



IN FOCUS

## EURAXESS Member Spain

EURAXESS – Researchers in Motion is an initiative of the European Research Area (ERA) that addresses barriers to the mobility of researchers and seeks to enhance their career development. This pan-European effort is currently supported by 41 countries. In this edition, we will zoom in on Spain.



Photographer: [Simon Greig](#)

### FOSTERING R&D TO TACKLE GLOBAL SOCIETAL CHALLENGES: OVERVIEW<sup>1</sup>

The Spanish Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy (2013-2020) framework structures and coordinates the national and regional policies. The strategy aims to co-ordinate the Research, Development and Innovation policies of the Spanish national and regional bodies with the European Union, to define a stable framework that allows a structured funding plan, to foster the accountability of the administrative bodies, and to incorporate the gender perspective in the public policies.

The objectives of the Strategy are:

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<sup>1</sup> Sources: INE ([www.ine.es](http://www.ine.es)) and ICONO ([www.icono.fecyt.es](http://www.icono.fecyt.es)) and Embassy of Spain Singapore ([www.exteriores.gob.es/embajadas/singapur](http://www.exteriores.gob.es/embajadas/singapur))



1. To acknowledge the talent of human resources working on RDI and to foster their career development and mobility;
  2. To foster excellence in RDI and business leadership;
  3. To foster RDI activities to face global societal challenges.
- Spain boasts **82 universities** and **537 research institutes**.
  - Over 20% of doctoral students at Spanish universities are international students.
  - In 2014, Spanish institutions ranked **10<sup>th</sup> globally** with 77.013 **research-related publications** (including articles, conference proceedings and reviews). In terms of excellence (share of highly cited publications (top 10%)), energy and veterinary were the top research areas in Spain.
  - International collaboration of Spanish institutions keeps growing every year: almost **45 % of Spanish research documents in 2014 were co-authored** with a foreign institution.
  - In 2014, the total number of European patents originating in Spain was 467.
  - Spain is a **very active participant in European research projects**. To date, 9% of H2020 funding is allocated to Spanish institutions. Areas of particular importance for Spanish participation include Energy, NMBP (Nanotechnologies, Advanced Materials, Biotechnology and Advanced Manufacturing and Processing) and the SME (small and medium-sized enterprises) instrument.

### Opportunities for ASEAN-based researchers

The “[Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence](#)” programme for independent research centres and the “Maria de Maeztu Units of Excellence” programme for smaller unit recognizes institutions from all areas of knowledge that perform cutting-edge research at global standards. The awarded centers and units show outstanding international scientific leadership and are open to international collaborations. The evaluation committees involved in the selection process are all foreign highly reputed researchers, including Nobel laureates.

Spain boasts a number of so-called “[Unique Scientific and technological infrastructures \(ICTS\)](#)” composed by facilities of different scientific areas ranging from the life sciences to astrophysics or engineering, distributed throughout the Spanish territory and areas and devoted to cutting edge and the highest quality research and technological development.

Spain has put in place the legal framework to allow international researchers, students, and entrepreneurs easy access to a scientific visa. Information on the different options available to obtain a scientific or student visa can be found [here](#).



CENER (Centro Nacional de Energias Renovables. Sarriguren). Photographer: Herrera/Kominek. Copyright: ICEX

## RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Spain offers a wide array of opportunities for international researchers to conduct research in Spain or with Spanish partners. For the full list of opportunities available at regional, national and European level, please visit the EURAXESS ASEAN website [here](#).

## H2020 RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Spain hosts more than 300 European Research Council (ERC) grants in more than 50 Host Institutions and is also very attractive for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) fellows. At present, through 2014 and 2015 MSCA calls, more than 220 experienced researchers are carrying out their research in Spanish Institutions, which ranks Spain among the 4 top EU countries hosting MSCA and ETRC grant recipients.



## SPANISH STATE RECRUITMENT OPPORTUNITIES

### RAMÓN Y CAJAL CONTRACTS

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers with an outstanding research career.

Description: These 5 year grants co-fund the recruitment of PhDs at public and private research centres. The aim is to promote the integration of national and foreign researchers with outstanding career records as well as their stabilisation in Spain. “Ramón y Cajal” contracts incorporate three types of funding: (1) grants for recruitment; (2) grants for covering of expenses directly related to the performing of the research activities and (3) grants for the subsequent creation of a permanent post at the end of the initial funding period (maximum five years). The grants of up to €33,720 per year are allocated to co-funding the researcher’s salary and the employer’s social security contributions. Institutions will receive an additional allocation of €40,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses. Lastly, institutions which at the end of the “Ramón y Cajal” contract period offer a permanent contract to the grantees will receive a grant totalling €100,000

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The company Light Environment Control (LEC), located in Spain, became the first company in Europe to light an entire city with LED technology.



### [JUAN DE LA CIERVA –INCORPORATION](#)

Recipients: National and foreign post-doctoral researchers

Description: These 2 year grants address young PhDs who have completed their post-doctoral education and meet the scientific criteria requested and have proven scientific leadership. The grants of up to €29,000 per year are allocated to the co-funding the researcher's salary and the employer's social security contributions. Institutions will receive an additional allocation of €6,000 per researcher recruited to cover research expenses.

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### [JUAN DE LA CIERVA TRAINING](#)

Recipients Foreign and national early stage researchers who wish to get post-doctoral training in a university or research centre different to the one where their PhD was obtained.

Description: The grants of up to €25,000 per year, are allocated to co-funding the researcher's salary and employer's social security contributions.

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### **Further information and advice**

Spain belongs to the EURAXESS initiative that provides support to researchers and their families when arriving to the country (in key issues such as visas, housing, schooling, etc.). The Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology (FECYT) is the national coordinator and the Spanish network and there are almost 100 services and local centres ready to support incoming researchers. All information can be found at [www.euraxess.es/eng](http://www.euraxess.es/eng)