

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RENEWAL OF IN3-UOC GRANTS FOR PHD THESES 2009</b></p>
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**Vice President, Research, Resolution of October 6 2008 by which the call is opened for renewal of IN3-UOC Grants for PhD theses -2009- in the framework of the Statutes for Research Staff in Training.**

The Vice President, Research, acting with the responsibilities bestowed upon them with regard to the training of researchers, publicly opens the call for IN3-UOC Grants for PhD theses for research staff in pre-doctoral training, in the framework of the Statutes for Research Staff, as approved by Royal Decree 63/2006, of January 27.

This programme is funded by the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (Foundation for the Open University of Catalonia, FUOC) through its research institute, the Internet Interdisciplinary Institute (IN3).

### **OBJECT OF THE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

The IN3 is to award IN3-UOC grants for PhD theses -2009- as part of the UOC's PhD on the Information and Knowledge Society programme in order to foster researcher training within the UOC's research groups.

This call meets the criteria set by the IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee for the undertaking of PhD theses; a committee appointed by the university's Governing Council.

## PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The IN3-UOC Grants Programme for PhD theses, in accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006, of January 27, approving the Research Intern Charter, is structured in terms of the following stages:

**First stage:** this stage is comprised of two periods of 12 months each (January-December) during which the research intern is legally deemed to be on an internship. In the first academic year of the grant, the beneficiaries will have to obtain 60 ECTS from the research syllabus of an official postgraduate programme.

Should the applicant already meet the access requirements for the PhD programme research period (the Advanced Studies Diploma – DEA – or sufficient research experience; a degree plus 60 ECTS on postgraduate programmes, or 300 ECTS from both degree and postgraduate courses), this first stage will last just 12 months.

**Second stage:** in this stage, a one-year contract of employment, renewable for a further year in the event of renewal of the grant, is signed.

The defence of the thesis, regardless of the stage of the grant that the research staff in training are to be found in, shall not automatically lead to the end of the grant/contract and, thus, the corresponding payments. Nevertheless, these payments shall be linked to the research staff in training in question carrying out that research activity agreed to by them, their supervisor and the IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee.

Those receiving grants who defend their theses more than 3 months before the end of the second stage of the grant shall, additionally, receive 3,000 euros gross, which shall be added to the monthly payments as set out in the conditions for renewal of the grant for the year in question.

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE GRANTS

The grants awarded are subsidiary to any other equivalent grants from public or private institutions. Thus, grant-holders will be obliged to apply for equivalent grants from those public or private institutions deemed appropriate by the IN3.

The status of a research intern with an IN3-UOC grant is incompatible with contractual or statutory ties that may affect their ability to fully devote themselves to the research. This notwithstanding, the IN3 Management may value applications to carry out teaching activities (courses, conferences or papers) directly associated with the research undertaken by the research intern, providing they are sporadic and not habitual in nature. These activities may not exceed 30 hours a year for 1<sup>st</sup>-stage research interns and 60 hours a year for 2<sup>nd</sup>-stage research interns. In the event that this activity is carried out at the UOC, the research interns will not receive additional financial reward. Likewise, if the activity is carried out outside the UOC, it may not exceed 30% of the gross annual sum of the grant.

The maximum length of the grants is 4 years (3 years for those who meet the access requirements for the PhD programme research period). They have to be renewed annually, which will depend on the assessment that the Evaluation Committee makes of the objectives reached and results attained by the grant-holder.

The research intern will carry out their research activities at the IN3 building in Castelldefels and will have to start, at the latest, by January 7 2009. Should they not start by this time, they will lose their rights to the grant.

The research intern expressly authorises the UOC to make the use that it sees fit of the findings and reports submitted for the grant application or to justify the work carried out (except publication) in order to take the appropriate steps with the persons or institutions that may fund all or part of the sum of the grant awarded. However, in accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006, of January 27, approving the Research Intern Charter, they may exercise the intellectual property rights derived from their own training activities in the research, in line with their contribution, as set out in the revised text of the Intellectual Property Act, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996, of April 12.

## REQUIREMENTS

Individuals who, at the time of submitting the application, hold a bachelor's degree can apply for an IN3-UOC grant. Students not holding a qualification recognised by the Spanish government can apply for an IN3-UOC grant (following checks to ensure that their level of studies corresponds to that of Spanish degrees); the PhD qualification obtained will have full official validity.

## RIGHTS OF RESEARCH INTERNS

Without being exhaustive in nature, and, in any event, in line with the provisions of Royal Decree 63/2006, of January 27, approving the Research Intern Charter, anyone receiving a grant has the right to:

- Obtain from the FUOC the necessary support to carry out their research activity.
- Form part of a UOC/IN3 Research Group.
- Use UOC/IN3 services and participate in all their activities in accordance with internal regulations.
- Participate in IN3/UOC calls for applications for grants.
- Exercise the intellectual property rights derived from their own training activities in the research, in line with their contribution, as set out in the revised text of the Intellectual Property Act, approved by Royal Legislative Decree 1/1996, of April 12.
- Receive the funding described in the "Provision and method of payment" section of this call.
- Providing that budgetary provisions allow, recover the grant in the event of interruptions caused by force majeure.
- Be able to carry out teaching collaboration work with prior authorisation from the IN3 Management and in accordance with the requirements set out in this call.

- Visiting researcher at other centres. In each case, the IN3 Management shall decide whether these visits are opportune and whether or not they require temporary suspension of the grant, and the corresponding suspension of payments.
- In the event of maternity leave, leave for adoption or fostering (of children under the age of 6, whether prior to adoption or permanently), be entitled to the benefits legally established for these cases.
- Full payment of the corresponding grant will be maintained during both the interruption and recovery period. The recovery period following the interruption cannot be extended for more than 16 weeks after the conclusion of 4 years of grant and only when the PhD thesis has yet to be defended.

## OBLIGATIONS OF RESEARCH INTERNS

Without being exhaustive in nature, and in line with the provisions of Royal Decree 63/2006, of January 27, approving the Research Intern Charter, anyone receiving a grant is obliged to:

- Carry out the research work in accordance with the criteria established by the IN3 Management and the UOC Researcher/Coordinator of the Research Group to which they are assigned. In particular, attending and participating in research seminars organised by the IN3/UOC for research staff in training and the specific courses that the UOC/IN3 may organise to improve their learning.
- Participate in the IN3 and UOC's general activities in the spirit of scientific collaboration.
- Carry out the necessary steps to apply for and obtain from the State or any public or private institution the grants or funding to which they may have access given their personal circumstances or the work that they carry out.
- Request approval from the IN3 Management for stays as a visiting researcher at other centres.
- Communicate to the IN3-UOC the awarding of any other grant or similar aid obtained and any interruption due to force majeure.

- Accept the grants that the UOC may obtain from other persons or institutions to substitute all or part of the grant awarded, providing that this substitution does not financially prejudice the research intern.
- Cite the following statement "With the support of an IN3-UOC PhD grant" in the written work deriving from the research carried out.
- Communicate maternity leave, or leave for adoption or fostering of children under the age of 6.
- Meet the obligations corresponding to forming part of the general Social Security system.
- Adhere to the FUOC's internal regulations; in particular, to the employment conditions and health and safety regulations.
- Adhere to the conditions and obligations established in this call.

Should any of these obligations not be fulfilled, the IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee has the right to revoke the grant.

## RENEWAL

To renew the grant, applicants must submit the following documents before December 1 2008:

- Application for renewal, using the printed forms provided by IN3.
- A report detailing the research carried out, the objectives and results achieved and any teaching activities.
- A report by the thesis supervisor on the candidate's research activity during the academic year 2008.

The IN3-UOC Grants Selection and Evaluation Committee will issue a decision on grant renewals before December 15 2008. All applicants will be duly informed of the Committee's decision.

## SELECTION

The UOC has appointed the IN3-UOC Grants selection and Evaluation Committee to assess and select candidates who have submitted grant renewal applications. The decision of this Committee, whose members are appointed by the Governing Council, is final.

To assess renewal applications, the Committee will take the following into account:

- Report describing the research carried out and the results obtained.
- Progress report describing in detail the research objectives agreed and achieved.
- Thesis supervisor's report on the candidate's research activity during 2008.

## PROVISION AND METHOD OF PAYMENT

During the second year of the first stage of the grant, the grants will have an annual provision of €13.800. During this first stage, the grant amount will be paid in 12 monthly instalments by transfer to the bank account indicated by the research intern.

In accordance with Royal Decree 63/2006, of January 27, approving the Research Intern Charter, research interns will be included in the general Social Security system for the first 2 years (legally deemed grant-holders). Every concession for a time under 12 months or the ending of the person like researcher under formation before the stage ends will result a proportional reduction of the amount of the grant.

During the second stage of the grant, a one-year employment contract (renewable for a further year) for €15.000 a year will be signed, subject to the withholdings established by current legislation. When research interns are under contract, they are entitled to the employment and Social Security rights that are derived from the contract signed with the FUOC. The amount will be paid in 12 monthly payments by bank transfer to the bank account indicated by the research intern.

Both grant periods also include enrolment on the UOC's official masters and PhD programmes.

Likewise, the grant may also include a final payment of 1.500 euros should the thesis be read when the second stage of the grant comes to an end. This final payment will be paid at the same time as the last monthly payment of the grant.

Castelldefels, October 6 2008

VICE PRESIDENT, RESEARCH



Signed: Eduard Aibar Puentes