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<th><strong>Organising entity</strong></th>
<th>&quot;la Caixa&quot; Foundation</th>
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| **Objectives** | • Young researchers of any nationality to pursue a doctoral degree at accredited centres with the Severo Ochoa or María de Maeztu distinction and at the Carlos III Health Research Institutes.  
• Train researchers in additional soft skills, which broaden the opportunities for growth in their professional careers not only within academia but also in industry or entrepreneurship. |
| **Number of fellowships** | 57 |
| **Duration** | Maximum duration of three years. However, they are granted for one year and include the possibility of two renewals in all cases, provided that the follow-up reports requested on an annual basis are favourable. |
| **Thematic areas** | Fields of technology, engineering, physics, mathematics, life and health sciences. |
| **Key features of the fellowship** | • Individuals who fulfil the requirements to be admitted into a doctoral degree programme, provided that they also fulfil the mobility requirements and that they have not previously enrolled in the doctoral studies applied for.  
• The research centres have published the predoctoral fellowship positions they have available. The choice of the predoctoral fellowship position will not be binding during the candidate selection process.  
• The research fellow’s affiliated research centre will manage and administer the amounts that "la Caixa" Foundation allocates each year for the fellowship. |
| **Fellowship amount** | The maximum total payment amount will be 122,592 euros, as broken down below:  
• Three annual payments of 38,800 euros.  
• 3,564 euros per year, as an additional amount for conferences, courses, stays, consumables, equipment, intellectual property costs, etc.  
• Prize of 7,500 euros to be paid in the fourth year if the research fellow submits the thesis within 6 months subsequent to the end of the fellowship’s third year. |
| **Requirements for applicants** | 1. **Nationality:** Any nationality.  
2. **Studies pursued:** A higher education degree, which allows them to enroll in an official doctoral degree programme in accordance with the regulations in force, and who have not previously enrolled in the doctoral studies applied for, can submit an application. To have completed the studies that lead to an official university degree in the European Higher Education Area awarding 300 ECTS credits, of which at least 60 ECTS credits must correspond to master level.  
3. **Knowledge of languages:** Applicants have to accredit their knowledge of the English language with one of the following certificates:  
• University of Cambridge: First Certificate in English (grade A or B), Certificate in Advanced English or Certificate of Proficiency in English.  
• IELTS (minimum score: 6.5, in the Academic or General Training versions).  
• TOEFL (minimum score: 83 for Internet-based test).  
4. **Research experience:** At 29 May 2018, applicants must be in the first four years of their research careers.  
5. **Geographic mobility:** Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the publication date of the final list of selected candidates (29 May 2018). |
| **Deadline for applications** | Until the 1 February 2018 14:00 [local time of Peninsular Spain (Central European Time - CET)]. |
| **Access to the call** | "la Caixa" call for applications website |
| **Application and documentation** | • Candidates must apply using the online application platform available in the "Fellowships" section on the "la Caixa" Foundation website. The application must be completed entirely in English:  
• Academic records for the studies that make them eligible for a doctoral degree programme  
• Accreditation of the English level by the deadline for applications (1 February 2018 or until 15 February 2018 at 12:00 midnight (Central European Time - CET) to submit the accreditation,  
• At least three reference letters  
• The evaluation and selection of applications are conducted on a competitive basis and will be carried out taking into consideration the European Science Foundation’s recommendations published in the Peer Review Guide.  
• "la Caixa" Foundation will notify candidates whether they have been preselected or not by e-mail on 18 April 2018.  
• The interviews with the selection committee will be held in Barcelona on 16 to 17 May 2018.  
• The final list of candidates selected as research fellows, as well as the candidates on the waiting list, when applicable, will be published with their names and surname(s) on the “la Caixa” Foundation website on 29 May 2018.  
• To be admitted as research fellows, candidates must start at the research centre no later than 31 of January 2019. |
| **Special conditions** | "la Caixa" Foundation will sign an agreement with the host research centre, which will receive the fellowship payment amount directly and must be used entirely to defray the amounts indicated in the previous section. |
| **"la Caixa" foundation contact** | ES: becas@fundacionlacaixa.org  
EN: fellowships@fundacionlacaixa.org |
| **CSIC contact** | dpe@csic.es |