

Principal Investigator Call

Call for Expression of Interest 2024



Emerging Frontiers: Integrating Chemistry, Biology and Materials Science

Call for the submission of EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST to become a PI at CiQUS

INTRODUCTION

The Center for Research in Biological Chemistry and Molecular Materials (CiQUS, www.usc.es/ciqus/en) was founded by the University of Santiago de Compostela (USC) as the first member of a network of singular research centers, which constitutes one of the main strategic axes of the CAMPUS VIDA project (Campus of International Excellence).

Formally created in 2010 and officially opened in February 2011, CiQUS was born with the vision of becoming a reference research center distinguished by the excellence and impact of its scientific work and its commitment to the demands of society. The mission of CiQUS is to achieve cutting-edge, multidisciplinary research at the interface of chemistry, biomedicine and molecular materials. In addition, CiQUS aims to contribute to the education and training of the best researchers in chemistry for future generations, and also to a better perception from society of the role of chemistry in terms of development and global welfare.

For these purposes, CiQUS is provided with a SELF-DEMANDING ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE based on the following basic principles: (1) competitive selection of the scientific staff, and continuous evaluation of the activity by an External Scientific Advisory Board; (2) rigorous strategic planning, and funding mechanisms linked to the fulfillment of objectives; (3) scientific directorship, responsible for the definition of the research policy and for the coordination of the capabilities of the different groups; (4) professional management of the center's R&D activity. Comprehensive information about research areas, groups, facilities and scientific outputs can be found at the CiQUS website (www.usc.es/ciqus).

The current structure of the center counts with 31 PIs organized in 18 research groups. Along the years our research results have steadily progressed, as demonstrated by objective indicators such as scientific output (doubling of the average impact factor), international leadership and projects (12 ERC grants), competitive funding capacity (9 M€/year) or tech transfer activities (creation of 4 spin-offs).

The CiQUS External Scientific Advisory Board (ESAB) made a rigorous quadrennial overall evaluation in April 2023. After that evaluation, the CiQUS Governing Committee has considered timely to identify a **limited number of new PIs** that could further reinforce the scientific capacities of the center.

It should be noted that the PIs are key for the external image of the center and for its scientific success, and therefore are subjected to a continuous and rigorous assessment of their scientific outcome, an evaluation that can have consequences on their future adscription to the center.

On these grounds, we launch this *Call for the submission of Expressions of Interest* to become a PI at CiQUS.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES:

This call for submission of Expressions of Interest is open to USC faculty, USC *Ramón y Cajal* researchers and Oportunius researchers with a **high-level track record of publications** within the main thematic areas of CiQUS and a **proven capability to obtain external funding support**.

In the case of candidates that are currently associated to a CiQUS research team, the relevant individual contributions that justify his/her application to become a PI should be clearly stated in the Expression of Interest.

With regard to other applicants, it is our priority to recruit new researchers aligned with our strategic plan and with the needs of our research program –currently focused on the development of disruptive molecular materials and chemical technologies with applications in biomedicine or sustainability–, having scientific expertise that complements the current capacities of the center. This alignment/complementarity and the candidate's previous experience in collaborative research projects within the CiQUS main thematic areas should be highlighted in the application.

SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS:

- Applications **must be submitted electronically** through following link:

<https://forms.office.com/e/gx1HD9ytdq>

- The proposal must be completed following the call template ([see Annex](#)), written in English and sent as a PDF attachment, which must be uploaded through the electronic form indicated above.

- The deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest is **October 21, 2024**.

SELECTION PROCESS:

The evaluation and selection of candidates will be addressed by the CiQUS External Scientific Advisory Board.

The approval of the appointment as PI of any of the selected candidates by the CiQUS Governing Committee, will be conditioned on signing a formal commitment with the strategic goals and organizational policy of the center.



Santiago de Compostela, September 30, 2024



José Luis Mascareñas
CiQUS Scientific Director



M. Dolores Pérez
CiQUS Deputy Director

ANNEX

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST to become a Principal Investigator (PI) at the *Centro Singular de Investigación en Química Biolóxica e Materiais Moleculares (CiQUS)*

NAME:

CURRENT POSITION:

DEPARTMENT/CENTER:

Ph. D. (date and title):

I. Expression of Interest

(Research field in connection with the thematic orientation of the Center, previous experience in cooperative research, etc. Applicants should briefly explain how their scientific profile aligns with CiQUS's strategic objectives, how their incorporation will further enhance CiQUS's international competitiveness, and how joining the center will contribute to advancing their scientific career; max. 700 words)

II. Project

(Short description of the project to be developed in the Center. max. 300 words)

III. Biographical sketch

(max 300 words)

IV. Scientific projects/contracts (participation as PI)

(Please indicate the title, duration and budget of projects and relevant research/development contracts. Additionally, current international grant applications under evaluation and/or "in preparation" should be mentioned)

V. Selection of scientific articles/patents

(Please select up to 10 scientific contributions –articles and licensed patents– with indication of title, complete list of authors, journal, volume, pages, publication year and any other relevant information)

VI. Other indicators (optional)

(Please choose any indicator you consider of interest to support the relevance of your scientific career: e.g. h-index, accumulated impact factor, number of citations, editorial board membership, international plenary lectures).

Please indicate if the research project that you propose (as PI) would be developed in the context of an existing research team at CiQUS.

NO

YES Name of the current CiQUS PIs/team: