

2027 Call

Postdoctoral Junior Leader fellowships

Retaining

*Rules for
participation*

lacaixafoundation.org

Fellowships

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1. Introduction

The "la Caixa" Foundation launches this postdoctoral fellowship programme to support outstanding researchers of any nationality who have been awarded a doctoral degree between two and seven years before the call deadline and who wish to further develop their careers in STEM disciplines (Life Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematics) in Spain or Portugal.

These guidelines specifically apply to the **Postdoctoral Junior Leader – Retaining** frame. Candidates are responsible for ensuring that they apply under the correct frame, based on the country of the proposed host institution and the applicable mobility requirements.

The programme is addressed to researchers with an excellent track record, as evidenced by the originality and relevance of their scientific contributions. Candidates are also expected to demonstrate strong potential for research independence and leadership, including the capacity to lead their own research group in the future.

In addition to promoting scientific excellence, the fellowships provide access to a comprehensive training and development framework covering scientific, technical and transferable skills. The programme is designed to support fellows in their progression towards independent research careers and positions of responsibility within the scientific ecosystem.

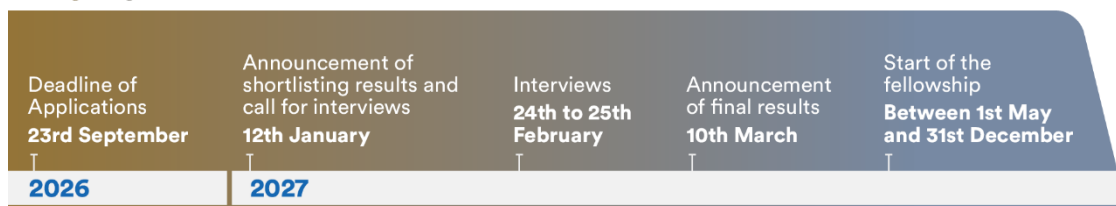
The evaluation process is designed in line with the standards applied by leading European and public funders, and with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers, the Human Resources Strategy for Researchers, Open Science, and research ethics and integrity. The programme promotes excellence-based and transparent evaluation, equal treatment of applicants, and the recognition of diverse research outputs and career paths, in line with current European principles for research assessment. Interdisciplinary and intersectoral approaches, international mobility, and the development of transferable skills will also be taken into account throughout the programme.

2. Timeline

This timeline presents the key milestones of the Junior Leader 2027 call, from the deadline of applications on 23 September 2026 at 2pm Spanish peninsular time (Central European Summer Time - CEST) to the announcement of final results on 10 March 2027, including the Announcement of shortlisting results and call for interviews on 12 January 2027 and the Interviews in February 2027 (24–25 February for Retaining). The Start of the fellowship is foreseen between 1 May and 31 December 2027.

The dates and timeline included in these Rules for Participation are expressed in Spanish peninsular time (Central European Summer Time - CEST).

Timeline



3. Call for applications

- 3.1. The "la Caixa" Foundation is offering 20 **three-year postdoctoral fellowships** to recruit experienced researchers to carry out their projects in STEM disciplines (Life Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematics) at any **university or research centre in Spain or Portugal**.
- 3.2. The call for applications is intended for researchers who **finished their doctoral degree two to seven years prior to the application deadline** and fulfil the requirements for mobility between countries.
- 3.3. The choice of the host institution will not be binding during the candidate selection process. Candidates should state the host institution that they would prefer to carry out their project on their fellowship application on a provisional basis.
- 3.4. The fellow should start work at the host institution between 1st May and 31st December 2027. The "la Caixa" Foundation must be notified of the fellow's start date at the host institution prior to this date and as soon as an agreement is reached.
- 3.5. Candidates may freely propose a research project to be carried out at the host institution of their choice.

4. Fellowship funding

- 4.1. The maximum payment amount will be €320,100¹, broken down as shown below:

Three maximum annual payments of €102,500 which include:

- a) **Labour costs (salary included): a maximum of €64,000 to cover the total labour costs of the host institution hiring the fellow.** This amount includes Social Security contributions and any other payments made by the employer, as well as the fellow's annual gross salary.

In any case, the minimum annual gross salary to be offered to the fellow by the host institution must be €47,000.

¹ The allowance is calculated based on 2 children. The maximum allowance may be increased if the number of children is greater than 2.

If the total labour costs exceed the maximum amount offered by the "la Caixa" Foundation, the host institution will cover the excess.

b) Annual research project costs of €38,500, which include:

- » Consumables
- » Travel expenses and per diem;
- » Registration fees for scientific congresses, seminars and conferences;
- » Management fees for industrial and intellectual property rights related to the project;
- » Patenting costs;
- » Expenses related with the mandatory secondment;
- » Personnel costs linked exclusively to the fellowship project;
- » Acquisition and maintenance of scientific or IT equipment (only in year 1 and 2);
- » Overheads;
- » Other expenses directly related to running of the research project.

This amount will be managed by the host institution for the benefit of the fellow and it must be justified separately.

c) Gross annual family allowance of €1,200 for each of the researcher's dependent children. The family allowance will be determined at the beginning of the fellowship and will be reviewed during the fellowship period, this allowance being receivable from the month following the birth or adoption of the child. If both parents obtain a postdoctoral Junior Leader fellowship, this allowance will be only granted to one of the parents.

d) Mobility allowance (moving and housing) of €5,400 gross to be paid at the start of the fellowship only in cases involving relocation. The allowance will be granted only if all the following conditions are met: the fellow changes host institution to carry out the Postdoctoral Junior Leader fellowship; this change requires a change of place of residence; and the selected host institution is located more than 50 km from the previous host institution.

These amounts will be gross and included under the total labour costs for each fellow incurred by the host institution hiring them. In addition, these amounts will be subject to any tax retention legally required.

4.2. The "la Caixa" Foundation will sign a collaboration agreement with the host institution, which will receive the fellowship payment directly.

The amounts paid by the "la Caixa" Foundation under this fellowship programme shall be managed by the host institution in its own name and under its own responsibility for the purpose of implementing the fellowship and the related research project. Such amounts are intended exclusively to cover the costs associated with the fellowship, in accordance with these Rules and the corresponding collaboration agreement.

For the avoidance of doubt, the financial reporting, supporting documentation and justification obligations applicable to the host institution are established solely in order to verify the correct allocation and use of the funds for the purposes of the fellowship.

The host institution shall remain solely responsible for hiring the fellow and for complying with any labour, social security, tax withholding and other legal obligations applicable to it in connection with the fellowship.

- 4.3.** The employment relationship between the fellow and the host institution must always comply with current legislation.
- 4.4.** The entitlement to the fellowship belongs with the researcher, who will be hired by the host institution.

5. Secondments

- 5.1.** Fellows will be required to pursue an international and/or intersectoral secondment of up to 6 months within their research projects in an institution freely proposed by the fellows themselves. The secondments can be carried out at any time after 6 months of active fellowship and before the end of the fellowship.
- 5.2.** The secondment can be performed in a single period or can be divided into shorter periods up to maximum of 6 months. Likewise, it can take place in one or more organizations.
- 5.3.** Researchers will have a supervisor at the secondment host institution, thus receiving cross-sectoral guidance and ensuring continuity in the execution of the projects.
- 5.4.** A declaration of interest letter from the secondment supervisor must be provided by the fellows before the start date of the fellowship at the host institution.
- 5.5.** If, due to unforeseen circumstances, the secondment does not eventually take place, the fellow must submit a justified report to the "la Caixa" Foundation explaining the exceptional circumstances that prevented the mandatory secondment from taking place.

6. Complementary training

In addition to the financial support, the fellowship includes a mixed training programme (face-to-face and online) that combines interdisciplinary scientific training, transversal skills development, intersectoral exposure and a strong focus on Open Science and research integrity.

The training programme, valued at approximately EUR 7,500 per fellow, constitutes a core element of the fellowship and provides structured opportunities for skills development, career preparation and exposure to diverse research and innovation environments.

Attendance is mandatory for all fellows regardless of their discipline. The "la Caixa" Foundation will cover all costs for these sessions, as well as the fellows' accommodation and travel costs.

Soon after recruitment, fellows will establish a personal Career Development Plan (CDP), based on their personal needs and interests, explaining their key achievements and future goals.

7. Eligibility requirements for applicants

Applicants must fulfil all the following eligibility requirements. Failure to meet any of them will result in the application being declared ineligible.

7.1. Nationality

Postdoctoral researchers of **any nationality** are eligible to apply for the postdoctoral Junior Leader Fellowship–Retaining programme.

7.2. Research field and host institution country

The research project must be carried out in STEM disciplines (Life Sciences, Physics, Chemistry, Engineering and Mathematics). The host institution where the fellowship is carried out must be located in Spain or Portugal.

7.3. Doctoral degree and eligibility extensions

Those who **obtained their doctoral degree (PhD) two to seven years prior to the application deadline** are eligible, unless an extension of this period applies under the circumstances listed below. For such purposes, candidates must have obtained their doctoral degree between 23 September 2019 and 23 September 2024, both inclusive. The date of the successful defence for the doctoral thesis will be understood as the date the doctorate (PhD) was obtained. Therefore, a document must be provided where the date of the thesis defence is certified.

Should an applicant hold more than one doctorate (PhD), the above-mentioned period will be calculated for the first degree earned.

This eligibility window may be extended for the duly justified reasons listed below. The extension is granted for the exact duration of the relevant period, calculated in full days, unless otherwise indicated below:

- a) Maternity leave (18 months per child born after the PhD defence date, or the exact duration of maternity leave taken, whichever is longest). The same principle also applies for child adoption.
- b) Paternity leave (12 months per child born after the PhD defence date, or the exact duration of paternity leave taken, whichever is longest). The same principle also applies for child adoption.
- c) Compulsory national service.
- d) Long-term sick leave: formally certified periods of medical leave exceeding 30 consecutive days, either for the candidate or for the care of a close family member (child, spouse, parents or sibling).

Please consider that you cannot deduct the same period in multiple categories. All cases must be duly demonstrated by means of an official supporting document.

7.4. Mobility

Candidates who wish to **join a Spanish research centre or university must** have resided or have carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for **more than twelve months in the three years** immediately prior to the application deadline. Short stays, such as holidays, in a country other than their usual country of residence (where they carry out their main activity), will be considered as time spent in their usual country of residence.

A candidate with an uninterrupted period of at least 2 years of inactivity in research (e.g. unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or long-term sick leave) must have resided or carried out the main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for more than 36 months in the 5 years immediately before the call deadline.

Those candidates who wish to **join a Portuguese research centre or university must** have resided or have carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Portugal for **more than twelve months in the three years** immediately prior to the application deadline. Short stays, such as holidays, in a country other than their usual country of residence (where they carry out their main activity), will be considered as time spent in their usual country of residence.

A candidate with an uninterrupted period of at least 2 years of inactivity in research (e.g. unemployment, periods of employment outside research, parental or long-term sick leave) must have resided or carried out the main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Portugal for more than 36 months in the 5 years immediately before the call deadline.

Candidates who, at the date of the call deadline have refugee status under the Geneva Convention, or benefit from EU temporary protection are exempt from the mobility rule.

The periods listed below shall not be counted when calculating the residence or main activity periods referred to in the mobility rule: a) compulsory national service; b) time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention and time spent for obtaining EU temporary protection; c) short stays (such as holidays).

7.5. International research stays

For the purposes of eligibility, international stays refer exclusively to international research stays completed before the application deadline, during the candidate's doctoral or postdoctoral period. They are distinct from the secondment to be carried out during the fellowship under Section 5.

For candidates applying to carry out the research in a Spanish university or research centre, the candidate must have carried out research stays at non-Spanish research centres or universities during their doctorate or postdoctorate, whether of a continuous or discontinuous nature for at least six months prior to the deadline for applications.

For candidates applying to carry out the research in a Portuguese university or research centre, the candidate must have carried out research stays at non-Portuguese research centres or universities during their doctorate or postdoctorate, whether of a continuous or discontinuous nature for at least six months prior to the deadline for applications.

Participation in conferences, workshops, training activities, project meetings, short visits do not constitute an international research stay.

8. Application and documentation

- 8.1.** Candidates must apply using the online application platform available in the “Research and Fellowships” section on the “la Caixa” Foundation website.

On this platform, the different pages of the application form clearly specify all information and documentation that must be provided to complete an application for the current fellowships programme. **The application must be completed entirely in English. Only complete applications submitted before the application deadline and including all required information and supporting documents will be considered eligible.**

- 8.2.** Candidates must submit a **Declaration of Interest letter** document with the official institutional letterhead and signed by a representative of the host institution of preference must be attached, indicating its willingness to accept the fellow. A template is provided in the online application platform. This Declaration of Interest will not be binding on any of the parties. The fellow may change the preferred host institution before the start of the fellowship.

Candidates who are finally chosen as fellows will have a reasonable period in which to confirm their interest in the host institution that they specified as their first choice. During this time, they can also explore other alternatives that may better suit their personal goals.

If the line of research chosen by the candidate for their research project is different from that originally stated in their application, it must not deviate from it significantly in terms of content or discipline.

Candidates must reach an agreement with the host institution they finally select, at which point the host institution will hire the fellow with the funds provided by the “la Caixa” Foundation.

- 8.3.** Candidates must submit a **personal statement** document using the template provided in the online application platform. This document must present the research project that the candidate proposes to carry out during the three-year fellowship. Candidates may freely propose a research project to be implemented at the host institution of their choice.

The concepts that should be raised in the statement of purpose (maximum 9 pages) are:

- 1) Research experience directly related to the project proposed specifying the main achievements reached (Recommended 3 pages)
- 2) Summary of the proposed research project, state of the art, timeline, contingency plan, methodology and objectives. (Recommended 5 pages, references excluded). Please write the references at the end of the document in a separate page. (Maximum 1 page)

- 8.4.** Candidates must attach a **copy of their doctoral diploma or academic certificate** showing the date on which the doctoral degree was obtained.

- 8.5.** Candidates who demand an extension of the eligibility based on 7.3, the data entered must be documented and quantified based on documentation/proof that shall be submitted as supporting documents

- 8.6. Candidates who declare an exception to mobility rule (2 years of inactivity and/or refugee status based on 7.4), must provide the relevant supporting documents.
- 8.7. Documents uploaded to the online application platform in PDF format must be clear and legible. Similarly, each page of the original document must correspond to a page of the PDF document.
- 8.8. If the documents uploaded in the online application platform were issued in a language other than English, a translation (which can be done by the candidate) into English must be attached.

9. Selection process

Applications will be evaluated and selected on a competitive basis, in line with international peer review standards and current European principles for responsible research assessment, including the principles reflected in the [Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#). The evaluation process will be based primarily on assessments by independent external experts, ensuring transparency, fairness, equal treatment, and consistency throughout the process.

The process is comprised of three parts:

- a) **Eligibility check:** all applications received are screened to ensure that they comply with formal requirements. Eligibility will be checked based on the information provided by the applicant. Only applications that fulfil all the criteria will be included in the Shortlisting phase.

Should an application not fulfil the formal requirements of the call for applications, the "la Caixa" Foundation will send a notification by e-mail specifying the reason for its rejection.

- b) **Shortlisting:** each eligible application is assessed by at least two independent experts, selected on the basis of their expertise, research performance and evaluation experience within the field. The applications that receive the highest scores will pass to the next phase. The shortlisting procedure also takes into account the distribution of applications across disciplines, as described in the selection process guidelines document.

It is advisable for candidates to inform any potential host institutions of interest to them once their application has been chosen for the Interviews phase.

Interviews: The candidates whose applications have passed the Shortlisting stage will be invited for an interview. The interviews will be conducted by a multidisciplinary selection committee, made up of professors and researchers with extensive experience in selection processes. Interviews will be entirely in English.

The dates scheduled for the interviews or for the notification of the results may be subject to change due to organizational reasons. If this occurs, candidates will be immediately notified by e-mail.

The "la Caixa" Foundation will notify the candidates interviewed during the final phase of the results via e-mail. The results may also be consulted on the applications platform.

10. Evaluation criteria

Applications will be evaluated according to each candidate's merit, not penalising candidates with career breaks or younger candidates. The evaluation criteria and scores defined to achieve this goal are:

Shortlisting

- 1. Excellence of Curriculum Vitae (weight 50%):** The assessment will consider the quality, relevance, and influence of the candidate's contributions, taking into account the scientific discipline and the stage of the candidate's career.
- 2. Quality and potential of the research project (weight 30%):** The assessment will consider the scientific excellence, originality, and ambition of the proposed project, together with the consistency of the candidate's personal statement and the suitability of the host organization for the implementation of the project.
- 3. Impact (weight 20%):** The assessment will consider the potential impact of the project, taking into account disciplinary differences, as well as the added value of the fellowship for the candidate's career progression.

Interviews

- 1. Academic and professional career (weight 50%):** The assessment will consider the depth, coherence, and influence of the candidate's academic and professional trajectory, based on qualitative evidence, including research contributions, experience in conducting and managing research, and the coherence of the career path in relation to the proposed project, taking into account progression, interdisciplinarity, and non-linear trajectories.
- 2. Candidate's potential (weight 30%):** The assessment will consider the candidate's potential to develop into an independent, creative, and responsible researcher, including reasoning and communication skills, creativity, originality, leadership, entrepreneurial mindset, and the ability to work effectively in collaborative and interdisciplinary environments.
- 3. Motivation and impact of the project (weight 20%):** The assessment will consider the clarity and coherence of the candidate's motivation, the alignment between the project, the host institution, and their career objectives, the articulation of the expected impact, taking into account disciplinary differences, and the added value of the fellowship for the candidate's career progression.

Further information on the evaluation criteria that govern the selection process can be found in the Selection process Guidelines available on the call website.

11. Appeals procedure

- 11.1.** Within three calendar days from the date the notification of results is sent, candidates may submit an appeal by sending an e-mail to fellowships@contact.fundaciolacaixa.org, which must include an explanatory text together with any documents the candidates deem appropriate.
- 11.2.** An appeals committee will hear appeals. Their decision will be communicated by e-mail within ten calendar days from the date of receipt of the appeal.

- 11.3.** The appeals procedure will be strictly confidential.
- 11.4.** The appeals procedure will look at procedural shortcomings and possible errors, not at the evaluation panel's decisions or the experts' ratings and comments. The selection and evaluation processes themselves guarantee the independence and objectivity of the evaluation.

12. Appointment of candidates and choice of centre

- 12.1.** The list of candidates chosen as fellows, as well as the candidates on the waiting list, where applicable, will be published with their names and surname(s) on the "la Caixa" Foundation website on 10th March 2027.
- 12.2.** Should any fellowships be resigned, these will be offered to the candidates on the waiting list in the order established.
- 12.3.** This call for fellowship applications can be declared void for one, some, or all the fellowships, if this is proposed by the selection committee to the "la Caixa" Foundation.
- 12.4.** To be admitted as fellows, candidates must start at the host institution no later than 31st December 2027. Once this date has passed, the fellowship may no longer be activated. Once an agreement has been reached, the host institution will hire the fellow with the funds provided by the "la Caixa" Foundation.
- 12.5** All dissemination activities, publications related to the research project, as well as the fellow contract must acknowledge the support of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

13. Incompatibilities

- 13.1.** Candidates may only apply for a fellowship for one of the two postdoctoral Junior Leader subprogrammes included in the 2027 call for applications: Incoming or Retaining.
- 13.2.** Candidates who obtain a score equal to or lower than 6 in the shortlisting phase of the 2027 call will not be eligible to apply to the 2028 call.
- 13.3.** Fellows who have already benefitted from a postdoctoral Junior Leader fellowship cannot apply for the same programme.
- 13.4.** Candidates unable to attend the final interview must notify the "la Caixa" Foundation at least three working days in advance to the first day of the interviews to allow their slot to be reassigned. Failure to do so, without duly justified reasons of illness or force majeure, will result in exclusion from future calls of the "la Caixa Foundation"
- 13.5.** Resignation of the fellowship means that it will not be possible to submit an application to future calls of the "la Caixa" Foundation Fellowships programme, except when this is justified due to illness or other unforeseeable circumstances.

- 13.6.** Under no circumstances may applicants contact the experts who are taking part or have taken part in the selection processes of this call for applications to ask them for information regarding the status of their application or any other aspect related to the selection process. Should this occur, the candidate will be disqualified from present and future selection processes.
- 13.7.** The fellowship will not be compatible with a permanent employment contract from an institution other than the host institution.
- 13.8.** The fellowships are incompatible with any other paid work, fellowship or grant that covers more than the 10% of the annual amount given for salary costs (See 4.1), unless specifically authorised by the "la Caixa" Foundation.
- 13.9.** Fellowships are compatible with other competitive funds that complement the postdoctoral Junior Leader Research Costs, upon the express authorisation of the "la Caixa" Foundation.

14. Management of the fellowship and obligations of the fellows

- 14.1.** The applicants who are awarded a fellowship should preferably be a current account or bankbook holder at any CaixaBank or BPI branch office, which is where the monthly payments and any other amounts included in the fellowship will be paid into.
- 14.2.** These fellowships are granted exclusively for on-site projects, that is, to carry out full-time research activity at the host institution's facilities.
- 14.3.** Fellows must complete a dedicated ethics declaration as part of the acceptance of the fellowship, confirming that any project activities requiring ethics review have been or will be submitted to the relevant ethics committees, and that such activities will not start before the necessary approvals have been obtained.
- 14.4.** Fellows may collaborate with teaching duties, provided that they notify the "la Caixa" Foundation as far in advance as possible and obtain prior approval from the host institution that has hired them. Generally speaking, and without prejudice to a personalised study and decision on a case-by-case basis, devoting more than 100 hours per year to teaching duties will not be authorised.
- 14.5.** When so required by the "la Caixa" Foundation, the chosen candidates should accredit, through original documents or certified photocopies of these, the files attached to the applications. Likewise, the "la Caixa" Foundation can ask them for the original certificates for any information mentioned in the application.
- 14.6.** The host institutions will manage the amounts allocated by the "la Caixa" Foundation and shall submit the corresponding financial reports in accordance with the reporting requirements established in these Rules and the collaboration agreement.

- 14.7.** The fellows must provide a scientific report on an annual basis, as well as any other information that the "la Caixa" Foundation deems necessary or they must authorise the host institution to provide this.
- 14.8.** The submission of an application for these fellowships implies express acceptance by all candidates of all these rules and the criteria and decisions that the "la Caixa" Foundation may use when responding to any doubts about how to interpret the requirements and terms and conditions contained herein.
- 14.9.** Detection of any failure to comply with these rules, regardless of when this occurs and the status of the application within the fellowship awarding process, will result in the automatic cancellation of the application or the fellowship, should it have already been awarded. Should the fellow not fulfil the aforementioned obligations, or any other obligation included among the terms and conditions of the fellowship, the "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to act as it deems appropriate, including requesting the return of the amounts received.

15. Ethics and Integrity

- 15.1.** The "la Caixa" Foundation follows the principles of Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI). These principles take into account gender equality in research and innovation (R&I), as well as other inclusion issues, open access to scientific results and ethics and research integrity in the design and implementation of R&I.

The selected fellows and their research projects must comply with the principles of RRI, the "la Caixa" Foundation's [Research Integrity Policy](#), the research results management and open access policy of the "la Caixa" Foundation and any other policies applicable to research projects receiving support from the "la Caixa" Foundation, as published on its website ([Responsibility principles - CaixaResearch](#)).

All results derived from the fellowship projects must be made available following the parameters described therein, except when justified circumstances exist.

- 15.2.** All the host institutions, the fellows and the supervisors must follow the highest ethical principles and highest standards of integrity in research and scientific best practices throughout the implementation of the fellowship, as described in the [European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity \(ALLEA\)](#), as well as the highest ethical principles recognised under Spanish, Portuguese, European and/or international regulations.
- 15.3.** Cases of scientific misconduct — including, but not limited to harassment, bullying, and/or abuse - that may arise throughout the execution of the fellowship (even if prior to the fellowship award) or following its completion must be communicated immediately by the host institution to the "la Caixa" Foundation. In the event that the host institution is subject to the application of transparency and/or if the information regarding the improper scientific conduct is protected by such regulation, the host institution undertakes to obtain the consent of the persons involved in said case in order to inform the "la Caixa" Foundation. The "la Caixa" Foundation reserves the right to cancel or

reclaim the fellowship depending on the nature and impact of the incident in question, or in the event that the host institution does not or cannot provide the information required by the “la Caixa” Foundation regarding the case of improper scientific conduct.

If a supervisor has been sanctioned for scientific misconducts, the “la Caixa” Foundation may:

- » Require the host institution to monitor the sanctioned person regarding their management of the fellow and their participation in the Project.
- » Require the host institution to provide training in good research practices, to those who have been sanctioned.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the “la Caixa” Foundation reserves the right to review cases of serious misconduct and to impose restrictions on sanctioned individuals as it considers appropriate.

- 15.4.** The host institution its administrators, managers and employees must not have any conflict of interest with the trustees and employees of the “la Caixa” Foundation that could undermine the principle of equality and competition among candidates, applicable to these Rules for Participation.
- 15.5.** The fellow, the supervisor as well as the host institution must comply with the condition of not being sanctioned, by means of a firm resolution, of an academic, labour, administrative or judicial nature for the commission of the following serious irregularities including, but not limited to: lack of professional ethics, corruption (in any of its forms), money laundering, financing of terrorism, smuggling, mistreatment of animals, genetic manipulation or, where appropriate, for any other irregularity that may entail administrative (for severe legal infractions) or criminal liability for legal persons, whether in accordance with Spanish, European Union and/or international legislation. The host institution must immediately notify to “la Caixa” Foundation the imposition of any such sanctions that may arise during the execution of the awarded project.
- 15.6.** The use of methods or tools, including Artificial Intelligence (AI), must comply with applicable ethical standards and ensure the integrity, reliability, and transparency of the research. The fellow and, by extension, the host institution, are responsible before the “la Caixa” Foundation for the content and outcome of the selected fellowships, including any documentation and information related to it, without prejudice to the methods used for its development (e.g. Artificial Intelligence tools). In this sense, candidates shall guarantee: (i) compliance with all applicable regulations; (ii) non-infringement of third-party rights; and (iii) application of best ethical practices. Likewise, and within the framework of this Call, the fellows and the host institution exempt “la Caixa” Foundation from any liability before third parties arising from any failure to comply with the foregoing to the extent permitted by applicable law.

Failure to comply with any of the requirements established in this section may be grounds for revocation of the fellowship, and the “la Caixa” Foundation may reclaim the amounts disbursed for the development of the fellowship.

16. Privacy and data protection policy

- 16.1.** Applicants will be duly informed, within the framework of the registration process, about the processing of their personal data, as well as about the exercise of their rights regarding the protection of personal data in accordance with the provisions of Article 13 and following of the General Data Protection Regulation.
- 16.2.** The Fundació Bancaria Caja de Ahorro y Pensiones de Barcelona, "la Caixa", (hereinafter, "la Caixa" Banking Foundation) with registered office at Avda. Diagonal 621-629, 08028, Barcelona, Spain, acts as the Data Controller for the processing of personal data for the resolution of doubts and queries in this call for applications. The legal basis for the processing is the execution of a contract, at the request of the applicant. Personal data will be retained until the expiry of the applicable statute of limitations. The data will only be disclosed for the purpose of fulfilling legal obligations, as well as to third party providers acting in their capacity as data processors. Access to such data by technology providers located outside the European Economic Area is subject to all required legal safeguards. You may request further information or exercise your rights of access, rectification, suppression, limitation, portability, and opposition before the Data Protection Officer of the "la Caixa" Banking Foundation, at Avenida Diagonal, 621-629, 08028 Barcelona, or by contacting dpd@fundacionlacaixa.org. You can also complain to the Spanish Data Protection Agency (www.aepd.es).