

Guidelines for the **Management of  
the Mobility** of the Foreign  
Researcher in Spain

2017

**Executive  
Summary**

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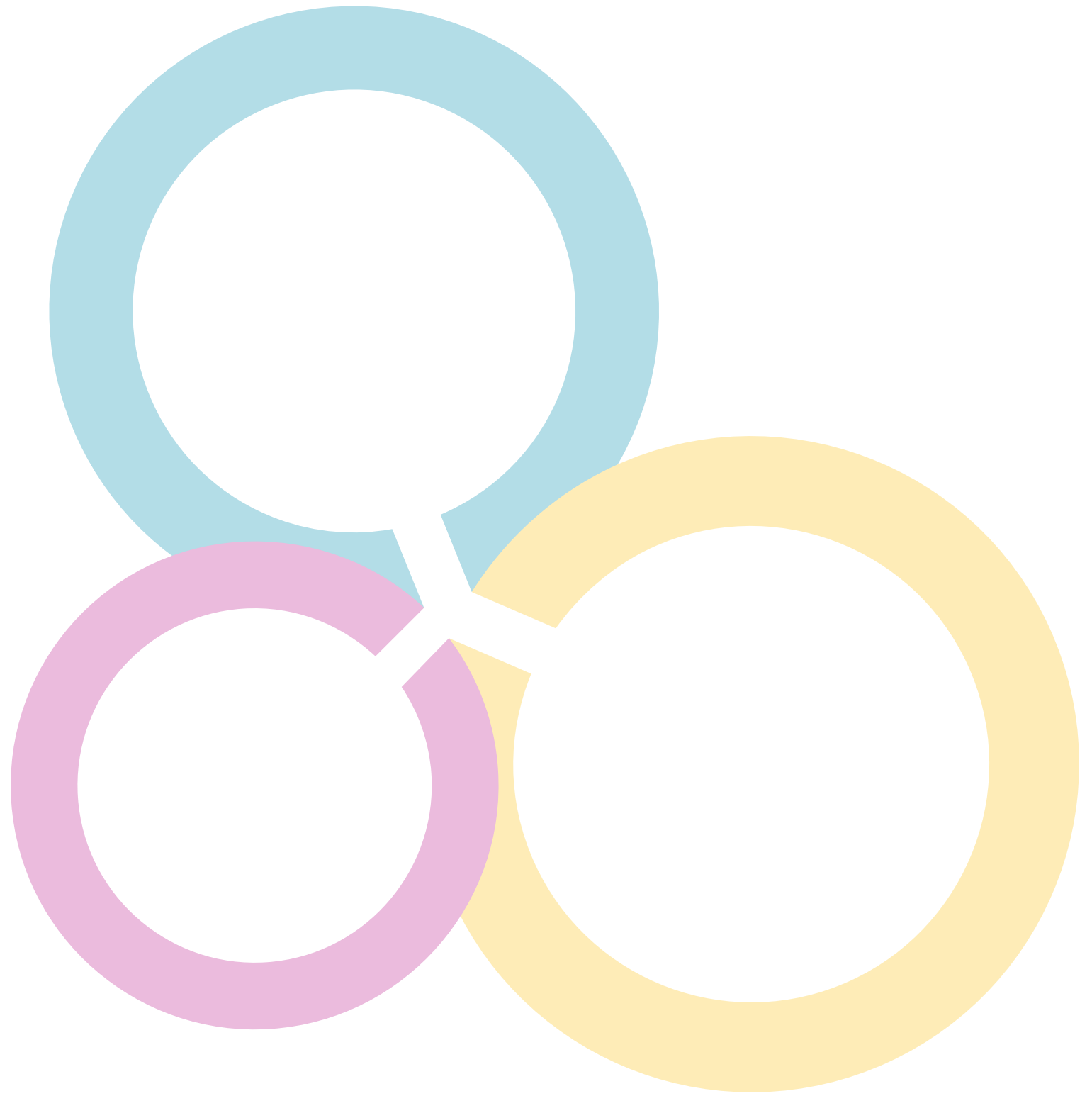
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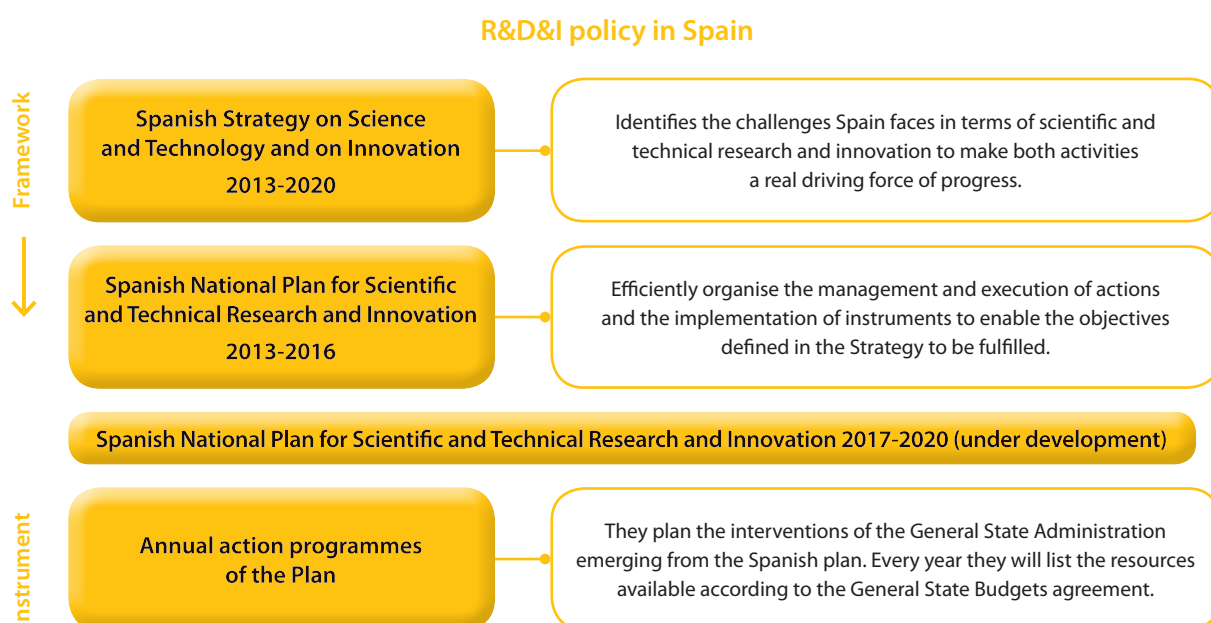
## 1

## HOW IS R&D&I STRUCTURED IN SPAIN?

The Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness is responsible, via its State Secretariat for Research, Development and Innovation, for scientific and technical research, development and innovation policies, including managing international relations related to this topic and Spanish representation in international programmes, forums and organisations to the European Union on topics regarding its responsibilities.

The Spanish System of Science, Technology and Innovation integrates and coordinates the general policies of the State with those of the regional communities (CC. AA.) and organises measures in the public and private sphere.

Figure 1. R&D&I policy in Spain.



Source: Graph by these authors.

The annual action plans<sup>1</sup> deploy the actions listed in the Spanish National Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation 2013-2016 and permit the development of forms of participation through the allocation of available financial resources to the programmed actions. The annual action plans are therefore the instrument for the continuous updating of the State Plan for Scientific and Technical Research and Innovation 2013-2016.

<sup>1</sup> See the following web: <http://www.idi.MINECO.gob.es>.

These programmes represent a basic tool for monitoring and managing the plan itself, together with the coordination of the actions corresponding to the different management units involved.

The objective of the Spanish Programme for the Promotion of Talent and its Employability in R&D&I is to hold competitive calls and thus finance and encourage the training and specialisation of human resources in R&D&I and propel hiring, both in the public and private sectors, as well as facilitating the mobility of researchers. All the calls for proposals in the programme are listed, together with other European, regional and private ones, in Table 1 of this executive summary.



## 2 WHAT ARE THE STAGES OF A RESEARCHER CAREER IN SPAIN

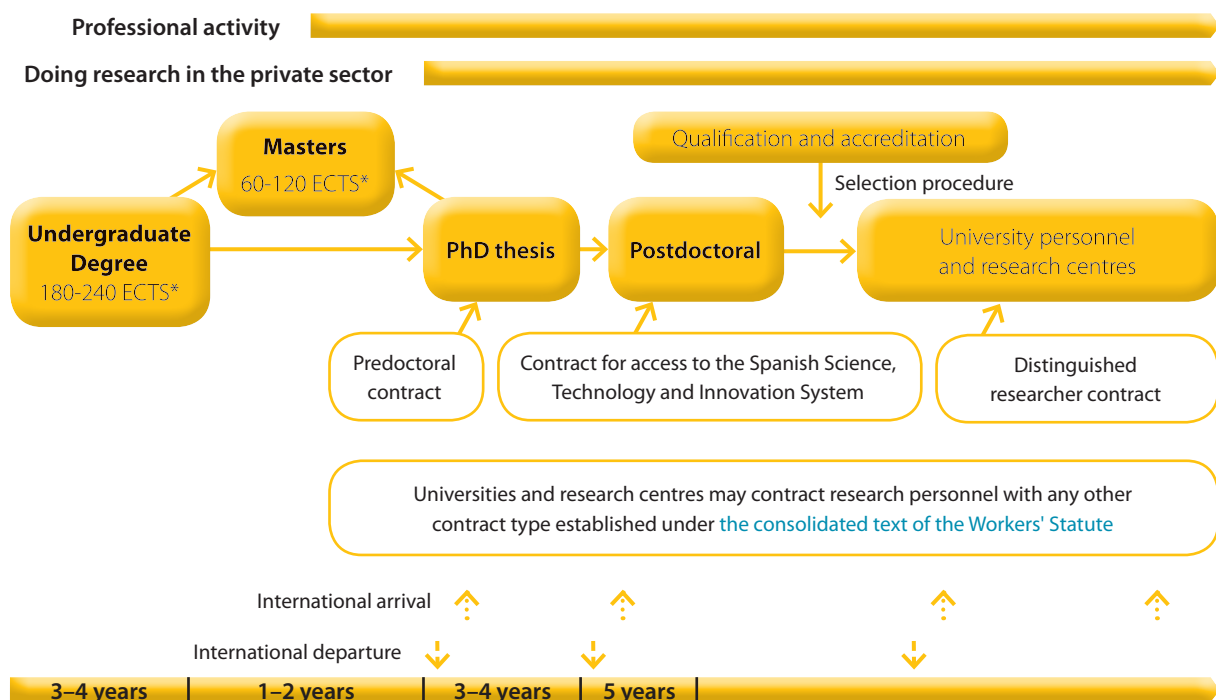
The objective of the Science, Technology and Innovation Act is to make research career attractive nationally and internationally, and to develop it on the basis of respect for the constitutional principles of equality, merit and skill.

The Act stipulates three types of contracts that can be used by the State Research Centres attached to the Central Government, other Regional Government Research Bodies and also state universities when they receive funds the purposes of which include recruiting researchers. These researcher-specific employment contracts are:

- a) Predoctoral contract.
- b) Contract for access to the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System.
- c) Distinguished researcher contract.

In addition, the entities listed may contract research personnel under the employment contract modes established in the consolidated text of the Workers' Statute.

Figure 2. Researcher career path in Spain.



Source: Graph by these authors. \*ECTS: [http://ec.europa.eu/education/resources/european-credit-transfer-accumulation-system\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/education/resources/european-credit-transfer-accumulation-system_en).

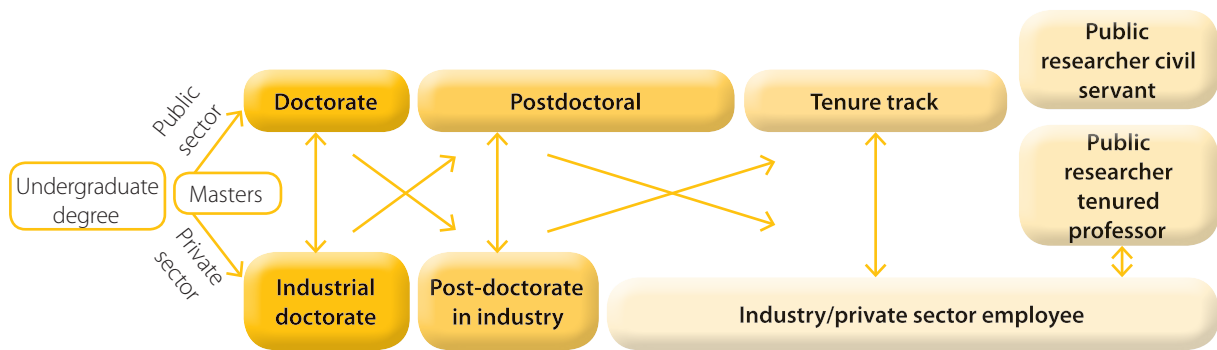
# 3 OPPORTUNITIES FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGICAL PERSONNEL IN SPAIN

The following figure shows the different contract opportunities for research and technological personnel in Spain at each stage of the research career.

**Figure 3.** Map of the main recruitment opportunities on each stage of the researcher career in Spain.

### The researcher career path in Spain at a glance.

Explore the funding opportunities on each stage of the researcher career in Spain.







		4 years	5 years		8 years	Consolidation	
Funding opportunities for the public sector	European opportunities	MSCA	MSCA	MSCA	ERC Starting Grants	ERC Grants	
	Spanish opportunities	Formación de doctores	Juan de la Cierva Formación		Ramón y Cajal   Programa I3	Contratos de investigador distinguido	
		FPU		Juan de la Cierva Incorporación	Proyectos para jóvenes investigadores sin vinculación		
		Contratos PFIS	Contratos Sara Borrell		Contratos Miguel Servet tipo I	Contratos Miguel Servet tipo II	
		FPI-INIA Becas Talentia	DOC INIA				
	Regional opportunities*	Andalucía	Talentia Postdoc Talent Hub				
		Aragón	Contratación de personal investigador predoctoral en formación		ARAID		
		Asturias	Programa Severo Ochoa (FICYT)		Programa Clarín-COFUND (B)		
		Islas Baleares	Ajuts per a la formació	Margalida Comas	Vicenç Mut		
		Canarias	Programa predoctoral de formación del personal investigador				

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		4 years	5 years	8 years		
Funding opportunities for the public sector	Regional opportunities*	Cantabria Programa de Personal Investigador en Formación Predoctoral (Universidad de Cantabria)				
		C. y León Ayudas para financiar la contratación predoctoral de personal investigador (JCyL)				
		Cataluña FI-2016 (AGAUR)	Beatriu de Pinós (AGAUR)			ICREA Senior Serra Hünter
		Extremadura Contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores	Ayudas para la especialización posdoctoral			
		Galicia Ayudas de apoyo a la etapa predoctoral (GAIN)	Ayudas de apoyo a la etapa posdoctoral (GAIN) (A)	Ayudas de apoyo a la etapa posdoctoral (GAIN) (B)	Oportunius (ERC SG)	Oportunius (ERC CG/AG)
		La Rioja Contratos predoctorales FPI (UR)				
		Com. de Madrid	Contratación de jóvenes doctores		Contratación de doctores con experiencia	
		Reg. de Murcia Renovación de los contratos predoctorales de formación del personal investigador	Becas de formación posdoctoral (Fundación Séneca)	Saavedra-Fajardo		
		País Vasco Programa Predoctoral, de Formación de Personal Investigador No Doctor	Programa Posdoctoral de Perfeccionamiento de Personal Investigador Doctor		Research Fellow (Ikerbasque)	Research Professor (Ikerbasque)
		Com. Valenciana ACIF (VALi+D) Santiago Grisolia	APOSTD (VALi+D)		ACOND (VALi+D)	
	Higher education and research centres	Different contract opportunities specific of each University and Research Performing Organisation leading to consolidation				Investigador funcionario / tenure track
	Private funding opportunities	 INPHINIT 	 Ayudas a investigadores en oncología  Banco Santander – María de Maeztu			
Funding opportunities for the public sector	European opportunities	MSCA	MSCA	ERC Starting Grants	ERC Grant	
	Spanish government opportunities	Doctorado industrial	Torres Quevedo			

Source: Graph by these authors.

Note: open calls for proposals during 2014-2016. The size of the box for each opportunity is proportional to its length.

\* Only Regional Communities with calls in 2014-2016 are shown.

**Table 1.** Detailed information about funding opportunities on each stage of the researcher career in Spain.

EUROPEAN OPPORTUNITIES		
<b>MSCA (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions)</b>	<b>INT:</b> Innovative Training Networks	<a href="http://bit.ly/H2020-MSCA">http://bit.ly/H2020-MSCA</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/ES-H2020-MSCA">http://bit.ly/ES-H2020-MSCA</a> (Spanish)
	<b>IF:</b> Individual Fellowships	
	<b>RISE:</b> Research & Innovation Staff Exchange	
	<b>COFUND:</b> Co-Funding of Regional, National & International Programmes	
<b>ERC (European Research Council)</b>	<b>ERC</b> Starting Grants (ERC SG)	<a href="https://erc.europa.eu/">https://erc.europa.eu/</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/ES-H2020-ERC">http://bit.ly/ES-H2020-ERC</a> (Spanish)
	<b>ERC</b> Consolidator Grants (ERC SG)	
	<b>ERC</b> Advanced Grants (ERC AG)	
SPANISH GOVERNMENT OPPORTUNITIES		
<b>State Secretariat for Research, Development and Innovation (SEIDI)</b>	<b>Formación de doctores:</b> ayudas para contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/predocMEIC2016">http://bit.ly/predocMEIC2016</a>
	<b>Doctorado industrial:</b> ayudas para contratos para la formación de investigadores en empresas 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/DoctorIndustrial-2016">http://bit.ly/DoctorIndustrial-2016</a>
	<b>Juan de la Cierva-Formación:</b> ayudas para contratos Juan de la Cierva-Formación 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/JCform-2015">http://bit.ly/JCform-2015</a>
	<b>Juan de la Cierva-Incorporación:</b> ayudas para contratos Juan de la Cierva-Incorporación 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/JCinc-2015">http://bit.ly/JCinc-2015</a>
	<b>Torres Quevedo:</b> ayudas para contratos Torres Quevedo (PTQ) 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/PTQ-2015">http://bit.ly/PTQ-2015</a>
	<b>Proyectos para jóvenes investigadores sin vinculación:</b> proyectos de I+D+I para jóvenes investigadores sin vinculación o con vinculación temporal 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/JIS2015">http://bit.ly/JIS2015</a>
	<b>Ramón y Cajal:</b> ayudas para contratos Ramón y Cajal (RYC) 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/RyC-2015">http://bit.ly/RyC-2015</a>
	<b>Programa I3:</b> ayudas para incentivar la incorporación estable de doctores (IED) 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/IED-2016">http://bit.ly/IED-2016</a>
<b>Contrato de investigador distinguido:</b> investigador distinguido de OPI 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/ID_2014">http://bit.ly/ID_2014</a>	
<b>SEIDI-Institute of Health Carlos III</b>	<b>Contratos PFIS:</b> contratos predoctorales de formación en investigación en salud	<a href="http://bit.ly/ISCIII-ayudas">http://bit.ly/ISCIII-ayudas</a>
	<b>Contratos Sara Borrell</b>	
	<b>Contratos Miguel Servet tipo I</b>	
	<b>Contratos Miguel Servet tipo II</b>	

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SPANISH GOVERNMENT OPPORTUNITIES		
<b>SEIDI-The National Institute for Agricultural Research and Experimentation</b>	<b>FPI-INIA:</b> formación del personal investigador en agroalimentación en los centros INIA 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/FPI-INIA-2015">http://bit.ly/FPI-INIA-2015</a>
	<b>DOC INIA:</b> contratación de investigadores con grado de doctor en los centros INIA 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/DOC-INIA-2015">http://bit.ly/DOC-INIA-2015</a>
<b>Ministry of Education, Culture and Sports</b>	<b>FPU:</b> ayudas para la formación de profesorado universitario	<a href="http://bit.ly/FPU_2015">http://bit.ly/FPU_2015</a>

The “Annual Work Programme” published yearly by the Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness, compiles all the funding opportunities of the Spanish Government. The 2016 programme can be found at: <http://bit.ly/SEIDI-Plan-IDI-2016>.

SPANISH REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES		
<b>Andalucía</b>	<b>Becas Talentia</b> 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/Talentia-Becas-2014">http://bit.ly/Talentia-Becas-2014</a>
	<b>Talentia Postdoc</b> 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/Talentia-Postdoc-2014">http://bit.ly/Talentia-Postdoc-2014</a>
	Andalucía <b>Talent Hub</b> 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/TalentHub-2015">http://bit.ly/TalentHub-2015</a>
<b>Aragón</b>	Contratación de personal investigador predoctoral en formación 2016-2020	<a href="http://bit.ly/AraPreDoc-2014">http://bit.ly/AraPreDoc-2014</a>
	<b>ARAID:</b> convocatoria internacional para la contratación de investigadores 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/ARAID-2015-es">http://bit.ly/ARAID-2015-es</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/ARAID-2015">http://bit.ly/ARAID-2015</a> (English)
<b>Principado de Asturias</b>	<b>Programa Severo Ochoa (FICYT):</b> Programa Severo Ochoa de ayudas predoctorales para la formación en investigación y docencia del Principado de Asturias 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/FICYT-Predoc-2014">http://bit.ly/FICYT-Predoc-2014</a>
	<b>Programa Clarín-COFUND (B):</b> Programa Clarín-COFUND para ayudas posdoctorales del Principado de Asturias, modalidad B, 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/Clarín-B-2014">http://bit.ly/Clarín-B-2014</a>
<b>Islas Baleares</b>	<b>Ajuts per a la formació:</b> ayudas para la formación de personal investigador del Govern de les Illes Balears (antiguas becas FPI CAIB) 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/FPI-CAIB-2016">http://bit.ly/FPI-CAIB-2016</a> (Catalan)
	Programa <b>Margalida Comas</b> para jóvenes investigadores 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/CAIB-Posdoc2016">http://bit.ly/CAIB-Posdoc2016</a> (Catalan)
	Programa <b>Vicenç Mut</b> para investigadores con experiencia 2016	
<b>Canarias</b>	Ayudas del <b>Programa predoctoral de formación del personal investigador</b> para la realización de tesis doctorales	<a href="http://bit.ly/CanariasPredoc-2015">http://bit.ly/CanariasPredoc-2015</a>

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SPANISH REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES		
<b>Cantabria</b>	<b>Programa de Personal Investigador en Formación Predoctoral</b> de la Universidad de Cantabria y la Consejería de Educación del Gobierno de Cantabria 2015	<a href="http://www.injuve.es/convocatorias/becas/ayudas-personal-investigador-en-formacion-predocctoral-universidad-cantabria">http://www.injuve.es/convocatorias/becas/ayudas-personal-investigador-en-formacion-predocctoral-universidad-cantabria</a>
<b>Castilla y León</b>	<b>Ayudas para financiar la contratación predoctoral de personal investigador (JCyL)</b> 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/EducaCYL-2015">http://bit.ly/EducaCYL-2015</a>
<b>Cataluña</b>	<b>FI-2017 (AGAUR):</b> ayudas para la contratación de personal investigador novel	<a href="http://bit.ly/AGAUR-FI-2016">http://bit.ly/AGAUR-FI-2016</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/AGAUR-FI-2016-en">http://bit.ly/AGAUR-FI-2016-en</a> (English)
	Programa <b>Beatriu de Pinós (AGAUR):</b> becas y ayudas posdoctorales en el marco del programa Beatriu de Pinós	<a href="http://bit.ly/BP-DGR-B-2014">http://bit.ly/BP-DGR-B-2014</a> <a href="http://bit.ly/BP-DGR-2014-en">http://bit.ly/BP-DGR-2014-en</a> (English)
	Convocatoria <b>ICREA Senior</b>	<a href="https://www.icrea.cat/es/convocatorias">https://www.icrea.cat/es/convocatorias</a>
	Plan <b>Serra Húnter</b>	<a href="http://serrahunter.gencat.cat/es/inici/index.html">http://serrahunter.gencat.cat/es/inici/index.html</a>
<b>Extremadura</b>	<b>Contratos predoctorales para formación de doctores</b> 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/Ext-Predoc-2016">http://bit.ly/Ext-Predoc-2016</a>
	<b>Ayudas para la especialización posdoctoral</b> de investigadores 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/Ext-Postdoc-2014">http://bit.ly/Ext-Postdoc-2014</a>
<b>Galicia</b>	<b>Ayudas de apoyo a la etapa predoctoral (GAIN)</b> 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/GAIN-Pre-2016">http://bit.ly/GAIN-Pre-2016</a>
	<b>Ayudas de apoyo a la etapa posdoctoral (GAIN (A y B))</b> 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/GAIN-Pos-2016">http://bit.ly/GAIN-Pos-2016</a>
	<b>Oportunius (ERC SG)</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/Oportunius">http://bit.ly/Oportunius</a>
	<b>Oportunius (ERC CG/AG)</b>	
<b>La Rioja</b>	<b>Contratos predoctorales FPI (UR):</b> contratos predoctorales para la formación de personal investigador financiados por la Comunidad Autónoma de La Rioja 2014	<a href="http://bit.ly/Rioja-PREDOC-2014">http://bit.ly/Rioja-PREDOC-2014</a>
<b>Com. de Madrid</b>	<b>Contratación de jóvenes doctores:</b> ayudas destinadas a la atracción de talento investigador para su incorporación a grupos de investigación de la Comunidad de Madrid, modalidad 2, 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/MimasD-Talento-2016">http://bit.ly/MimasD-Talento-2016</a>
	<b>Contratación de doctores con experiencia:</b> ayudas destinadas a la atracción de talento investigador para su incorporación a grupos de investigación de la Comunidad de Madrid, modalidad 1, 2016	

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SPANISH REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES		
Reg. de Murcia	Renovación de los contratos predoctorales de formación del personal investigador (Fundación Séneca) 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/Seneca-PREDOC-2015">http://bit.ly/Seneca-PREDOC-2015</a>
	Becas de formación posdoctoral (Fundación Séneca) 2015	<a href="http://bit.ly/Seneca-POSTDOC-2015">http://bit.ly/Seneca-POSTDOC-2015</a>
	Contratos <b>Saavedra-Fajardo</b> para la reincorporación de doctores en centros de investigación de la Región de Murcia 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/SaavedraFajardo-2016">http://bit.ly/SaavedraFajardo-2016</a>
País Vasco	<b>Programa Predoctoral de Formación de Personal Investigador No Doctor:</b> ayudas nuevas y renovaciones para el curso 2016-2017	<a href="http://bit.ly/PREDOC-Berri-2016">http://bit.ly/PREDOC-Berri-2016</a>
	<b>Posdoctoral de Perfeccionamiento de Personal Investigador Doctor:</b> ayudas nuevas y renovaciones para el curso 2016-2017	<a href="http://bit.ly/POSDOC-Berri-2016">http://bit.ly/POSDOC-Berri-2016</a>
	<b>Research Fellow</b> 2016 (Ikerbasque)	<a href="http://bit.ly/IKERBASQUE-ResFel-2016">http://bit.ly/IKERBASQUE-ResFel-2016</a> (English)
	<b>Research Professor</b> 2016 (Ikerbasque)	<a href="http://bit.ly/IKERBASQUE-ResProf-2016">http://bit.ly/IKERBASQUE-ResProf-2016</a> (English)
Com. Valenciana	<b>ACIF (VALi+D):</b> ayudas para la contratación de personal investigador en formación de carácter predoctoral 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/ACIF-2016">http://bit.ly/ACIF-2016</a>
	<b>Santiago Grisolíá:</b> ayudas del programa Santiago Grisolíá 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/GRISOLIA-2015">http://bit.ly/GRISOLIA-2015</a>
	<b>APOSTD (VALi+D):</b> ayudas para la contratación de personal de investigación en formación en fase posdoctoral 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/APOSTD-2016">http://bit.ly/APOSTD-2016</a>
	<b>ACOND (VALi+D):</b> ayudas para apoyar la contratación de personal investigador doctor del subprograma nacional Ramón y Cajal, por parte de centros de investigación 2016	<a href="http://bit.ly/ACOND-2016">http://bit.ly/ACOND-2016</a>
PRIVATE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES		
	<b>INPhINIT</b> ("la Caixa" Fellowship Programme): programa de becas de doctorado promovido por la Obra Social "La Caixa"	<a href="http://www.inphinitlacaixa.org">http://www.inphinitlacaixa.org</a>
	<b>INVES 2016:</b> ayudas a la investigación 2016 para predoctorales	<a href="http://bit.ly/INVES-2016">http://bit.ly/INVES-2016</a>
	<b>Ayudas a investigadores en oncología 2016</b>	<a href="http://bit.ly/AIO-2016">http://bit.ly/AIO-2016</a>
<p>FECYT has published a report compiling all grants and fellowships of training, research and innovation, which are funded by the Council of Foundations for Science. Check the report on:</p> <p><a href="http://www.fecyt.es/es/publicacion/catalogo-de-ayudas-del-consejo-de-fundaciones-por-la-ciencia-para-formacion">http://www.fecyt.es/es/publicacion/catalogo-de-ayudas-del-consejo-de-fundaciones-por-la-ciencia-para-formacion</a>.</p>		

Source: table by these authors.

# 4 WHAT ARE THE PROCEDURES REQUIRED TO CARRY OUT RESEARCH IN SPAIN?

An important aspect when coming to work in Spain concerns obtaining visas, residency and/or work permits both for yourself and for your family.

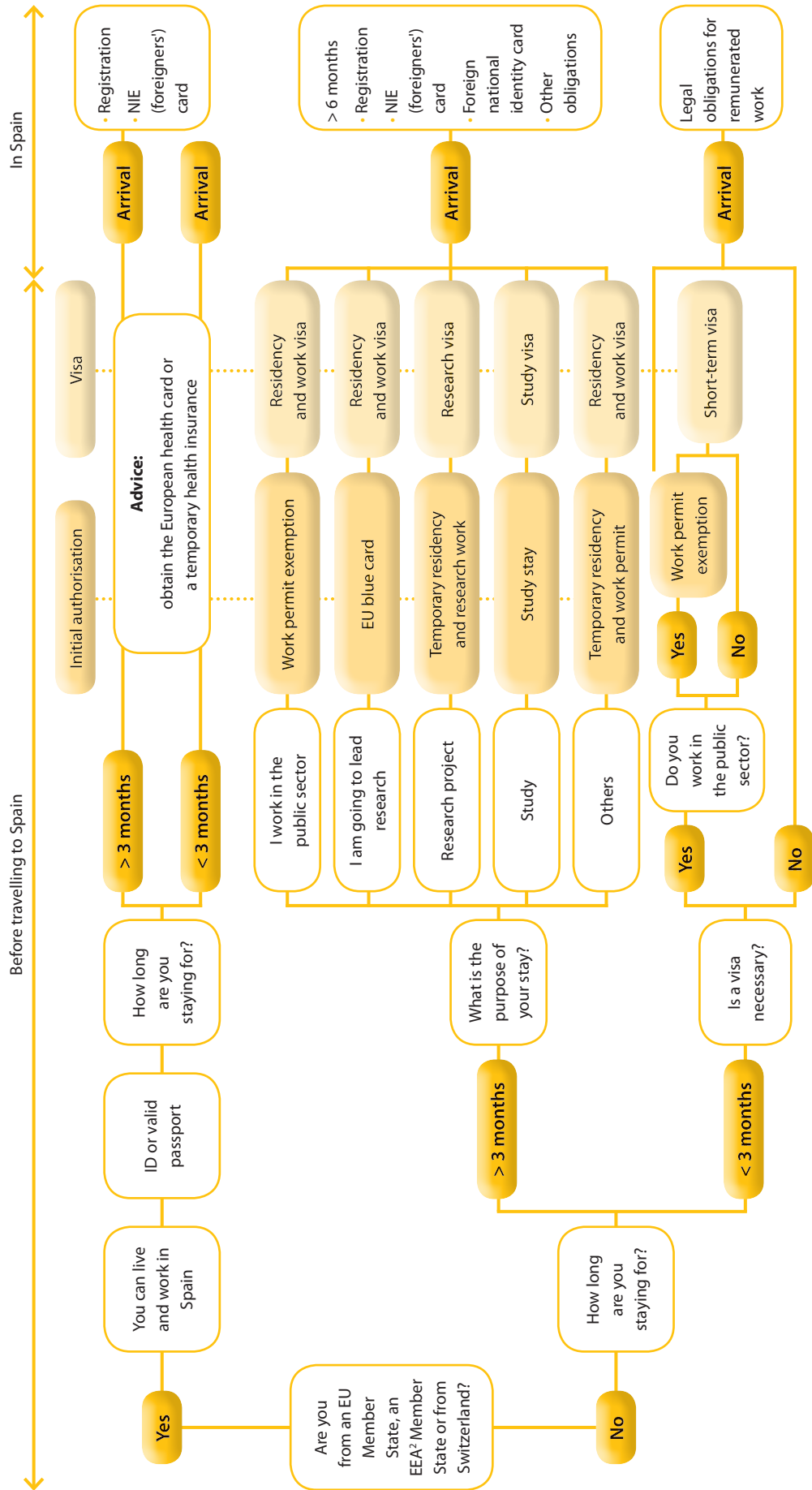
In this context, the Scientific Visa and the Blue Card have made it easier for foreign researchers to enter and move around our country.

- The scientific visa is a European initiative that facilitates the admission and mobility of third-country nationals carrying out research for periods of over three months, making the EU more attractive to researchers from all over the world.
- The EU Blue Card is established as a regulation geared towards incorporating the most qualified workers to the European economy.

Furthermore, there are other permits that allow research personnel to enter and remain in Spain, regulated in Organic Law 4/2000 and its implementing regulation. The new procedure established under Law 14/2013, of 27 September, on Support for Entrepreneurs and their Internationalisation, is of particular interest, facilitating access to residency and the development of research activities at a university, in business, at R&D&I centres or in a research body established in Spain.



Figure 4. Decision diagram regarding procedures for entry into Spain associated with research activities.



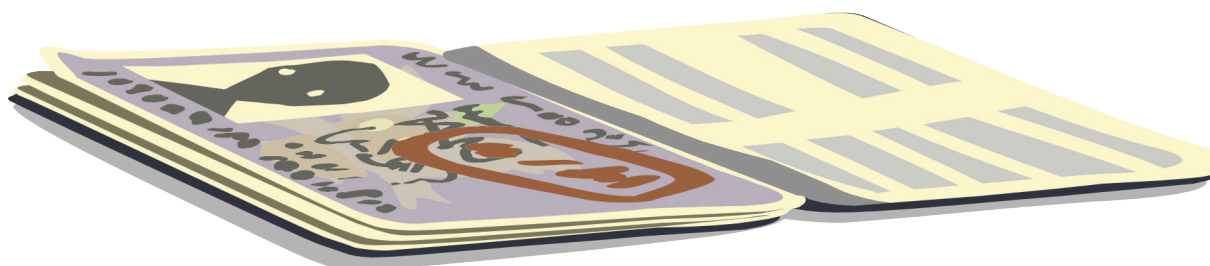
Source: Graph by these authors.  
<sup>2</sup> EEA: EU + Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway.

**Table 2.** Summary of entry procedures for foreign researchers: characteristics of the visa and the blue card.

	VISA	BLUE CARD
<b>Definition</b>	For undertaking research projects under a hosting agreement endorsed by a research centre	The activity requires higher education qualifications *(or having five years of professional experience comparable to the qualifications)
<b>Criteria</b>	General + signing a hosting agreement between the centre and the researcher	General + higher education qualifications or, in exceptional cases, proof of having five years of professional experience comparable to the qualifications + permission to be admitted in an advanced research programme + salary = 1.5 times the average gross annual salary
<b>Applicant</b>	Research centre included in the list of the Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness	The Aliens Office: any entity
<b>Where</b>	Aliens Office in the province in which activity starts	
<b>Duration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project duration (more than 3 months and less than 5 years)</li> <li>• Renewable annually</li> <li>• Long-term</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initially one year</li> <li>• 2 renewals, for a period of 2 years each</li> <li>• Long-term</li> </ul>
<b>Displacement of family</b>	Simultaneous displacement Family regrouping	
<b>Mobility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From the beginning of the visa period</li> <li>• If for less than 3 months, no authorisation is required</li> </ul>	After 18 months in this situation

Source: Graph by these authors.

\* Qualification: minimum three years of training which permits access to an advanced research programme.





**Table 3.** Summary of types of entry procedures for foreign researchers according to length of application process, length of validity and renewals.

PROCEDURE AND INITIAL PERMIT	DURATION OF INITIAL PERMIT PROCEDURE	TYPE OF VISA	LENGTH OF VISA PROCEDURE	VALIDITY	EXTENSION
<b>Short stay: without previous permit</b>	1 month	Short-term visa	1 month	Maximum 3 months	Maximum 3 months
<b>Study permit</b>	1 month	Study visa	1 month	Initially for a maximum of one year, renewable	For one-year periods
<b>Work permit exemption</b>	7 days <sup>3</sup>	Short-term residency and work visa	1 month	Initially for a maximum of one year, renewable	For 2-year periods on up to 2 occasions
<b>Temporary residency and work permit for research</b>	45 days	Research visa	1 month	Minimum 3 months and maximum 5 years (depending on duration of research project)	For one-year periods, unless a long-term residency permit is held
<b>EU Blue Card</b>	45 days	Residency and work visa	15 days	Initially for a maximum of one year, renewable	For 2-year periods on up to 2 occasions
<b>Temporary residency and work permit involving transnational provision of services</b>	3 months	Residency and work visa	15 days	Length of displacement (maximum of one year, renewable)	Time necessary (maximum 1 year or according to international agreements)
<b>UGE-CE procedure (fast track)</b>	1 month	According to the permit granted: residency and work or research visa	10 days	According to the characteristics of the permit granted	For 2-year periods on up to 2 occasions
<b>Law 14/2013 on support for entrepreneurs and their internationalisation (Entrepreneurs Law)</b>	20 days	Residency visa	10 days	Visa: 1 year Residency permit: up to 2 years	For 2-year periods on up to 2 occasions
<b>Long stay residency permit</b>	3 months	N/A		Indefinite	Not required

Source: Graph by these authors.

<sup>3</sup> Current practices of the Spanish Consulate do not include the implied initiation of visa procedures under administrative silence in the case of work permit exemptions. For this reason the actual time periods may substantially exceed those included in this table.

# 5 DO I NEED TO OBTAIN OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF MY ACADEMIC QUALIFICATION?

The following table provides a summary of the current situation for the official recognition of studies and foreign qualifications.

**Table 4.** Summary table of official recognition or equivalence procedures.

STUDIES OR OFFICIAL FOREIGN QUALIFICATION			Processing entities
To study	<b>Master and Doctorate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Official recognition or equivalence of previous qualification is not required.</li> <li>• If you want to obtain official recognition or equivalence to the previous qualification to degree or masters level.</li> <li>• If you want to obtain the equivalence of a previous postgraduate qualification to a PhD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport</li> <li>• University</li> </ul>
	<b>Undergraduate degree</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Given the number of different paths of access, please ask at the University in question or at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport about the most appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University</li> <li>• Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport</li> </ul>
	<b>Non-university education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct entry into the education system (primary and secondary).</li> <li>• Recognition of prior qualification.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport</li> </ul>
To research	<b>Public institutions (work contracts)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It may be necessary to apply for official recognition or equivalence of the qualification (Degree, Master or PhD).</li> </ul>	
	<b>Public institutions (access to public role)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for official recognition or equivalence of the qualification of degree, master or PhD.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• University</li> <li>• Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport</li> </ul>
	<b>Private entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is not necessary to apply for official recognition or equivalence of the qualification, unless authorisation for a regulated profession is also required.</li> </ul>	

(Continues)

(Continuation)

STUDIES OR OFFICIAL FOREIGN QUALIFICATION			Processing entities
To work (to practise a regulated profession)	Persons holding qualifications from a country in the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is not necessary to apply for official recognition of the qualification if any of the following paths are selected.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Temporary exercise of a regulated profession: apply for free provision of services.</li> <li>Permanent establishment: apply for recognition.</li> <li>Commercial, artisan and trade activities: recognition of professional experience.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport corresponding ministry</li> <li>Autonomous Communities</li> </ul>
	Persons not holding qualifications from a country in the EU, the European Economic Area (EEA) or Switzerland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Official recognition of the qualification to degree, Master or PhD level is required.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport</li> </ul>

Source: Graph by these authors.



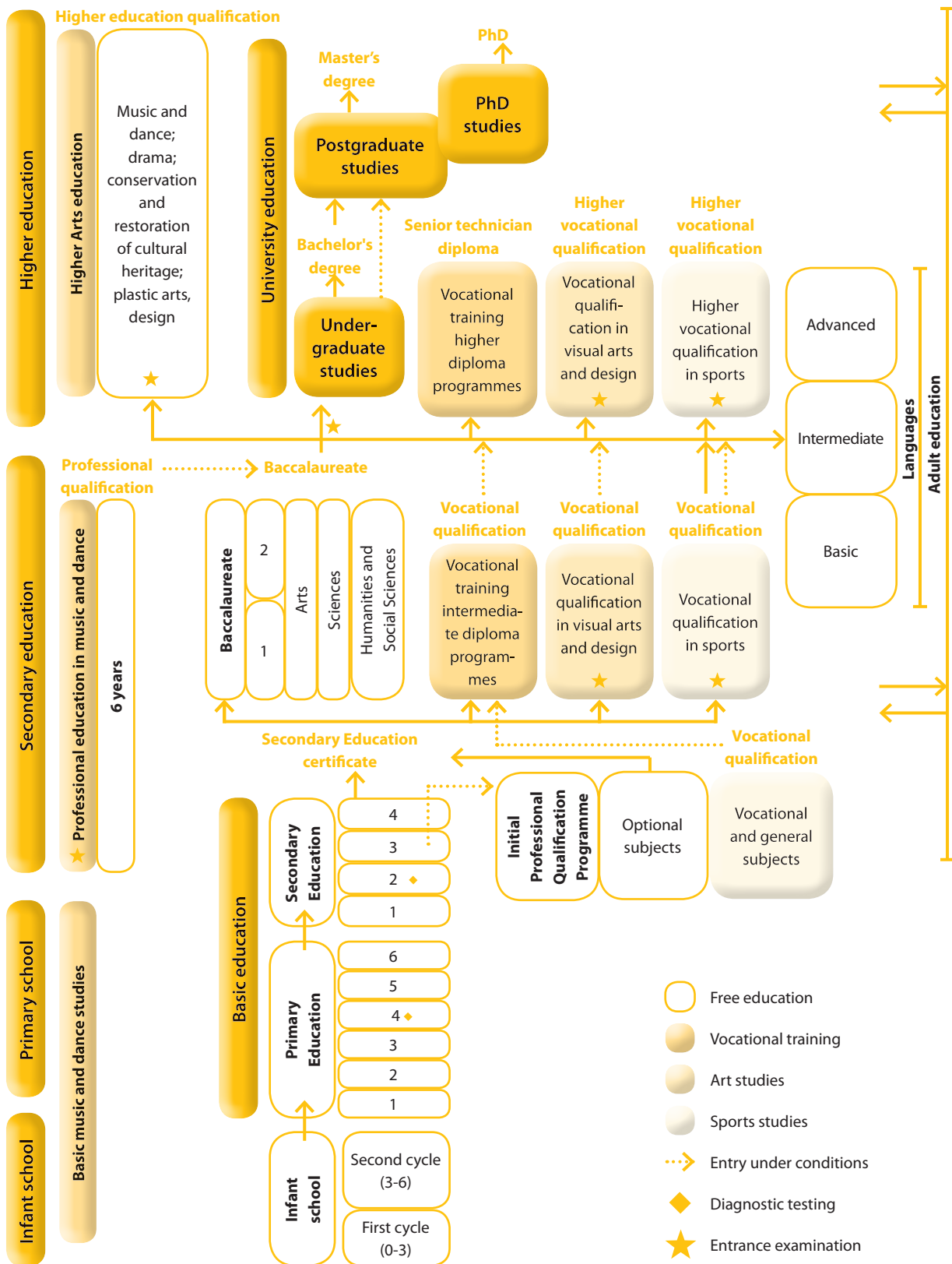
# 6 THE SPANISH EDUCATION SYSTEM

Education in Spain is free (at state schools and government-subsidised schools) and compulsory from the ages of 6 to 16, the latter being the minimum legal age for work, although free and mandatory education can be extended to the age of 18 as part of the E.S.O. (Compulsory Secondary Education) under various circumstances: repetition of or missed school year, integration of students coming from abroad, etc.

On completion of compulsory education, the student may decide to continue their education to intermediate or higher level and supplement it with other disciplines.



**Figure 5.** Spanish education system following the entrance of the modification to Organic Law 2/2006, of 3 May, on Education (LOE), by Organic Law 8/2013, of 9 December, for the Improvement of Educational Quality (LOMCE).



Source: web page of the Spanish Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport <http://www.mecd.gob.es/educacion-mecd/in/sistema-educativo/portada.html>.

# 7 CHECKLIST OF PROCEDURES BEFORE ENTERING OR LEAVING SPAIN

## Before travelling to Spain

- Check whether you need a stay permit, visa, or work or residency permit to travel to or carry out research in Spain.
- If a visa is required, obtain an invitation or a document accrediting the purpose of the visit.
- In exceptional cases, prepare the medical certificates required to enter Spain.
- Prepare accommodation. Your employer may be able to help you find accommodation.
- Are you going to drive? Is your driving licence valid in Spain?
- Have you insured your belongings?
- If you come from a Member State of the EEA, apply for the European Health Insurance Card.
- If you are going to travel with your family (including children): apply for the corresponding permits and visas.

## Once in Spain

- Open a bank account.
- If you are going to stay for longer than six months, get the foreigner's identity card.
- Consult your employer and the Inland Revenue about double taxation criteria.
- Apply for your Social Security card.
- Apply for your healthcare card in the corresponding Autonomous Region.
- If required for professional purposes, apply for validation or recognition of professional qualifications.
- Know your rights regarding pensions and retirement, especially regarding the possibility of transferring social security contributions you have already made.
- Check whether you are entitled to and your employer is paying into an additional private pension.
- Apply for the European Health Insurance Card if you are going to travel to other countries in the European Economic Area or Switzerland.
- Subscribe to a communications service provider (landline, mobile telephone, or the Internet).
- Direct debit the bills from service providers and suppliers (electricity, water, gas and communication services) and local taxes.

- Where applicable, submit the corresponding income tax returns (for non-residents or natural persons).
- Where applicable, depending on the circumstances, apply to register on the Censo Electoral de Residentes Extranjeros en España (electoral roll for foreign residents in Spain or “CERE”) to be able to vote in local elections.
- If you have travelled with your family (especially children):
  - Enrol children in the relevant stage of their compulsory education in an officially recognised school.
  - Apply for the benefits and tax deductions that families are entitled to.

### Before leaving Spain and returning to your country of origin/destination

- Cancel the bank accounts and payment methods you used while in Spain if you are no longer going to use them.
- Note down a helpline for the payment methods you used in Spain.
- Cancel all services (water, electricity, gas, communication services, etc.) that you were subscribed to and notify your bank.
- Remember that if you lived in a rented home, you are entitled to total or partial devolution of the contract security deposit.
- Do not leave debts or bills unpaid: you may be blacklisted on an international debtor registry, which will affect your credit record.
- Obtain an Employment Record of your professional activities in Spain from the Social Security Service ([http://www.seg-social.es/Internet\\_1/LaSeguridadSocial/Quienessomos/TesoreriaGeneralde129408/index.htm](http://www.seg-social.es/Internet_1/LaSeguridadSocial/Quienessomos/TesoreriaGeneralde129408/index.htm)) and check that the information is correct. If there are any errors, request a correction.
- Obtain certificates and qualifications of the studies and/or professional activities carried out.
- It may be advisable to take out travel insurance.
- Apply for the European Health Insurance Card if you are travelling to a Member State of the European Economic Area or Switzerland.
- Consult the EURAXESS services (<https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>).
- If you are going to travel with your family (including children), obtain the certificates and titles for your children.



# 8 THE EURAXESS NETWORK

The EURAXESS Spain Network has over 90 centres across the various Autonomous Communities which provide information and personalised service to researchers and their receiving institutions.

FECYT is the bridgehead organisation of the network in Spain and is responsible for managing and keeping the Euraxess Spain Portal (<http://www.euraxess.es>) up-to-date. Particularly notable among its responsibilities is the building of relationships and coordination with public institutions of the Government and its Ministries and the European Union, as well as the different entities that form the Network. In addition, FECYT is in charge of disseminating the objectives and activities of the Network on a national scale by means of organising conferences and information events for researchers, research centres and other agents of the Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation System.

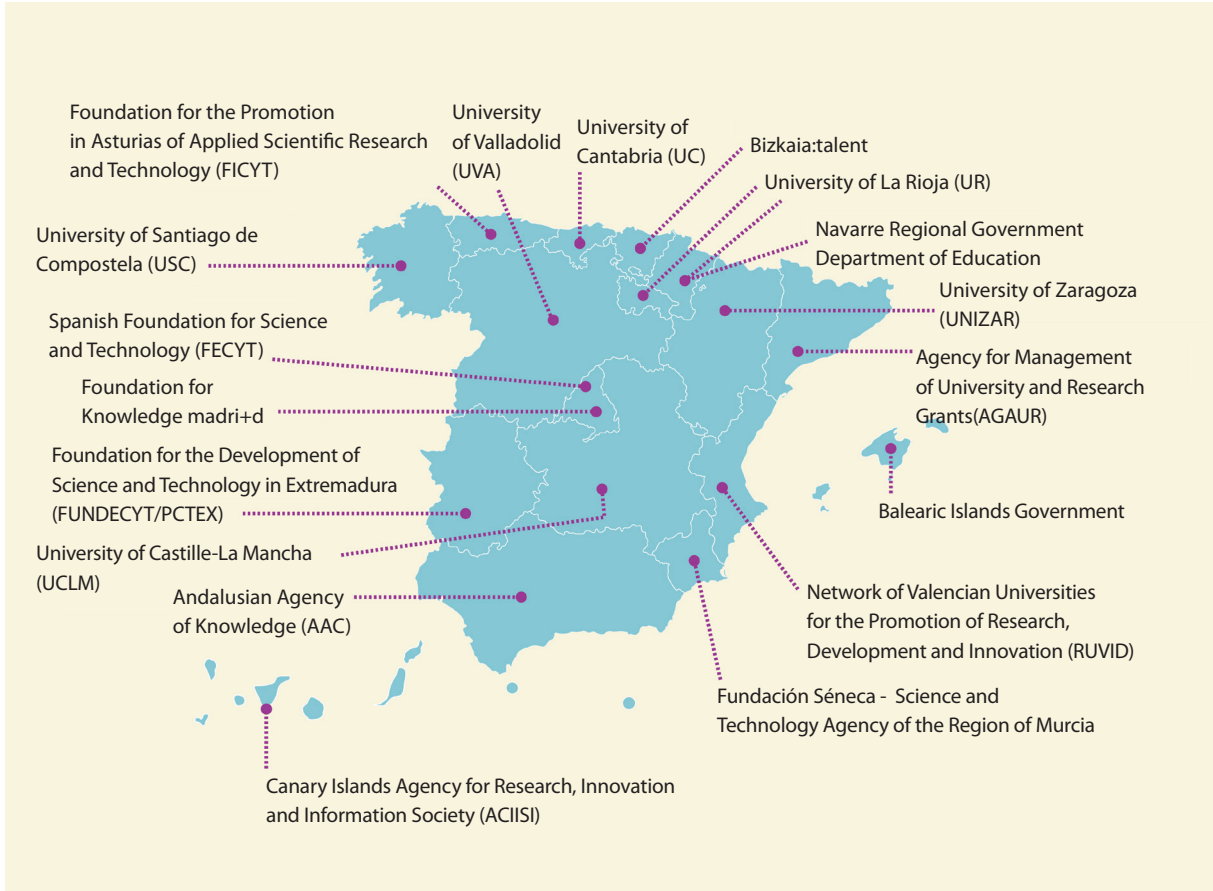
The Spanish Service Centres report to the various agents of the Science, Technology and Innovation system (Offices for Transfer of Research Results at Universities, Research Centres' Human Resources Departments, etc.) and offer personalised assistance to researchers and their families when they arrive in Spain. Most of the network's centres assist researchers who come specifically to the institutions in which they are located; however, some centres also conduct regional coordination work by working as a regional network within the national network.

All the information relating to the EURAXESS Spain Network is available at (<http://www.euraxess.es>).

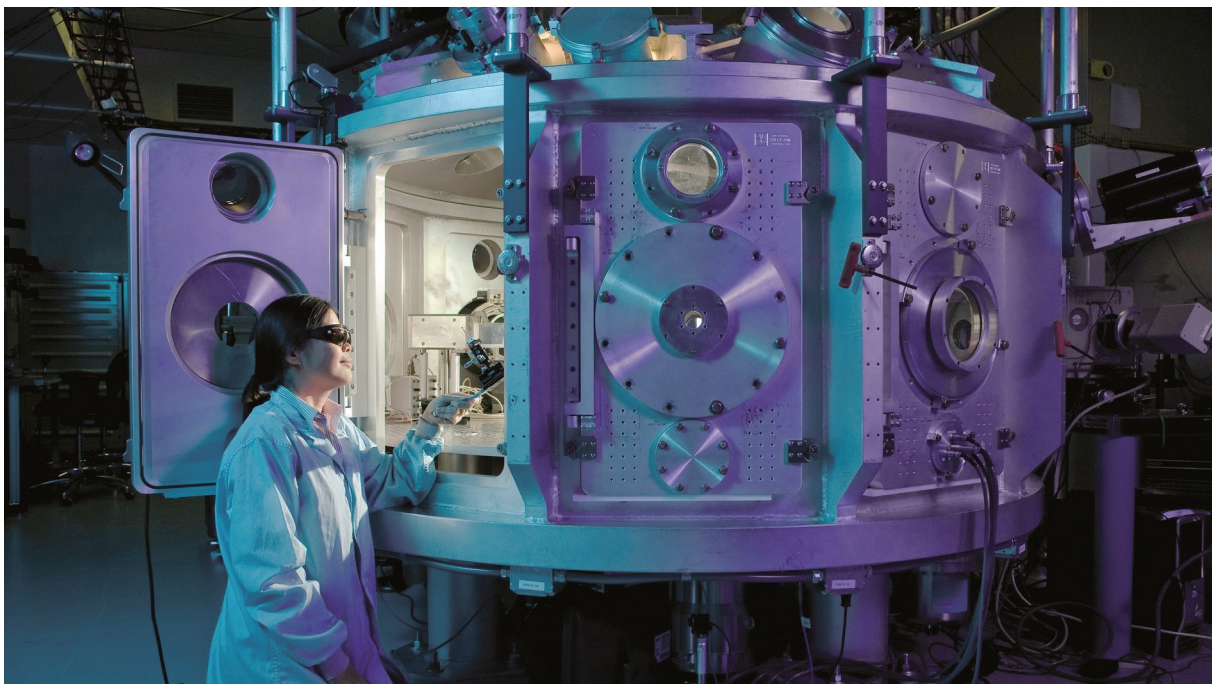




**Figure 6.** EURAXESS Spain Centres: National Bridgehead Organisation (FECYT) and main regional Service centres.



Source: Graph by these authors.



# 9

## LIVING IN SPAIN

Spain is one of the largest countries in Europe, with an area of 505,968 km<sup>2</sup> and a population of 46,500,000, of whom 9.5% are foreigners. Spain covers the Iberian Peninsula (except for Portugal and Gibraltar), the Balearic Islands (in the Mediterranean Sea), the Canary Isles (in the Atlantic Ocean) and the cities of Ceuta and Melilla, in the north of Africa. The country is divided into fifty provinces divided into seventeen Regional Communities and two regional cities: Ceuta and Melilla.

Spain has a parliamentary monarchy and the king is Felipe VI. The Spanish Constitution dates from 1978, with a democratic system in which the population over the age of eighteen years select their representatives in elections at the different levels of government (municipal, regional, national and European).

Spanish nationality is necessary to vote in the general elections (Congress of Deputies and the Senate) and in the legislative assemblies of the Regional Communities. EU citizens resident in Spain may vote (and be elected) in the municipal and European Parliament elections. Moreover, in the municipal elections, citizens from countries which award Spanish citizens the right to stand as a candidate in similar elections and those with whom a reciprocal treaty has been signed, as is the case of Bolivia, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, South Korea, Ecuador, Iceland, Norway, New Zealand, Paraguay, Peru and Trinidad and Tobago may vote. To be able to vote in any of these elections, it is essential to be registered in the electoral census for the municipal district in which you are resident.

The Regional Communities are accorded multiple authorities, including areas such as education, health, social welfare, transport, taxes and the creation, in some, of their own police forces.

**Languages:** in Spain the official language is Spanish, although several Regional Communities also after their own co-official language, namely Catalan, Valencian, Galician or Basque.

**Climate:** the Spanish climate is very varied, as the country is in a temperate zone combining areas of hot and cold air, with the result that the atmospheric circulation does not remain static.

The Mediterranean coast enjoys mild winters, much sun, little rain and hot summers. The north is damp, rainy and has cool summers. Winters in the south are warm while the summers are extremely hot (temperatures may reach 40 °C). The interior of the country, very mountainous and with an average altitude of 6000 m above sea level, has a generally dry climate characterised by temperatures which range from 40 °C in the summer to 5 °C in the winter.

On the islands, as on the coast, the temperatures are milder than in the interior. In the Balearic Isles, the climate is damp, with mild temperatures all year round, but with high temperatures in summer; in the Canary Isles the climate is hotter due to the geographical situation.

**Time zone:** the Spanish mainland and Balearic Isles are in the European continental time zone. The Canary Isles are in the Greenwich Mean time zone, that is, one hour behind the rest of the country.

**Currency:** since 1 January 2000, the currency in Spain has been the Euro, which completely replaced the former peseta, in 2002.

**Religion:** Spain is a non-confessional state, although the majority of the population is Catholic. Most of the public holidays are of a religious nature. Other religions are respected and covered in the Constitution, and in the larger cities there are places for the practice of other faiths.



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