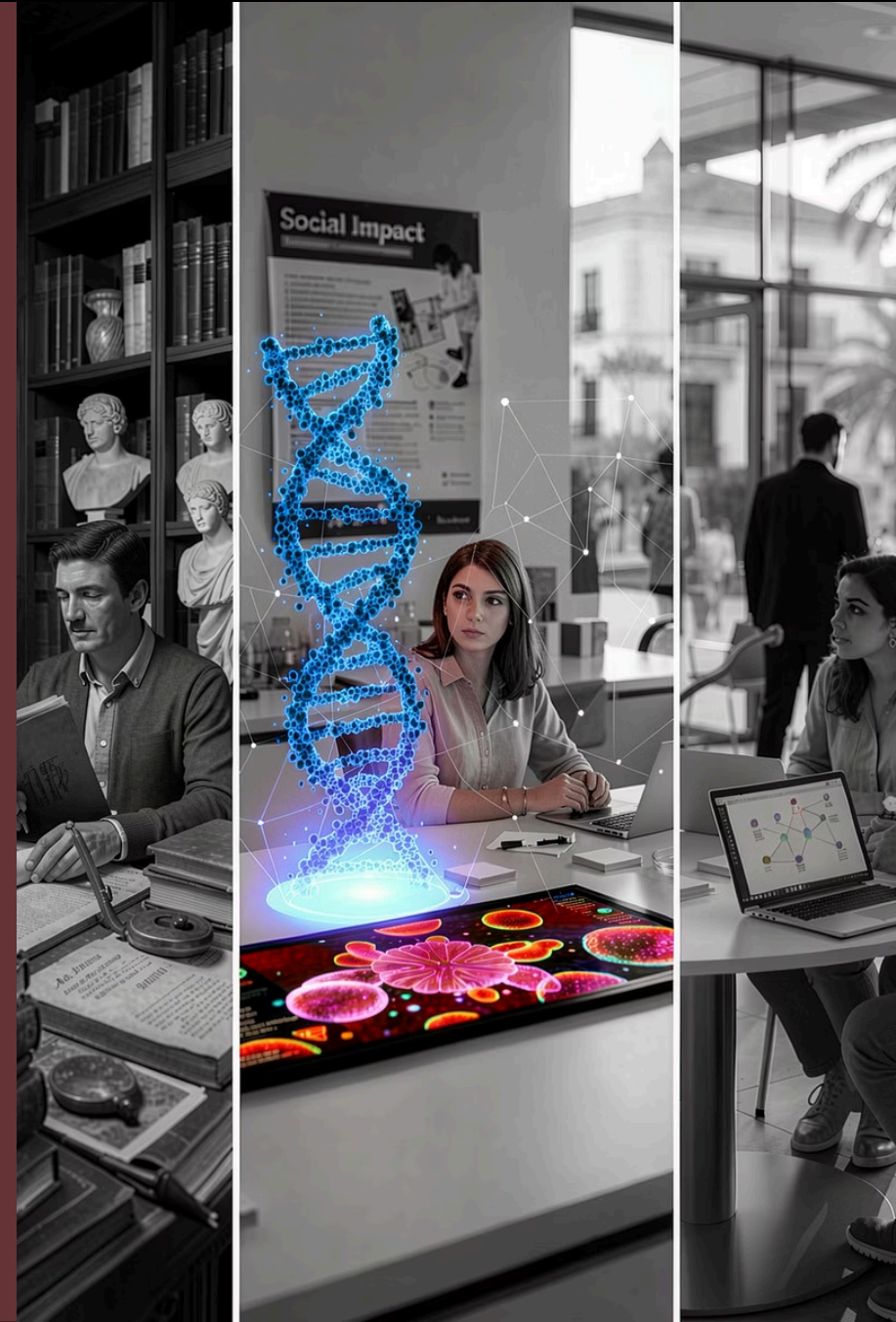


ValER 2026 Call for EIGHT permanent positions of Distinguished Researcher in the Valencian Community

The Valencian Foundation for Excellence in Research (ValER) offers permanent contracts to researchers from all over the world to develop their professional careers in the Valencian Community, integrating into the entities that form part of the Valencian System of Science and Research



Valencian
Foundation
for Excellence
in Research



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1. Foreword

About ValER

The **Valencian Foundation for Excellence in Research (ValER)** was created in 2021 by Generalitat with the aim of strengthening the Valencian System of Science and Research (SVCI) through the attraction, retention, and consolidation of high-level researchers from around the world.

ValER was registered in the Foundations Registry of the Valencian Community on September 22, 2021, and has legal personality and full capacity to act to achieve its objectives. The Foundation is assigned to the Conselleria in charge of scientific policy, currently the Conselleria of Education, Culture and Universities. Its statutes were approved by Agreement of the Consell on July 9, 2021 (DOGV No. 9210 of 08.11.2021), with the aim of providing ValER with a flexible and autonomous operational and organizational structure to fulfill its objectives.

Strategic Objective

With this strategic purpose, ValER offers permanent contracts to researchers from all over the world to develop their professional careers in the Valencian Community, so that they may integrate into the entities that form part of the Valencian System of Science and Research (SVCI).

The objective is **to recruit scientific and academic personnel of the highest level**, thus enabling the SVCI to compete with the research systems of other regions and countries.

Both the researchers and Valencian research entities will benefit from this call.

2. Purpose and Terms of the Call

The ValER call for applications is aimed at recruiting the most promising and influential researchers in the fields of knowledge within the specified scientific areas. Its purpose is to establish the foundations of the selection process to fill **EIGHT permanent positions of distinguished researchers** with high international projection and influential capacity, based on selection criteria of scientific excellence and leadership of the applicants.

Host Institutions

The selected research staff will carry out their activities at one of the public or non-profit private universities, research foundations or non-profit research centers in the Valencian Community (see list at <https://www.valer-f.es/host-institutions/>)

Legal Framework

The selected researchers will be hired as distinguished researchers under the framework of the Science, Technology, and Innovation Law 14/2011, of June 1st (LCTI), and therefore will become employees of ValER. Throughout their careers, ValER researchers will undergo periodic evaluation processes aimed at their promotion.

Collaboration Agreements

ValER will enter into agreements with the host institutions to formalize the collaboration framework of its personnel for the development of the proposed research activities. The contracted personnel must conduct independent and collaborative research, in addition to being able to obtain competitive funding and lead their own research lines.

Principles

This call will ensure the principles of equality, merit, capability, publicity, and competition, in accordance with the provisions of the applicable regulations.

3. Contract Terms and Obligations of the Distinguished Researchers

The selected researchers of recognised prestige will be hired in the modality of Distinguished Researcher as provided for in Article 23 of the LCTI.

Generic Functions

- Development of research activities, management of working teams and participation on scientific and technological programs of excellence in their corresponding field of knowledge, within the framework of ValER's functions and objectives.
- Any other specific requirements that may arise from the offered contract.

Contract Specifications

- **Figure:** Distinguished researcher.
- **Duration:** The contract will be permanent.
- **Gross annual remuneration:** 80,000 euros.
- ValER will establish a periodical monitoring and evaluation system of the research activity.
- The work schedule, permits, vacations, etc., will be determined by ValER in accordance with the conditions applicable to the host institutions.
- The hiring of distinguished researchers is subject to salary mass control, and their increases and/or limits will be established in the general budget of the Valencian Government.
- ValER research staff positions are **not compatible with permanent positions** outside the Valencian research system (not even part-time).

Additional Funding

150,000 €

Start-up research funding for research.
Eligible costs include: recruitment of technical, post-doctoral and pre-doctoral staff, scientific and technical equipment, consumables, dissemination of project activities, travel and accommodation expenses, equipment maintenance and external scientific expenses such as access fees to research infrastructures.

5,000 €

Maximum removal allowance for international transfers.

Duties and Obligations of Research Staff

The **duties and obligations of research staff** providing services at ValER will be those provided for in the LCTI and in particular:



Identification

ValER research staff must identify themselves as ValER staff and include the affiliation of the host Valencian Institution in all their publications. **Both institutions must be acknowledged** independently. Whenever researchers appear publicly at conferences or symposia, in the media, etc., they will present themselves as ValER research staff and, where applicable, also identify the Institution to which they are affiliated.



Information

The research staff must inform ValER well in advance whenever they stay outside their usual workplace and/or undertake any work-related travel, regardless of its purpose. Stays longer than one month will require prior authorization from ValER according to the established formal procedure. Research staff must also inform their affiliated Institution.



Submission of Annual Activity Report

The research staff will be required to submit at least an annual report of the activities carried out within the specified timeframe. The annual report deadline will be notified in advance. This report will be used by ValER to assess research activity and if appropriate, will be considered for periodic salary reviews.



Compliance with the Code of Good Practices

The research staff will be governed by the established codes of good practices in their research field. Research staff are expected to be successful leaders and mentors, planning and promoting the academic careers of young individuals under their responsibility. They are also expected to integrate and actively participate in other aspects of scientific, academic, and cultural life in the Valencian Community, in support of activities within the R&D&I ecosystem.

4. Requirements for Applicants

To participate in this call, applicants must meet the following **essential requirements** at the time of application:

1

PhD Degree

Hold a **PhD degree** completed **before January 1, 2016**.

2

Postdoctoral Experience

Minimum of 10 years of proven postdoctoral experience.

3

No Permanent Appointment in the SVCI

Not to have, at the time of application, a permanent appointment, whether as a civil servant, statutory staff member or under an indefinite employment contract, with any public or private non-profit university, research foundation or research centre in the Valencian Community. Since the purpose of this call is to strengthen the SVCI by attracting, returning and consolidating researchers, research staff who already hold a permanent appointment in any of the aforementioned Valencian institutions are not considered to fall within the scope of this call, as they are already established staff.

4

Expression of Interest (EOI)

Candidates **must submit an expression of interest (EOI)** from at least one host institution.

(see complete list at <https://www.valer-f.es/host-institutions/>)

Merits and Capacities Considered

- Applicants should have an **outstanding research record**, solid professional track and international research experience.
- Candidates are required to conduct **independent and collaborative research**, as well as demonstrate intellectual independence, scientific maturity and leadership.
- Candidates are expected to make **substantial contributions** to their own research areas, and they should be capable of attracting competitive research funds and leading their own research team.
- Applicants should be **fluent in spoken and written English**.
- **Transfer, application and impact** of the research results to industry, policies and public benefits will be valued positively.
- **Applications from women** are especially welcome.

5. Conditions and Obligations of Host Institutions

The selected research staff will carry out their research in one of the public or private non-profit universities, research foundations or non-profit research institutions of the Valencian Community. Valencian **research institutions**, research groups and infrastructures can be found on the ValER website <https://www.valer-f.es/host-institutions/>

Expression of Interest (EOI)

An expression of interest (EOI) from at least one host institution is required. Candidates must directly contact each institution that they are interested in joining and obtain an EOI.

The EOI should clearly show that the institution has a **strong interest in hosting each candidate**. For that purpose, institutions must provide detailed information regarding the research unit, its main research objectives and the support given to the candidate (start-up funds, office and laboratory conditions, auxiliary staff, etc.)

The EOI must be **signed by the legal representative of the institution** (rector or vice-rector for research in the case of universities, and Chairman of the Board or Director in the case of other research centers).

Collaboration Agreements

ValER will sign agreements with the public and private non-profit institutions that have submitted expressions of interest for the selected applications. These agreements will **formalize the collaboration framework** between the entities for the development of the proposed research activities.

In the collaboration agreements to be signed between ValER and the Institution, the parties will determine their **contributions**, with ValER providing human resources contributing talent and scientific knowledge. These agreements will establish the distribution of **responsibilities**, with ValER covering the remuneration of the research staff and the Institution covering the costs associated with the normal development of research activities.

Additionally, the parties will describe the **projects to be developed**, as well as the system for distributing and protecting the property rights of the **research results**, development and innovation. Research staff may also be allowed to combine their research work with university teaching at the host institution, subject to applicable regulations and authorization.

i Research results will be **50% shared property between ValER and the Institution**. Notwithstanding the above, the research staff will have the right to share in the profits derived from their exploitation, in accordance with the LCTI and other applicable regulations.

6. Applications and Documentation

Call 2026 is open to the following **research areas**:

1. Life and Health Sciences

2. Social and Behavioral Sciences

3. Humanities

The application will be online through the link <https://call.valer-f.es/> and requires all the following items:

01

Online Form

With personal and professional data, including PhD mentoring, a statement of the research done in the last five years (2000 characters maximum) and a list of up to three of the most relevant achievements with a justification (maximum 1000 characters each) of the contribution to the advancement of knowledge supported with a maximum of three publications, patents or similar results.

02

Statement of Purpose

Explaining the choice of institution(s), and the future research plan including the main achievements that are expected to be obtained (3000 characters maximum).

03

Candidate CV

A single .pdf file (free format, maximum 15 pages) containing the candidate's CV in English.

04

Reference Letters

The contact details of four referees, of which at least two of them must submit a reference letter. The reference letters must be written in English (PDF format), signed and uploaded by the referees **before 13:00 (Central European Time) on June 30, 2026**. The system will generate links to be distributed by the candidate to each referee.

05

Expression of Interest (EOI)

From at least one host institution (multiple EOIs may be submitted). Candidates must directly contact each institution. The EOI form must be downloaded directly by the institution(s), using the links provided by the candidate. EOIs must be electronically signed by the legal representative of the institution and must be uploaded to the ValER system **before 13:00 (Central European Time) on June 30, 2026**.

⚠ Applicants can submit their applications regardless of whether the referees and host institution(s) have uploaded their letters and EOIs. The system allows applicants to monitor file uploading. **Incomplete applications will not be considered for evaluation.** The entire application must be completed in English.



7. Deadline and Submission Procedure

Candidates must apply online before

June 30, 2026 at 13:00 (Central European Time)

through the platform

<https://call.valer-f.es/>

Please check the **User Manual** of this platform beforehand.

For any queries or technical issues, please contact us by e-mail at

call@valer-f.es

8. Evaluation Criteria

1

Principles

ValER fully endorses and shares the principles of the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (SFDORA), by which it discourages evaluators to rely only on scientific journal-based metrics (such as Journal Impact Factors) as a surrogate measure for the quality of individual research articles. For the purposes of research assessment, ValER considers the value of all research outputs, including their qualitative indicators of impact such as applicability on practice and projection for the future.

The basic concept for the evaluation is that it depends essentially on the judgement of high-profile experts, and it doesn't rely on quantitative measures of academic production. **Quality is valued over quantity.** The selection of candidates for ValER positions is based on peer evaluation and has **scientific excellence and leadership as its sole criteria.**

There are no pre-assigned quotas to the number of researchers to be selected in each area. In fact, ValER operates with no quotas whatsoever. Thus, there are no quotas for universities vs. other entities, for female researchers vs. male researchers, for nationals vs. foreigners, as well as no quotas for different disciplines within areas.

2

Evaluation Procedure

ValER evaluation procedure has **two steps**. The first one is online and individual, and the second one is a face-to-face meeting of the evaluation committee members where discussions come together to form a consensus, and the final decisions are made.

The strength of ValER selection depends on the quality of the evaluators; rankings are made exclusively by consensus within the panel, and not through voting or polling. All observations and comments generated in the selection process are confidential and will not be disclosed, except for the **final evaluation report** which will be forwarded to each applicant. For more information on this process, please consult the **Evaluation Guide**.

3

Appointment of Experts

The Scientific Director of ValER, in collaboration with the Scientific Advisory Board, will select the members of the Evaluation Committees **among top researchers** with at least fifteen years of experience and who are affiliated with national or international institutions. In any case, impartiality and objectivity must be ensured with respect to ValER, the candidates, and the participating institutions.

Panels are made ad hoc by invitation each year. The same person may be selected for successive processes. Candidates are not informed of the identity of the evaluators until the end of the evaluation process.

The main functions of the Evaluation Committees are to analyze and score the candidates in their own field of knowledge. This evaluation will be solely based on excellence and leadership, and in accordance with the criteria set out in the Evaluation Guide.

9. Evaluation Period and Start of the Contract

The maximum time to decision of this call will be **six months** from the deadline for submission of applications. After the publication of the results, the selected candidates must join ValER **before September 30, 2027**.



10. Scientific Follow-Up

For remuneration and promotion purposes, ValER researchers will go through an evaluation process **first after three years of service and every five years thereafter**. These evaluations will be conducted by external evaluation committees that will assess both scientific output and research activity.



11. Personal Data Protection

Applicants' personal data will be processed in accordance with the following terms:

Data Controller

Fundación de la Comunitat Valenciana de Investigación de Excelencia (ValER). Address: Calle Mayor n. 83, Piso 1, Puerta 9. 12001 Castelló de la Plana. CIF: G97643514, info@valer-f.es. Tel. 964724498 / 964228403

Data Protection Officer of the Generalitat Valenciana (DPD). Conselleria de Justicia, Transparencia y Participación. dpd@gva.es.

Data, Purposes and Legal Basis

- **Category and source of data:** personal identification, contact and any other type of data collected through forms.
- **Processing purposes and legal basis:** recruitment of staff for ValER. Article 6(1) of the RGPD - Consent of the person concerned.
- **Data recipients:** The data is disclosed to members of the Evaluation Committees, other stakeholders (management staff, Scientific Advisory Committee and ValER Board of Trustees) and authorities as required by law.
- All data requested in the application form and the accompanying documents are necessary to process the application.
- The data processed may be susceptible to international transfer.
- **Data storage period:** personal data will be stored for the time required to fulfil the purpose for which they were collected and for the periods established in the current regulations in order to comply with legal obligations and responsibilities. They will be deleted in accordance with the provisions of the archives and documentation regulations.

Acronyms

- **EOI:** Expression of Interest
- **LCTI:** Science, Technology and Innovation Law. Ley 14/2011, de 1 de junio, de la Ciencia, la Tecnología y la Innovación
- **SVCI:** Valencian System of Science and Research / Sistema Valenciano de Ciencia e Investigación

Rights of the Data Subject

The interested person may exercise the rights of access, modification, erasure, objection, restriction of processing, portability and the right not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, by the following means:

- Electronically by means of the contact form on the ValER web page in the section <https://www.valer-f.es/es/contacto/> or by email info@vale-f.es.
- By sending the certified signed request to the following postal address: Fundación de la Comunitat Valenciana de Investigación de Excelencia (ValER), Calle Mayor number 83, Piso 1, Puerta 9. 12001 Castelló de la Plana.
- On-site at the above address.

To exercise these rights, the person concerned must be clearly identified.

The data subject may lodge a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (www.aepd.es) if they consider that their rights have not been respected or that the processing of their personal data has been violated. Previously, the data subject may contact the Data Protection Officer of the Generalitat Valenciana through the following address: dpd@gva.es.