

EXTERNAL DOCUMENT (PUBLIC)

CNIC–ACCIONA Master's Scholarship Program in Biomedicine 2026 Call

Regulatory Framework

Aim

The Spanish National Center for Cardiovascular Research (*Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares*, CNIC), in collaboration with ACCIONA, offers financial support to outstanding students wishing to pursue an official master's degree in biomedicine at a Spanish public university. The program aims to develop the next generation of cardiovascular researchers.

Following completion of the master's, the CNIC may offer a work contract of up to one year to recipients whose performance has been positively evaluated by their group leader and endorsed by the CNIC scientific directorate. Eligibility for this contract phase also extends to students awarded a 2026 CNIC–Fundación Carolina Master's Scholarship.

Scholarship conditions

Up to **9 CNIC–ACCIONA Master's Scholarships** will be awarded through an open competitive process.

Each scholarship carries a maximum value of €9,600, distributed as a monthly stipend over the duration of the award. The stipend amount and duration are determined by the ECTS credits of the proposed master's program:

ECTS	Duration (months)	Monthly stipend
60	12	€800
72	16	€600
90	20	€480
120	24	€400

Scholarships are incompatible with any employment contract or publicly funded grant.

Tuition fees will be reimbursed up to a total budget ceiling of €31,602.84 across all awards. Where the combined tuition costs of all recipients exceed this figure, reimbursement will be reduced proportionally. Reimbursement will be processed once the CNIC receives the final enrollment receipt showing the amount paid.

Degree certificate fees will also be reimbursed upon completion of the master's.

Recipients residing outside the Community of Madrid are further entitled to a travel allowance of up to €300 (one return-trip from their place of habitual residence).



To claim reimbursement for tuition fees, degree certification, or travel, recipients must submit supporting documentation to programa_formacion@cnic.es within one month of the relevant payment date, in accordance with the Center's internal regulations.

Scholarship holders will, as enrollees in the CNIC-Joven Training Plan, be registered with the Spanish Social Security system by the CNIC for the duration of their award, in accordance with Royal Decree 1493/2011 of October 24 and the third additional provision of Law 27/2011 of August 1.

The total budget for this call is **€127,509.27**.

Award of a scholarship does not constitute an employment relationship between the recipient and the CNIC.

The experimental work towards the master's thesis — the *Trabajo Fin de Máster* (TFM) — must be carried out at the CNIC within the scholarship period. The placement at the CNIC will run until the end date determined by the ECTS credits of the proposed master's program (see table above), regardless of the TFM submission deadline or examination date.

The scholarship start date is September 16, 2026.

Should the training activity be unable to proceed or be interrupted for any reason attributable to the recipient, the recipient must notify the CNIC and reimburse any amounts received in proportion to the unused portion of the scholarship period.

Eligibility

Applicants must meet all of the following requirements:

- Hold the qualifications necessary to enroll in a biomedicine master's program for the 2026–2027 academic year.
- Not already hold an official master's degree, or have completed the first year of a master's program.
- Not be in receipt of any other grant or award funded by Spanish public bodies, and not hold an employment contract. This scholarship is incompatible with any form of publicly funded financial support or employment.
- Have received formal written acceptance from the head of a CNIC laboratory to carry out the experimental component of the master's. Information on CNIC laboratories is available at <https://www.cnic.es/en/research/laboratories>
- Have an undergraduate degree transcript with a minimum average grade of 7.0 (on a scale of 0–10).

Grade calculation

Applicants whose transcripts do not show a numerical average should calculate their own grade using the following scale, applied to each credit completed: Pass (C): 5.5 / Merit (B): 7.5 / Distinction (A): 9.0 / Honors (A+): 10.0. The final grade should be given to one decimal place.

Applicants with transcripts from foreign universities must submit their original academic certificate together with the official grade equivalency issued by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Vocational Training, available here:

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

How to apply

Applications must be submitted via the online form available on the CNIC website: <https://www.cnic.es/es/convocatoria/becas-master>. The application must specify a proposed master's program at a Spanish public university.

The following documents must be uploaded to the form as PDFs:

- Document 1: Curriculum Vitae in English
- Document 2: Scanned national identity document (DNI or NIE), or passport for applicants who do not hold a DNI or NIE
- Document 3: Social security number document
- Document 4: Certificate of residence registration (*empadronamiento*), for applicants residing outside the Community of Madrid
- Document 5: Signed letter of acceptance from the Head of the CNIC laboratory where the experimental component of the master's will be carried out
- Document 6: Degree transcript
- Document 7: Official grade equivalency for the degree transcript (required only for applicants who completed their undergraduate studies at a foreign university): https://universidades.sede.gob.es/pagina/index/directorio/Equivalencia_notas_medias/language/en
- Document 8: Signed declaration confirming that the applicant will not receive any other grant or award funded by Spanish public bodies and will not enter into an employment contract for the duration of the scholarship

The application window opens the day after publication of the call notice in the official state gazette (*Boletín Oficial del Estado*, BOE) and remains open for 20 calendar days.

Once the application window closes, a provisional list of admitted and excluded applicants will be published on the CNIC website (www.cnic.es), and each applicant will be notified individually via the training portal. Applicants who have been excluded will have **5 calendar days** to correct any deficiencies in their application. The correction period cannot be used to remedy failure to submit the required documentation in the first instance. A definitive list of admitted and excluded applicants will subsequently be published through the same channels.

Selection

Applications will be evaluated by the CNIC Directorate or its delegated representatives. Selection will be made through an open competitive process based on academic merit, any interviews conducted at the discretion of the CNIC, and the relevance of the proposed master's program to the CNIC's strategic priorities.

The maximum scores awarded for each criterion are as follows:

- **Degree transcript** — 50 points
- **Relevance of the proposed master's program** to the CNIC's mission — to improve cardiovascular health through the advancement of scientific knowledge and its effective translation into clinical applications — 10 points
- **Other curricular merits** — 40 points, broken down as follows:
 - Academic placements:** 5 points per 300 accredited hours (maximum 10 points)
 - Extracurricular training courses** of 20 hours or more: 5 points per course (maximum 10 points)

Publications and presentations at scientific meetings: 5 points per publication or presentation (maximum 10 points)

Other merits, such as awards, competitive scholarships, participation in projects, science outreach activities, documented language proficiency, or other academic or scientific merits of relevance (maximum 10 points)

In the event of a tie in the final score, priority will be given to the applicant with the higher score for the degree transcript, assessed as outlined above.

A minimum score of 75 points is required for an application to be considered for selection.

Only one scholarship will be awarded per research group.

Following evaluation, a provisional decision will be published. Applicants will have 5 calendar days to submit any observations or objections (see *How to apply*, above), after which the final decision will be published and all applicants notified.

The list of selected candidates will be made public on the CNIC website: <https://www.cnic.es/es/convocatoria/becas-master>

By submitting an application, candidates consent to their first and last names being included in the published selection outcomes, including the lists of admitted candidates, reserve candidates, and excluded candidates.

Formalization of awards

Successful candidates must submit the following documents to programa_formacion@cnic.es:

- Proof of master's enrollment for the 2026–2027 academic year
- Full academic transcript for their undergraduate degree

Non-EU international students must provide proof of residency and a student visa before receiving any payment.

The formalization process requires an electronic signature. Applicants must therefore hold a valid Spanish electronic identity document (DNIE) or a recognized electronic certificate issued by a registered certification body (<https://sedeaplicaciones.minetur.gob.es/Prestadores/>), such as the one issued by the Fábrica Nacional de Moneda y Timbre.

Obligations of scholarship holders

Recipients of a CNIC–ACCIONA scholarship are required to:

- Complete the master's program in accordance with the regulations of the relevant university
- Carry out the experimental component of the master's at the designated CNIC laboratory within the scholarship period, process the university–CNIC placement agreement according to the timetable set by the study plan, and continue experimental work at the CNIC until the end of the scholarship
- Include an acknowledgment of the CNIC–ACCIONA scholarship in the TFM
- Submit a descriptive report on the work carried out during the scholarship period (maximum 4 pages)
- Participate in CNIC–ACCIONA science outreach activities
- Beneficiaries shall be entitled to a leave period of 22 working days, which must be agreed in advance with the supervisor. These days shall not be financially

compensated. For these purposes, official national, regional, and local public holidays applicable to the Center shall not be counted as days of interruption.

Optional extension: Master's contract

Recipients wishing to apply for the Master's contract phase must submit the following documents within two months of the end of their scholarship:

- Updated curriculum vitae, including all curricular and extracurricular placements completed during the undergraduate and master's degree training
- Complete academic transcript of the master's degree
- Letter of acceptance from the research group leader confirming progression to the contract phase

In accordance with Article 11.3 of the Spanish Workers' Statute, the contract may not be entered into with individuals who have already obtained professional experience or carried out training activities in the same field within the company for a period exceeding three months. Periods of training or internships that form part of the curriculum required to obtain the qualification or certificate enabling this contract shall not be taken into account for this purpose.

For the purposes of the preceding paragraph, the completion of non-curricular internships at CNIC for a period exceeding three months shall prevent the formalization of the contract. This category includes internships carried out under the Cicerone Program, those undertaken under the present Master's Scholarship Program that are not covered by a Master's Thesis (TFM) internship agreement, and any other extracurricular university internships.

The Human Resources Department will verify applicants' formal eligibility for the contractual position. Eligible applicants will be assessed by the CNIC Directorate.

If the evaluation is favorable, the successful candidate will be contracted by the host research group for a period of between 6 and 12 months.

The full cost of the position will be covered by the host research group.

General provisions

1. **Budget:** The program is subject to the availability of CNIC funding. The CNIC reserves the right to suspend or modify the program's financial contributions if necessary.
2. **Data protection:** Personal data provided through the application will be processed by the CNIC (F.S.P.) solely for the purposes of administering this call, in accordance with Organic Law 3/2018 of December 5 on the Protection of Personal Data and Guarantee of Digital Rights, and EU Regulation 2016/679. Personal data will not be shared with third parties except where required by law or expressly authorized by the applicant. Data subjects may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction, portability, and objection by writing to this address: Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares, C/ Melchor Fernández Almagro 3, 28029 Madrid, or by contacting dpo@cnic.es. Further information on data processing is available at: <https://www.cnic.es/en/privacy>
3. **Intellectual property:** The intellectual and industrial property rights of researchers in training are governed by the regulations published on the CNIC website: <https://www.cnic.es/en/training/regulations>
4. **Code of conduct:** All scholarship holders must observe the CNIC Foundation's Code of Good Governance and Ethical Conduct, as well as the CNIC's Code of Good Scientific Practice (<https://www.cnic.es/en/transparency>)
5. **European Charter for Researchers:** The CNIC respects and promotes the principles of the [European Charter for Research Personnel and the Code for the Selection of Researchers](#). Scholarship holders will receive information on the charter from the HR department.
6. **Parental and family leave:** To ensure that candidates are not disadvantaged by career interruptions for family related matters, the CNIC will give preferential consideration, where scores are equal, to applicants whose activity has been interrupted by maternity or paternity leave, pregnancy or breastfeeding risk, leave of absence for maternity, or leave to care for a family member up to the second degree of kinship, or in situations involving preventive measures related to gender violence.
7. **Gender balance:** Where candidates are otherwise equally ranked, preference will be given to the candidate of the underrepresented gender, in accordance with the CNIC's current Equality Plan.
8. **Non-discrimination:** The CNIC guarantees equal treatment throughout the selection process and the scholarship period, with no direct or indirect discrimination on grounds of national or ethnic origin, sex, age, marital status, religion or belief, political opinion, sexual orientation or gender identity, gender expression, sexual characteristics, trade union membership, social status, language, or disability, provided the candidate is able to carry out the activities required by the program.

Alberto Sanz Belmar
Managing Director

Madrid, June 28, 2026