

REAL COLEGIO COMPLUTENSE AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY



Call for **Postdoctoral Research Fellowships** at Harvard
University for Distinguished Junior Scholars

2024 Call



26 Trowbridge Street - Cambridge, MA 02138, USA
www.rcc.harvard.edu - rcc@fas.harvard.edu

INTRODUCTION

The Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University (RCCHU) is a Complutense center affiliated to Harvard University (HU) since 1990, under the presidencies of Gustavo Villapalos and Derek C. Bok. It is the result of the agreement between Harvard University and the Universidad Complutense (UCM, Madrid, Spain). As part of an expansion project, RCCHU has incorporated five [Partner Universities](#), namely Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (UPM, 2013), Universidad de Alcalá (UAH, 2014), Universidad de Sevilla (US, 2015), Universitat de València (UV, 2015), and Universidad de Oviedo (UOVI, 2022).

RCCHU is the only *World Class Excellence Center* in the US and has an exclusive relationship with the Ivy League university. It is a non-profit organization, aimed at providing academic, scientific, and cultural cooperation between Harvard University and the Spanish system of Higher Education. It promotes and develops activities in every realm of the knowledge triangle.

In accordance with articles II and IV of the General Establishment Agreement of Real Colegio Complutense at Harvard University (RCCHU), its Academic Council has decided to open the 1. research centers at Harvard University during the Academic Years 2024/2026, starting from September 1st, 2024, to August 31st, 2026. The research stay must begin on September 1st, 2024.

1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This prestigious RCCHU Postdoctoral Research Fellowship program offers two-year (24 months) fellowships for Spanish or European citizens junior scholars who have recently earned their PhD with honors (or the highest equivalent academic distinction) during the period September 1st, 2022, to the end of this call (March 2024). The candidates must be specifically endorsed by any University departments of the RCCHU Member Universities.

After the two-year Harvard University research stay the candidate's University must accept its reinstatement through a postdoctoral position for at least another two-year period with the possibility of teaching duties as postdoctoral fellow always following the current legislation and their home University agreements.

The number of fellowships in each call is limited and they will be conditioned yearly by the budgetary availability.

2. COVERAGE

Fellows will receive the HU approved official stipendium for a postdoctoral position (by now \$65,000 per year) updated according to the current legislation at the second year. This award may be complemented through any other public and private sources of funding and will be compatible with any other public or private financial aid, funding, and income from any source and for the same purpose.

Before the end of the first academic year of the corresponding fellowship, and to have access to funding for a second academic year, the following requirements must be met:

- A. Favorable report from the Director of the Department or Center where the fellowship is being carried out. Should the report be negative, the fellowship will be terminated.
- B. A positive report from the RCCHU Director regarding the activities carried out by Fellows with the goal of the institutional strengthening of the RCCHU.
- C. A positive evaluation from the Academic Council. This evaluation should consider the above-mentioned reports as well as a detailed performance report submitted by the candidate.

Upon completion of the second academic year, the following requirements must be met:

- A. A favorable report from the Director of the Department or School where the fellowship is being carried out.
- B. A positive report from the RCCHU Director regarding the activities carried out by Fellows with the goal of the institutional strengthening of the RCCHU.
- C. A positive evaluation from the Academic Council. This evaluation should consider the above-mentioned reports as well as a detailed performance report submitted by the candidate.

3. REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must have completed their PhD from September 1st, 2022, to the end of this

call (March 2024). The candidates must be specifically endorsed by any University departments of the Complutense University or any of the RCCHU Member Universities.

4. DOCUMENTS

- 4.1 Certificate of having been granted a PhD, specifying the date of completion and the grade obtained.
- 4.2 *Curriculum Vitae* in accordance with the format required by the Harvard University School or Department that the candidate has applied to.
- 4.3 Research Proposal for the project that will be carried out during the stay at Harvard University (10 pages maximum).
- 4.4 Provide an Admission Letter from the Harvard University department, center or school stating that they are supporting the applicant's research project, as well as sponsoring their J-1 Visa during the entire two-year period. The Admission Letter must be signed by a Tenure or Tenure-Track Faculty member that is willing to serve as the supervisor for the applicant. If the supervisor has a Tenure-Track Faculty appointment, the term of the appointment must be enough to cover the two years of the Postdoctoral Fellowship.
- 4.5 A Formal Letter from the candidate's department of origin, acknowledging its reincorporation at the end of the two-year Harvard University postdoctoral research stay and under the contractual terms that better suit the university of origin's policies and goals. This letter must include the possible teaching duties of the candidate (maximum 100 hours per academic year) during at least two academic years. Moreover, the letter must have the approval of the Departmental Council with a mandatory reference to the specific meeting date and signed by the department's director.
- 4.6 Provide a valid TOEFL iBT with a minimum score of 100 points. To be considered valid, TOEFL iBT scores must be sent directly from ETS to the RCCHU. Without this document the research grant cannot be awarded, as it is a necessary requirement. Expired TOEFL certificates, and any other English proficiency tests, will not be accepted.

Candidates must submit proof that they have taken the test on or before the stated Deadline for applications.

Send the documents by email to rcc@fas.harvard.edu. Applicants must submit the application and all required admission materials no later than the stated deadline to be considered for admission. Only applications which fulfill all the requirements of the call-in due time will be considered. Those who do not comply with the procedures and deadlines will not be considered.

We strongly recommend all the applicants to visit the webpages of the U.S. Embassy & Consulate in Madrid (<https://es.usembassy.gov/es/>) and Harvard International Office (HIO) in order to assure the viability of their programmed visit (<https://www.hio.harvard.edu/>).

5. SELECTION CRITERIA

Applications will be considered and evaluated by the RCCHU Executive Committee, assisted by the Advisory Council and/or invited experts according to the following criteria:

- 5.1 The relevance and suitability of the Harvard hosting group and its adequacy with the purpose of this call.
- 5.2 The quality and viability of the research proposal.
- 5.3 The candidate's *curriculum vitae*.

A Formal Letter from the candidate's university of origin, acknowledging its reincorporation - to the department that endorsed it- at the end of the two-year Harvard University postdoctoral research stay and under the contractual terms that better suit the university of origin's policies and goals will be required for the selected candidates. This letter must include the possible teaching duties of the candidate (maximum 100 hours per academic year) during at least two academic years, and it must have the approval of the authority that the Member University designates.

The RCCHU Executive Committee will make a proposal on selected candidates. The RCCHU Academic Council will decide on selected candidates by the end of the month of May prior to the beginning of the applicable academic year. All the decisions will be based on the principles and procedures of an open, merit, and equal opportunity-based process. If deemed necessary, the RCCHU Academic Council may request an interview with the candidate. In these cases, the candidate will be contacted and given notice with due time.

6. OBLIGATIONS

6.1 Prior to joining the RCCHU, selected candidates must comply with the required mentioned documentation.

6.2 Promote and participate in the RCCHU activities during the period of their fellowship. Among others, these activities and projects may include those aimed at strengthening the RCCHU (such as conferences, seminars, cultural cycles, study groups, set-up, etc.) under the guidance of the RCCHU Director and RCCHU university delegates.

6.3 Make noticeable mention in any publication, lecture, presentation, or interview of their status as a Fellow of the RCCHU. This includes any publication, lecture, presentation, or interview made during the time of their stay, as well as those published or carried out because of their stay.

6.4 Immediately notify the RCCHU of any grant, scholarship or funding obtained from any public or private organization for the same or a different research project.

6.5. Fellows have the obligation of notifying the RCCHU of any periods of travel or absence from the Harvard school, department, or research center where they normally carry out their research during the full term of their scholarship.

6.6. Submit two reports, written in English, describing all work carried out at Harvard University during the research periods as well as the participation in activities to support RCCHU and all the publications (social media included), lectures, presentations or interviews highlighting the reference to their status as a Fellow of the RCCHU. These reports must be submitted two weeks prior to the end first year and to the end of their stay or whenever they are required to do so by the RCCHU.

6.7 The report must include a letter addressed to the RCCHU Director and signed by his/her activities and certifying that the Fellow concluded the research stage satisfactorily and within the period of duration of the grant. Both the letter and report must be submitted using the letterhead from the center or department.

6.8 At any point during the fellowship, the RCCHU Director may request a report, written in English, describing all work carried out at Harvard University up until that point of the research period. The report must be delivered electronically no later than one week after the request from the RCCHU Director.

6.9 Be aware that any breach of the above requirements and obligations without justified reason or prior permission will lead to the total or partial loss of rights and privileges granted by this Fellowship, including suspension of any further payments and the obligation to refund any aid already given.

7. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS

Documentation must be sent by March 31st, 2024.