

EXTERNAL DOCUMENT (PUBLIC)

Programa CICERONE

Laboratory summer internships at the CNIC for university students

Call 2026

In its nineteenth edition, the Cicerone Program, in accordance with the regulatory framework, aims to bring the reality of biomedical research in the cardiovascular field closer to students in the last two years of official university degree programs, as well as master's students working toward official degrees in areas of biomedicine (medicine, biomedicine, biochemistry, biology, biotechnology, etc.) or related disciplines (physics, chemistry, engineering, etc.).

This objective will be achieved through six-week internships at the National Center for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC), between July 1 and September 15, 2026. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend seminars and internal scientific conferences organized by the CNIC.

Once the internship has been completed, the Center may offer employment contracts of up to one year to those participants who have completed their bachelor's or master's degree, depending on the results obtained during the internships. These results will be evaluated by the corresponding group leader and must be approved by the CNIC Scientific Directorate.

This contract cannot be signed with individuals who have acquired professional experience or completed training in the same activity at the CNIC for a period exceeding three months, not including, for these purposes, periods of training or internships that form part of the curriculum required to obtain the qualifying degree or certification.

Participants in the Cicerone Program will be selected on a competitive basis, in accordance with the procedure established in the rules governing this call for applications.

Regulatory bases

I. Objectives of the call

The CNIC offers university students who are in their last two years of official undergraduate studies, as well as master's students pursuing official degrees in the field of biomedicine (medicine, biology, biotechnology, etc.) or related areas (physics, chemistry, engineering, among others), the opportunity to come into direct contact with the reality of biomedical research and complete their training by undertaking six-week training internships between July 1 and September 15, 2026.

The aim of this call is to bring cardiovascular biomedical research closer to undergraduate and master's students, providing them with better career guidance and allowing them to assess the possibility of pursuing a scientific career. Within this framework, a maximum of

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29 places will be awarded in the Cicerone-2026 Training Program for six weeks of internships in one of the research lines offered.

Information about the host research groups, including their lines of research, is provided in the *List of scientists and research lines* document, published alongside this call on the CNIC website:

<https://www.cnic.es/es/convocatoria/cicerone>

Participants will receive a grant of €1,500. In addition, the CNIC will cover economy-class travel costs for participants residing outside the Community of Madrid, up to a maximum amount of €300, corresponding to a round trip from their usual place of residence.

Beneficiaries of a grant from this program, which is part of the CNIC Youth Training Plan, will be registered with the General Social Security System by the CNIC, in accordance with the provisions of Royal Decree 1493/2011, of October 24, which regulates the terms and conditions for the inclusion in the Social Security system of persons participating in training programs, in accordance with the provisions of the third additional provision of Law 27/2011, of August 1, on the updating, adaptation, and modernization of the Social Security system. The registration period will cover the period established for the internship, i.e., from July 1 to September 15, 2026.

This grant will be incompatible with the receipt of any other scholarship or contract throughout the entire period of the internship, between July 1 and September 15, 2026.

The maximum expenditure for the Cicerone 2026 call for applications will be €54,085.00.

The completion of the academic internship will not, under any circumstances, imply the existence of any contractual relationship between the beneficiary and the CNIC.

In the event that, for reasons attributable to the participant, the training activity covered by the scholarship cannot be carried out or is interrupted, the beneficiary will be obliged to repay any amounts unduly received.

In the case of participants who are in their final year of a bachelor's or master's degree, once the internship has been completed and depending on the results obtained—which will be evaluated by the corresponding group leader and endorsed by the Scientific Directorate of the CNIC—the Center may offer the beneficiary an employment contract of up to one year's duration, known as a Cicerone contract (see regulatory basis VII). This contract will be an employment contract for all purposes. However, this contract cannot be signed with individuals who have acquired professional experience or carried out training activities in the same field at the CNIC for a period exceeding three months, not including periods of training or internships that form part of the curriculum required to obtain the relevant degree or certification.

II. Duration and term of the internship

The internships must take place between July 1 and September 15, 2026.

The total duration of the internships will be 225 effective hours of training, spread over a period of six weeks. The specific dates will be set, within the maximum period established, by mutual agreement between the beneficiary and the person responsible for supervision, preferably in a continuous period without interruptions.

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III. Requirements for applicants

Those who meet the following requirements may participate in this call:

a) Be a university student, a national of a European Union country, and be pursuing official undergraduate or master's degree studies related to biomedical sciences or related areas (medicine, biology, physics, chemistry, engineering, etc.).

b) Have passed at least 50% of the credits for the degree by the closing date for applications for the year 2026. Applicants must provide an official document certifying the number of credits passed and the total number of credits in the curriculum on that date.

c) Provide proof of an average grade point average for their bachelor's degree and, where applicable, master's degree, expressed on a decimal scale from 0.00 to 10.00 with two decimal places, equal to or greater than:

-8.00 for degrees in the field of biomedicine.

-7.00 for double degrees or degrees in the following fields of engineering: biomedical engineering, electrical engineering, electronic and telecommunications engineering; industrial engineering, mechanical engineering, automatic engineering, computer and systems engineering; chemical engineering, materials engineering, or similar degrees.

IV. Application, evaluation and pre-selection

The deadline for submitting applications will open on the day following the publication of the extract of this call in the BOE and will end on March 16, 2026.

Submission of the application form

The application form must be completed and sent through the CNIC website (<https://www.cnic.es/en/convocatoria/cicerone>)

In addition to providing personal and academic information, you will be asked to attach a series of documents to the form. The documents must be in PDF format, with a maximum of 8 MB for all attached documents combined. Applicants may select three lines of research.

After submission, the applicant will receive an automatic confirmation email.

Documentation to be submitted:

- The duly completed application form. In this document, candidates must specify a maximum of three lines of research that are of interest to them in order of priority.
- *Curriculum Vitae*. It will be presented in English. Certificates of academic internships and courses completed will be attached to the CV so that they can be assessed in the selection process.
- Brief motivation letter in English explaining the candidate's interest in this internship (maximum 300 words).

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- Academic certificate with the number of credits passed, the totals of the study plan and the average grade (academic record).

Candidates with non-Spanish university degrees must attach documentation of the official equivalence of their academic record certified through the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training:

https://universidades.sede.gob.es/pagina/index/directorio/Equivalencia_notas_medias/language/en

When documentation relating to bachelor's or master's degrees and their corresponding equivalencies is required, it must be submitted in a single PDF file containing:

- For applicants with bachelor's degrees:
 - Academic certificate of bachelor's degree, together with official accreditation of its equivalence.
 - For applicants with master's degrees:
 - Bachelor's degree certificate, together with official accreditation of its equivalence.
 - Master's degree certificate, together with official accreditation of its equivalence.
- Copy of ID card or Passport
 - Candidates resident in Spain outside the Community of Madrid must submit a certificate stating that they are a registered inhabitant of a municipality (Certificado de empadronamiento).
 - Document certifying the personal social security number.

After the deadline for submission, the preliminary list of admitted and excluded applicants will be published on the CNIC website (www.cnic.es). Through the training portal, each candidate will be informed of their inclusion or, when applicable, the reasons for the required rectification or exclusion. Applicants required to rectify their application must correct the errors within 5 days.

Non-submission of documentation required in the call will result in exclusion. To avoid problems in sending the documentation, the computer application has warning systems for the candidate to verify that the documentation is correct before sending it. After the deadline, the final list of admitted and excluded applicants will be published through the same procedure and in the same places as mentioned above.

During the administrative procedures for selection and recruitment, electronic signature will be used, so it will be necessary for the applicant to have a recognized electronic ID or certificate, docusign, etc.

Pre-selection of applicants

The documentation submitted will be evaluated by the group leaders of the areas of interest indicated by each candidate. Candidates will be contacted by the group leaders for interviews.

- Bachelor's and master's degree transcripts (when applicable) (40 points)
- Other curricular merits (20 points).

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Academic internships, for each accredited month, 5 points.

Training courses of 20 hours or more, 4 points.

- Motivation and match to the experimental line (40 points). The research group will evaluate the motivation and fit to the selected experimental line. This evaluation will be based on the analysis of the curriculum vitae, the motivation letter and, if deemed necessary by the research group, the result of the interview, which is optional.

The minimum score required for a candidate to be selected is 75 points. Applicants listed as alternates must also achieve this minimum score to be eligible for one of the positions.

Following the evaluation, a provisional decision list will be published. Applicants will have five calendar days to submit any appeals.

If there are any vacancies, the research groups may offer them, in descending order of academic record, to those admitted who were not initially selected.

V. Selection and resolution

The awarding of grants will be approved by the Managing Director of the Center and will be notified during the second half of May 2026. The list of selected persons and alternates will be made public on the CNIC website.

Those selected must send the acceptance document (available at <https://www.cnic.es/en/cicerone>) digitally signed to the following address: programa_formacion@cnic.es

This document must include the start and end dates of the stay, within the maximum period established (see Basis III), after having been agreed with the person supervising the line of research.

The deadline for submission of the acceptance document is 31 May 2026.

By registering in this process, participants accept that their identification data (name and surname) will be included in the resolutions of the selection process.

VI. Justification and obligations of participants

Once the internship period has ended, beneficiaries must submit a brief report (maximum 300 words) describing the work carried out, with the approval and signature of the person responsible for the group, by email to programa_formacion@cnic.es within thirty days. After completing the internship and submitting the corresponding report, the participant will receive a certificate from the CNIC confirming completion of the training period.

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VII. Additional/Optional Year: Cicerone contract

After completing the internship and based on the results, which will be evaluated by the group leader and endorsed by the scientific director of the CNIC, the Center may offer participants in their final year of a bachelor's or master's degree a work contract in the selected research group for up to one year, which will be called a Cicerone contract.

This contract cannot be signed with anyone who has already gained professional experience or carried out training activities in the field of research within the CNIC for a period exceeding three months, not including for these purposes any periods of training or internships that form part of the curriculum required to obtain the degree or certificate that qualifies them for this contract.

The purpose of this contract is to provide young research staff with work experience, facilitating their introduction to the day-to-day reality of research work.

The contract will comply with the rules established in Article 11 of the Workers' Statute for internship contracts. The working conditions will be in accordance with the principles of professionalization and social coverage established by the European Charter for Researchers, without, in any case, responding to the specific purpose of starting a doctoral thesis, nor is this the object of the contract.

Students in their final year of a bachelor's or master's degree who wish to apply for the contract phase must submit a descriptive report of the internships they have completed, their updated CV, their final academic degree or certificate of completed university studies, and a letter of acceptance from their group leader in order to be eligible for the contract.

The documentation submitted will be evaluated by the Center's Management.

If the evaluation is positive, the applicant will be hired by the host group for the duration offered, which will be a minimum of 6 months and a maximum of one year.

The person will join the group under this employment contract on the date agreed with the group leader, always within 6 months of the end of the Cicerone Program.

The gross annual salary will be that corresponding to the position of Research Intern. This contract will be financed by the host research group that has offered the position.

VIII. Miscellaneous

1. The development of this program will be subject to the CNIC's budgetary availability. If necessary, the contributions associated with this program may be temporarily suspended or modified.
2. In accordance with the provisions of the Organic Law 3/2018, of December 5, on the Protection of Personal Data and guarantee of digital rights and Regulation (EU) 2016/679 on the protection of personal data of natural persons, the personal information that you may provide us through the application is registered by the CNIC (F.S.P) for the purpose of processing the object of the call. The processing of your personal data is legally authorized as it is necessary for the management of the same. These personal data will not be communicated to any third party unless you expressly authorize it or it is required by law. You may exercise your rights of access, rectification, deletion, limitation of specific processing, portability, automated decisions and opposition to the processing described in

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the following address: Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares, C/Melchor Fernandez Almagro, 3 (28029) Madrid. In case you need additional information about the processing of your personal data, please send your query to dpo@cnic.es and consult the following link: <https://www.cnic.es/en/privacy>

The processing of personal information as described in the previous section is necessary for the Center to manage your registration for this training event; without it, the registration cannot be processed.

3. The industrial property rights of research staff in training and of persons participating in training programs or stays will be governed by the rules published on the CNIC website: <https://www.cnic.es/en/training/regulations>
4. The CNIC Foundation's Code of Ethics and the CNIC's Code of Good Scientific Practices (<https://www.cnic.es/en/transparency>) must be respected by all beneficiaries of the CNIC's Training Programs.
5. The CNIC respects and promotes the principles of the [European Charter for Research Personnel and the Code for the Selection of Researchers](#).
6. With the aim of ensuring that people who have interrupted their activity for reasons related to maternity or paternity do not see their training interrupted, the CNIC promotes the participation of these people in its training actions and programs and will especially value these circumstances by means of a positive action measure so that, in equal points, preference will be given to participants in the call who have interrupted their work activity due to maternity or paternity leave, risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding, leave of absence to care for a family member up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity, or measures to prevent gender violence. In the event of equal merit, preference will be given to a candidate of the less represented gender, where applicable, in accordance with the current Equality Plan.
7. The CNIC guarantees, within its scope of action, the principle of equality in access to and during the training or employment relationship and does not engage in any direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of origin (including racial or ethnic origin), sex, age, marital status, religion or belief, political opinion, sexual orientation or identity, gender expression, sexual characteristics, trade union membership, social status, language within the State, or disability, provided that the individual is suitable to perform the work or training activity in question.

Alberto Sanz Belmar
Managing Director

Madrid, February 18, 2026