within the **first four years** (full-time equivalent research experience) **of their research careers.**

**4.5. Mobility**

*4.5.1* **Candidates must have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of destination (Spain/Portugal) for more than twelve months in the three years immediately prior to the deadline for applications.**

Short stays, such as holidays, spent in a country other than their country of usual residence (where they carried out their main activity), will be considered as time spent in their country of usual residence.

*4.5.2* Candidates who are awarded a fellowship **must enrol in a doctoral programme at a university that is different from where they took up their bachelor's studies.**

# 5. Application and documentation

**5.1.** Candidates must apply using the online application platform available in the "Fellowships" section on the "la Caixa" Foundation website.

On this platform, the different sections of the application form clearly specify all information and documentation that must be provided to complete an application to this fellowships programme.

**The application must be completed entirely in English.**

**5.2.** Candidates must indicate their prospective doctoral studies in the "Studies to be pursued" section of the online application form. They will not be required to provide a confirmation of admission or an endorsement from the director of the doctoral programme indicated beforehand.

This information will be understood to be provisional and strict abidance to it is not implied, which means that during the selection process for the fellowship, candidates may continue exploring other alternatives that may better suit their personal goals.

**5.3.** Using the application platform, candidates must complete the formalities to obtain, prior to the deadline for applications, **at least three reference letters** from university professors or other relevant individuals with whom they have had contact either academically or professionally. It is advisable for candidates to contact them as soon as possible to let them know that the "la Caixa" Foundation will get in touch with them through an online procedure. This procedure makes it possible to request and attach up to five reference letters to the application form, provided that they arrive before the deadline for applications (March 2 2027 at 14:00:00h, mainland Spain time).

**The reference letters must be written in English** and preferably sent from an institutional e-mail address.

These reference letters are confidential. Under no circumstances will the "la Caixa" Foundation provide access to their contents, regardless of the final outcome of the selection process for this fellowships programme.

**5.4.** **Academic records**

Candidates must include the transcripts of academic records for the studies that make them eligible for a doctoral programme (bachelor's degree compulsorily, and master's degree, if applicable), preferably in the Diploma Supplement format. In any case, the student's name and surname(s), the university, the studies pursued, and all subjects and marks, year by year, must appear.

Note that if these studies have been completed by the deadline for applications, **the credits awarded and the total number of credits for the degree** must also appear. If these studies are still in progress, candidates must submit the transcript of records in its current status upon submission of the application.

Candidates may optionally include information about other degrees they hold (bachelor's, master's, etc.). Transcripts for these degrees must be submitted with the application.

**5.5.** Documents uploaded to the application platform in PDF format must be clear and legible. Similarly, each page of the original document must correspond to a page in the PDF document.

**5.6.** If the documents uploaded to the application platform were issued in a language other than English, **a translation into English**, which can be done by the candidate, must be attached.

**5.7.** The application platform makes it possible to submit the application even though it does not include accreditation of the English proficiency level by the deadline for applications (March 2 2027 at 14:00:00h, mainland Spain time). In this case, the applicant should likewise finalise and submit the application before the established deadline, but they have until March 12 2027 at 23:59:59h (mainland Spain time) to submit the accreditation, which must be appended to their application in PDF format, directly through the application platform.

**5.8.** The applicants who wish to do so, and particularly those in the artistic disciplines, may include links to online content showing their works or portfolio in their application.

# 6. Selection process

The evaluation and selection of applications will be carried out on a competitive basis described on the selection process guidelines available in the fellowships programme website. The members of the shortlisting and selection committees choose the best candidates according to the evaluation criteria.

**6.1.** The process is comprised of three parts:

a. **Eligibility screening:** all applications received are screened and applications that do not fulfil the criteria published in the call for applications rules are rejected.

   Should an application not fulfil the formal requirements of the call for applications, the "la Caixa" Foundation will send a notification by e-mail specifying the reason for its rejection.

b. **Shortlisting:** each of the eligible applications is sent to a remote evaluation panel made up of two or three professors or researchers with broad experience in the discipline of the application and an extensive list of publications and/or contributions within this field. The applications that receive the highest scores from each panel will pass to the next stage.

   The "la Caixa" Foundation will notify candidates whether they have been shortlisted or not by e-mail on **May 28 2027.**

   Shortlisted applicants are encouraged to reach out to the host organisations they are interested in if they haven't already done so.

c. **Interviews:** candidates whose applications have passed the shortlisting stage will be called in for an interview before a multidisciplinary committee comprised of professors and researchers with extensive experience in selection processes by peer review.

   The interviews will be held remotely on **June 15 and 16 2027**.

   They will be conducted entirely in English.

   On the day of the interview, each candidate must show their original ID or passport. Otherwise, they will be rejected.

   The "la Caixa" Foundation will notify interviewed candidates of the outcome of the process by e-mail on **June 29 2027.**

   The dates scheduled for the selection interviews or for the notification of the results may vary due to organisational reasons. In case this occurs, candidates will be immediately notified by e-mail.

**6.2.** The evaluation criteria that govern the selection process can be found in the "Selection process" section of this fellowships programme website.

# 7. Appeal Procedure

7.1. Within 3 calendar days from the date the rejection notification is sent, candidates may submit an appealby sending an e-mail to fellowships@contact.fundaciolacaixa.org, which must include an explanatory text together with the documents that the candidate deems appropriate.

7.2. Appeals will be resolved by an appeal committee. Resolutions will be sent by e-mail within 10 calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal.

7.3. The appeal procedure is strictly confidential.

7.4. The appeals procedure will look at procedural shortcomings and possible errors, not at the evaluation panel's decisions or the experts' ratings and comments.

The selection and evaluation processes themselves ensure the independence and the objectivity of the evaluation.

# 8. Resolution of the call

8.1. The final list of candidates chosen as fellows, as well as the candidates on the reserve list, when applicable, will be published with their names and surnames on the "la Caixa" Foundation website on **June 29 2027**.

8.2. Should there be any fellowships declined, these will be offered to the candidates on the reserve list, according to the order established in each case.

8.3. The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to not grant all the fellowships available, if so proposed by the selection committees.

8.4. To be admitted as a fellow, the candidate must start at the host organisation no later than **November 30 2027**. In duly justified cases authorised by the "la Caixa" Foundation, this can be delayed until January 31 2028 at the latest. Once this date has passed, the fellowship may no longer be availed of.

8.5. The fellow must enrol in a doctoral programme at a Spanish or Portuguese university in accordance with the legislation in force.

8.6. To be considered fellows, **selected candidates must obtain the admission to the doctoral programme for which they applied for**. If not, they will lose the right to the fellowship.

# 9. Incompatibilities

9.1. Candidates who have previously availed of a fellowship in the Postgraduate or Doctoral INPhINIT Fellowships programmes from the "la Caixa" Foundation and those who declined one without justified cause, are not eligible to apply to this programme**.**

9.2. Candidates applying for this fellowship will not have the option to simultaneously apply for another "la Caixa" Foundation fellowships programme of the same call.

9.3. Candidates who obtain a score equal to or lower than 6 in the shortlisting phase of the 2027 call will not be eligible to apply to the 2028 call.

**9.4.** Individuals who have already started a doctoral programme before the beginning of the Doctoral INPhINIT Retaining fellowship cannot apply for this programme.

**9.5.** These fellowships are exclusively for in-person studies, that is, to train and do research at the host institution's facilities, with fellows completely devoting themselves to their studies on a full-time basis.

**9.6.** Industrial doctorates are excluded from this call for applications.

**9.7.** Candidates unable to attend the final interview must notify the "la Caixa" Foundation at least **three working days** in advance to the first day of the interviews to allow their slot to be reassigned. Failure to do so, without duly justified reasons of illness or force majeure, will be deemed an irrevocable withdrawal and will result in exclusion from future calls of the "la Caixa Foundation" Postgraduate and Doctoral INPhINIT Fellowships programmes.

**9.8.** Under no circumstances may applicants contact the experts who are taking part or have taken part in the selection processes of this call for applications to ask them for information regarding the status of their application or any other aspect related to the selection process. Should this occur, the candidate will be disqualified from this and future selection processes.

**9.9.** These fellowships are incompatible with any other paid work, grant, or financial aid from any other organisation, unless expressly authorised by the "la Caixa" Foundation.

## 10. Compliance requirements

**10.1.** Candidates must not be involved in any conflict of interest that could affect the impartiality, equality or fairness of the selection process. Any actual, potential or reasonable perceived conflict of interest must be disclosed and appropriately managed.

**10.2.** Candidates must comply with the condition of not being sanctioned, by means of a firm resolution, of an academic, labour, administrative or judicial nature for the commission of the following serious irregularities including, but not limited to: lack of professional ethics, corruption (in any of its forms), money laundering, financing of terrorism, smuggling, mistreatment of animals, genetic manipulation or, where appropriate, for any other irregularity that may entail administrative (for severe legal infractions) or criminal liability for legal persons, whether in accordance with Spanish, European Union and/or international legislation.

**10.3.** Candidates who have been subject to disciplinary sanctions within three (3) years prior to this Call imposed by entities to which they are or have been linked for scientific or academic misconduct, including, but not limited to, fabrication, falsification, plagiarism or other serious breaches of research integrity, are not eligible to apply. The same shall apply to disciplinary sanctions for harassment, bullying and/or abuse.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to review cases of **serious** misconduct (see point 10.2. above) and to impose such restrictions on sanctioned individuals as it considers appropriate.

**10.4.** Candidates and host institutions must immediately notify to "la Caixa" Foundation the imposition of any disciplinary, academic, administrative, labour or judicial sanction imposed on them during the application process or the fellowship period in relation to any of the circumstances referred to in this section..

10.5. Candidates must not be included on international sanctions lists, such as the United Nations, the European Union, HM Treasury and/or the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), among others.

10.6. Both fellows and host institutions are required to promptly report to the "la Caixa" Foundation any detected irregularities or suspected cases of fraud, whether arising during the application process or throughout the execution of the fellowship.

10.7. Failure to comply with any of the above requirements may result in the revocation of the funding, and the" la Caixa" Foundation may reclaim any amounts disbursed for the fellowship.

# 11. Management of the fellowship and obligations of fellows

11.1. Payments will be made by bank transfer to the account designated by the beneficiary or, where applicable, by the university or research centre

11.2. The fellow's host organisation will manage and administer the amounts that the "la Caixa" Foundation allocates each year for the fellowship.

11.3. At the request of the "la Caixa" Foundation, the selected candidates must accredit, through original documents, certified photocopies of them or verification via their university's official website, the files attached to their applications. Likewise, the "la Caixa" Foundation may ask them for the original certificates confirming any information mentioned in their application.

11.4. At the request of the "la Caixa" Foundation, and for the purpose of ensuring fulfilment with the terms and conditions of the fellowship, fellows must provide all academic and economic information related to their contracts that the "la Caixa" Foundation deems necessary or they must authorise their host organisation to provide it.

11.5. Fellows undertake to complete the doctoral studies covered by the fellowship. Upon their completion, they must send the "la Caixa" Foundation a copy of their doctoral degree by e-mail.

11.6 Fellows may undertake temporary research stays at universities or research institutions outside the country of their host institution, provided that these stays are directly related to the doctoral research project. Research stays may be carried out in a single period or divided into shorter periods and may take place at one or more institutions. **The total duration of all research stays undertaken during the fellowship may not exceed twelve months.**

11.7 **Monitoring and impact information**

The "la Caixa" Foundation aims to monitor and assess the results and impact of its fellowship programmes and to generate evidence that contributes to their evaluation and continuous improvement.

For this purpose, fellows shall provide, whenever requested by the "la Caixa" Foundation, any data, information or indicators considered relevant for monitoring and assessing the results and impact of the fellowship, using the mechanisms and tools made available by the "la Caixa" Foundation. Such information may be requested during or after the fellowship.

### 11.8 Translation and exploitation of research results

The "la Caixa" Foundation is committed not only to supporting excellence in doctoral research, but also to fostering the translation of research results into solutions that can generate societal benefit and impact.

To this end, the host organisation, the fellow and the supervisor are encouraged to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation, as early as reasonably possible, of any research results, developments or opportunities arising from the doctoral research project that may have potential for protection, licensing, commercialisation, company creation, social implementation, or any other form of translation or knowledge and technology transfer.

Such communication is intended solely to enable the "la Caixa" Foundation to become aware of potential translational opportunities and, where appropriate, to explore whether it may provide further support through other mechanisms that may be available, such as expert advice, training or funding initiatives, in accordance with its internal policies, priorities and programmes.

The fellow and the host organisation remain fully free to manage, develop and pursue such opportunities in accordance with their own policies, obligations and applicable regulations. This provision does not grant the "la Caixa" Foundation any ownership rights, option rights, exclusivity, preferential rights or any other rights over the research results or related opportunities.

For the avoidance of doubt, any information provided pursuant to this provision shall not create any obligation on the "la Caixa" Foundation to provide funding, investment, support or any other form of assistance in relation to the notified opportunity.

### 11.9. Ethics declaration

As part of the acceptance of the fellowship, fellows must complete a dedicated ethics declaration confirming that any activities related to their doctoral research project requiring ethics review have been or will be submitted to the relevant ethics committees, and that such activities will not start before the necessary approvals have been obtained.

## 12. Ethics and Integrity

**12.1.** The" la Caixa" Foundation follows the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). These principles take into account gender equality in research and innovation (R&I), as well as other inclusion issues, open access to scientific results and ethics and research integrity in the design and implementation of R&I.

The selected fellows and their research projects must comply with the principles of RRI, the "la Caixa" Foundation's Research Integrity Policy, the research results management and open access policy of the "la Caixa" Foundation and any other policies applicable to research projects receiving support from the "la Caixa" Foundation, as published on its website (Responsibility principles - CaixaResearch).

All results derived from the fellowship projects must be made available following the parameters described therein, except when justified circumstances exist.

**12.2.** All the host institutions, the fellows and the supervisors must follow the highest ethical principles and highest standards of integrity in research and scientific best practices throughout the implementation of the fellowship, as described in the European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity (ALLEA), as well as the highest ethical principles recognised under Spanish, Portuguese, European and/or international regulations.

**12.3.** Cases of scientific misconduct — including, but not limited to harassment, bullying, and/or abuse - that may arise throughout the execution of the fellowship (even if prior to the fellowship award) or following its completion must be communicated immediately by the host institution to the" la Caixa" Foundation. In the event that the host institution is subject to the application of transparency and/or if the information regarding the improper scientific conduct is protected by such regulation, the host institution undertakes to obtain the consent of the persons involved in said case in order to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation. The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to cancel or reclaim the fellowship depending on the nature and impact of the incident in question, or in the event that the host institution does not or cannot provide the information required by the "la Caixa" Foundation regarding the case of improper scientific conduct.

If a supervisor has been sanctioned for scientific misconducts, the" la Caixa" Foundation may:

» Require the host institution to monitor the sanctioned person regarding their management of the fellow especially the pre-doctoral researchers who participate in the Project, and their participation in the Project.

» Require the host institution to provide training in good research practices, to those who have been sanctioned.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to review cases of serious misconduct and to impose restrictions on sanctioned individuals as it considers appropriate.

**12.4.** The host institution its administrators, managers and employees must not have any conflict of interest with the trustees and employees of the" la Caixa" Foundation that could undermine the principle of equality and competition among candidates, applicable to these Rules for Participation.

**12.5.** The fellow, the supervisor as well as the host institution must comply with the condition of not being sanctioned, by means of a firm resolution, of an academic, labour, administrative or judicial nature for the commission of the following serious irregularities including, but not limited to: lack of professional ethics, corruption (in any of its forms), money laundering, financing of terrorism, smuggling, mistreatment of animals, genetic manipulation or, where appropriate, for any other irregularity that may entail administrative (for severe legal infractions) or criminal liability for legal persons, whether in accordance with Spanish, European Union and/or international legislation. The host institution must immediately notify to" la Caixa" Foundation the imposition of any such sanctions that may arise during the execution of the awarded project.

**12.6.** The use of methods or tools, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), must comply with applicable ethical standards and ensure the integrity, reliability, and transparency of the research. The fellow and, by extension, the host institution, are responsible before the" la Caixa" Foundation for the content and outcome of the selected fellowships, including any documentation and information related to it, without prejudice to the methods used for its development (e.g. Artificial Intelligence tools). In this sense, candidates shall guarantee: (i) compliance with all applicable regulations; (ii) non-infringement of third-party rights; and (iii) application of best ethical practices. Likewise, and within the framework of this Call, the fellows and the host institution exempt" la Caixa" Foundation from any liability before third

parties arising from any failure to comply with the foregoing to the extent permitted by applicable law.

Failure to comply with any of the requirements established in this section may be grounds for revocation of the fellowship, and the" la Caixa" Foundation may reclaim the amounts disbursed for the development of the fellowship.

## 13. Privacy and data protection policy

**13.1.** Applicants will be duly informed, within the framework of the registration process, about the processing of their personal data, as well as about the exercise of their rights regarding the protection of personal data in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 and following of the General Data Protection Regulation.

**13.2.** The Fundación Bancaria Caja de Ahorros y Pensiones de Barcelona, "la Caixa", (hereinafter, "la Caixa" Banking Foundation) with registered office at Avenida Diagonal 621-629, 08028 Barcelona, Spain, acts as the Data Controller for the processing of personal data for the resolution of doubts and queries in this call for applications. The legal basis for the processing is the execution of a contract, at the request of the applicant. Personal data will be retained until the expiry of the applicable statute of limitations. The data will only be disclosed for the purpose of fulfilling legal obligations, as well as to third party providers acting in their capacity as data processors. Access to such data by technology providers located outside the European Economic Area is subject to all required legal safeguards. You may request further information or exercise your rights of access, rectification, suppression, limitation, portability and opposition before the Data Protection Officer of the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, at Avenida Diagonal, 621-629, 08028 Barcelona, or by contacting dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org. You can also complain to the Spanish Data Protection Agency (www.aepd.es).

## 14. Further remarks

**14.1.** All deadlines and times included in these rules are in mainland Spain time.

**14.2.** The submission of an application for these fellowships implies all candidates' express acceptance of these rules, as well as the criteria and decisions that the "la Caixa" Foundation may make in case of any doubts regarding how to interpret the requirements and terms and conditions contained herein.

**14.3.** Detection of any noncompliance with these rules, regardless of when this occurs and the status in which the application is found within the fellowship shortlisting, selection or awarding process, will result in the automatic cancellation of the application or the fellowship, should it have been already awarded.

**14.4.** Should the fellow not fulfil the obligations arising from these rules, or any other obligation included among the terms and conditions of the fellowship, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to act as it deems appropriate, including requesting reimbursement of the amounts received. The fellow will not be able to apply for another fellowship in future calls or any of the fellowships programmes of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

**14.5.** The "la Caixa" Foundation shall not be responsible for the content and results of the studies or research project, including any documentation and information related to it, notwithstanding the methods used for its creation (e.g., Artificial Intelligence tools). In this regard, in the creation of said content and results it shall be guaranteed the following: (i) compliance with all applicable current regulations, (ii) non-infringement of third-party rights of any kind, and (iii) the application of the best ethical practices. Furthermore, within the framework of this call, the "la Caixa" Foundation shall be exempted from any liability to third parties, arising from the breach of the foregoing.