ENGLISH VERSION. This English translation of the rules of the call is provided for information purposes only. In the event of any discrepancy or conflict between the two versions, the Spanish version shall prevail.

VERSIÓN EN INGLÉS. Esta traducción al inglés de las bases de la convocatoria se ofrece únicamente a título informativo. En caso de discrepancia o conflicto entre ambas versiones, prevalecerá la versión en español.

RULES OF THE PREDOCTORAL CONTRACTS PROGRAMME WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF LEÓN RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2026

Approved by the Research Committee: October 22nd, 2026

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RULES OF THE PREDOCTORAL CONTRACTS PROGRAMME WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF LEÓN RESEARCH PROGRAMME 2026

Considering that one of the main functions of the University is the training of researchers, the University of León maintains the Predoctoral Contracts Programme within the University of León (ULE) Research Programme 2026.

The current budgetary situation of the ULE, as well as the financial obligations it will have to meet in the coming years, make it necessary to plan expenditure that is sustainable over time. The rules of the programme therefore provide for a rationalisation of the number of contracts offered each year, so that there is at least one per field of knowledge while avoiding a progressive accumulation of active contracts over time, which could jeopardise the continuity of the programme.

Furthermore, Law 14/2011 of 1 June on Science, Technology and Innovation, as amended by Law 17/2022 of 5 September, establishes as a general rule that staff who, within their doctoral studies, carry out research tasks in a specific and novel project may be hired under a predoctoral contract, whose characteristics are defined in article 21 and the fourth transitional provision of Law 14/2011 and its amendments by Law 17/2022, and which is regulated by Royal Decree 103/2019 approving the Statute of predoctoral research staff in training.

The programme therefore funds the hiring of researchers in training under a predoctoral employment contract as defined in Chapter I of the aforementioned Royal Decree 103/2019. This funding covers the salary cost and the employer's social security contribution for the predoctoral contracts of the persons hired.

The University of León has set the promotion, dissemination and implementation of a knowledge-transfer culture as one of its strategic priorities. The ULE Strategic Plan (2025-2030), approved by the Governing Council on 9 May 2025, includes these principles and seeks to promote research excellence and its internationalisation.

In this context, the Predoctoral Contracts Programme encourages part of the projects to be carried out in research centres of recognised prestige, whether national or international, or in local, national or international companies. Applications that include one or more stays in a laboratory, department or research institute of another university or national or foreign research centre (Sandwich Academia mode) or in an R&D&I department of a company (Sandwich Company mode) will therefore be favoured. The Sandwich Academia/Company mode also allows the doctoral candidate to be co-funded by the collaborating research centre or company for the development of their doctoral thesis project.

RULES OF THE CALL

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule 1. Purpose.

The aim of the Predoctoral Contracts Programme, within the ULE Research Programme, is the predoctoral hiring of research staff in training enrolled in a ULE doctoral programme who carry out tasks in a research project leading to a doctoral thesis.

Each application must be endorsed by a single supervisor, who must be a member of the doctoral teaching and research staff with a permanent position at the ULE and in active service throughout the contract period, or hold one of the other specific positions indicated in rule 8, meet the requirements to supervise a doctoral thesis under ULE regulations and be responsible for the research work to be carried out by the beneficiary.

The contracts will be awarded through a competitive call that will take into account the merits of the applicants and of the corresponding supervisor of the research project to be carried out for the doctoral thesis. The whole process will comply with the Regulations for Research Staff approved by the Governing Council on 29 September 2025.

Rule 2. Number of contracts, distribution, duration and amount.

A total of 14 contracts will be awarded.

Of the total number of contracts offered, one will be reserved for hiring researchers with a recognised degree of disability of 33 per cent or higher. If there are no such applications, or those submitted do not meet the requirements set out in rules 4, 5 and 8, it will be added to the remaining contracts.

The remaining contracts will be awarded and distributed among the following fields of knowledge:

Arts and Humanities
Sciences
Health Sciences
Social Sciences and Law
Engineering and Architecture

In a first allocation round, one contract will be awarded in each field of knowledge to the applications with the highest score under rule 6 (applicant's merits), provided that it exceeds 3.5 points.

The remaining contracts will be distributed according to the total score obtained by the applications, as set out in rules 6, 7 and 9. Contracts will thus be awarded to the remaining applications with the highest total score in each of the fields of knowledge mentioned. The rest of the contracts will be awarded as follows: the next contract will be awarded to the highest score among the applications ranked second in the different fields of knowledge, and so on among these, so that the allocation is made among the different fields of knowledge and according to the total score of the applications. If, at the end of this third allocation round, not all contracts have been awarded, the same procedure will be followed with the scores of the applications ranked third in the different fields of knowledge, and so on until all the contracts offered have been awarded.

The funding of each contract will cover the salary cost and the employer's social security contribution of a predoctoral contract for research staff in training, covering the total employment, tax and social security costs arising for the university from the signing of the contract, as defined in article 21 of Law 14/2011 of 1

June and its fourth transitional provision, in the consolidated text of the Workers' Statute Law approved by Royal Legislative Decree 2/2015 of 23 October, and in Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March approving the Statute of predoctoral research staff in training.

The contract will have a maximum duration of 48 months, or 72 months for persons with disabilities. The grounds for termination are those set out in the ULE Research Programme 2026, approved by the Governing Council on 16 December 2025 (programa_propio_ayudas_investigacion_2026), and in rules 13 and 15 of this call. Royal Decree 103/2019 establishes a minimum salary for the predoctoral contract by reference to Group M3 of the salary table for employed staff of the Single Collective Agreement for employed staff of the General State Administration, in accordance with Royal Decree 103/2019 and current regulations, paid in 12 instalments a year.

If, during the term of the contract, the beneficiary obtains a doctoral degree, they will continue under the predoctoral contract, unless they expressly waive it, and a postdoctoral orientation period of up to 12 months will begin (article 21.a of Law 17/2022 amending Law 14/2011). During this period they will carry out research tasks aimed at consolidating their specialisation, keeping the same supervisor of the research work. During the postdoctoral orientation period the salary corresponding to the contract will be maintained, without any specific increase for obtaining the doctoral degree.

Previous periods of employment under a predoctoral contract will be deducted from the total duration of the contract, counting from the start date of the previous predoctoral contract. In no case may the contract awarded under this programme have a duration of less than 12 months.

The cost of hiring will be charged to budget programme 463A.2.02.695 and 463A.2.02.696 of the University of León, and the continuity of the programme will be subject to the availability of funds.

Rule 3. Bodies responsible for processing and resolving the selection procedure.

a) The procedure will be processed by the ULE Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer, through the Research Management Service (S.G.I.).

b) The call will be resolved by the Rector.

c) The body responsible for assessing and proposing the award or refusal of the contracts will be the ULE Research Committee, which may delegate this task to a sub-committee appointed for this purpose, which will submit a proposed resolution of the call to the Rector.

II. APPLICANTS

Rule 4. Requirements for applicants.

Applicants must meet the following requirements at the end of the application period:

a) Be a Spanish national, a national of a European Union member state, or a foreign national with residence in Spain, at the time of signing the contract.

b) Have completed a bachelor's degree or equivalent after 1 January 2021. The completion date is understood to be the date on which the last subject required to complete the studies was passed.

For applicants with a recognised degree of disability of 33% or higher, this date must be on or after 1 January 2020.

Likewise, this time limit may be extended in the following cases:

b.1) Birth or care of a child, whether biological or adopted, or in cases of guardianship with a view to adoption or permanent foster care, provided that the date of birth or, where applicable, of the judicial or administrative decision falls between the date on which the degree was obtained and the closing date of the application period. An extension of 1 year will be applied for each child.

b.2) Temporary incapacity during pregnancy for pregnancy-related reasons, or suspension of the contract due to risk during pregnancy or during breastfeeding of a child under 9 months. An extension equal to the documented period will be applied.

b.3) Temporary incapacity for reasons other than those in the previous point for a period of at least three consecutive months. An extension equal to the documented period will be applied.

b.4) Leave of absence to care for a child or a family member, on grounds of gender-based violence or terrorist violence, for a minimum period of three months. An extension equal to the documented period will be applied.

b.5) Reduction of working hours for legal guardianship, direct care of a family member, or care of a minor with a serious illness, for a minimum period of three months, calculated in full working days. An extension equal to the documented period will be applied.

b.6) Care of dependent persons, in accordance with Law 39/2006 of 14 December on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for Dependent Persons, for a minimum period of three months. An extension equal to the documented period will be applied.

c) Have applied for admission, meeting the necessary requirements, to a doctoral programme of the University of León before the end of the application period.

d) Have completed at least 300 credits in total between bachelor's (or first-cycle) and master's university studies.

e) Have an average mark of 6.50 points or higher in the academic record, calculated as indicated in section a) of rule 6.

f) Persons who already hold a doctoral degree from any Spanish or foreign university may not apply.

g) Not have lost the right to a research training grant from any organisation for failure to comply with the obligations of the corresponding programme.

h) Participants with a recognised physical disability of 33% or higher must submit valid proof thereof by means of any of the documents provided for in article 2 of Royal Decree 1414/2006 of 1 December, which determines who is considered a person with a disability for the purposes of Royal Legislative Decree 1/2013 of 29 November approving the Consolidated Text of the General Law on the rights of persons with disabilities and their social inclusion.

Rule 5. Incompatibilities.

Holding a contract under this call is incompatible with any other grant of a similar nature funded with Spanish or EU public or private funds, as well as with salaries or wages implying a contractual or statutory relationship of the beneficiary. It is also incompatible with the grants of the "Becas Santander/predoctoral grants" programme for students without a predoctoral contract of the 2026 call.

Travel grants and other similar aid, as well as occasional and non-regular payments, are excluded from this incompatibility, provided that they do not prevent or impair the research work of the person hired. In this case, the project supervisor will issue a certificate to that effect.

Rule 6. Assessment criteria and scale applicable to applicants.

Up to a maximum of 6.0 points will be awarded for the merits of each applicant, calculated as the sum of the scores obtained in the assessment criteria set out below.

a) Average mark of the academic record. Up to a maximum of 3.3 points will be awarded for the overall weighted mark of the academic record, obtained according to the following rules:

a.1) For studies leading to the official Spanish university degree of Licenciado, Ingeniero or Arquitecto, all credits or subjects passed, including the final degree project, will be assessed, not only those required to obtain the degree.

a.2) For studies leading to the degree of Graduado, Diplomado, Ingeniero Técnico, Arquitecto Técnico or Maestro, the average mark will be calculated taking into account those studies, including final projects, plus all the credits passed in the master's degree, and at least 300 credits must have been completed in total between bachelor's (or first-cycle) and master's university studies.

a.3) The final average mark will be calculated to two decimal places using the following formula:

$$0.33 \times (X1*G + X2*M)/(G+M)$$

Where:

X1: Average mark obtained in the bachelor's degree or first cycle, in accordance with Royal Decree 1125/2003, calculated on a scale of 0 to 10 to two decimal places.

X2: Average mark obtained in the master's degree, in accordance with Royal Decree 1125/2003, calculated on a scale of 0 to 10 to two decimal places.

G: Number of credits completed in the bachelor's degree or first cycle.

M: Number of credits completed in the master's degree.

a.4) For second-cycle-only degrees, the average mark will be calculated taking into account the credits of the first-cycle degree and those of the second cycle.

a.5) Average marks of degrees obtained through studies at two or more universities must include all the subjects and credits passed, with the corresponding mark. Recognised (convalidated) subjects will have the point equivalence corresponding to the mark obtained at the institution of origin; for adapted subjects, the mark obtained at the institution of origin will be counted, and credits recognised without a mark or corresponding to training activities not included in the curriculum will not be taken into account for the calculation of the average mark, in accordance with Royal Decree 1044/2003 of 1 August, establishing the procedure for universities to issue the European Diploma Supplement, and Royal Decree 1125/2003 of 5 September.

a.6) For studies completed wholly or partly in foreign university systems, applicants must go to the website of the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Universities (equivalence of average grades), request the calculation of equivalent average marks for university studies completed abroad and submit that equivalence with the application. Two cases will be considered:

- For studies completed wholly or partly in foreign university systems adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the average mark will be calculated over all the bachelor's or equivalent studies. If the bachelor's degree has fewer than 240 ECTS credits, the average mark will be calculated as a weighted average over the credits of those studies plus all the credits passed in the master's degree, which must total at least 300 credits for both studies combined.

- For studies completed wholly or partly in foreign university systems not adapted to the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the average mark will be calculated over all the studies completed to obtain the degree, applying the equivalences corresponding to the Spanish university education system, and in all cases providing documentary evidence of having completed at least 300 ECTS credits or their equivalent in their university system.

b) Bachelor's Degree Outstanding Award. 1 point will be awarded to applicants who have obtained an Outstanding Award at the end of their bachelor's degree (only one award will be considered).

c) Master's Degree Outstanding Award. 0.2 points will be awarded to applicants who have obtained an Outstanding Award at the end of their master's degree (only official master's degrees and a single award will be considered).

d) Assessment of the curriculum vitae. Up to a maximum of 1.5 points will be awarded for merits related to the applicant's scientific and technical research according to the following scale (only merits supported by documentary evidence will be considered):

Grants obtained on academic merit in competitive calls of the types indicated Only research-related grants obtained after completing the bachelor's degree will be taken into account. As the only exception, student collaboration grants in university departments funded by the Ministry of Education, Vocational Training and Sports will be assessed. Mobility grants such as Erasmus, Sicue, Amicus or similar will not be assessed.	**Up to 0.5 points according to the following criterion:** - International: 0.4 points per grant - National: 0.2 points per grant - Local: 0.1 points per grant
Master's degree Only holding a master's degree in addition to the one used to calculate the average mark of the academic record will be assessed.	**0.1 points**
Complementary scientific training and activities (published articles, conference contributions, lectures in courses). These merits must have been obtained after completing the bachelor's degree.	**Up to 0.5 points according to the following criterion:** 0.3 points per Q1 scientific publication in indexed journals with a relative quality index (JCR/SJR/CIRC, etc.). 0.2 points per Q2, Q3 or Q4 scientific publication in indexed journals with a relative quality index (JCR/SJR/CIRC, etc.). 0.1 points per scientific contribution such as a book chapter, monograph or complete book, with ISBN/ISSN. 0.05 points per other publication in quality-assured journals that are not indexed or have no relative quality index 0.1 points per contribution to an international scientific conference or lecture in a scientific course. 0.05 points per contribution to a national scientific conference.

Stays related to the applicant's research training, lasting at least one week, carried out after completing the bachelor's degree and funded through competitive mobility grant calls or equivalent programmes involving a competitive selection process. Stays at institutes, research groups or departments of the University of León or at centres in the province of León will not be assessed under any circumstances.	**Up to 0.4 points according to the following criterion:** - International: 0.2 points per stay - National: 0.1 points per stay

Rule 7. Assessment criteria and scale applicable to the Sandwich Academia/Company doctorate mode.

Commitment to a stay of at least 3 months in a laboratory, department or research institute of a university or research centre abroad, or in an R&D&I department of a foreign company.	0.2 points for each period of at least 3 months, up to a maximum of 0.6 points.
Commitment to a stay of at least 3 months in a laboratory, department, institute or research centre of another Spanish university, or in an R&D&I department of a Spanish company.	0.1 points for each period of at least 3 months, up to a maximum of 0.3 points.
Commitment by the other institution to co-fund the doctoral candidate, in periods of 3 months. The other centre will undertake to provide funding during that period equal to or greater than that provided by the ULE.	0.25 points for each period of at least 3 months of co-funding, up to a maximum of 1.0 point.

If the company has signed a collaboration agreement with the University of León of the University-Company Chair type, this score will be increased by 0.25 points.

In the case of stays in companies in which the ULE holds a stake, this mode will involve the company's commitment to fund the entire period of the stay.

The maximum score for stay commitments will be 1 point in the case of co-funding with another institution or company and 0.6 points in all other cases.

III. SUPERVISORS OF THE RESEARCH WORK

Rule 8. Requirements for supervisors of the research work.

The following may endorse applicants' contract applications as supervisors of the research work, provided that they meet the following requirements at the end of the application period:

a) Be a member of the doctoral teaching and research staff with a permanent position at the University of León, in active service throughout the contract period and working full time, or a researcher hired at the University of León under the Ramón y Cajal or Beatriz Galindo programmes, or an assistant professor with a doctorate (profesor ayudante doctor), provided that their contracts remain active throughout the contract period.

b) Hold a current six-year research period (sexenio vivo), except for researchers under the Ramón y Cajal and Beatriz Galindo programmes. Those holding 6 six-year periods will be considered to hold a current one.

c) Meet the requirements to supervise a doctoral thesis under the Regulations for Official Doctoral Studies and the Doctoral Degree of the University of León, and be or undertake to be the supervisor or co-supervisor of the applicant's doctoral thesis.

d) Obtain a minimum of 1.5 points in the assessment calculated as indicated in rule 9.

e) Demonstrate that they have the resources necessary to ensure the proper development of the training activities of the contract.

f) Not be, at the time of application, the supervisor of ongoing research work leading to a doctoral thesis within this same contracts programme in any of its previous calls. Supervising research work during the postdoctoral orientation period will not be an obstacle. If the applicant's thesis is co-supervised, both co-supervisors must meet this requirement.

g) The field of knowledge to which the supervisor is assigned will be the one stated in the application (the one appearing in this year's research productivity estimate will be assigned).

No supervisor may endorse more than one application under this call. Likewise, each application may be endorsed by a single supervisor.

Changes of supervisor will not be accepted, except in cases of force majeure and with prior authorisation from the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer. If a change of supervisor is proposed, the replacement must hold the same or a higher academic rank than the previous supervisor, work in the same line of research and meet the requirements set out in this section, except in duly justified exceptional circumstances. The title and content of the research work must match those approved in the award decision.

Rule 9. Assessment criteria and scale applicable to the supervisor of the research work.

Up to a maximum of 4 points will be awarded, calculated as the sum of the scores obtained in assessment criteria a), b) and c) below; the scores for criteria d) and e) will be added, where applicable, and do not count towards that maximum (only merits supported by documentary evidence will be considered, where required in the application form).

a) Scientific/technical record. Scientific contributions in the last 5 years (2022-2026) will be assessed up to a maximum of 1.5 points:

Scientific publications in indexed journals with a relative quality index (JCR/SJR/CIRC, etc.):	0.3 points per Q1 publication, up to a maximum of 1.5 points 0.2 points per Q2 or Q3 publication, up to a maximum of 1.5 points 0.1 points per Q4 publication, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
International or national scientific publications in quality-assured journals that are not indexed or have no relative quality index:	0.05 points per publication, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
Research monographs and complete books published by prestigious publishers	0.3 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
Other scientific publications (chapters, monographs and books not included in the previous section) published after acceptance by an independent editorial committee:	0.1 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
Patents:	0.1 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.5 points

b) Training capacity. Merits from the last 5 years (2022-2026) will be assessed up to a maximum of 1.5 points:

(Only doctoral theses and master's theses defended within the assessment period of this call will be taken into account).

Supervised doctoral theses with international mention:	0.5 points each, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
Supervised doctoral theses:	0.25 points each, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
Supervised master's theses:	0.05 points each, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
International stays (at least three weeks):	0.05 points each, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
National stays (at least three weeks):	0.025 points each, up to a maximum of 1.5 points
Active participation in the Eureca-Pro alliance (Task Forces, LH Missions, etc.)	0.2 points

c) Capacity to fund research. Merits from the last 5 years (2022-2026) will be assessed up to a maximum of 1.0 point:

Participation as Principal Investigator in a research project of international, national or regional calls. (Managed by the S.G.I. of the University of León and recorded in the Universitas XXI application)	0.5 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.0 point
Participation in a research project of international, national or regional calls. (Managed by the S.G.I. of the University of León and recorded in the Universitas XXI application)	0.25 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.0 point
Participation as Principal Investigator in a research project of international, national or regional calls. (Not managed by the University of León; supporting documentation must be provided).	0.15 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.0 point
Participation in a research project of international, national or regional calls. (Not managed by the University of León; supporting documentation must be provided).	0.10 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.0 point
Direction of an active agreement or contract under art. 60 (formerly art. 83) with a budget above €10,000 for the fields of Sciences, Health Sciences and Engineering and Architecture, and above €1,000 for the fields of Arts and Humanities or Social Sciences and Law (Managed by the S.G.I. of the University of León and recorded in the Universitas XXI application)	0.25 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.0 point
Participation in an active agreement or contract under art. 60 (formerly art. 83) with a budget above €10,000 for the fields of Sciences, Health Sciences and Engineering and Architecture, and above €1,000 for the fields of Arts and Humanities or Social Sciences and Law (Managed by the S.G.I. of the University of León and recorded in the Universitas XXI application)	0.10 points per merit, up to a maximum of 1.0 point
Participation in Eureca-Pro micro-projects or similar.	0.10 points per merit, up to a maximum of 0.5 points

d) **Promotion of the integration of new researchers into research groups without predoctoral contract holders.**

0.2 points will be awarded to supervisors who belong to a research group that has not had predoctoral contract holders in the last five years. If the supervisor has belonged to several research groups during that period, all the groups in which they were involved during the period will be taken into account. If the supervisor does not belong to any research group, their individual track record during that period will be assessed.

e) **Promotion of research at the Ponferrada Campus.**
0.2 points will be awarded to the supervisor of the research project submitted to this call who is assigned to the Ponferrada Campus, where the project will be carried out.

IV. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCEDURE

Rule 10. Submission of applications and documentation.

Rule 4Persons who meet the requirements listed in rule 4 may submit their application as indicated in the following sections:

a) The application period will run from the publication of the call on the University of León website until 14:00 h of december 2nd, 2026.

b) Applications must be submitted at the University General Registry and through this form [PRE-DOC-ULE 2026], by 14:00 on the last day of the application period. Both steps are essential for the application to be valid.

c) Applications filed at the Registry will be made using the application document generated by the call's form, addressed to the Vice-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer of the University of León and signed by the applicant and by the supervisor; the model is available for information purposes on the call's website. The registry entry number and date will be stated in the form, and the registry receipt will be attached. The form is available in Spanish and English; if it is filled in in English, the application document is generated in Spanish and English and, in case of discrepancy, the Spanish text prevails.

d) The application must be accompanied by the following documents, to be provided in PDF format, one file per item and up to 20 MB per file:

d.1) Copy of the applicant's national identity document (DNI), of the equivalent document for nationals of European Union member states, or of the applicant's residence card for nationals of other countries.

d.2) Copy of the personal academic transcript, showing in detail the marks obtained in each subject taken, the average mark of the degree and the date on which the studies were completed. The University may require the original or an authentic copy.

d.3) **Proof of having applied for admission to a ULE doctoral programme.**

d.4) Applicant's curriculum vitae, expressly addressing the assessment criteria set out in rule 6, with documentary evidence of all merits.

d.5) Rule 8List and supporting evidence of the merits of the professor or researcher holding a doctorate who, meeting the requirements set out in rule 8, endorses the application as supervisor of the research work, expressly addressing the assessment criteria set out in rule 9.Rule 9

d.6) Description of the research project leading to the doctoral thesis to be carried out during the term of the contract, approved by its supervisor.

If the Sandwich Academia/Company mode is chosen, the project description must detail the activities to be carried out during the stay(s), approved by the supervisor of the research work and by the head of the external institution or company. At least three months of the stay must be planned to take place during the first two years of the contract. In addition, the total period of stays outside the ULE may not exceed 12 months under any circumstances.

The application must be accompanied by a document stating who will be the tutor at the collaborating company or university, with a commitment to host the student for the specified period. This letter must be approved by the head of the company or of the research group at the collaborating university.

If the collaborating entity undertakes to co-fund the student, the application must be accompanied by a document stating the amount with which it will fund the student, the items for which funding is planned and the source of the funds.

Information and questions. The frequently asked questions about the call will be available in the application form. Questions about the call must be sent exclusively through the «Questions and suggestions» section of the form. Answers are purely informative; in case of discrepancy, these rules prevail.

Rule 11. Correction of applications.

The body processing the call will publish, in the corresponding section of the website programa-propio-ayudas-a-la-investigacion , the provisional list of admitted and excluded applicants, stating the reason for exclusion, so that within 10 working days they may correct the defect or submit the required documents, with the warning that, if they fail to do so, their application will be deemed withdrawn. Defects must be corrected exclusively through the call's application, using the link that will be sent by email to each excluded applicant; the period will end at 23:59 on the last day. This email communication is for information purposes only; publication on the website has the effect of notification, in accordance with article 45 of Law 39/2015 of 1 October on the Common Administrative Procedure of Public Administrations.

The body processing the call will publish the final resolution of admitted and excluded applicants on the same website indicated above.

Rule 12. *Procedure for selecting candidates and appointing beneficiaries.*

a) The body responsible for the assessment will rank the candidates in order of priority as set out in rule 2, publishing a provisional resolution of selected beneficiaries and reserve candidates. In the

event of a tie, priority will be given to the person with the highest score in criterion a) of rule 6 (average mark of the academic record) and, if the tie persists, the score in criterion a) of rule 9 (scientific/technical record of the supervisor) will be taken into account second. The provisional resolution will be published, with a period of 10 working days to submit allegations exclusively through the call's application, on the website programa-propio-ayudas-a-la-investigacion

b) Once the competent body has resolved the allegations received within that period, the Rector will make final the list of selected candidates and reserve candidates, which will be published on the website indicated in the previous section.

c) Withdrawals or departures among beneficiaries within the first 11 months of the award will automatically be filled by the reserve candidates listed in the same field of knowledge in the final resolution, up to a maximum of 48 months from the start date of the contract of the person who has left. If there are no reserve candidates available in the same field of knowledge, priority will be given to the reserve candidate with the highest total score in the other fields.

V. CONTRACT, RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

Rule 13. Contract conditions and suspension.

a) The contract will have a maximum duration of 4 years, or 6 years if it is concluded with a person with a disability, provided that the funding body has the annual budget available, counted from the signing of the contract, in accordance with article 21 of Law 14/2011 of 1 June and Royal Decree 103/2019.

b) Beneficiaries will have two months to sign the contract, which may be extended by one month for foreign nationals from outside the European Union. If this period expires without justified cause, they will be deemed to have waived the contract. It may be exceeded provided that this is duly justified and approved by the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer.

c) The salaries of the persons hired will be paid through the payroll from the start date of the contract with the University.

d) The lack of a favourable annual report from the supervisor of the research work and, where applicable, from the tutor or supervisor of the beneficiary's doctoral thesis will be grounds for termination of the contract.

e) A person hired who obtains the doctoral degree before the end of the maximum duration of their contract may access the postdoctoral orientation period (POP) for up to 12 months, without exceeding the maximum total duration of the contract.

f) The ULE Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer may grant a temporary interruption of the contract at the reasoned request of the person concerned, subject to a report from the supervisor of the research work and, where applicable, from the doctoral candidate's tutor or thesis supervisor.

Situations of temporary incapacity, birth, adoption, guardianship with a view to adoption or foster care will interrupt the calculation of the duration of the contract under the terms of the applicable regulations. Interruptions for any cause of incompatibility may not exceed six months over the whole contract period.

g) Predoctoral hiring does not imply any commitment on the part of the University of León regarding the subsequent incorporation of the person concerned into its staff.

Rule 14. Rights of beneficiaries.

a) The persons hired will have the rights established in art. 188 of the Statutes of the University of León, those set out in art. 5 of the ULE Regulations for Research Staff and in art. 12 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March approving the Statute of predoctoral research staff in training.

b) For the purposes of competitive examinations and selection processes, the ULE will consider the work carried out during the term of the contracts as research work.

Rule 15. Obligations of beneficiaries.

a) The signing of the contract by the person concerned implies acceptance of the rules established in art. 188 of the Statutes of the University of León, art. 8 of the ULE Regulations for Research Staff and art. 13 of Royal Decree 103/2019 of 1 March approving the Statute of predoctoral research staff in training.

b) The persons hired must be enrolled full time in a ULE doctoral programme throughout the contract period, except during the postdoctoral orientation phase, where applicable.

c) Successfully complete the different stages of the research and training project submitted with the application, carrying out their work at the host centre on an exclusive basis; any change of centre, supervisor or project, suspension of the project, temporary absence or waiver by the person concerned requires prior authorisation from the Vice-Rector for Research and Knowledge Transfer.

d) Send to the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer, during the month of November each year:

d.1) A report on the work carried out and the results obtained in the previous year, including the agreement and approval of the supervisor of the research work and, where applicable, of the tutor or supervisor of the doctoral thesis.

d.2) In the Sandwich Academia/Company doctorate modes, activity reports must be accompanied by documentation proving the stay at the centre outside the ULE, if the stay took place during the period covered by the report. A letter signed by the head of the institution or company summarising the activities carried out and the duration of the stay will be included.

e) Submit, within one month of the end date of the contract, a final report (maximum 500 words) covering all the work carried out and its results, with particular reference to the objectives

achieved in the training programme, together with an updated curriculum vitae of the beneficiary, whose form is available on the ULE website.

f) This report must include a report by the supervisor of the research work, who may also issue reports at any other time on their own initiative or when requested to do so by the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer.

g) Beneficiaries must expressly acknowledge the funding from the ULE Research Programme in publications, presentations, the doctoral thesis and other activities disseminating the results of the research work specified in the application.

Rule 16. Collaboration in teaching.

The persons hired may collaborate, for training purposes, up to a maximum of 60 hours per year and a maximum of 180 hours over the whole duration of the predoctoral contract, as established in Royal Decree 103/2019, in the teaching tasks of a university department of the University of León, with the prior authorisation of the department concerned and of the supervisor of the research work. Under no circumstances may this collaboration undermine the research training purpose of the contract.

Teaching collaboration will be carried out in accordance with the specific regulations in force at the University of León and the teaching delivered will be recognised by the competent body; under no circumstances may the predoctoral researcher be responsible for or coordinate a subject, sit on examination boards or sign grade reports.

Rule 17. Non-compliance and monitoring.

a) Failure to comply with the above obligations will result in the cancellation of the contract and the reimbursement of any amounts unduly received. The Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer will adopt the corresponding decisions on the loss of beneficiary status, following the appropriate procedure, and may, as a precautionary measure, suspend the corresponding financial entitlements. The provisions of the applicable labour legislation will also be taken into account.

b) Ultimately, the Vice-Rectorate for Research and Knowledge Transfer, through the Research Management Service, is responsible for safeguarding the rights of the contract beneficiaries and for monitoring compliance with their obligations.

Rule 18. Additional benefits of the contracts.

Those who have obtained a contract under this programme's call may apply for Short-Stay Grants at university departments or research centres of recognised national or international prestige located outside the province of León, to learn experimental techniques, consult bibliographic and documentary collections or carry out research activities related to their doctoral thesis project. The amount and other conditions are those set out in the Research Grants regulations approved each year.

VI. DATA PROTECTION

Rule 19. Data protection.

Personal data will be processed by the University of León, as data controller, in accordance with current personal data protection legislation, on the following terms:

Purpose: to manage the participation of applicants in the corresponding selection process, including the receipt and checking of applications, the verification of the requirements and merits claimed, the assessment and resolution of the procedure and, where applicable, the selection and predoctoral hiring of research staff, as well as the handling of any complaints and appeals that may be lodged.

Legal basis: the processing of personal data is based, as appropriate, on compliance with a legal obligation applicable to the University of León, in accordance with article 6.1.c) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679, and on the performance of a task carried out in the public interest or in the exercise of official authority vested in the University, in accordance with article 6.1.e) of Regulation (EU) 2016/679. All of this in accordance with the regulations applicable to the selection and predoctoral hiring procedure for research staff.

Recipients: the data may be disclosed to the bodies responsible for processing and resolving the selection procedure (Rule 3 of these rules), as well as to any other recipients to whom there is a legal obligation to disclose the data. Likewise, the acts of the procedure that must be published under the applicable regulations and the rules of the call will be published, identifying the persons concerned under the terms of the seventh additional provision of Organic Law 3/2018 of 5 December on the Protection of Personal Data and the Guarantee of Digital Rights.

Retention: the data will be kept for the duration of the selection process and, thereafter, for the periods established by law for the exercise or defence of claims, appeals and liabilities, as well as for any retention periods required under the applicable regulations.

Rights: data subjects may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing and objection, under the terms of data protection legislation, by writing to recvi@unileon.es. They may also contact the Data Protection Officer of the University of León at dpd@unileon.es.

Data subjects have the right to lodge a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD), particularly when they consider that the processing of their personal data does not comply with current legislation.

León, as of the date of the electronic signature
EL VICERRECTOR DE INVESTIGACIÓN Y TRANSFERENCIA
(On behalf of, RR. de 06/11/2025, BOCyL nº 210 de 12/11/2025)

Firmado digitalmente por 09755086G SANTIAGO GUTIERREZ (R: Q2432001B)
Fecha: 2026.11.01 10:37:30 +01'00'

Signed: Santiago Gutiérrez Martín