

MOTyVES

GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS 2026

Research Fellowships in Social Sciences, Law and Humanities

Madrid Institute for Advanced Study (MIAS)
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM)
Casa de Velázquez (CVZ)

Call opening:
8 September 2026

Application deadline:
7 December 2026, 17:00 (Madrid Time)



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This guide complements the official call and aims to help applicants prepare competitive proposals, but it is not an official document; applicants must follow the call to elaborate their application.

1. Programme at a Glance

Key Information	Details
Fellowships Available	3 (full-time basis)
Contract Duration	3 years renewable for 2 additional years if conditions met (60 months)
Fields	Humanities, Social Sciences, Law (Including Economic & Business Administration, Psychology and Nursing, Political Science, disciplines of the Philosophy and arts faculty)
Nature of the position	Postdoctoral (PhD in accordance with MSCA lines). Date of approval of the PhD→ 3 to 10 years ago*.
Mobility Rule	Equal to MSCA mobility rules→ not having resided or carried out main activity in Spain for more than 12 months during the last 36 months
Annual Gross Salary (after deduction of the employer's social security contributions)	€60,909 [The fellows will be covered by the Social Security]
Research & Training Budget	€7,500/year to support research & training costs
Expected Start Date	1 September 2027
Workplace	Madrid Institute for Advanced Study & Department of the UAM
Living in Madrid	MIAS offers MOTyVES fellows the opportunity to live at the Casa de Velázquez (https://www.casadevelazquez.org/es/) for the first year of their contract, if they wish. The fellow will be required to pay € 500 per month
Future professional career	The UAM commits to stabilising the fellows once their contract has ended, provided certain conditions are met.

* See the relevant dates and extensions in the call to calculate this

2. Welcome to MOTyVES

MOTyVES aims to create excellent working conditions and prospects for talented researchers in the Social Sciences, Law and Humanities. The programme combines research excellence, internationalisation, interdisciplinarity and career development. MOTyVES is a call aimed at researchers at the early and intermediate stages of their academic careers.

Fellows become members of both the Madrid Institute of Advanced Study (MIAS) and an academic department at the Autonomous University of Madrid, benefiting from a highly international environment and opportunities for collaboration across disciplines.

The programme's objective is to encourage interdisciplinary approaches to address significant societal challenges.

3. Attractive, interdisciplinary research environment

The Madrid Institute for Advanced Study (MIAS) is a research center established jointly by the Autonomous University of Madrid (UAM) and the Casa de Velázquez (CVZ). MIAS provides an institute-for-advanced-study environment that promotes intellectual exchange, networking and interdisciplinary collaboration. Fellows benefit from disciplinary anchoring in a host department and a broader international research community through MIAS activities.

UAM is one of Spain's leading research universities. UAM combines high-quality teaching, intensive research and a high rate of graduate employment with a strong social commitment; it is recognised as a leader in these areas, as evidenced by various global indicators.

Casa de Velázquez is a French institution. Since its foundation in Madrid in 1928, it has opened its doors to researchers and artists from around the world. As an institution where heritage and innovation coexist harmoniously; it has been a benchmark for Hispanic studies, the humanities and social sciences, as well as for contemporary creation and cutting-edge curatorial practices for almost a century.

4. Research Areas

Projects should be aligned with eligible host departments in fields related to Social Sciences, Law and Humanities (see Annex I for strategic priority areas).

5. Am I Eligible?

Applicants must hold a PhD. Their doctoral degree must have been awarded between three and ten years prior to the last day of 2026, subject to the eligibility conditions and extensions set out in the call.

Mobility Rule: Applicants must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Spain for more than 12 months during the 36 months immediately preceding the opening of the call.

Applicants must also satisfy the requirement regarding research experience outside UAM. Applications that do not fulfil eligibility conditions will not proceed to evaluation.

Eligibility Snapshot

Requirement	Required
PhD degree	Yes
3-10 year doctoral window (see extensions)	Yes
Mobility rule	Yes
Research experience outside UAM	Yes
English application	Yes

Eligibility-related extensions to the lower PhD deadline

Reason for Extension	Extension Granted	Conditions / Eligibility
Maternity Leave	1 year per child	Applies to maternity leave periods covered by the General Social Security System.
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Serious Illness or Accident	Equivalent to the documented leave period (rounded up to whole months)	The period of incapacity must have lasted at least 3 months and be duly documented.
Care of Dependent Persons	Equivalent to the documented period (rounded up to whole months)	A minimum period of 3 months dedicated to the care of a dependent person must be justified.
Compulsory Military Service or Alternative Civil Service	Equivalent to the documented service period (rounded up to whole months)	Applies to compulsory military service or equivalent civil service completed in the applicant's country of nationality.

Important: Supporting documentation must be provided for all requested extensions.

6. Employment Conditions and Benefits

Selected researchers are recruited under a full-time employment contract. The programme offers a competitive salary package, including a family allowance and a monthly mobility allowance, and a dedicated research and training budget, social security coverage and access to MIAS, UAM and CVZ research resources.

Key Figures at a Glance

Item	Amount
Monthly Cost of the contract	€6,085
Mobility Allowance	€615/month
Research & Training Budget	€7,500/year
Total Annual Employment Cost	€80,400
Annual Gross Salary	€60,909/year

Note: The monthly cost of the contract (€6,085/month) represents the total monthly cost of the employment contract at the time of signature, it includes family allowance and both the fellow's remuneration and the employer's social security contributions. The Total Annual Employment Cost (€80,400/year) includes salary costs and the mobility allowance. The Annual Gross Salary (€60,909/year) corresponds to the fellow's gross remuneration after deduction of the employer's social security contributions. The fellow will receive an extra €7,500 per year to support research and training costs.

7. How to Apply

Applications must be submitted through the online platform via the MIAS website (<https://bataillon-tomasvaliente.madrid-ias.eu/en/>). Applicants should create an account, complete the application form, upload all supporting documents and submit before the deadline. Late or incomplete applications may be declared inadmissible.

Create Account	Prepare Documents	Submit Application	Eligibility Check	Evaluation
Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5

8. Application Documents

Mandatory documents include:

- The CVA (in accordance with ANNEX II)

- Research proposal (ANNEX IV),
 - Copy of the doctoral degree certificate or academic certificate→ clearly stating the date on which the doctoral degree was awarded
 - Proof of identity
 - A sworn statement regarding the accuracy of the qualifications (ANNEX V)
 - Declarations and evidence required to verify eligibility.
- Applicants should carefully follow page limits and document requirements.

9. Preparing a Competitive Application

Strong applications demonstrate scientific excellence, independence, international engagement and leadership potential. The evaluation will assess the degree of innovation and contribution to the development of their discipline and the potential to collaborate with other disciplines. Research proposals should clearly define objectives, methodology, originality, feasibility, expected outcomes and societal relevance. Applicants are encouraged to explain how their project contributes to the host environment and aligns with the main objectives of MOTyVES and to open science principles.

10. Evaluation Procedure

The selection procedure comprises an eligibility review, external expert assessment, interviews for shortlisted candidates and the establishment of a final ranking list. Transparency, fairness and excellence guide the process.

Eligibility Review	External Evaluation	Interview for shortlisted candidates	Final Ranking
Administrative Check	Expert Assessment	Scientific Committee	Selection

11. Evaluation Criteria

Phase 1 (peer review)

Criterion Phase 1	Weight (points)
Scientific Achievements and CV	Up to 40
Internationalisation	Up to 15
Research Project Quality and feasibility	Up to 35
Alignment with MOTyVES Objectives	Up to 10

Evaluators assess scientific excellence, quality and feasibility of the project, international profile and alignment with programme objectives.

Phase 2 (interview) - Only shortlisted candidates

Phase 1 only determines whether the candidate can proceed to phase 2. The second stage consists of a personal interview (in person or online) conducted by the MIAS International Scientific Advisory Committee (CIAC). The interview is assessed on a scale of 0 to 10 points and is entirely independent of the score obtained in Phase 1.

Stage 2 (Interview Phase) - Evaluation Criteria

Assessment Criterion	What the Committee Will Assess
Research Project Quality and Feasibility	Scientific quality, methodological soundness, originality, feasibility, expected impact, and overall consistency of the proposed research project.
Oral Presentation of the Project	Clarity, structure, communication skills, and the ability to explain the project convincingly.
Candidate Profile and Experience	Academic trajectory, research achievements, international experience, and suitability for the proposed project and career stage.
Responses to Questions	Quality, coherence, and persuasiveness of the answers provided during the interview.
Independent Thinking and Leadership Potential	Capacity to develop an independent research agenda and demonstrate future leadership in the field.
Networking and Interpersonal Skills	Ability to establish collaborations, build research networks, and contribute to interdisciplinary environments.
Research Objectives and Alignment with the Programme	Clarity and definition of objectives, and their suitability for the aims and priorities of the programme.

Important Notes

- The Phase 1 score is used only to determine eligibility for the interview stage and has no effect on the final ranking after the interview.
- The CIAC may consult the Phase 1 peer-review reports, but these reports and scores are not binding.

During the interview, candidates should be prepared not only to explain their professional background and research project, but also to explain how it fits with MOTyVES and to demonstrate independent thought & leadership potential, interdisciplinary openness and ability to build networks.

12. Open Science and Responsible Research

Researchers are expected to follow principles of research integrity, open access, FAIR data and ethical conduct. Proposals should address open science practices where relevant and consider ethical and societal aspects of the research.

13. Training and Career Development

Fellows participate in training activities on research methods, communication, leadership, proposal writing, ethics, open science, project management and networking. The objective is to support long-term career development.

14. Obligations of Fellows

Selected fellows are expected to implement the approved project, participate in MIAS activities, attend required training, submit reports, acknowledge programme funding and contribute to the visibility of the programme and host institution.

15. Indicative Timeline

Milestone	Date
Call Opens	8 September 2026
Deadline	7 December 2026
Interviews	May 2027
Definitive Results	June 2027

16. Procedure

- Call Opens (8 September 2026)
- Application Deadline (7 December 2026, 17:00 Madrid time)
- Eligibility Check

- There is a 10-working-day timeframe for an appeal to be made regarding eligibility or procedural issues.
- Peer Review
- Interview Shortlist Published (12 April 2027)
 - There is a 10-working-day timeframe for an appeal
- Interview Phase (May 2027)
- Provisional Results Published (24 May 2027)
 - There is a 10-working-day timeframe for an appeal on the provisional results
- Final Award Decision and Reserve List (14-18 June 2027)

17. Before You Submit

- Eligibility confirmed
- Mobility rule verified
- CV uploaded
- Proposal uploaded
- Supporting documents complete
- Application submitted before deadline

About the Madrid Institute for Advanced Study (MIAS)

The Madrid Institute for Advanced Study (MIAS) is the first Institute for Advanced Study in the Iberian Peninsula and the Hispanic-American world. Jointly founded by the Casa de Velázquez and the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) within the UAM-CEI International Campus of Excellence, it is a member of NetIAS and UBIAS, the European and global networks of institutes for advanced study.



The MIAS promotes research excellence and internationalization by hosting around thirty fellows, mainly in the humanities, social sciences and law, for stays of three months to five years. Freed from teaching and administrative duties, fellows pursue innovative projects in an environment that encourages dialogue across disciplines and cultures, linking the Iberian world to global perspectives.