

## The 2nd edition of the Fundación Occident Jesús Serra Degree Scholarships

Fundación Occident today opens the 2nd call for the Jesús Serra Degree Scholarships, reaffirming its commitment to education and equal opportunities. This year, the Foundation is once again granting 12 scholarships to young people who want to overcome all obstacles and become the first in their family to pursue university studies, or the first women in their family to graduate with a STEM degree. In addition to financial support, scholarship holders will receive other benefits such as personal mentoring, which has become the best aspect valued by the first edition's recipients.

The Fundación Occident Jesús Serra Scholarships began their trajectory in 2024 with the aim of reducing inequalities in both access to university and the best paid jobs. This scholarship programme has two access routes:

- First generation of university students, six scholarships for students who will be the first in their family to study at university, regardless of subject area.
- First generation of women in STEM, six scholarships for students who want to be the first in their family to be qualified in a degree in the field of sciences, technology, engineering and/or mathematics.

The Jesús Serra Degree Scholarships not only include an economic endowment to support low-income families but also offer personal mentoring and training programmes designed to accompany students on their university path. Through the mentoring programme, the Foundation seeks to connect scholarship holders with personal mentors who help them improve their academic performance, establish their first network of professional contacts and explore different employment opportunities. In addition, these scholarships also offer a training programme that combines face-to-face sessions, for the development of crosscutting skills, and online sessions, during which scholarship holders can meet professionals with inspiring careers, many of whom, like them, were the first in their family to study at university.

“Education is a key tool for transforming society. Therefore, with these scholarships, **we want to support exceptional students, so that they can go as far as their efforts and talent can take them.** Whatever the obstacles in their way, we want to help them overcome them”, explained Laura Halpern, President of Fundación Occident.

The Jesús Serra Degree Scholarships offer **financial aid depending on family income and distance** to the university centre of up to 2,000 euros per course. In addition, students will also receive a **supplementary amount** of up to 3,000 euros per year linked to the use of the mentoring and training programme, as well as 750 euros per year for **complementary training**, such as English or programming classes, and another 750 euros for **academic material**.

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### About Fundación Occident

Fundación Occident, formerly Fundación Jesús Serra, is a private non-profit entity, created in memory of Jesús Serra Santamans, a renowned businessman and patron, who was the founder of GCO (Grupo Catalana Occidente). Its activity consists of developing and supporting initiatives in the fields of research, business and teaching, social action, sport, and promotion of the arts, with a common objective: responsible commitment to society.

"When I started university, I was afraid of feeling lost, but thanks to these scholarships I met Fátima, my mentor. She is a doctor and researcher, which is my chosen career path after I finish university. Thanks to her, I have a person who understands me, because she has already walked that path, and who advises me on the best way to achieve my goals. This is something that is making a difference." Carmen Berenguer, a scholarship beneficiary from the first edition of the Jesús Serra Degree Scholarships, a medical student at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and a co-star of the 2nd edition of the scholarship campaign.

The call is open to students in their last year of high school or higher education with average marks of seven or more and with a family income that does not exceed threshold three established in the general grant of the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports. In addition, priority will be given to candidates with functional diversities or special educational needs.

**Applications must be made before 30 May 2025 at 14:00 (CET)** via the Jesús Serra Scholarship website ([www.fundacionoccident.org/becas-jesus-serra](http://www.fundacionoccident.org/becas-jesus-serra)), which also contains the terms and conditions of the programme and additional information.

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