

**TITLE: MSCA PF at UAB in Policy and Governance**

**[Institute of Government and Public Policies- IGOP]**

## 1. Project Description & Research Focus

The **Institute of Government and Public Policies- IGOP** at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) is looking for excellent postdoctoral researchers to jointly submit a proposal for the **MSCA-PF 2026 call** (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01).

We are particularly interested in candidates willing to develop a project within the following areas:

- **Topic 1:** Territorial governance of inequality, metropolitan regions, social vulnerability and housing provision, political participation and climate adaptation
- **Topic 2:** Welfare states and social policy, institutional mechanisms, demographic change social protection and structural inequality.
- **Topic 3:** Transnational relations, democratization and the politics of migration
- **Topic 4:** Governance, organization, and politics of education

### Supervisors:

#### Topic 1:

[Ismael Blanco](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2191-5712) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2191-5712>

[Carlos Delclos](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3061-7709) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3061-7709>

#### Topic 2:

[Margarita León](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9457-5822) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9457-5822>

[Daniel Edmiston](https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8715-654X) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-8715-654X>

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#### Topic 3:

[Eva Østergaard-Nielsen](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4576-5763) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4576-5763>

#### Topic 4:

[Antoni Verger](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3255-7703) – <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3255-7703>

### **Brief description of the Research Center:**

IGOP examines how overlapping social, economic, political and ecological transformations stress welfare systems and democratic governance, generating differentiated patterns of precarity, access to rights and public services, and institutional responsiveness. We develop **competitive research** (promoted by the European Commission with Horizon Europe, by the Government of Spain -several calls from the State Research Agency-, by the Government of the Generalitat of Catalonia as well as by private entities) such as **applied research**, through agreements or specific assignments with various institutions and entities

We have a broad research agenda, mostly focused on the analysis of various social problems and public policy responses to emerging problems and crises of a different nature.

Our research is grouped under the following thematic sub-axes:

- **Topic 1:** territorial governance of inequality, metropolitan regions, social vulnerability and housing provision, political participation and climate adaptation
- **Topic 2:** welfare states and social policy, institutional mechanisms, demographic change social protection and structural inequality.
- **Topic 3:** transnational relations, democratization and the politics of migration
- **Topic 4:** governance, organization, and politics of education

Regular mentoring, structured career support and the sustained arrival of postdoctoral researchers linked to competitive projects (including ERC, MSCA, Horizon Europe and national grants) reinforce both the institute's internal coherence and its capacity to integrate new talent. A central priority for IGOP is the development of early-career researchers. Doctoral candidates and postdoctoral fellows receive structured mentoring geared toward their consolidation as independent scholars, including support for defining research agendas, drafting and revising manuscripts, presenting work in academic and policy settings and cultivating professional networks. IGOP accompanies doctoral candidates through the final stages of their dissertations and provides guidance for competitive programmes such as Juan de la Cierva, MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships and the Early Career Workshop on Comparative Social and Public Policy (COSPPPO), which help consolidating skills and building international research connections. IGOP also encourages active participation in research stays, specialised workshops and methodological training activities, supporting conference participation, international mobility and manuscript preparation. These practices foster rigorous research habits, provide spaces for constructive feedback and strengthen an ethos of continuous learning and collaboration.

More information: <https://igop.uab.cat/en/>

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## 2. Why the UAB? A Leading Ecosystem for Research

The Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB) is a top-tier European university, offering an ideal environment for MSCA fellows to achieve independence and career excellence.

- **World-Class Prestige:** Ranked **172nd globally, 71st in Europe** and **2nd in Spain** (QS World University Rankings 2026). The UAB is consistently among the top 3 universities in Spain.
- **Proven Success in MSCA:** A highly experienced Host Institution with **30 MSCA-PF projects** already awarded under Horizon Europe, ensuring expert knowledge in managing these grants.
- **A Unique Campus Experience:** Our research is integrated into a single, multidisciplinary campus located 20 km from Barcelona. This fosters cross-sectoral collaboration with nearby research centres and industry.
- **Career Development:** Holder of the ‘**HR Excellence in Research**’ award since 2014, the UAB is committed to the European Charter for Researchers and provides a clear framework for professional growth.
- **Comprehensive Support:**
  - **Specialized Grants Office:** Expert advice and training during the proposal writing and submission phase.
  - **International Support Service (ISS):** An official **Euraxess Contact Point** providing dedicated assistance to incoming researchers and their families (visas, housing, schools, etc).
  - **Commitment to Sustainability:** Framed within the *Healthy and Sustainable Campus Plan (2023-2027)*.

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## 3. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must fulfil the MSCA-PF 2026 requirements by the call deadline (**09/09/2026**):

- **PhD Degree:** Must have a PhD at the time of the call deadline.
- **Research Experience:** Maximum of **8 years** full-time equivalent (FTE) experience in research post-PhD (exceptions apply for career breaks, parental leave or research outside the EU for returning nationals).
- **Mobility Rule:** Must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Spain for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline (i.e., between **09/09/2023 and 09/09/2026**).

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## 4. Application Process

Interested candidates should send the following documents (in English) to **Charlotte Fernandez (IGOP's research coordinator) [charlotte.fernandez@uab.cat](mailto:charlotte.fernandez@uab.cat)** by **4/05/2026**:

1. **Curriculum Vitae** (max. 3 pages), highlighting, projects, awards, and at least 5 most relevant publications
2. **Research Statement / Project Abstract** max. 1 page outlining your research idea.
3. **Cover Letter** explaining your motivation and how your profile fits the group (max. 1 page).
4. Names and contacts of at least two referees.
5. A signed letter certifying that you comply with the MSCA eligibility criteria

**Subject line:** MSCA-PF-2026-EoI\_[Candidate Surname\_Name]

In case the candidate has been preselected UAB will perform an eligibility check and ask for additional supporting documentation (such as the PhD certificate).

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### Key Dates

- **Internal Deadline for EoI:** 4/05/2026
- **Selection Notification:** 15/05/2026
- **Official MSCA Call Deadline:** 9th September 2026

*UAB is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from researchers of all backgrounds, ensuring a diverse and inclusive research environment.*