



2026 “ATRAE” PROGRAM CALL

APPLICATION GUIDELINE

COMPLUTENSE UNIVERSITY OF MADRID

The early processing call for 2026 for granting funding to promote the incorporation of consolidated talent through the “ATRAE Program” is part of the State Program for Human Resources within the State Plan for Scientific, Technical and Innovation Research for the 2024–2027 period.

OBJECTIVE

To facilitate the incorporation of consolidated research talent with recognized international prestige, thereby promoting progress towards a more competitive Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation (SECTI) both nationally and internationally. The aim is to promote the circulation of knowledge and excellent researchers, incorporating them permanently into SECTI, supporting their careers, and encouraging the creation and consolidation of top-level research teams.

To encourage participation from scientific personnel affiliated with research institutions located in the United States the maximum amount of financial support available to this group has been increased.

Consolidated researchers, of recognised international prestige, are considered to be people who meet criteria such as being among the 10% of most outstanding researchers in their area of specialisation at a global level, being a researcher in charge of an active European Research Council (ERC) project, having the highest level of the academic/research career in the country of origin, or having directed as PI a significant number of research projects in competitive calls, whether national

from any country or international, having made contributions of great relevance and impact in their area of specialization throughout their career.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE ACTIONS AND FUNDED ACTIVITIES

Features of the actions:

- Actions must enable the stable incorporation of consolidated research talent.
- Beneficiary institutions must create a permanent position within the IP's area of expertise and ensure its coverage before the end of the implementation period.
- Actions are carried out individually by a single beneficiary and may last 3 or 4 years.
- Funded actions may receive up to €1,000,000 (including both direct and indirect costs).
- This amount may be increased to €1,200,000 if the proposed principal investigators have been affiliated with U.S.-based research organizations for at least 5 years between January 1, 2020, and the start date of the application period.

Eligible mandatory activities within the actions:

- Execution of an R&D&I project led by the PI.
 - Hiring of the PI from the start of the project until the position is permanently filled.
 - Contract type: Distinguished researcher contract, as per Article 23 of Law 14/2011.
 - Minimum gross annual full-time salary: €80,000.
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PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED PI

- Must hold a PhD obtained before January 1, 2019.

- Must have had a professional affiliation with foreign research institutions for at least 5 years from January 1, 2020, to the application start date. Stays in which the researcher remained under contract with a Spanish entity or mere collaborations will not count.
 - Must not be a tenured faculty member in public Spanish universities, a tenured researcher in public research bodies, or a permanent faculty/staff member in a Spanish public university.
 - Must not have passed or been selected in any competitive process for such permanent positions.
These requirements must be met throughout the entire application process.
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PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS FOR THE PI

- The same IP address may not appear in more than one application submitted to this call for proposals.
 - Cannot have received funding as PI in previous calls for this action or the AEI research consolidation grants.
 - Cannot have applied to the 2025 call and received less than 80 points.
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PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS AT UCM

For Applicants:

Before applying, to assess the viability of their application, candidates must contact the Director of the Department to which they wish to be affiliated and provide:

- Full name
- Email address
- Department's area of knowledge
- Description of current professional situation (contractual figure and institution)
- CV including a short summary with main bibliometric indicators

- Scientific-technical area of the call
- Summary of the proposed research line (max. 1,000 characters including spaces)

For UCM Departments:

After receiving pre-applications, departments must complete and submit a position request form available at:

<https://www.ucm.es/apoyo-investigacion/convocatoria-atrae-2026>

Information required:

- Candidate's full name and email
- Department's area of knowledge
- Description of current professional situation
- Candidate's CV and bibliometric indicators
- Scientific-technical area of the call
- Summary of the proposed research (max. 1,000 characters including spaces).

Departments must also indicate the priority ranking of candidates and justify their needs.

The form must be signed electronically by the Department Director and sent to:

 **pinves.seleccion@ucm.es**

The Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer will evaluate the pre-applications based on the justifications provided, budget availability, and departmental teaching needs.

Internal deadline:  **2:00 PM, May 4, 2026**

APPLICATION PREPARATION

Once the Vice-Rectorate communicates the approved pre-applications, candidates must submit the required documents.

Online application platform:

Access the application portal. Read the call, FAQs, and user guide on the AEI website before starting.

Application help – Key fields:

"Principal Investigator" tab:

In the final section on permanent position creation, include:

“The Rector will announce the corresponding call for the position provided that it has been approved by the Governing Council upon the proposal of the Academic Committee, with prior reports from the Faculty and the corresponding Department.”

Budget – Execution Expenses tab:

Include a €1,200 line item (as per Article 8.3.19º) for the final project audit report.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Submit by **email only** to:  pinves.seleccion@ucm.es

Documents to attach:

- Proof of PhD degree
- Certificate of having been professionally linked to foreign research organizations for at least 5 years, in the period between 1 January 2020 and the start date of the application period (23 April 2026)

Additionally, submit to: pinves.seleccion@ucm.es

- Area and subarea for project evaluation
- Project summary (in Spanish and English) + PI's bio sketch (preferably in English)
- Description of actions for creating a permanent position in PI's area
- PI's identification data including ORCID
- Post-project evaluation indicators, ethical/biosafety considerations, use of ICTS, etc.
- Budget breakdown with justification (recommended in English)

Also required for official registration by UCM's legal representative:

- Scientific-technical project proposal (max. 12 pages, in English, using AEI template)
- PI's abbreviated CV (CVA), in English, using AEI/FECYT format

UCM internal deadline:  **June 4, 2026 at 11:59 PM**

Late submissions will not be guaranteed for processing.

FINAL SUBMISSION BY THE VICE-RECTORATE

Once applications are received, they will be reviewed. Valid applications will be officially submitted by the Vice-Rector for Research and Transfer, **Lucía de Juan Ferré**, using electronic signature.



More info:

Research Staff Selection Section

 pinves.seleccion@ucm.es

 <https://www.ucm.es/directorio-pinves>