

Call for Grant Applications to Produce Master's Theses (TFM) in the Field of Marine Sciences and Technologies

Presentation

The Centre for Postgraduate Studies (CEP) at the University of the Balearic Islands (UIB) and the consortium Balearic Islands Coastal Ocean Observing and Forecasting System (SOCIB), with the aim of contributing to the improvement of human potential in all their action areas, and convinced of the importance of scientific progress, research, training excellence and professional training as driving forces for the development of society, have established a series of joint actions to support research in the field of marine sciences and technologies, which involve fostering synergies and sharing existing resources between the UIB and SOCIB.

I. Purpose of the Grant

The present call is aimed at promoting the initiation of students to research through the production of a Master's Thesis (TFM) on topics linked to marine sciences and technologies within the framework of the master's degree programmes available at the UIB.

II. Characteristics of the Grants

A total of five grants will be awarded to students enrolled in master's courses with a research pathway whose TFM is linked to the field of marine sciences and technologies, with the following distribution and topics:

For students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Big Data Analysis in Economics and Business:

1. Diseño e implementación de un grafo de conocimiento y su explotación en una Infraestructura Científica y Técnica Singular: la ICTS SOCIB.

For students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Advanced Physics and Applied Mathematics:

2. On wave energy dissipation along a seagrass field.

For students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Intelligent Systems:

3. Blockchain-based traceability of the use of datasets.
4. Arquitectura técnica de un gemelo digital (*digital twin*) en una Infraestructura Científica y Técnica Singular: la ICTS SOCIB.

For students enrolled in the Master's Degree in Equality Policies and Gender-Based Violence Prevention:

5. Políticas de igualdad de género en I+D+i: el marco europeo y una campaña de actuación en la ICTS SOCIB.

Each grant is worth €500 per month, and will last for a maximum of four months. Grants will be financed jointly and in equal parts by the UIB and SOCIB.

All grant recipients will have an academic tutor for the TFM at the UIB and an advisor from the SOCIB, and will have at their disposal all the information contained in the SOCIB databases, as well as access, as far as possible and subject to availability, to the scientific and technical equipment of this institution. The start date for the practical placements will be agreed between the student and the SOCIB advisor, once the call resolution has been published. The work will be supervised from SOCIB in online or face-to-face mode to be defined between the SOCIB advisor and the student.

The grant will consist of two bimonthly payments. The first payment will be made two months after the start of the work plan agreed by the UIB tutor and the SOCIB advisor. In order to process it, the CEP must receive the approval of the people who tutor and guide the beneficiary at the UIB and SOCIB.

The second and last payment will be made at the end of the four months following the start of the work plan. Likewise, the CEP must receive the approval of the UIB tutor and the SOCIB advisor in order to process it.

III. Application Requirements and Documentation

At the time of application, all candidates must:

- Be enrolled on the TFM of the degree course for which they are applying for the grant, and be up to date with payments of their tuition fees.
- Fill in an online application form, where they must select the topics they wish to apply for in order of preference.
- Submit:
 - A photocopy of a valid identity document (DNI, for Spanish nationals; passport, for applicants from foreign countries) that is valid at the time of application.
 - The candidate's CV.
 - A list, which must be included in the CV, comprising the details of any conferences, articles, and participation in projects and other activities of a scientific nature, as well as awards, grants and other relevant merits (optional).
 - A document accrediting experience in one or more of the topics of the application. The experience in the topic, as well as the time devoted and the involvement of the applicant must be specified in detail. Candidates submitting proof of experience in more than one topic must present a separate accrediting document for each topic.
 - An official certificate of English (optional). Candidates that do not submit an official certificate shall receive no assessment for this category.

These grants are compatible with any other grants or scholarships.

IV. Application Submission Process

Applicants must access the specific scholarship application portal set up for this purpose by the CEP (i.e. https://postgrau.uib.es/solicitud_de_beca), where they must attach all the required documentation and fill in the application. The deadline for submitting applications will run from 22nd November 2022 up to and including 13th December 2022.

For any queries regarding the application procedure, please contact the CEP on 971 17 31 89 / 971 17 25 84 or at <beques.postgrau@uib.es>.

V. Selection Process

A selection committee will be set up comprising the director and the secretary of the CEP, the director of the SOCIB and a member of the SOCIB scientific staff appointed by the director, or any other persons delegated by each of the original members of the committee.

The selection committee will assess the applications on the basis of the documentation submitted, paying particular attention to the applicants' academic record, CV and accredited level of English. The CEP reserves the right to request applicants to provide, at any time, any information it deems appropriate and/or any certificates accrediting the merits stated in the application.

After assessing all the applications, the committee will allocate each grant to one candidate, and, where necessary, it will decide what candidates will be waitlisted. The call resolution shall be published on the CEP's website, and applicants shall be notified of its publication by email.

The selection committee may decide not to award any grants it deems appropriate.

VI. Obligations of Recipients

Grant recipients must:

- Accept in writing the grant award, the call rules and conditions and the criteria established by the UIB and SOCIB for selecting applicants within seven calendar days from notification of the decision, which will be sent to the email provided in the application form.
- Follow the instructions given by the SOCIB advisor and the UIB tutor as reflected in the work plan.
- Communicate in writing to the CEP their total or partial withdrawal from the grant, as well as any substantial modification that affects the conditions of the work plan or the present call. In particular, the persons in charge at the UIB and SOCIB must be informed of any absence lasting seven days or more, and, where such absences last more than thirty days, the recipient will have to inform the CEP.
- Be available to participate in promotional videos, interviews with the media or similar events where they may be asked to talk about the grant awarded or present the work produced as part of the TFM.
- State in the TFM report and viva defence, as well as in any type of communication or dissemination of the results obtained, that the results presented have arisen from the cooperation between the UIB and the SOCIB, and to explicitly mention the financial support obtained through these grants.

VII. Grant Termination or Withdrawal

The grounds for terminating the grant will be as follows:

- Finding and verification of any irregularity in the details stated in the application, failure to fulfil the obligations stated herein, or loss of the necessary conditions or requirements during the grant period.
- Voluntary withdrawal. In this instance, the recipient will have to return the amount received up to the moment of withdrawal, unless there are exceptional, duly justified reasons.
- Unexcused absence of the recipient for a period of more than thirty days after accepting the grant. In this event, the beneficiary will have to return the total amount of the grant received.
- Termination shall entail the loss of all rights inherent to the awarding of the grant.

VIII. General Information

For any additional information on this call, you may contact us at the following address:

Centre for Postgraduate Studies (CEP)
Antoni Maria Alcover i Sureda Building, University Campus
Cra. de Valldemossa, km 7.5
E-07122 Palma (Illes Balears)
<http://cep.uib.es>
beques.postgrau@uib.es

All notifications or amendment requests shall be sent to the email provided in the application form.