

Research Awards

Jesús Serra

7th edition

Frequently asked questions (FAQs)



About the call and requirements

What do the Jesús Serra Research Awards acknowledge?

The career path and research projects of young scientists with outstanding contributions in the fields of food, nutrition and health research.

Who is eligible for the Research Awards Jesús Serra?

As a general rule, researchers who have not reached 46 years of age on the closing date of the call, of any nationality, and who have been carrying out their research in Spain for at least 3 years.

Can the candidate exceed the maximum age to present their candidacy?

Candidates may exceed the age limit of 46 if they have temporarily interrupted their careers due to the birth or adoption of children and their care during the first months of life. These interruptions must be proven with documentation.

What type of activity counts towards the last 3 years of research in Spain or the experience in the research fields of food, nutrition and health?

All activities that can be accredited through a contract, grant, official qualification, or other academic and work relations are considered relevant, if they include research as their subject. To mention just a few, these activities include studying doctorate and post-doctorate degrees, as well as research contracts or university contracts with a part-time dedication to research.

Can I take part if I am affiliated with a private university, hospital, or research centre?

Yes, candidates must be affiliated with both public and private Spanish universities, hospitals, or research centres of renowned prestige.

Does research in food, nutrition and health have to be the focus of research throughout my career?

No, candidates may work on broader research topics, but their contributions to food, nutrition, and health must be evident. The project submitted for the award must specifically address these areas.

Can I submit an entry to both prize categories: basic and clinical research?

No, candidates must choose only one of the categories. If the research project is in the preclinical phase, the category is defined by the candidate's research career in this field, and more specifically by the longer-term goals of the line of research in which the project presented to these Awards is included.

Can I apply again if I have applied in previous editions?

Yes, candidates may reapply by submitting all required documentation, duly updated. If you wish to retrieve the information from your previous application, please contact investigacion@fundacionoccident.com.

About applications and documentation

How do I submit my candidacy?

Applications must be submitted through the Smartsimple platform, accessible via fundacionoccident.org/eng/awards-research. Applicants must register, complete the application form, and submit the required documents, including a description of the research project, an Abbreviated Standard Curriculum Vitae (ACV), and at least one letter of endorsement.

How do I register on the Smartsimple application platform?

On the Smartsimple platform, you must register as a freelance applicant. Once registered, access the Research Awards Jesús Serra 2025 call and begin your application by filling out the required fields. Remember to save your username and password so you can return to your application and complete it later. You can also find the link on fundacionoccident.org/eng/awards-research.

How long do I have to gather all the required documents?

Applications can be submitted from April 29th to June 20th, 2025, at 2:00 PM CET.

How should I submit my research project?

To submit your research project, you must complete a document that will be available for download on the application platform, both in Word and editable PDF format. However, the document must be submitted in PDF format.

This document includes required fields in which you must:

- Describe your research background and experience.
- Outline the project you are submitting, focusing on food, nutrition, and health.
- Highlight its key aspects, including impact and social benefits.
- Detail its international scope and future prospects.
- Specify how the funding will be used.

Do I have to submit my CV in any specific format/form?

An abbreviated standard curriculum vitae (ACV) must be submitted. This includes information on the candidate's education, experience, and career path, including leadership of projects or work groups, work abroad, and publications, as well as any other merits. The author's impact and contributions to various publications and projects, or at least the most relevant ones, must be reported.

Can I submit more than one letter of endorsement?

Yes, candidates must submit at least one letter of endorsement from their project supervisors or other recognised professionals affiliated with universities, hospitals, or research centres in Spain. Additional letters may also be provided by professionals from international organisations endorsing the candidate's career and/or international and social impact.

Must I include the most relevant publications in PDF format?

No, it is not necessary. As indicated in the terms and conditions of the Awards, the ACV must include the URL to access the full reference (through PubMed, journal, DOI, etc.) so that the jury can quickly access it.

Do I need to prove all my merits with official documentation?

In general, it is not necessary to attach a copy of official qualifications, proof of stays or other merits or acknowledgments. However, we recommend including links to relevant documents or websites whenever possible. The jury reserves the right to check any of these merits, either by contacting the candidate and/or the awarding or host institutions.

In which language should the application and requested documentation be submitted?

Applications can be completed and submitted in both Spanish and English.

Will I receive any notification after filling out the online form and sending the documentation?

Yes, Fundación Occident will confirm receipt of your application via email.

About prize endowment and resolution

What is the prize?

The call includes two categories: basic research and clinical research, each with a €50,000 gross award. The prize must be used for research purposes.

Who receives the prize: the winning candidate, or their institution?

The prize can be awarded directly to the winning candidate or to their institution, as defined by the recipient when accepting the award. Taxation will depend on the beneficiary's entity and tax residence. We recommend consulting a financial advisor for further details.

Which costs are eligible?

The prize money must be used for research and any costs related to the direct implementation of the project, including, but not limited to, personnel costs and the purchase or rental of materials and equipment, as well as the presentation of results at conferences and other scientific events. Indirect costs are not funded.

Will I receive a notification after the Jury's decision?

Yes, in the days following the Jury's decision, Fundación Occident will notify all candidates regarding the outcome of their application.

If your question is not answered
here, please do not hesitate to
contact us at

investigacion@fundacionoccident.com

<https://fundacionoccident.org/eng/awards-research>

