

**REAL COLEGIO COMPLUTENSE AT
HARVARD UNIVERSITY
(RCCHU)**

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**Call for Applications
Faculty Short and Long-Term Research Fellowships at
Harvard University**

2026 Call

INTRODUCTION

The Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University (RCCHU) is a Complutense academic center affiliated with Harvard University since 1990, under the presidencies of Gustavo Villalpos and Derek C. Bok, pursuant to a special agreement between the Universidad Complutense de Madrid (UCM, Spain) and Harvard University (HU, USA).

As part of its institutional development, the RCCHU has incorporated several public Spanish universities as partner institutions, including the Technical University of Madrid (UPM), the University of Alcalá (UAH), the University of Seville (US), the University of València (UV), the University of Oviedo (UOVI), and the University of Castile-La Mancha.

The RCCHU is a non-profit institution whose mission is to promote academic, scientific, and cultural cooperation between Harvard University and the Spanish system of higher education, fostering activities across all areas of knowledge.

In accordance with Articles II and IV of the General Establishment Agreement of the Real Colegio Complutense, the Academic Council hereby approves the publication of the present call for funded visiting faculty research stays at Harvard University.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This call for applications governs the award of grants for visiting faculty research stays at Harvard University within the institutional framework of the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University (RCCHU).

The purpose of the program is to support temporary academic stays of faculty members in order to promote academic excellence, advance international scholarly cooperation, encourage the exchange of knowledge, and strengthen long-term institutional relations between Harvard University and RCCHU partner universities.

This annual call is issued on an academic-year basis and provides financial support for research stays at Harvard University with a duration of **no less than three (3) months** and **no more than six (6) months**.

Eligible research stays must take place between **September 2026 and July 2027**. The month of August is excluded from funding.

Two modalities are offered:

A. Short-Term Research Stays: three (3) consecutive months.

B. Long-Term Research Stays: four to six (4, 5, or 6) consecutive months.

2. FUNDING

Selected fellows will receive a monthly stipend of **\$4,200 (USD)**, in accordance with Harvard University guidelines for the academic year 2026-2027. Any additional financial requirements requested by the host department or school shall be the responsibility of the applicant or the host academic unit.

The stipend will be disbursed monthly via U.S. bank transfer upon the fellow's arrival at RCCHU and completion of the required administrative procedures.

The grant does not constitute a salary, nor does it establish an employment relationship with Harvard University.

3. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

3.1. Hold a full-time faculty appointment ("Catedrático," "Profesor Titular," "Profesor Contratado Doctor," "Profesor Permanente Laboral," or "Ayudante Doctor") at one of the member universities of the Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University (RCCHU).

In the selection process, priority will be accorded to candidates who have not previously benefited from this grant, and especially those who were not awarded the fellowship in the preceding academic year.

3.2. Application materials to be submitted:

3.2.1. The applicant's *curriculum vitae*, limited to the last five (5) years and a maximum of six (6) pages, including research projects, evaluations, and doctoral supervision.

3.2.2. A detailed work plan describing the academic and research activities to be carried out during

the stay, including activities within the RCCHU framework.

3.2.3. Official certification of academic leave covering the entire duration of the proposed stay, duly authorized by the competent academic authority at the applicant's home institution.

3.2.4. A formal letter of academic support issued and signed by a faculty member, department, center, or school at Harvard University that agrees to serve as the academic supervisor. The letter must explicitly state the host academic unit's commitment to sponsor the applicant's J-1 visa for the duration of the stay, including the issuance of the required DS-2019 form.

3.2.5. A report describing the academic background and research profile of the Harvard University hosting group or department.

Applicants must submit their complete application **to the appropriate RCCHU delegation at their home university**. Contact information for each university delegation is provided in **Annex I** of this call.

Delegations of the Member universities are responsible for verifying eligibility, evaluating applications, and ranking candidates in accordance with the selection criteria outlined below. The detailed scoring scale applied in the evaluation process is also available in **Annex I**.

The list of admitted candidates will be published on the RCCHU website. A period of five (5) calendar days will be granted for the submission of any potential appeals, after which the list shall be considered final.

The RCCHU Executive Committee will make the final selection based on the evaluations submitted by member universities and the number of fellowships available. The proposed list of awardees will be submitted for ratification by the Council of Delegates and subsequently by the Academic Council. The final decision will be published on the RCCHU website.

Any appeal must be submitted in writing to the RCCHU within five (5) calendar days of the publication of the results. Appeals must clearly state the grounds upon which they are based and include any supporting documentation deemed relevant. After this period has elapsed, all decisions shall be deemed final and not subject to further review.

The beneficiaries will initiate the J-1 visa application process once they have been officially notified of the award. Proof of the fellow's US visa must be provided once it has been issued by a US consulate in Spain.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated through a competitive, merit-based review process according to the following weighted criteria:

4.1. Academic Excellence and Research Trajectory (30 points)

Evaluation will consider:

- Academic record and doctoral performance
- Research publications, conference presentations, and scholarly output
- Awards, distinctions, and competitive grants obtained
- Demonstrated capacity for independent research
- Letters of recommendation and institutional endorsement

4.2. Quality, Originality, and Feasibility of the Research Proposal (35 points)

Evaluation will consider:

- Intellectual merit and originality of the proposed research
- Clarity of research objectives and methodology
- Feasibility within the proposed three-month period
- Expected academic impact and contribution to the field
- Coherence between research plan and doctoral dissertation

4.3. Suitability of the Harvard Host Environment (20 points)

Evaluation will consider:

- Academic excellence and relevance of the host department or research group
- Clear justification for selecting Harvard as the research site
- Alignment between host expertise and the applicant's research objectives
- Evidence of active engagement and support from the Harvard faculty sponsor

4.4. Institutional Impact and Collaboration Potential (15 points)

Evaluation will assess:

- Prospects for sustained collaboration between Harvard University and the RCCHU member university
- Contribution to joint research initiatives or future grant applications
- Strengthening of international academic networks
- Potential dissemination and visibility of results

We strongly recommend all candidates to visit the webpages of the US embassy and consulate in Madrid (<https://es.usembassy.gov/es/>), and that of the Harvard International Office (HIO) (<https://www.hio.harvard.edu/>) to verify the viability of their planned stays.

The final list of RCCHU Predoctoral Research Fellows approved by the Academic Council will be published in early May.

All decisions shall be made in accordance with the principles of transparency, merit-based evaluation, and equal opportunity.

The number of fellowships awarded under this call is limited and subject to annual budgetary appropriations.

5. OBLIGATIONS

- 5.1. Institutional Engagement: Fellows are expected to actively promote and participate in RCCHU academic and cultural activities throughout the duration of their research stays.
- 5.2. Institutional Affiliation and Acknowledgement: Fellows shall clearly acknowledge their status as a *Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University Fellow* in all publications, lectures, conference presentations, or media interviews. This requirement applies to all academic output produced during the fellowship, as well as any subsequent work resulting directly from the research stay.
- 5.3. Final Research Report: Upon the conclusion of the fellowship, and no later than one month following the end date, grantees must submit a comprehensive technical report to the RCCHU detailing the research conducted at the host Harvard University department. This report must be signed by the candidate's PhD supervisor in Spain.
- 5.4. Faculty Endorsement: The final report must be accompanied by a favorable evaluation issued by the Harvard University faculty sponsor. This endorsement must be submitted on official Harvard University letterhead and bear the faculty sponsor's signature.
- 5.5. Ad Hoc Reporting: At any stage during or after the fellowship, the RCCHU Director reserves the right to request a progress report in English. Such reports must be delivered electronically within seven days of the request.

6. DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted by **March 31st** to facilitate the necessary procedures and visa requirements.

ANNEX I

RCCHU University Delegations and Evaluation Scoring Framework

1. RCCHU University Delegations

Applicants must submit their applications to the RCCHU delegation corresponding to their home university.

The official contact information for the delegates of each RCCHU university delegation is as follows:

* University of Alcalá (UAH)

Francisco M. Sáez de Adana kiko.saez@uah.es

* University of Castilla–La Mancha (UCLM)

Raúl Martín

raul.mmartin@uclm.es

* Complutense University de Madrid (UCM)

Daniel Sánchez-Mata rcc@fas.harvard.edu

* University of Oviedo (UNIOVI)

Cristina Valdés

delegacionharvardrcc@uniovi.es

* Technical University of Madrid (UPM)

Isabel Ortiz

Isabel.ortiz@upm.es

University of Seville (US)

Maria Virtudes Sánchez

delegadorcc@us.es

University of València

(UV) Pedro Morillo

pedro.morillo@uv.es

2. Evaluation Scoring Framework

Applications will be evaluated on a 100-point scale, based on the weighted criteria set forth below:

1. Academic Excellence and Research Trajectory — 30 Points
2. Quality, Originality, and Feasibility of the Research Proposal — 35 Points
3. Suitability of the Harvard Host Environment — 20 Points
4. Institutional Impact and Collaboration Potential — 15 Points

Scoring Scale

Each application will be assessed according to the following qualitative scale:

- 90–100 points: Outstanding
- 80–89: Excellent
- 70–79: Very Good
- 60–69: Good
- 50–59: Fair
- Below 50: Not Competitive

The final score will be calculated by applying the corresponding weight to each criterion and determining the aggregate weighted total.