

Terms and conditions for the 2024 UOC Santander Award for Best Open Science Doctoral Contribution

The term 'open science' describes the international goal of making scientific knowledge openly available, accessible and reusable for everyone, and of fostering scientific collaboration for the benefit of science and society, as per the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#), adopted in 2021.

Open science is a new model for carrying out scientific research. It implies an open perspective – i.e. one that is transparent, inclusive and democratic – throughout the scientific process. It applies to all research disciplines: natural sciences, social sciences and the humanities. All research projects, regardless of their field, can be carried out with an open science perspective and methodology.

Open science includes aspects such as open access, open source, open educational resources, open data and citizen science. According to the [UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science](#), some of the key pillars are:

- **Open scientific knowledge:** open access to scientific publications, research data, metadata, open educational resources, software, and source code and hardware. As open as possible, and restrictions must be justified.
- **Open science infrastructures:** shared research infrastructures that are needed to support open science and serve the needs of communities, such as open laboratories or repositories.
- **Open engagement with social stakeholders:** making the scientific process more inclusive and accessible to society.

At the UOC we want to ensure that the knowledge we generate is open to everyone. The UOC's [Open Knowledge Action Plan](#) supports open access to publications, open research, FAIR data, open learning and open innovation. This background has given rise to the **UOC Santander Award for Best Open Science Doctoral Contribution**.

With this Award, we seek to reward the best research career that prioritizes open access in any academic discipline developed by a doctoral student on one of the UOC Doctoral School's programmes.

The Award comes with a cash prize for the candidate who obtains the highest score in the evaluation process. This funding is the result of collaboration between Banco Santander (through Santander Open Academy) and the UOC – collaboration that aims to promote dissemination of and open access to research.

The Award is outlined in the Global UOC section of the [2022-2025 Strategic Plan](#), which aims to reinforce actions that raise the profile of the UOC as a university committed to open knowledge.

1. Content and format

Anyone interested in being considered for the award should submit a document of no more than four pages outlining the content of their doctoral thesis and explaining how their research is, or will be, carried out in the spirit of open science.

This document must include the following information:

- Author (including ORCID identifier), title and abstract of the thesis.
- A description on how the research is, or will be, conducted in the spirit of open science, and how open science measures will be applied over the course of the research and/or upon completion of the thesis. The description must include an explanation of the doctoral thesis' open science strategy and should answer questions such as: Do you plan to publish the results of your research?

Contributions will be assessed in line with these open science aspects:

- Open access to publications
- Open research data
- Data management plan (DMP) regarding FAIR data
- Open software / source code
- Licensing
- Repositories
- Handling of sensitive data
- FAIR data
- All other elements of open science, including citizen science, open peer review and open educational resources

2. Terms and conditions

All doctoral theses from any programme at the UOC Doctoral School are eligible for this award, as long as they meet the following conditions:

- The author of the contribution must be enrolled on one of the programmes offered at the UOC Doctoral School as either a full-time or part-time doctoral student at the time when the Award is published during the academic year 2023/2024.
- The author of the contribution must have an ORCID iD.
- The author of the contribution must not have received the Award in the past.

The award comes with a gross cash prize of €2,000.

3. Deadline

The deadline for submitting the above document is: 4 October 2024. The expected date of publication of the results is: 24 October 2024 (during Open Access Week 2024).

Candidates who meet the requirements established in section 2 herein must register their application on the Santander Open Academy platform (<https://www.santanderopenacademy.com/es/index.html>), where they must fill in the information requested and attach the documentation specified in section 1 herein.

Applications not submitted within the periods stipulated and not complying with the requirements established herein will automatically be excluded. In no case will incomplete applications or the submission of additional documentation and/or information be accepted after the deadline for applications established herein.

4. Assessment criteria

The following aspects will be taken into account to assess the quality and appropriateness of the proposal:

- Openness of publications, including where they are published and the licence chosen
- Research data, including data handling, place of publication and compliance with FAIR principles
- Data management plan, including how the plan is being used and the tool with which it was produced
- Open software or code, if applicable
- Citizen science
- Open educational resources
- Open peer review

[Rubric for doctoral contributions to open science](#)

5. Selection Committee

The members of the Selection Committee are:

- Xavier Vilajosana, vice rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship.
- David Masip, director of the Doctoral School.
- Bego Aguilera, director of the Open Science unit.
- Candela Ollé, member of the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences, and director of the Master's Degree in Digital Journalism and Communication.
- Joana Maria Pujadas Mora, member of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

6. Final award

Once the Selection Committee has assessed the applications and ranked them in descending order, the Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship, or any person acting in his place, will make an award proposal setting out the proposed award winner, as well as a list of all candidates and their scores, which will be used to replace, in strict accordance with the above order, any winners who decline or renounce the award for any reason.

The final award will be published on the noticeboard of the UOC's E-Services Portal on 24 October 2024.

7. Tax treatment of prizes

In accordance with Spain's Law on Personal Income Tax, cash prizes and non-cash prizes are subject to all compulsory tax withholdings and advance payments on account, respectively.

Therefore, the UOC will deduct from the amount to be paid to the winner the amount withheld by law and the advance amount to be paid to the Tax Agency, and will issue for this purpose a certificate in the winner's name stating the details of the prize, the amount withheld and the advance payment made.

8. Obligations of the winners

The winners of the awards covered by these terms and conditions are subject to the following obligations:

- a. To prove to the UOC that they fulfil the requirements and conditions for receiving and accepting the award.
- b. To submit to any checks by the UOC that may be necessary to verify their fulfilment of the conditions on which the award was granted.

Failure to comply with these obligations will result in forfeiture of the prize and the obligation to return it in full.

9. Acceptance of the terms and conditions

By submitting an application to the [Santander Open Academy](#) platform, participants accept the terms and conditions of these awards and the Selection Committee's decision, which is final.

The organizers reserve the right to extend the deadlines set forth herein for entries if they consider it appropriate and to cancel or suspend the prizes. The awards must be cancelled or suspended whenever there is good cause to do so, such as force majeure, if required by law or for any other reasons at the organizers' discretion. This will not result in any obligations for the organizers,

including any obligation to compensate participants in any way.

The organizers reserve the right to disqualify from the awards any participant who fails to comply – in whole or in part – with these terms and conditions.

10. Calendar

The following deadlines apply to these awards:

- Deadline for submitting a contribution: 4 October
- Date of publication of the award decision and final award date: 24 October

11. Data protection

This award is governed by the personal data legislation set forth below.

In compliance with Spanish Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December 2018, on protection of personal data and guarantee of digital rights, and Article 13 of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 April 2016, on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (GDPR), participants are hereby informed of the following aspects:

Data controller

Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Rambla del Poblenou, 154-156, 08018, Barcelona.

If you have any questions about the processing of personal data, you can contact the data protection officer at the email address dpd@uoc.edu.

Purpose of the processing

- Personal data will be processed for the purpose of managing and processing the UOC Santander Award for Best Open Science Doctoral Contribution (hereinafter the “Award”), in accordance with these terms and conditions.

The call for applications for the Award will be managed through the <https://www.santanderopenacademy.com/es/index.html> platform of Universia Holding, S.L., which will act as data processor for this purpose. This is without prejudice to the fact that it may act as a data controller for the processing of personal data on this platform, depending on their privacy policy and the consent you give when registering on the platform.

- To publish the results of the award and, thus, the full name of the prize winner on the e-Noticeboard of the UOC's E-Services Portal.
- To assess and monitor the activity through related statistics and satisfaction surveys.

Legal basis

The legal basis for the processing of your personal data for the management and processing of the Award, and the publication of your name with the result of the Award, is the execution of the contract (the terms and conditions of the Award).

The legal basis for the processing of your personal data for the evaluation and monitoring of the Award through related statistics and satisfaction surveys is legitimate interest.

Storage period

Personal data will be kept for the time needed for the purposes indicated. At the end of the indicated period, the UOC will keep the personal data blocked for the period necessary to comply with the legal obligations resulting from any liability that may arise in relation to the indicated purposes. When these liabilities expire, the personal data will be deleted permanently.

Recipients

The data provided by you in connection with your participation in these awards will be disclosed to third parties if necessary in order to comply with the legal obligations applicable in each case.

In addition, the UOC works with service providers that assist it in performing different tasks related to the processing of your personal data.

Security measures

The UOC must process personal data with utmost confidentiality. In addition, it has implemented appropriate technical and organizational measures to guarantee their security and prevent their destruction, loss, illicit access or illicit tampering. In deciding these measures, criteria such as the scope, context and purpose of the processing, the current state of the art and the existing risks have been taken into account.

Rights of data subjects

Data subjects have the following personal data protection rights:

Right	Definition
Right of access	You can request what personal data is held.
Right to rectification	You can request that the personal data held be rectified when it is inaccurate.
Right to object	You can request that your personal data not be processed for specific purposes.
Right not to be subject to an	You can request not to be subject to a decision based solely

automated individual decision-making	on automated processing, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning you or similarly significantly affects you.
Right to erasure	You can request that your personal data be erased.
Right to restriction of processing	You can request that the processing of your personal data be restricted.
Right to data portability	You can request that the personal data held be provided to you in digital format.
Right to lodge a complaint with the supervisory authority	Without prejudice to exercising your rights before the data controller, you can lodge a complaint at any time with the supervisory authority to defend your rights on the http://www.apdcat.cat website.

To withdraw your consent at any time or exercise these rights, send an email to fuoc_pd@uoc.edu, with "Data Protection" in the subject line, and attach, where necessary, a copy of your identification document, and the minimum content required by the applicable regulations. If the request does not meet the specified requirements, you may be required to amend it. There is no charge for exercising these, but a fee may be charged when requests are unfounded, excessive or repetitive.

12. Response to enquiries

Participants may write to the email address ciencia_oberta@uoc.edu for any queries relating to the organization of the awards, deadlines, the conditions for participation and, in general, all matters regulated by these terms and conditions.

13. Jurisdiction

These awards are governed by Spanish law.

Any disputes or litigation arising from these terms and conditions and the prizes awarded will be resolved by the courts of the city of Barcelona. Participants waive any other jurisdiction that might otherwise apply to them.

Barcelona,

Xavier Vilajosana
Vice rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship
Universitat Oberta de Catalunya