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Announcement of the award of grants for funding research projects in topics in the Social Sciences and Humanities (PBR - DGR)

Preamble

The Autonomous Government of Catalonia and the Anglo-Catalan Society wish to acknowledge the figure of Doctor Josep Maria Batista Roca, lecturer at the University of Cambridge, where he instituted the teaching of Catalan culture in 1948 for the first time ever, and promoted Catalan studies in the United Kingdom through the creation of the Anglo-Catalan Society in 1954.

Since then, this society has promoted the awareness, knowledge and love of Catalan culture in the British Isles, particularly supporting initiatives that allow both communities to come closer together.

Since 1991, the Autonomous Government of Catalonia has been awarding the Batista Roca scholarships, which have permitted student and researcher mobility in both directions.

Fifteen years since the creation of these scholarships, and in the same spirit, highlighting the path of this famous Catalan, research project grants with participation of Catalan, British or Irish researcher were announced in 2007, on any topic pertaining to the area of the Social Sciences and Humanities.

—1 Object

To award scholarships for funding research projects addressing topics in the Social Sciences and Humanities, with the joint participation and supervision of Catalan and British or Irish researchers.

—2 Beneficiary organisations

These scholarships are open to research teams from universities in Catalonia, Great Britain and Ireland, as well as teams from non-profit public and private centres whose core activity is research on Catalonia, Great Britain and Ireland.

The research teams must comprise a minimum number of three researchers, at least one of whom must be a doctor with a permanent link with the beneficiary institution.

Permanent link will be taken to mean contracts with a minimum term of two years, effective throughout the tenure of the grant.

Each researcher may only be part of one team, and cannot therefore appear as a member in any other application submitted to this announcement.

—3 Period

The projects must be implemented within the maximum period of one year as of the end of the deadline for the submittal of the document of acceptance.





—4 Amount

4.1 The maximum amount of the grant for each project is 12,000 euros.

The grants may be allocated only to the funding of the following concepts:

- a) Recruitment of research support staff on the basis of any type of temporary engagement or scholarship, in accordance with the applicable regulations in the beneficiary institution. Awards cannot be granted for the remuneration of civil servants or of permanent personnel linked by statute or by contract to the applicant or participating centres.
- b) Acquisition of minor, inventoriable or bibliographic equipment. The purchase of computing equipment is excluded.
- c) Acquisition of consumable material.
- d) Publication of theses, dissertations or works of outstanding relevance for the areas covered by the announcement.
- e) Other expenses, such as researcher mobility, the use of support services, etc. All such expenses must be duly justified. Maximum percentage 15%.

4.2 This announcement will permit the subcontracting of services or activities related to the object of the grant and which cannot be performed directly by the research team, provided that it is so indicated in the budget and is not more than 40% of the total amount awarded. The total or partial execution of the activity that constitutes the object of the grant may not be subcontracted, and proof must be furnished, as applicable, that the activities subcontracted cannot be performed by the research team.

—5 Application forms and documentation

5.1 The application, on the standard form, will be formalised by the researcher in charge of the project, with the approval of the competent vice-rector or the management of the research centre or by the person holding the equivalent position, and may not exceed the number of sheets stipulated on the form.

5.2 The applications will be submitted on paper and electronic format to:

a) The Agency for Administration of University and Research Grants (AGAUR), as provided for by article 38.4 of Law 30/1992, of November 26, on the law and jurisdiction of the public administrations and of the common administrative procedure, for projects from institutions in Catalonia.

b) The Anglo-Catalan Society (ACS), for projects from British or Irish institutions.

The standard application form and the rules may be obtained from the offices of the AGAUR (Via Laietana, 28, 2a, 08003 Barcelona) or from its web site <http://www.gencat.cat/agaur>; the ACS (C/O Dr. Josep Saval Hispanic Studies, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH8 9JX, jose.saval@ed.ac.uk) and its website <http://www.anglo-catalan.org>, and the website of the Commission for Universities and Research (CUR), <http://www.gencat.cat/cur>.

5.3 To formalise the application, the applicant/s should proceed as follows:

- a) Submit, within the deadline for the submittal of applications, the paper-version form, duly signed, to the AGAUR's or the ACS's registry. This registry will validate the applications.



b) Send, by e-mail, a file with the same application as the one presented on paper, to the following address: pbr@agaur.gencat.net. Any application submitted by e-mail but not on paper within the deadline will be regarded as not submitted on time.

In the event of any discrepancy or difference between the forms sent by e-mail and paper, the paper version presented will always prevail in terms of determining eligibility for the grant.

5.4 The application form, as indicated in the standard model, is comprised of the following parts:

- a) General details of the beneficiary institution.
- b) Details of the research team.
- c) Details on the researcher/s (Catalan, British or Irish) collaborating on the project.
- d) Budget applied for.
- e) Project description: brief summary of the purpose, Anglo-Catalan interest, background and state of the art, objectives, work plan, methodology, envisaged mobility actions, impact and applicability of the results.
- f) Abridged curriculum vitae of the head of project and a brief summary of the research record of the other researchers on the team.

5.5 As applicable, any modification required to the application must be notified to the interested party via the publication on the AGAUR's notice board of a notification by the executive management with the list of the basic and non-basic documentation that has to be modified. The notification must indicate the reasons justifying the modification/s required, and it must state that failure to modify the basic documentation within a period of ten days as of the publication of the notification on the AGAUR's notice board will be taken as a withdrawal of the application by the applicant, as provided for article 71 of Law 30/1992, of November 26, on the law and jurisdiction of public administrations and the common administrative procedure. For the sake of broader dissemination, and for the purpose of information, the contents of the notification may be consulted on the web sites of the AGAUR and the ACS.

—6 Term for submittal of applications

The deadline for submitting applications will begin on the day after the publication of the announcement in the DOGC (Official Gazette of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia) and until February 6, 2008.

—7 Evaluation and selection

7.1 The applications will be assessed by external organs and experts of the scientific community, in accordance with the mechanisms established in the framework of the current Research and Innovation Plan of Catalonia and the AGAUR's evaluation regulations, based on the following criteria and scoring (score out of 100 points):

- a) The interest of the project, taking into account how suited it is to the object of the announcement in terms of the research topic and objectives (15/100).
- b) Background and current state of the art on the topic (15/100).
- c) Rationale of the objectives, plan of work and methodological rigour (25/100).
- d) Feasibility of the work in the envisaged time and budget suitability (10/100).
- e) Impact and applicability of the results (15/100).



f) Curriculum vitae of the principal researcher and the members of the research group with regard to the object of the announcement and the research topic (20/100).

This evaluation will result in a scientific and technical evaluation value, expressed on a scale from 1 to 7. The scientific and technical evaluations of applicants who are part of a current research group of the Autonomous Government of Catalonia will increase by 0.35.

7.2 The ACS will send the AGAUR a prioritised list of applications within the term of one month as of the end of the deadline for the submittal of applications, together with the applications submitted to it.

This prioritisation must take into account the Anglo-Catalan interest of the proposals, assessed on the basis of: the topic, the promotion of inter-institutional links and collaboration, the creation of and operating support to Anglo-Catalan research teams, the publication and dissemination of Catalan culture in the United Kingdom/Ireland and of British/Irish culture in Catalonia, and the exchange of research tools and/or resources.

7.3 The projects are selected by a selection committee, which will take into account the AGAUR's general rules, the assessments made pursuant to rule 7, the prioritisation established pursuant to rule 7.2 and budget availability.

7.4 The Selection Committee is designated and appointed by the President of the Executive Commission for Research Grants (CEAR) and the General Director for Research. It is comprised of one chairperson, who must be the chairperson of the CEAR, or the person delegated by him or her, a maximum number of five voting members, who must include three members of the ACS, and a secretary, who must be the Executive Director of the AGAUR or the person delegated by him or her, with the right to be heard but not to vote.

The AGAUR must guarantee gender equality on the Selection Committee whenever possible.

7.5 The Selection Committee may propose a stand-by list, duly prioritised, comprised of unsuccessful applications.

—8 Overall amount

This announcement is funded by the General Directorate of Research of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise. The overall amount of this announcement is 100,000.00 euros, charged to the AGAUR's budget item 480.0001 for 2008.

—9 Unit with competence for management

The Agency for Administration of University and Research Grants (AGAUR).

—10 Organ with resolution powers

The Board of Management of the AGAUR and, by delegation, the CEAR and/or the latter's chairperson, in accordance with the agreement of the Board of Management of December 5, 2002.





—11 Award procedure

The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis, in accordance with the assessment criteria established by this announcement. The evaluation will take into account only the documentation submitted with the application and therefore the hearing formality in accordance with article 24.2 of Law 38/2003, the general law on subsidies, of November 17, will be waived.

—12 Term of resolution

The maximum legal term for the issue of a decision on the scholarships of this announcement is six months as of the day after the date for the submittal of the applications.

Once this term has elapsed without an express resolution, the application will be deemed to have been rejected.

—13 Notification of the decision

Publication on the notice board of the AGAUR. To ensure greater dissemination, and for the purpose of information, the contents of the Resolution may be consulted on the web sites of the AGAUR and the ACS.

The express resolution of the award or the rejection of the grants exhausts the administrative procedure. The interested parties may lodge, within the term of one month as of the day following the publication on the AGAUR's notice board, a request for review with the President of the CEAR, pursuant to the provisions of articles 116 and 117 of Act 30/1992, of November 26, on the law and jurisdiction of public administrations and the common administrative procedure; or a contentious-administrative appeal directly before the Contentious-Administrative Court of Barcelona, within the term of two months as of the day following publication of the decision, pursuant to the provisions set forth in articles 8, 14 and 46 of Law 29/1998 of July 13, governing contentious-administrative jurisdiction.

—14 Acceptance

14.1 Acceptance must be formally acknowledged by means of a standard document signed by the researcher responsible of the project and by the legal representative of the beneficiary institution, in which the latter undertakes to observe all the conditions established in the rules governing this announcement and in accordance with the AGAUR's current general rules and be submitted to the AGAUR's registry, or as provided for in article 38.4 of Law 30/1992, of November 26, on the law and jurisdiction of public administrations and the common administrative procedure, within the term of 45 calendar days as of the day after the date of the publication of the award decision on the AGAUR's notice board.

The standard document of acceptance of the scholarship may be obtained from the offices of the AGAUR (Via Laietana, 28, 2a, 08003 Barcelona) and from its website: <http://www.gencat.cat/agaur>.

In addition, the researcher responsible of the project undertakes, as necessary, to become a member of the ACS throughout the project.

14.2 In accordance with the provisions of article 24 of Law 5/2007, of July 4, on tax and financial measures, at the time of acceptance and in order to proceed with payment of the grant, the AGAUR shall verify ex officio whether the beneficiaries are





up to date with their tax obligations. In the event that this verification not be possible, AGAUR shall require the beneficiary organisations to provide positive certificates substantiating they are up to date.

As for Social Security obligations, the beneficiary organisations must provide the positive certificates that accredit payment of such liabilities together with the document of acceptance.

14.3 Beneficiary organisations that fail to submit the document of acceptance and the other documentation within the deadline and conditions established in the preceding sections will be understood to have tacitly foregone the grant.

—15 Waivers and substitutions

In the event of total or partial waiver, or if the document of acceptance and the rest of the documentation is not submitted according to the conditions and within the deadline provided for in this official announcement, the organ in charge of deciding the award, or the executive director of the AGAUR, may award the grant to candidates on the stand-by list. Waivers and substitutions must be notified individually to the interested party, as provided for in articles 58 and 59 of Law 30/1992, of November 26, on the law and jurisdiction of public administrations and the common administrative procedure.

—16 Changes and incidents

Should the circumstances render it advisable, and with due justification, the Executive Director of the AGAUR may resolve the incidents and authorise, at the request of the beneficiary, a variation in the plan of work and/or in the project proposed or in the period of tenure of the scholarship or grant, as the case may be, and likewise resolve any incidents that do not entail a major change in the terms of the announcement.

—17 Payment

17.1 Payment is made directly to the institution to which the researcher responsible of the project belongs.

17.2 The amount of the grant is paid in two instalments. The first instalment, corresponding to 80% of the total award, will be paid once the decision has been issued and formally accepted. The remaining 20% will be paid following submittal of the justification, as provided for in this announcement.

—18 Deadline and form of justification

The beneficiary organisations must justify the effective implementation of the projects by September 30, 2009, at the latest, by means of the submittal of the following documentation to be presented to the registry of the AGAUR or as provided for by article 38.4 of Law 30/1992, of November 26, on the law and jurisdiction of public administrations and the common administrative procedure:

- a) Standard report of justification of the project, signed by the researcher responsible of the project. It must also be submitted in electronic format.
- b) Certification by the management or by the financial officer of the institution that the total amount awarded was added to the institution's budget and that the grant has



been put to the end for which it was awarded. The different items and the amounts spent in or on each one must be stated.

The institution to which the coordinator in charge of the grant belongs must justify the total expenses of the grant in the project, regardless of the university or the centre that incurred the expense.

The report and other standard documents may be obtained from the AGAUR website.

—19 Publicity

Any publications and other results generated by virtue of this announcement must cite the support of the CUR of the Department of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise, as well as the ACS.

—20 Monitoring and dissemination

20.1 In order to follow-up and disseminate the results derived from the implementation of the projects funded by the grants awarded through this announcement, the CEAR of the AGAUR may ask some of the coordinators of the teams, or the delegated team members, to present the main findings of the funded research project at the Annual Anglo-Catalan Society Conference, the annual meeting which the ACS holds in Great Britain.

20.2 To further the dissemination of the project results, the report of justification of the project may be published on the websites of the AGAUR, the Department of Innovation, Universities and Enterprise and the ACS.

20.3 By participating in this announcement, the beneficiaries of the grants tacitly agree to the report of justification submitted in the format established in rule 18 of this announcement being added to the RECERCAT digital repository of the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia (CBUC), as specifically provided for in the Non-commercial-Non-derivative Creative Commons Licence.

This licence establishes that the work may be copied, distributed and publicly communicated, provided that the original authorship and supporting institution are cited, that it will not be used for commercial purposes, and that no derivative work will be generated. Derivative work means any document that has been edited, translated, combined with third-party material or had its format changed or modified in any other way.

20.4 Upon request by the beneficiary of the grant, the AGAUR may delay the publication of the scientific report for up to two years as of the date scheduled in the announcement for the justification of the grant.

—21 Revocation

21.1 Any modification of the initial conditions for awarding the grant must be previously approved by the corresponding authority.

21.1 Total or partial non-compliance with the requisites and obligations established in this call for applications and all other applicable regulations shall give rise to





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proceedings for non-compliance, the resolution of which may result in total or partial revocation of the grant and the obligation to return the corresponding amount.

—22 Applicable regulations

Any eventualities not provided for in this official announcement will be governed by the AGAUR's current general rules and by any other applicable regulations.

