

ABEL EXTRAORDINARY CHAIR

VISITING RESEARCHERS IN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS IN SPAIN, NORWAY, ICELAND AND LIECHTENSTEIN

CALL UCM-EEA-ABEL-02-2009

The ABEL Extraordinary Chair has been created in the framework of the “Improving student, researchers and artists mobility and cooperation between Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein” project, which aims at strengthening academic and research relations between the last three countries and Spain.

The Abel Extraordinary Chair will promote the temporary incorporation of high level researchers from Spain, into research centres in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein, and from these countries into Spanish research institutions. During their stay they will collaborate with the local research groups in topics pertaining to the experimental sciences, specially but not only mathematics and related disciplines, and to any discipline using mathematics. The Chair aims at launching new research lines in collaboration with Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein as well as to strengthen the already existing ones.

More specifically, we expect this Chair to produce lasting results, such as:

- increased cooperation in postgraduate studies coordinated in Spain on one side, and by research institutions in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein on the other,
- enhanced network cooperation among Spanish institutions, and researchers in Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

As a guideline, three kinds of stays may be considered:

Study Visits: up to 1 month. They will be useful to set up first contacts between institutions and researchers from the involved countries, as well as to identify common topics and potential activities to carry out in cooperation, or to prepare longer stays.

Short Stays: 1 to 2 months. They will be useful for launching activities or research lines in cooperation as well as to deepen starting relations, to launch and/or end research activities or publications, as well as eventually, to prepare long term cooperation schemes.

Long Stays: 2 to 6 months for Senior researchers, 2 to 12 months for Postdoc and Predoc researchers. They will be useful to carry out mid term research activities, to prepare common publications, thesis directions, starting postdegree studies or similars.

CHAPTER I COMMON REGULATIONS

I.1. General

1. This call regulates the conditions of application for the second available UCM – EEA Abel Extraordinary Chair Grants. These include the following types:
 - A) ABEL SENIOR GRANTS
 - B) ABEL POSTDOC GRANTS

C) ABEL PREDOC GRANTS

2. The available budget for this first call is 554.292 euro, with the following distribution:

Senior Grants: 190.516 euro.

Postdoc Grants: 184.808 euro.

Predoc Grants: 178.968 euro.

I.2. Eligible beneficiaries

1. Researchers fulfilling conditions described below.

I.3. Grant support

Grants include a monthly living allocation depending on the grant type and on the applicant's CV, as well as, for the most of them, a travel allowance.

I.4. Compatibility

1. Grants are compatible with salaries perceived by applicants from a research centre in eligible countries. In the case of UCM researchers, part of their salary might be considered as partial funding of the Grant.
2. Grants are not compatible with any other funding for the same purpose and period.

I.5. Management

1. Managing, hearing and communicating about the call will be done through the project Abel-Munch Monitoring Committee. According to the terms of the Grant, the composition of this Committee is as follows: Research Vice-Dean of Facultad de Matemáticas in UCM, Research Vice-Dean of Facultad de Bellas Artes in UCM, Project Manager.
2. Decision making about the granting will be in charge of the project Steering Committee. According to the terms of the Grant, the composition of this Committee is as follows: a representative of UCM Department of Research and Scientific Policy, a representative of UCM Department of International Relations, Dean of Facultad de Matemáticas in UCM, Dean of Facultad de Bellas Artes in UCM (or their representatives).

I.6. Requirements on involved research centres

1. Research centres will abide by all terms of the Abel Extraordinary Chair and of the EEA-EFTA Grants regulations.
2. Hosting research centres will provide logistic support required for research activities to be carried by granted visitors.
3. For non UCM researchers, their host or sending Spanish institutions will provide 15% financing of the total cost of the researcher Grant, including monthly living allowance and the travel allowance. This regulation applies for all grant types.

I.7. Grant acceptance

1. Awarded applicants and host research institutions will sign an agreement with UCM in which all conditions, responsibilities, procedures and communication requirements will be included. Such agreement should in particular contain detailed information about the following topics:
 - Aim of the agreement: a) General: that of the project. b) Specific goals: those included in the research program presented by the awarded researcher in his/her application.

- Expected results: courses, articles, conferences or others.
 - Economic management: amounts to be funded by each part, time schedule for payments, payment modalities.
 - Commencement and expiring dates.
2. Any change in the accepted conditions of the grant must be authorized by Abel-Munch Monitoring Committee.

The following requirements are expected from candidates

1. To submit a proposal describing the activities to be performed in one or more host institutions during the proposed period of stay, as well as a CV. For evaluation purposes, applicants might be required to provide additional details on their proposals within 10 days of being required for that purpose. Failure to comply may result in being discarded from the call.
2. Upon approved of the proposal, they should fulfil the research programme proposed. Grantees are expected to give lectures on their own research topics and are encouraged to participate in postgraduate training by means of courses, seminars and other activities.
3. To stay at the host centre(s) during the period of the grant. Any change in dates must be previously approved by the Abel-Munch Monitoring Committee.
4. During the last month of the stay, granted researchers will report on the research activities carried out during the grant; articles or other publications made or prepared during that time; research programmes or projects started; new contacts made; participation in meetings; forecast of future research activities, etc. A specific form will be provided to awarded researchers for this reporting. This applies to researchers granted for stays longer than a month.

In the case of grants more than 6 months long, a mid-term report might be required, with similar contents as the final report.

In case of illness or in case of maternity/adoption during the period of the grant, the grantee will be allowed to ask for a deferral of the grant period equivalent and corresponding to the period of interruption. Such deferral will need the approval of the Abel – Munch Monitoring Committee. A deferral will not result in an increase of the awarded grant.

5. Acceptation of the grant implies abiding by all rules of the call. Failure to comply with them may result in partial or total reimbursement of the amounts already perceived as well as in losing the right to perceive the remaining funds.

1.8. Deadline

Period for presenting applications starts on September 1, 2009 and finishes on October 30, 2009.

1.9. Reviewing and Decision

The Abel-Munch Monitoring Committee shall arrange for the evaluation of applications, including administrative compliance, eligibility and quality assessment. It will also be responsible for submitting a list of proposals to be approved by the Steering Committee. Results of evaluation will be communicated personally to applicants. The latter Committee shall inform applicants whose proposals are rejected about the reasons for that decision. Applicants whose application is rejected

due to non-compliance with administrative or eligibility criteria can request the Intermediary to review its decision. The applicant shall submit such a request within 10 days from being notified about the rejection and shall provide reasons for why the decision should be overturned.

Decisions about granting will be taken in a maximum delay of 30 days after the application deadline.

Evaluation criteria will pay attention to the following issues:

- Quality of the research programme proposal.
- Scientific record of the applicant (s).
- Feasibility and sustainability of the proposal.

The list of approved grant applications will be published on the website of the project. Detailed information will be provided to other universities and research centres involved in order to allow them to include this information in their own websites.

Grant beneficiaries should properly acknowledge support from the EEA Grants and UCM in the resulting publications.

I.10. Applicable rules

1. EEA-EFTA Grants rules (see www.eeagrants.org)
2. Those stated in this call.
3. Agreements signed with granted researchers and involved research centres.
4. National rules in Spain, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein where applicable.

I.11. Grant payment

1. A grant period starts on the day a researcher arrives at the host centre. Grant payments will be made by UCM directly to the researcher, on a monthly basis.
2. In the case of stays longer than 6 months, payment of seventh and subsequent months might be subject to the approval of the mid-term report presented by the researcher.

I.11. Application formalities

Applications must be submitted to Universidad Complutense de Madrid, both by regular mail and by e-mail, at the following addresses:

e-mail:
imi@mat.ucm.es.

Regular mail:
IMI – Instituto de Matemática Interdisciplinar
Abel-Munch Monitoring Committee
Facultad de Ciencias Matemáticas
Plaza de las Ciencias, 3 Despacho 250A
28040 Madrid - Spain

Any application should include the following documents:

- Document 1. Application form.
- Document 2. Copy of the passport or identity card of the applicant.
- Document 3. Curriculum Vitae of the applicant. It must contain at least the information required in the proposed standard CV.
- Document 4. Formal declaration signed by the responsible representative of their institution, endorsing the application and committing themselves to respect all terms of the Grant in case of approval of the application.
- Document 5. Letter(s) of interest from the host institution(s) and written commitment of the institution(s) to provide office room and other facilities for the applicant. For non UCM Spanish sending and host centres, this commitment includes co-funding 15% of the total cost of the grant applied for by the researcher.

Applicants will receive them upon request made to imi@mat.ucm.es

Applications can be filed from September 1, 2009 until October 30, 2009. Applications received outside this period will not be considered.

CHAPTER II UCM – EEA ABEL SENIOR GRANTS

II.1. Beneficiaries

High level scientists in research institutions and universities in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Spain, who are active in fields pertaining to experimental sciences, specially but not only mathematics and related disciplines, and to any discipline using mathematics.

II.2. Eligibility conditions

Applicants must have a PhD degree obtained before 2003, or at least 10 years of proven experience in experimental sciences, specially but not only mathematics and related disciplines, or in any discipline using mathematics. For women having children, this period may be decreased by up to two years per child.

II.2. Duration and conditions of stay

1. Stays will last up to 6 months, with no minimum duration exigence.
2. Stays must start not earlier than December 1, 2009 and not later than July 1, 2010.
3. These Grants do not establish any contractual relationship of the beneficiary and the host centre(s).
4. Grantees will perceive between 6.500 and 8.500 Euro grant per month (or proportional amount if stays last intermediate periods), depending on the interest of the proposal, qualification and experience. This amount will be subject to corresponding taxes on the revenue. For Double Tax Agreements to be taken into account, grantees must provide an official certificate of tax residence issued by public authorities of the origin country whose agreement is to be applied. Awarded researchers will receive up to 2.500 euro as a contribution to travel and settlement expenses, depending on the number of grants allocated. Evidence of travel (air ticket, etc.) is required. Stays shorter than 1 month shall be granted with maximum 2200 euro per week, travel and settlement costs included in this amount.

CHAPTER III

UCM – EEA ABEL POSTDOC GRANTS

II.1. Beneficiaries

High level scientists in research institutions and universities in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Spain, who are active in fields pertaining to experimental sciences, specially but not only mathematics and related disciplines, and to any discipline using mathematics.

II.2. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must have a PhD degree in experimental sciences, specially but not only mathematics and related disciplines, or in any discipline using mathematics, obtained within the last five years before the call. For women having children, this period may be extended by up to two years per child.

II.2. Characteristics and conditions of stays

1. Stays will last up to 12 months, with no minimum duration exigence.
2. Stays must start not earlier than December 1, 2009 and not later than July 1, 2010
3. These Grants do not establish any contractual relationship of the beneficiary and the host center(s).
4. Grantees will receive 4.500 Euro per month. This amount will be subject to corresponding taxes on the revenue. For Double Tax Agreements to be taken into account, grantees must provide an official certificate of tax residence issued by public authorities of the origin country whose agreement is to be applied. Awarded researchers will receive up to 2.500 euro as a contribution to travel and settlement expenses, depending on the number of grants allocated. Evidence of travel (air ticket, etc.) is required. Stays shorter than 1 month shall be granted with maximum 1300 euro per week, travel and settlement costs included in this amount.

CHAPTER IV

UCM – EEA ABEL PREDOC GRANTS

II.1. Beneficiaries

High level graduate students in research institutions and universities in Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Spain, in fields pertaining to experimental sciences, specially but not only mathematics and related disciplines, and to any discipline using mathematics.

II.2. Eligibility requirements

Applicants must be registered in a PhD program of one institution of the EEA-EFTA countries (Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein) or in Spain. They should preferably be within a 5 year period after having obtained an academic degree allowing to start Ph. D studies. For women having children, this period will be extended up to two years per child. Evidence of strong academic achievement should be provided.

II.2. Characteristics and conditions of stays

1. Stays will last up to 12 months, with no minimum duration exigence.
2. Stays must start not earlier than December 1, 2009 and not later than June 1, 2010.

3. These Grants do not establish any contractual relationship of the beneficiary and the host centre(s).
4. Grantees will receive 3.500 Euro per month. This amount will be subject to corresponding taxes on the revenue. For Double Tax Agreements to be taken into account, grantees must provide an official certificate of tax residence issued by public authorities of the origin country whose agreement is to be applied. Awarded researchers will receive between up to 2.500 euro as a contribution to travel and settlement expenses, depending on the number of grants allocated. Evidence of travel (air ticket, etc.) is required. Stays shorter than 1 month shall be granted with maximum 1100 euro per week, travel and settlement costs included in this amount.



Madrid, September 1st, 2009
Carlos Andradás Heranz
Vice-President for Academic Policy and Positions