



Guide for applicants

13th March 2023





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1. About ideal project

IDEAL is a fellowship programme led by **Fundación IMDEA Nanociencia** and supported by the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) COFUND programmes** that over five years aims to attract **12 talented postdoctoral researchers** interested in developing **innovative, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research projects** in a leading research centre in the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. IDEAL programme is committed to providing a pool of researchers with the skills and knowledge needed to tackle the next challenges in the field nanoscience by offering a **complete training programme in connection with international and industrial partners**.

IMDEA Nanociencia offers a **highly competitive world-class research environment** within the UAM-CSIC Cantoblanco Campus of International Excellence (CEI). With a **diverse research staff** of >190 (18 nationalities; gender balance m/f, 60:40; ave. age 34.5) the fellows will be joining a **dynamic research environment**. The policy of the Institute is to allow researchers freedom to pursue their **independent research within the broad scope of the Research Programmes**, with a special focus on cross-disciplinary research. This will be a key aspect highlighted to the IDEAL fellows they will be the main driver of their individual projects.

What do we offer?

In this call, we offer a total of **7 grants for researchers** that will have the consideration of Marie Skłodowska-Curie fellows and will be hired on a full-time standard employment contract for the duration of 30 months, complying with the Spanish legislation for the performance of a research project.

Through their contracts, fellows will have **access to maternity/paternity, retirement, family benefits, and unemployment benefits**. Fellows and their families will have access to **public health care coverage and medical assistance**.

Fellows will directly receive **research costs** that will consist on a **living allowance** (covering salaries, social security contributions, taxes and other costs included in the remuneration) a **mobility allowance** (mobility costs to take up the position) and a **family allowance** (to cover additional costs per dependent child after checking eligibility).

IMDEA Nanociencia will manage other **research and travel costs** available for the fellows that might cover costs directly related with the development of the projects and necessary for the successful execution and travel costs associated with the researchers training and networking and to cover relevant expenses in secondments.

A **training and career development programme** that includes supervising and mentoring, networking and secondments will be offered.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Scientific Supervisor
Academia
Scientific Excellence

Career Advisor
Industry
Intersectionality & Innovation

Career Coordinator
Management
Impact on career development

Career advice

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Setting goals

Recognizing strengths & Weaknesses

Discovering possibilities of professional development

Personalized Career Development Plan

CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Innovative, technology transfer and career development oriented

- Hard Skills + Transferable skills
- Hands-on + Formal training

IDEAL training events:

- IDEAL's Summer School
- Winter Research Week

Training Programme in Nanoscience & Nanotechnology

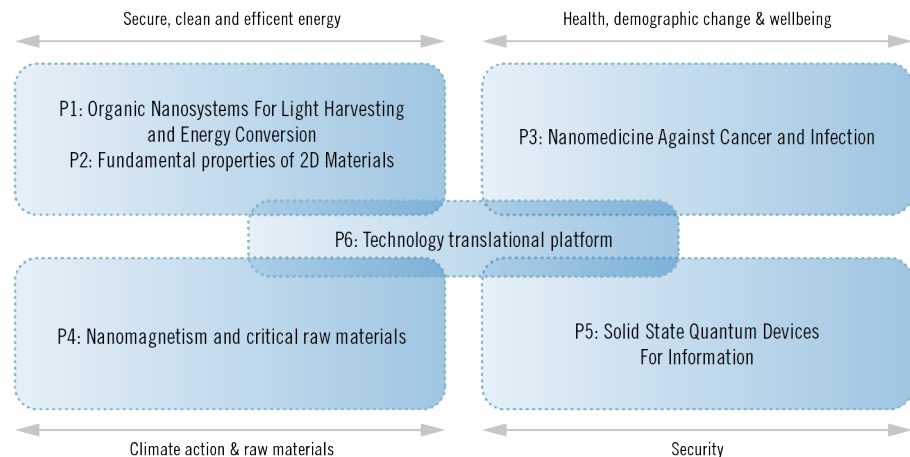
Working at IMDEA Nanociencia guarantees access to **infrastructure of the highest level** for the pursuit of research in nanoscience and nanotechnology. A custom-designed building located on the Cantoblanco Campus of International Excellence, **includes 44 specific laboratories and the Centre for Nanofabrication** boasting state-of-the-art facilities and access to world-class equipment. Postdoctoral fellows will therefore have access to an infrastructure of the highest level for the pursuit of research in nanoscience and nanotechnology.

IMDEA Nanociencia is a Contact Point for the **EURAXESS Network**, providing access to a complete range of **information and support services** to researchers. IMDEA Nanociencia will provide support during the integration and their stay (visa requirements, general info, and family orientated support). Furthermore, fellows can also take advantage of the agreements in place with the Cantoblanco Campus support network to access on-campus accommodation, sports and cultural activities. Nursery and primary schools based on campus have priority for local workers.

Research topics

For IDEAL, a full [list of cross-programme research topics](#) is published in the website, candidates must select one of the topics to develop their proposal under that area. Applicants are able to freely choose one research topic and supervisor fitting their individual needs, only one application can be submitted for this call.

The research topics are in line with IMDEA Nanociencia research programmes. The programmes are designed to allow research groups to make real contributions to the advancement of knowledge and technology innovation. The Translational Platform is meant to encourage cross-programme collaboration for prototyping, proof-of-concept testing, scaling-up and implementation of technologies developed in order to bridge the gap between our labs and society





Partnership

Fellows will choose a Partner Organization from IMDEA's broad spectrum of collaborators, best suited to their training needs, to develop a mandatory secondment of between 2 and 6 months.

Research projects may overlap with the transversal programme P6: Technology Translational Platform allowing the fellow to develop their research project in one of the five areas of their scientific interest, with a focus on technology transfer. The platform provides support and facilities for prototyping, proof-of concept testing, and scaling-up. Secondments will be necessarily in a technology company, with the fellows receiving tailored mentoring.

2. Eligibility criteria

Candidates must comply with the following eligibility criteria at the call deadline, 5th June 2023:

- **Mobility requirements:** Following the MSCA mobility rule-incoming candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for more than 12 months in the last 3 years before the call deadline, with exception for career breaks (i.e. parental and sick leaves) and research at risks.
- **Doctoral degree:** Candidates must have gained a PhD degree in the previous four years at the date of the call deadline, with exceptions for career breaks and researchers at risk.
- **Research experience:** Applicants must at the time of the call deadline, be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.
- **Publication track record:** Have at least three publication in internationally peer-reviewed journals at the time of the call deadline.

At the time of application, candidates must provide the PhD title or proof that they will gained by 5th June 2023. Evidence to verify other eligibility and the applicable deductions will be requested before the contract is concluded.

3. Application procedure

The second call is open for applications from **13th March until 5th June 2023** (until 11.59 pm Central European Summer Time- CEST)

Candidates must register in the IDEAL programme website and download the CV and Research Proposal templates, only applications that comply with this format will be considered. Applicants are strongly advised to contact prospective supervisors prior to the submission of the proposals.

Once they are registered and have completed the templates, they must fill in an [online Application Form](#) and upload the files that will be evaluated (evidence of Doctoral degree, CV, Motivation Letter and Research Proposal).

First, candidates will be asked to provide **Personal Information**, required fields are marked with *:

- Name (middlename)*
- Surname(s)*
- Gender (for statistical purposes)
- Nationality*
- Country of residence*
- E-mail*
- Telephone Number

Then, they will be asked to provide information about their **Academic Records**: [upload evidence of Doctoral degree](#) and [answer questions about eligibility criteria](#):

- Current Affiliation*
- Have you spent more than 12 months in Spain during the last 36 months?*
- Do you have a PhD title or have at least 4 years of full-time research experience?*
- Doctoral date of (expected) award*
- Doctorate start date*
- University degree giving access to PhD (date of award)*
- Do you have at least 3 publications on peer-review journals?*
- DOI of publications in peer reviewed journals

Finally, candidates must complete the **Research Proposal**, by filling in the following fields and uploading the mandatory files:

- Title of your project* (max. 100 characters)
- Main research area*

- Summary of your project (max. 1000 words)*
- Curriculum Vitae (PDF file, 2MB max. file size)*
- Motivation letter (PDF file, 2MB max. file size)*
- Research Proposal (PDF file, 8MB max. file size)*

Please note that the following documents must be prepared in advance before uploading them to complete the proposal:

- Curriculum Vitae (PDF file, 2MB max. file size). Please download the guidelines for completing your CV. only CVs that conform to these guidelines will be evaluated. [Submit your proposal - IDEAL COFUND \(idealcofund-project.eu\)](http://idealcofund-project.eu)
- Candidates will be asked to include name and contacts of two referees on the CV that will be contacted if candidates are shortlisted.
- Motivation letter (PDF file, 2 pages max). Candidates should make sure to include:
 - Research background and expertise relevant to this position
 - Suitability for this position: skills and techniques relevant to the project
 - Research intersects and motivation to apply
 - Foreseen impact of this position on career development
 - Briefly explain possible career breaks
- A research proposal (PDF file, 6 pages max). Please, download and complete this form. Only research proposals using this format will be considered. [Submit your proposal - IDEAL COFUND \(idealcofund-project.eu\)](http://idealcofund-project.eu)

A confirmation email will be received when applications are successfully sent.

Ethics eligibility

Those applications that indicated any ethical issues in their review will need to include an ethics statement with additional information. Please refer to the [Horizon 2020 Programme Guidance on How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#) to complete the ethics statement or [contact us for further information](#).

All selected fellows (including those promoted from the reserve list) will have their projects screened for ethics before the implementation phase to identify any ethics issues

4. Selection process & evaluation criteria

The recruitment and selection process follows Open, Transparent and Merit based Recruitment (OTM-R) practices in accordance to the [European Charter & Code for Researchers \(C&C\)](#) principles related to the Recruitment of Researchers.

Phase 1- Review of applications

The recruitment process will be carried out by the selection committee ensuring an open, transparent and merit-based process.

Eligibility checking – IDEAL's Programme Manager will receive all applications and will check for completeness and eligibility, using the eligibility statement and cross-check the CV, any misstatement given will disqualify the application. Incomplete and/or ineligible applications will be discarded at this stage. The results of the eligibility check will be notified to the non-eligible applicants around 2 weeks after the call deadline. Applications which are deemed eligible will receive confirmation that they have passed the eligibility check and whether their application will go out for an in-depth review

Evaluation–All eligible applications will undergo independent and international peer review. Each proposal will be evaluated by three external referees who will score and rank applications according to the IDEAL Assessment Criteria, that is in accordance with the H2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions criteria of scientific excellence (70%), impact (15%) and implementation (15%):

- *Excellence*: includes publications and participation in research projects, quality of the motivation letter detailing the research interests.
- *Impact*: relates to the expected impact on the applicant's future career from the research carried out at IMDEA Nanociencia, as well as potential applicability of the results.
- *Implementation*: feasibility of the research interests detailed in the application and adequacy of the existing infrastructure to carry out the research of the proposal.



The following evaluation criteria will be used by evaluators to score the proposals:

RESEARCH PROPOSALS			
	EXCELLENCE	IMPACT	IMPLEMENTATION
<i>Criteria</i>	CV of the candidate, including publications and participation in research projects, quality of the motivation letter detailing the research interests	Expected impact over the applicant's future career, over the research carried out at IMDEA Nano, as well as potential applicability of the results	Feasibility of the research interests detailed in the application and adequacy of the existing infrastructure to carry out the research of the proposal
<i>Weight</i>	70%	15%	15%
<i>Threshold</i>	Overall grade >4		

All eligible applicants will receive a short report detailing their final score, ranking, and feedback summary from the assessors. They will be informed by e-mail 2 months after the call deadline.

An overall threshold of 70% will be applicable to the final score, a minimum score of 7/10 must be obtained to possibly proceed to the next stage of the selection process – the interview.

Phase 2- The Interview

The interview may be in person or remotely, using Zoom or Skype. During the interview (~1h) the applicant will be asked to give a brief 10-minute presentation on their research proposal. The presentation should include an overview of the proposal, the motivation of the applicant to take up the fellowship, and details of specific career and training objectives. The presentation will be followed by questions from the interview panel.

The following evaluation criteria will be used by evaluators to score the research proposals

INTERVIEW		
	SCIENTIFIC POTENTIAL	TRANSFERABLE SKILLS
<i>Criteria</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Scientific knowledge in the field of the research proposal · Interdisciplinarity aspects of the research · Career presentation match with the project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Presentation & Communication skills · Personal Motivation · Leadership skills
<i>Weight</i>	50%	50%



Phase 3 Post-interview

The final ranking will be based on the peer review and the interview scoring with equal weighting:

FINAL SCORE		
<i>Criteria</i>	RESEARCH PROPOSAL	INTERVIEW
<i>Weight</i>	50%	50%

Within 2 weeks, candidates will be informed by e-mail of their final score, ranking and feedback on their interview outcome.

Successful candidates must notify by e-mail within 3 weeks whether or not they accept the offer.

Fellowships will be offered to the 6 top ranked applicants above the threshold. Upon selection, successful applicants will receive an offer of an employment contract by IMDEA Nano. Prior to the institution giving a firm offer of a contract, the IDEAL management team and the institute may contact the applicant's referees and request further documentary evidence to verify their eligibility. Should this check fail, the award may be withdrawn.

Phase 4. Appointment of fellows

Reserve list - those who score equal to or greater than the threshold (70) but not high enough to be selected will be placed on a reserve list, in order of ranking, for the purpose of possible substitution if selected candidates resigns before their incorporation or at any time during the term of the contract. All applicants will be informed of their status and the final lists will be made public at the website.

Redress Procedure - Upon reception of the information letter to the candidates with the outcome of the selection process, fellows may request a redress procedure (during ten working days), if there is any indication that there has been a shortcoming in the evaluation process or eligibility check. The procedure will not call into question the scientific or technical judgement of appropriately qualified experts. Information on the redress procedure will be outlined in the information letter sent to applicants.

Appointments It is expected that successful candidates will start the fellowship at their earliest convenience, **1st February 2023** at earliest and taking into consideration any periods required to get permission to work in Spain.

IMDEA Nanociencia Research Support Office (rso.imdeananciencia@imdea.org) will offer personalized assistance to all appointed candidates in order to get the work permits, visa and other required documents. Likewise, it will offer support on other relocating issues to all incoming fellows.



5. Equal opportunities

The IDEAL programme aims for a representative gender balance at all levels, including at supervisory and management level.

The IDEAL recruitment programme does not discriminate against applicants on the basis of gender, age, ethnicity, national or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion and social or economic condition. Researchers with disabilities are supported and an **MSCA Special Needs Allowance** will be applied for to cover any additional costs that researchers with disabilities face due to the increased costs of their mobility. IMDEA Nano is located in a fully accessible building according to national laws.

Exceptions to the mobility rules for **documented periods of parental leave or serious illness** (career breaks, detailed below) will be considered. The programme will also support researchers at risk –those who are at risk in their origin countries (due to discrimination, persecution, suffering and/or violence), or are seeking refuge out of these reasons or have recently found refuge in Europe. These types of support will be addressed on a case-by-case basis when properly documented and motivated by the applicant.

Likewise, in some specific cases, a researcher may opt to work part-time for personal reasons (i.e. child and care duties). Fellows will also be entitled to temporarily interrupt their fellowship in the following situations: temporary disability, risk during pregnancy, maternity, paternity and adoption or foster care. The time elapsed during this interruption will not be accounted for against the total time. Request for breaks will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

6. Contact

Please, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any question about, especially those regarding:

- The functioning of IDEAL Project
- Benefits and salaries
- Research topics and ethics eligibility
- Eligibility and exemptions queries
- How to prepare and send your application
- The selection process
- Equal opportunities, career breaks and researchers at risk criteria

We will be glad to answer them for you from idealcofund.project@imdea.org. Please put Postdoctoral Call 2 in the Subject.



<https://idealcofund-project.eu>

Guide for applicants

Contact

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