

Terms and conditions for the 2024 Award UOC-Santander for Best Interdisciplinary Thesis

1. Object and purpose

Tackling the complex challenges facing society today often requires the intervention of more than one area of knowledge, which is why projects of an interdisciplinary nature are proving more essential than ever in the world of research. Following this line of thought, we define interdisciplinarity as the interaction that occurs between two or more disciplines as they frame new holistic approaches to certain issues and overcome their individual limitations in the process. For the purpose of these terms and conditions, we will maintain a broad perspective and therefore also accept transdisciplinary approaches; in other words, those that transcend frontiers and venture into entirely new areas of knowledge.

The award is outlined in the UOC's strategic plan Impuls Recerca 2025, which aims to foster interdisciplinary collaborations. The nature of these collaborations often make them highly complex, costly and risky. However, when successful they have the potential for even higher societal benefits.

To bolster this line of work, the UOC Doctoral School in collaboration with Santander Bank (through Santander Open Academy platform) is giving out a special award for the best interdisciplinary thesis for the 2023/2024 academic year.

2. Organizing institutions

The institution organizing this call is the UOC, in partnership with Banco Santander.

The UOC is a public service university governed by a Spanish private foundation, the Fundació per a la Universitat Oberta de Catalunya (hereinafter "FUOC"), with tax identification code G-60667813 and registered address at Rambla del Poblenou 154-156, Barcelona, which is registered in the Register of Foundations of the Government of Catalonia under number 842.

Banco Santander S.A. is a banking institution registered with the Bank of Spain under number 0049, with registered address at Santander, Paseo de Pereda, 9-12, and tax identification code A-39000013.

3. Terms and conditions

All doctoral theses defended through any programme at the UOC Doctoral School are eligible as long as they comply with the following conditions:

- The thesis must have been successfully defended during the 2023/2024 academic year (from September 1st, 2023 to August 31st, 2024).
- The thesis must be published (or submitted for publication) in the UOC's institutional repository, O2.
- The author of the thesis must possess an ORCID identifier.

Additional information:

- The thesis may have been written by either a full-time or part-time doctoral student.
- The award comes with one (1) gross monetary prize of € 2.000.

4. Content and format

Anyone interested in being considered for the award should send a PDF of their doctoral thesis, together with a separate document (three-page maximum) containing:

- An abstract of the thesis.
- Specific arguments substantiating the interdisciplinary nature of the project.
- A list of the researchers and research groups involved.

In the argumentation substantiating the interdisciplinary nature of the project, applicants should mention at least:

- The role and participation of the researchers and research groups from the UOC and other institutions involved in the development of the thesis, including research collaborations, joint-authored papers, interdisciplinary methodologies, organization

of events, etc.

- Evidence of the societal impact from the thesis.
- Justification of the interdisciplinarity of scientific production.

Those candidates who meet the requirements established in section 3 of these rules must register their application on the platform Santander Open Academy (<https://www.santanderopenacademy.com/es/index.html>), complete the information requested and attach the documentation specified in this section 3 of these bases.

5. Deadlines

The deadline for submitting the application and the documents mentioned above is October 10th, 2024.

The expected date on which the provisional results will be published is October 30th, 2024.

The expected date on which the final results will be published is November 6th, 2024.

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

Only applications submitted in due time and form may be assessed. Incomplete applications cannot be admitted or assessed and no additional elements or changes will be accepted once the submission period has ended.

6. Acceptance of the conditions

1. Participation in this award procedure entails acceptance of these conditions.
2. Partial or total failure to comply with these conditions shall constitute grounds for disqualification of the participant concerned.
3. The organizers reserve the right to extend the deadlines set out in this call for entries as they see fit, and the right to cancel the award or declare it null and void whenever there is due cause to do so. The UOC shall be free of any liability or compensation as

regards the candidates if for reasons of force majeure, legal imperatives or other criteria applied by the organizers or budgetary considerations the award has to be cancelled or suspended.

4. 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.

7. Selection committee

The members of the selection committee are:

- Dr. Llorenç Andreu Barrachina, Professor at the eHealth Center.
- Dr. Mireia Fernández-Ardèvol, Professor at the Faculty of Information and Communication Sciences.
- Dr. Isabel Ruiz Mallén, Professor at the Faculty of Psychology and Education Sciences.

8. Assessment criteria

The members of the selection committee will assess the proposals based on the following criteria:

- Collaborations with other institutions.
- Social impact.
- Degree of collaborations, content and methodologies interdisciplinary.
- Interest of the study.
- Publication record from the thesis.

They will assess the candidates in accordance with the criteria described in this clause and with the provisions detailed in the rubric attached to these rules as **Appendix I.- Rubric of thesis evaluation criteria.**

The criteria expressly set out in the conditions will be the only items subject to assessment in the applications submitted. No requirement or circumstance that has not been expressly included may be subject to assessment, and neither can it be submitted as grounds for an appeal. No other personal or particular circumstance related to the candidates may be taken into account for the assessment, and nor may it be used as the

grounds for any appeal against the provisional award, the provisional decision or any assessments or decisions made by the Committee.

9. Provisional award and appeals period

1. After the applications have been assessed and ranked in descending order by the Selection Committee, the Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship of the UOC, or the person acting on their behalf, will make the proposal for the provisional award. The proposal will include the successful candidate as well as the list of substitutes who will in strict order of score replace the successful candidates who reject or do not accept the award for any reason.
2. The provisional decision will include the total score obtained by the candidates and by those on the list of replacement candidates, as specified above, with the breakdown of the total score obtained for each of the assessment criteria set out in these conditions.
3. The provisional decision will be published on the e-Noticeboard of the UOC's E-Services Portal from October 30th, 2024.
4. The successful candidate, as well as any other interested parties, will have three [3] working days to waive the award, or to submit any claims they deem appropriate by emailing phd_school@uoc.edu.

10. Final award

1. The Vice Rector for Research, Knowledge Transfer and Entrepreneurship of the UOC, or the person acting on their behalf, will make the final award that will include the candidate who finally receives the award after the Selection Committee has resolved the appeals, if any, that have been submitted against the provisional award
2. The final award (candidate's name and thesis title) will be published on the noticeboard of the UOC's E-Services Portal on November 6th, 2024.

11. Allocation and payment method

1. The candidate ranked first will receive a cash award of two thousand euros (€2,000).
2. The award may not be exchanged, altered or offset at the request of the winning candidates.

3. As it exceeds three hundred euros (€300), the cash award shall be subject to the legally applicable tax withholding, pursuant to the provisions of Spain's Law on Personal Income Tax (IRPF).
4. The UOC will perform the mandatory withholding for Personal Income Tax payable to the Spanish Tax Authority for the award winner, and will issue the winning candidate with a certificate stating the details of the award and the tax withholding performed.

12. Obligations of the winner

The winner of the award covered by these terms and conditions is subject to the following obligations:

- a. To prove to the UOC that he/she fulfills 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 his/her fulfillment 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.

13. Intellectual and industrial property

The UOC acknowledges that title to the intellectual property over the documents described in section 2 and 3 belong to the candidates who have produced them, and that participation in this award process does not entail any assignment of rights in the UOC's favour.

By accepting these conditions, the candidate declares to the UOC that they are the original author of the said documentation which they have submitted to this call. Likewise, they declare that they hold the intellectual and industrial property rights to the work, and that the work does not infringe any intellectual or industrial property rights, image rights, or confidential information belonging to third parties.

The candidate grants the UOC a non-exclusive, non-transferable, non-sub-licensable, worldwide licence, for a period limited to the time taken to make the decision on the awards, to use the documents submitted for the sole purpose of carrying out the process of selecting the projects as part of the award procedure.

In addition, in case the candidate is granted the final award, hereby the candidate transfers to the UOC the right of transformation of the thesis into the Catalan language for its reproduction, public communication and making available, in its non-commercial form, throughout the legal life of the rights until their entry in the public domain, by any means, system and/or procedure (whether physical and/or communication, making available or exchanging files, digital, electronic, computer, telematics, telephone, etc.) and in any format or support (physical, computer, digital, electronic, magnetic and/or analogue, text, graphic, paper, audio, audiovisual and/or multimedia) for its dissemination through emailing. The publication of the thesis in Catalan will respect the moral rights of the author, reproducing his/her name. Should any documentation submitted includes any content or resources owned by third parties, the candidates hereby declare to the UOC that with regard thereto, they possess the relevant authorizations or permissions for their use within the framework of this award procedure. Likewise, if the documents include the image(s) of identified or identifiable third parties, the candidates hereby declare to the UOC that these people have been informed of the use of their image, and that they are in possession of the relevant consent for the use of their image rights.

The candidate shall be liable for any obligation or liability arising from any breach or incomplete compliance with these terms and conditions, as well as for any third-party claims arising from any violation of intellectual or industrial property rights or image rights in the final project which they have submitted to this award procedure.

The UOC shall be held harmless from any liability arising from failure to comply with or incomplete compliance with these conditions, as well as any claim by third parties arising from the infringement of intellectual and industrial property rights and image rights owned by those third parties, and reserves the right to disqualify works that infringe the rights of third parties from the award. The participant is responsible for any actions and claims filed by third parties arising from a potential violation of intellectual or industrial property rights. In the event of legal action being taken or a summons being issued against the UOC by a third party due to a violation of intellectual or industrial property rights, all the legal costs and compensation for damages, if any, shall be met by the participant.

The UOC reserves the right to disqualify candidates infringing the said third-party rights from this award procedure.

14. Data protection

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

In compliance with Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December, on the 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 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (hereinafter, "GDPR"), participants are informed of the following matters:

Data controller

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

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 organize, manage and resolve the present call Award UOC-Santander for Best Interdisciplinary Thesis (hereinafter, the "Award"), in accordance with the present terms and conditions.

The call for the Award will be carried out through the platform <https://www.santanderopenacademy.com/es/index.html> of Universia Holding, S.L., which will act as data processor for this purpose, without prejudice to the fact that it may act as data controller for its own processing, depending on the consent you have given when registering on the platform and on the basis of its privacy policy.

- To publish the full name of the prize winner on the e-Noticeboard of the UOC's E-Services Portal in order to publish the results of the award.
- 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 organization, management and resolution of the Award, as well as the publication of your name for the purpose of publishing 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 activity through related statistics and satisfaction surveys is the legitimate interest.

Storage period

Personal data will be kept for the necessary time to carry out the indicated purposes. 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 rights in relation to personal data protection:

RIGHT	That is?
Right of access	Check what personal data we process.
Right of rectification	Modify personal data held when inaccurate.
Right to object	Request to not process personal data for some specific purposes..
Right to object automated individual decision-making, including profiling.	Request not to be subject to a decision based solely on automated processing, including profiling, which produces legal effects concerning you or similarly significantly affects you.
Right of erasure	Request the deletion of personal data.
Right to restriction of processing	Request to restrict the processing of personal data.
Right to data portability	Request that the information available be delivered to them in a computer format.
Right to lodge a complaint with the competent authority	File a claim. Without prejudice to the exercise of their rights before the controller, at any time they may lodge a complaint with the competent authority to defend their rights through the website www.apdcat.cat .

You may withdraw your consent at any time, as well as exercise the rights of access, rectification, erasure, objection to processing, data portability and restriction of processing, by sending an email to the UOC at fuoc_pd@uoc.edu with the subject "Data Protection", including, if applicable, a copy of your identity card or equivalent identification document and the minimum content set forth in applicable legislation. If your request does not meet the specified requirements, you may be asked to amend it. There is no charge for exercising these rights, although a fee may be charged when the requests are unfounded, excessive or repetitive.

15. Response to enquiries

Participants may write to the email phd_school@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.

16. 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 Guillén
Vicerector de Recerca, Transferència i Emprenedoria

APPENDIX I.
RUBRIC OF THESIS EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	2.5 points	5 points	7.5 points	10 points	Observations	Score (maximum 10 points)
Collaborations with other institutions	The thesis has been done within the framework of a single research group, or the groups and/or nature of the collaborations carried out are not clearly specified	The thesis has been done within the framework of a single research group, with some co-authorship of the articles with other groups from two different institutions	The thesis has been done within the framework of a single research group, with more than two co-authorships / collaborations with other groups from two different institutions	The thesis has been done with abundant collaborations with other research groups, either in co-authorships, organization of events, dissemination events, stays, etc.		
Social impact	The thesis has a low applicability right now social	The thesis currently has a low applicability, but it may be applicable in the future with a relevant impact on society	The thesis can already be applied to problems with a real impact on society	The thesis is already being applied to problems with real impact on society		
Degree of collaborations, content and methodologies interdisciplinary	The attached document does not clarify the contribution required by the work of each of the disciplines	The thesis integrates the efforts of different researchers and some methodology and interdisciplinary perspective, but most of the contributions come from collaborators, methods and visions of the same discipline	There are collaborations involving different disciplines	To carry out the work it was essential to have collaborations between different disciplines		

Interest of the study	The subject of study has little or low interest with respect to its field of knowledge	The thesis topic has moderate interest and relevance with respect to the field of knowledge	The topic of the thesis is interesting with respect to the field of knowledge and for other areas given its interdisciplinarity	The thesis is very interesting and relevant in its field of knowledge and for other areas given its interdisciplinarity		
Publication record from the thesis	Contributions will be assessed depending on the standards associated to the field of knowledge of each thesis (articles, conferences, books, chapters,...)					
					Total Score: <i>(Maximum 50 points)</i>	