

# Research Awards Jesús Serra

8th Edition

Terms and Conditions

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# Research Awards Jesús Serra

## Food, nutrition and health

From 10th March to 28th April 2026

Fundación Occident announces the 8th edition of the Research Awards Jesús Serra. Since 2018, these Awards have recognised the trajectory of young researchers working in Spain and support projects that represent significant advances with an impact on research in food, nutrition, and health.

Additionally, for the second consecutive year, the Special Award for Scientific Communication Federico Halpern is being held, as part of the Research Awards Jesús Serra, with the aim of recognizing and valuing the work of journalists, communicators, researchers, and content creators who stand out for their commitment to evidence-based information and communication on food, nutrition, and health.

Through this initiative, Fundación Occident reinforces its commitment not only to research excellence but also to high-quality scientific communication that contributes to improving narratives on these topics in the media, clinical practice, and society. More information is available on [our website](#).



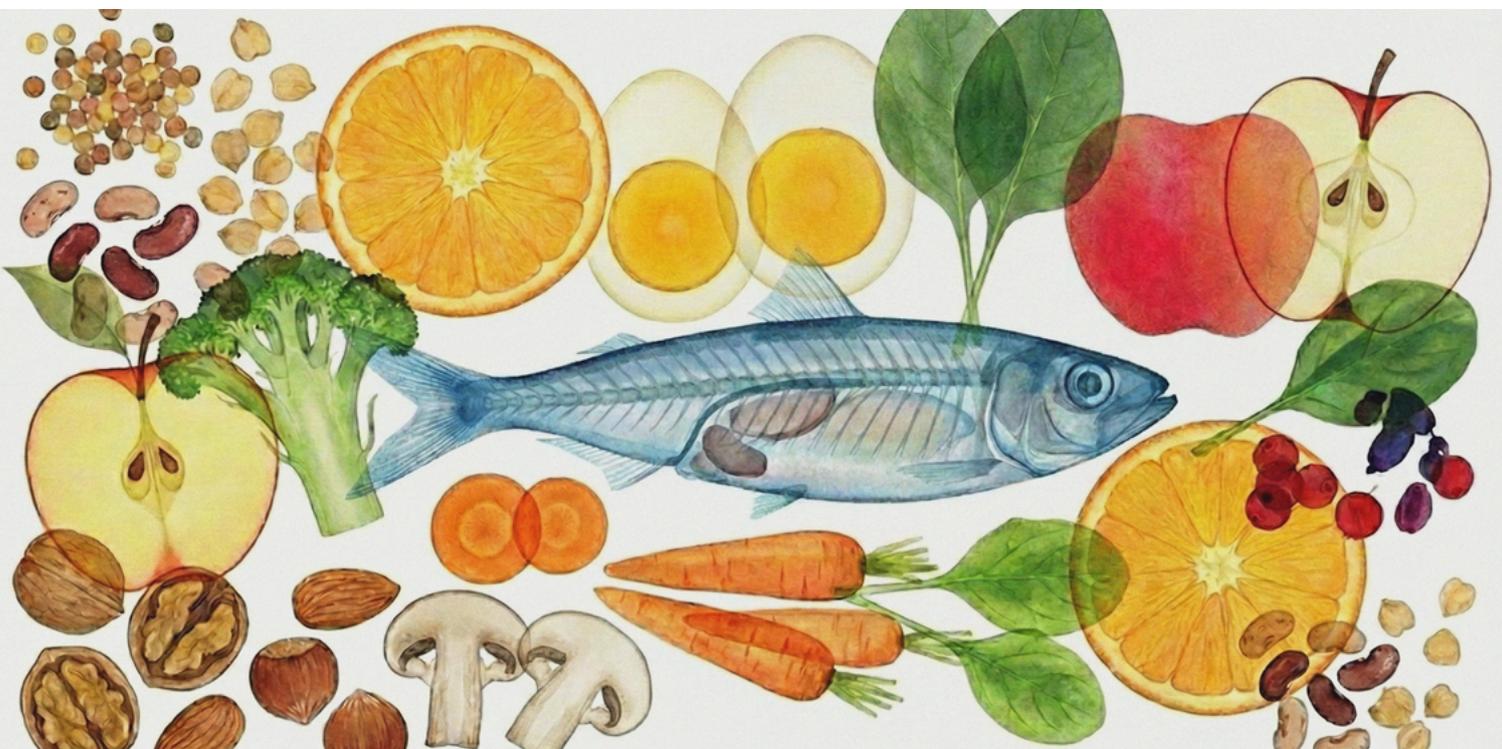
### Who can apply?

Young researchers working in Spain with important contributions to food, nutrition and health research. Applications can be submitted in two categories: **basic research and clinical research**.



### When to apply?

Applications to the 8th Research Awards Jesús Serra call must be submitted from **10th March to 28th April at 2:00 PM CET (2026)**, inclusive.



# 1 The Awards

The Research Awards Jesús Serra recognise trajectories of research excellence that includes outstanding contributions to research in food, nutrition and health. **In each edition, one award is given in each category: basic research and clinical research.**

Candidates can submit research work in:

- Clinical Nutrition
- Metabolism
- Epidemiology
- Genetics and Molecular biology
- Food Science and Technology
- And, in general, biomedical research.

Always with a focus on or intersection with nutrition.

If the research project accompanying the application is in the **pre-clinical phase**, the category should reflect the long-term objectives of this line of research.

## Evaluation criteria

The criteria that will be evaluated in the selection process are:

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### 1. Education

The prize winner should have an excellent academic background and/or professional experience. Researchers who have received academic recognition, or those who have spent time abroad, will be highly valued.

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### 3. Impact of research

The candidate's number of publications and their scope will be taken into account. Research invited talks as well as leadership or important contributions to research projects will also be considered research merits.

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### 5. Scope of research

Key elements of the project and the scientific trajectory will also be valued, such as international projection or the potential to transfer the knowledge generated to other disciplines.

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### 2. Innovative characteristics

The candidates must detail the distinctive and innovative contributions made throughout their career, whether from a conceptual, methodological, or technical perspective.

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### 4. Social benefits

The jury will assess the contribution of their research to the creation of a high added-value to society. That is, the field of research should address a relevant societal problem with a direct link between food, nutrition and health.

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### 6. Use of the financial endowment

The financial endowment of the award must be dedicated to the research activity led by the awardees. Any expenditure necessary for the implementation of the project submitted, including personnel, goods and services, subcontracting costs and equipment, may be covered with the prize money. Indirect costs are not covered.

## 2 Candidate profile

Candidates must meet each and every one of the following requirements:

- Have not turned 46 years of age by the closing day of this call, 28th April 2026.\*
- Be a Spanish and/or foreign researcher with a minimum of 3 years of research in Spain.
- Having made outstanding contributions to research in food, nutrition, and health.
- Belonging to a research centre or Spanish university of recognised prestige.
- Having the endorsement of their project supervisors or professionals linked to universities, hospitals or research centres and networks in Spain.

\* The researcher's age may exceed 46 if the candidate has temporarily interrupted his or her career as a result of the birth or adoption of children and their care during the first months of life. Proof of these extended months must be provided with the relevant official documentation.

## 3 The jury

The jury responsible for selecting the winners is composed of **six members with recognised prestige in the field of medicine and health research from national and international centres of excellence**. The jury expands each year with the two winners from the previous edition. There will also be one representative from Fundación Occident acting as secretary, without the right to vote. As such, the jury is made up of a total of nine members.

### The jury's decision

**Simple majority:** The final decision on the candidate to be awarded in each category will be made by simple majority. The decision is final and must be sufficiently reasoned.

**Conflict of interest:** Members of the jury cannot endorse candidates. In the event of any conflict of interest, the jury member in question must abstain from the vote.

**In-person and non-delegable vote:** Jury members' votes must be made in person at the time of the vote, and are non-delegable.

**Unawarded prizes:** In the event that none of the candidates under consideration meet the requirements or objectives of the Awards, the jury reserves the right not to award any prizes.

**Interpretation of the Terms and Conditions of submission:** The jury has the authority to resolve, together with the Management of Fundación Occident, any other question regarding the interpretation of the Terms and Conditions of submission which may arise.

**Resolution:** The jury's decision will be announced [on the website](#) and at the Awards Ceremony in November 2026.

For more information about the professional profiles of the jury members, [visit the website](#).

## 4 Submission of applications

Each proposal must consist of:

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### 1. Application form

Completion and presentation of applications can be done in Spanish or English, and must be submitted through [the website](#), where the Smartsimple application platform is available.

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### 2. Endorsement letter

All applications must be endorsed by at least one letter of support from the head of research or a relevant person linked to a university, hospital, research centre or networks in Spain.

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### 3. Candidate's CV

All applications must be accompanied by the candidate's abbreviated CV (ACV) in PDF format, the journal impact factor and the candidate's position in each paper, as well as their role and contribution to the projects in which they have participated.

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### 4. Research project

All applications must be accompanied by a relevant research project, either in progress or currently being financed, with relevant participation of the candidate.

**Further detailed information** on how to apply for the Awards (including the application form, the SmartSimple platform, the letter of support, the curriculum vitae, and the research project) can be found in our [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#).

Candidates who have not won in previous editions may re-submit their application. If they wish to retrieve information previously submitted in electronic forms, they may contact the Awards secretary [via email](#).

Candidates will guarantee, with total indemnity for Fundación Occident, the veracity of information provided, as well as the authorship, ownership and exploitation rights vis-a-vis third parties of all graphic materials, trade names and other information included in the documents on which the application is based. The application must not have been submitted in parallel to any other competition for which the result is yet to be announced.

The Awards organisation undertakes to maintain the confidentiality of all data and not to disclose the identity of the candidates until the jury makes its decision.

## 5 Awards ceremony

### Awards ceremony

The Awards ceremony will take place in Madrid **on 18th November, 2026**. The prize winners are required to attend this event.

### Prize

The prize for these Awards will be **€50,000 for each category**: basic and clinical research. The amount must be allocated to activities related to the presented research project. The prize fund may be applied to any expense directly related to the execution of the project, including but not limited to personnel costs, the acquisition or contracting of materials and equipment, as well as the presentation of results at conferences and other scientific events. Indirect costs are excluded.

Payments **will be split into two instalments**. The first instalment, which represents 50% of the total prize amount, will be disbursed after the award ceremony. The second instalment, the remaining 50% of the prize, will be disbursed 12 months after the ceremony and after the winners have submitted a progress report on their research.

### Specific conditions

Attendance of the Awards ceremony is **mandatory**. In case of overwhelming force, the winner will have to appoint a delegate to attend the ceremony.

The winners agree to participate in activities organised by Fundación Occident, such as debates, talks and meetings. Fundación Occident may request the winners to produce a brief annual report on their career progress during the two years following the award. In this case, the report should be sent to Fundación Occident [via email address](#).

## 6 Acceptance and special conditions

Candidates must meet each one of the following requirements:

- The application of a candidate does not exempt the possibility of their participation in future editions.
- Submission of an application implies fully accepting these Terms and Conditions.
- Fundación Occident reserves the right to cancel all or part of this competition if, for reasons beyond its control, it becomes necessary, and such cancellation implies no responsibility for Fundación Occident.
- More information is available on the [Fundación Occident website](#).
- For any questions, please contact us via [our mail](#).

## 7 Use of information

### Information included in the form and personal data:

- Fundación Occident will be able to publicise the winning projects in the way it considers most appropriate for its dissemination.
- As such, participants expressly accept and authorise that the data of the resolution (name of the winner, institution and summary of the candidacy) as well as any images and/or sound recorded during the Awards ceremony may be disseminated via any medium, publicity or media, including the website of Fundación Occident and GCO as well as their profiles on social media, in order to inform and publicise the Awards.
- Participants expressly disclaim any type of compensation, either financial or of any other nature, for the recording and use of their image and/or voice in the context of the Research Awards Jesús Serra.

## 8 Data protection

### Information included in the form and personal data:

- The personal data provided in order to participate in the Awards will be stored in a file owned by the organisation, under the responsibility of Fundación Occident, whose purpose is to manage the Awards and its publicity. In addition, this data may be transferred, for identical purposes, to the entities that make up GCO (identified on the [GCO website](#)).
- The exercise of rights to access, rectification, removal, objection to processing, restriction of processing and data portability and cancellation, in accordance with the provisions of the General Terms and Conditions of Data Protection, must be carried out by sending an [email to GCO](#).

Find more information  
[on our website.](#)

