

Interdisciplinary research project in neuroscience and related knowledge



CINET

Centro Internacional
Neurociencia y Ética

Purpose

The International Centre for Neuroscience and Ethics (CINET), created by the Tatiana Pérez de Guzmán el Bueno Foundation, announces a call for grants to carry out research projects, for a maximum of 3 years and preferably empirical, that result from an effective dialogue between neuroscience and other fields of knowledge, such as human biology, bioethics, psychology, philosophy, history or physics. The goal of the projects is to contribute to some of the following topics, without being limited to these: 1) a better understanding of current and future ethical challenges in neuroscience; 2) new cognitive neuroscience experiments inspired by deep theoretical reflection; 3) original proposals regarding the mind–brain problem that contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the human being; 4) research projects on specific topics on the border between various disciplines, such as consciousness, free will, or subjectivity.

Profile of applicants

The grants will be awarded to research groups represented by one or two principal investigators, with a current contract with a Spanish academic or research institution for the period in which the project is carried out. Projects will be especially valued when they involve collaborating researchers belonging to institutions from different countries, and which thus serve to consolidate the setting up of an international network, at least during the period of the project. As explained in the description of the call's purpose, an interdisciplinary approach (involving neuroscience and other fields of knowledge, such as other aspects of human biology, philosophy, ethics, psychology, history, physics, etc.) is the essential starting point for evaluating the project.

Principal investigators and applicant institution

1. Each project may have one or two principal investigators at the deadline for submitting the preliminary proposal (First Phase) (17 June 2021). When there are two principal investigators, both must belong to the staff of the applicant institution and one of them, PI1, will act as the liaison with CINET.
2. The principal investigator must belong to the staff of the applicant institution and must have their official, statutory or employment relationship formalised at least for a period equal to that of the project's execution.
3. The principal investigators are responsible for the content of the grant application and for coordinating the research team, carrying out the project and fulfilling all the requirements that affect them under this call. The IP1 is responsible for communication with CINET.
4. If the project is awarded a grant, the principal investigators will be responsible for stating the support received from CINET in all publications and presentations of results related to the research. They further undertake to participate in any events that CINET may organise in relation to this call to contribute to disseminating the knowledge acquired.
5. CINET reserves the right to use images or audio–visual material provided by the principal investigator, in connection with the research project, within the framework of the Foundation's objectives and its institutional communication. The principal investigator is responsible for obtaining the prior consent of the rest of the researchers for this and for informing them about everything established in the data protection information clause.

6. The applicant institution will be responsible for the veracity of what is specified in the second point of this section (binding on the PIs for at least the duration of the project).
7. The applicant institution undertakes to support correct performance of the activity in the event that the grant is awarded, undertakes to comply with the requirements of this call, and assumes responsibility for the veracity of the data about the principal investigators that appears in the application.
8. The applicant institution is responsible for the project's financial management and for preparing and sending to CINET the annual and final financial reports. The institution undertakes to return to CINET any amounts of the grant not invested in the project.

Financed items

The budget granted may be allocated to research activities, but not to the hiring of personnel or to the salary of the researchers involved. Provided that the expenses are directly related to performing the project, the grants will cover the following items:

- Acquisition of goods and contracting of services, duly justified. Acquired stock materials essential for carrying out the project and charged to the grant will be the property of the centre that performs the project.
- Purchase of consumables and additional expenses, such as bibliographic material or publication expenses.
- Travel and subsistence necessary to fulfil the project's objectives and for the communication of results.

Term

The ordinary term for carrying out the projects will be three years, counting from the date specified in the resolution awarding the grant. The granting of amounts for the 2nd and 3rd year will be subject to a positive evaluation of the mandatory annual reports that grant recipients must send to CINET. In duly justified cases, financing of projects of less than three years' duration will be considered.

In situations of leave due to temporary incapacity, maternity/paternity and adoption or foster care during the term of the project, an institution in receipt of a grant may request a suspension and/or extension of the period of provision of the grant corresponding to the length of interrupted time, provided that no accounts have been presented for the period in question. This extension will in no case involve an increase to the amount of the grant initially awarded.

Amount

The total budget allocated to this call is €100,000, to be distributed over three years.

Any additional contributions that applicants may receive to carry out the proposed project must be declared to CINET, which will determine the complementarity of such aid.

Documentation

The person or persons acting as principal investigators must present the following documentation in English:

1. First phase (a preliminary project proposal, the pre-project, will be presented).

- Page 1: (download application):
 - Name and surname of the principal investigator and, if applicable, of principal investigator 2.
 - ORCID or SCOPUS ID.
 - Employment situation of the principal investigator(s).
 - Applicant institution.
 - Project name.
 - Contact details of the principal investigator, or PI1.
 - Contact details of the responsible person of the applicant institution.
 - Date and signature of the principal investigator or principal investigators.
- Research project summary (maximum 1,000 words), emphasising its interdisciplinary and international nature.
- Summary of the research experience, in the form of a biographical note (maximum 500 words), of the researchers involved, any previous collaborations they have undertaken (if applicable), and their relationship with the proposed project.

2. Second phase: projects that receive notification of having passed the first phase must present the following documentation:

- Concise CV (maximum 4 pages) of the participating researchers, which must include the following sections:
 - Page 1: Personal data (name and surname, ID document number, date of birth, gender, home address, contact information), academic training (degrees, where and when obtained), current work situation (position, date of incorporation, institution, centre, department, address, employment status and full/part-time hours), previous activities of a scientific or professional nature.
 - Publications (last 7 years in chronological order, specifying data on their impact).
 - Patents (applied for or granted in the last 7 years).
 - Research projects (last 7 years).
 - Training capability (maximum 1 page).
 - Other contributions considered relevant (maximum 1 page).
 - Scanned copy of National ID or equivalent document.
- Project description (maximum 15 pages), which must include the following sections:
 - Background, current status of the topic and the project's approach (maximum 3 pages).
 - Hypotheses and objectives (maximum 1 page).
 - Methods, including data analysis (maximum 2 pages).
 - Work plan and schedule (maximum 1 page).
 - Research team (maximum 2 pages): presentation of team members, specifying their qualifications, experience and ability to carry out the project's objectives, specifying the context, objectives and methodology, and their research, academic, social dissemination and internationalisation activities.

- Budget requested:
 - The grant applied for from CINET, specifying the amount for each fundable item.
 - Current funding for the group (PI or PIs and, where appropriate, other researchers), specifying the project name, amount, and start and end dates of the grant.
 - Financing requested from other organisations pending resolution, specifying the project name and the amount of the grant.

3. Deadline for submission (I would also include this as specified in the terms and conditions of our call for projects).

- PHASE 1 – Pre-projects
 - The principal investigator, or PI1, will send their application by completing the form found on the CINET website (www.inecenter.es), attaching a PDF document containing all the information requested for PHASE 1.
 - The pre-project submission deadline is 17 June 2021.
 - For any additional information, write to info@inecenter.es
- PHASE 2 – Full project
 - The principal investigator, or PI1, must send to CINET (info@inecenter.es) a single PDF document containing all the information requested for PHASE 2.
 - The full project submission deadline is 30 September 2021.

Evaluation of applications

Applications will be evaluated by a committee appointed by the CINET board of directors. The committee will comprise members of the board itself, members of CINET's Advisory Council, or international experts designated on an ad hoc basis by the board. The evaluation criteria will be the following:

- Quality, feasibility, relevance and interest of the project, highlighting its interdisciplinary nature (40%).
- The experience of the research group involved in the project (scientific experience and potential of the principal investigator(s) and of the team; training capability of the principal investigator(s) and of the team) (40%).
- Expected impact of the project on interdisciplinary research in the proposed topic, and social dissemination plan (20%).

The evaluations made will be confidential. The board of directors will receive the evaluation of the applications from the committee, and will select from among those that have obtained a high score the ones that best match CINET's purposes.

The board of directors will submit the proposals of the selected projects to the Foundation's board of trustees, who will make the final decision about which projects will be financed. The board of trustees' decision will be final. The projects awarded a grant will be announced publicly on the CINET website. There will be no personal communication with applicants who have not been awarded a grant.

Payments, monitoring and justification

Before the first annuity is paid, the principal investigators and the person responsible at the recipient institution must send CINET a copy of this call's terms and conditions signed by them all. Neither the awarding and acceptance of the grant nor the research work carried out imply any employment relationship with the Foundation.

The annuities will be paid in advance to the recipient institution in the bank that it designates. Payments will include 10% of the total amount allocated to indirect project costs. Research projects awarded a grant by the Foundation in this call are not subject to value added tax, as they do not match all of the requirements of article 4.1 of the Value Added Tax Act, 37/1992, while the tax benefits established in Chapter III, Heading III of the Tax Regime for Non-Profit Institutions and Tax Incentives for Patronage Act, 49/2002 of 23 December, are applicable.

Payment of the first annuity will be processed when the resolution to make the award is made, unless a different date is determined in the resolution. In any event, payment will be made only once the mandatory documents indicated in the section on "Principles to be respected by projects" are received at the Foundation. Payment of the rest of the annuities will depend on receipt and approval by CINET of the annual report sent by the principal investigator, or PI1, and the recipient institution, including scientific and financial reports. Within three months of the project's completion date, the recipients must submit a final report that includes scientific and financial reports.

Processing of research grant applicants' data (pending data protection sending us the text).

In accordance with the provisions of the European General Data Protection Regulation and the Organic Law on Personal Data Protection and Digital Rights Guarantee, the applicant is informed that the data provided will be processed by THE TATIANA PÉREZ DE GUZMÁN EL BUENO FOUNDATION (hereinafter, the Foundation), whose contact details are the following:

- Telephone: 914 44 33 41
- Email: info@fundaciontatianapgb.org
- Address: Paseo General Martínez Campos, 25, 28010 - Madrid.

Personal data will be processed for the purpose of processing the applications for grants in response to the different calls announced by The International Centre for Neuroscience and Ethics (CINET), created by the Tatiana Pérez de Guzmán el Bueno Foundation, to carry out the necessary administrative steps to award the corresponding grants and, in accordance with the provisions of the call's terms and conditions, to contact grant recipients for them to describe their experience, within the framework of the Foundation's own activities, and so contribute to dissemination of the acquired expertise. The Foundation may use images or audio-visual material resulting from the research project, as provided by the grant recipient, within the framework of the Foundation's objectives and its institutional communication, in accordance with the call's terms and conditions,

previously accepted by the applicants. The basis of the processing mentioned is the existence of a legal-contractual relationship with this Foundation as a result of their participation in the call and their application for the corresponding grant. The processing of the data is necessary to process the application and, where appropriate, award the grant. It is mandatory for data subjects to provide their data. If not, the grant cannot be awarded. For this purpose, the data will be kept for the duration of the legal relationship maintained between the parties and, subsequently, for as long as any type of legal liability may arise as a result of it.

If you authorise it, we will process the data for the following purposes:

1. To publish your personal data in social networks, activity reports, publications and the website of the Foundation or CINET for the purposes of publicising and giving visibility to the research careers of grant recipients. For this purpose we will process the following categories of data: name, surname, original study specialty, destination centre and area of research.
2. To send you commercial communications, including by electronic means, to keep you informed of events, calls, conferences and presentations made by the Foundation. For this purpose we will process the following categories of data: name, surname and email address.

The data for the purposes indicated in sections 1 and 2 will be processed on the legal basis of the consent given by the person who provides them. This consent can be withdrawn at any time, although this will not affect the legality of any processing carried out previously. In any case, the authorisation to process your data for this purpose is voluntary and your refusal would only result in your data not being processed for the purposes described above. The data for these purposes will be kept indefinitely, unless the grant recipient withdraws their consent.

The data will be communicated to the competent public authorities, in the cases provided for in the Act and for the purposes defined in it, and to the relevant financial institutions, for the grant's financial management. Your data will be communicated to the committee appointed by CINET's board of directors to evaluate the project submitted and issue a report to the Foundation's board of trustees, which will be responsible for choosing the final grant recipient. Your data will also be communicated to the host institution of the grant, for it to take charge of its administration and management. Finally, the name of the person receiving the grant will be publicly announced on the CINET website in order to publicise the grant recipients. This publication responds to the legitimate interest of guaranteeing transparency in the call process. Such legitimate interest is considered to prevail over the rights and freedoms of the data subject since only essential data, i.e., the name and surname of the recipients, will be published to guarantee maximum transparency in the process, and this data will only be published during the period of carrying out the research project to which the grant is awarded.

If a third party provides us with the data about the researchers participating in the project, this third party will be responsible for previously obtaining their consent to do so and for informing them of everything set out in this clause. The principal investigator will be responsible for informing the rest of the participating researchers of everything set out in this clause and for requesting their consent to provide their data to the Foundation and thus comply with the requirements established in the call's terms and conditions.

Applicants have rights of access, rectification, deletion, portability, limitation and opposition to the processing of their data. In case of any violation of your rights, you can lodge a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (www.aepd.es). If data of third parties is provided, the client assumes responsibility for obtaining their consent and informing them in advance of all the provisions in article 14 of the General Data Protection Regulation under the conditions established in the Regulation.