INSTITUTO DE INVESTIGACIÓN TECNOLÓGICA
Universidad Pontificia Comillas — ICAI

Senior Research Fellows Call

2026 · Open Call

The Instituto de Investigación Tecnológica (IIT) of Universidad Pontificia Comillas invites applications from outstanding researchers who have received the ERC Seal of Excellence, to join the institute as Senior Research Fellows on a tenure-track basis.

The IIT is a multidisciplinary research institute with more than 40 years of experience at the frontier of energy systems, complex networks, and computational engineering. We offer a unique environment combining rigorous academic research with close ties to industry, regulators, and European policy institutions.

1. Priority Research Areas

Applications are particularly welcome in the following areas, although outstanding candidates in adjacent fields will also be considered:

- Applied Quantum Computing — algorithms and architectures for optimization, simulation, and machine learning in engineering systems.
- Foundation Models for Physical & Engineered Systems — theory and application of large-scale models for physics-informed and engineering domains.
- Mathematics of Complexity — emergence, multiscale systems, irreversibility, and their applications to complex engineered networks.
- Computational Medicine & Disease Modelling — mathematical and AI-driven approaches to understanding disease, predicting clinical outcomes, and tailoring treatments to individual patients.
- Critical Resource & Logistics Networks — food, raw materials, energy, mobility, and supply-chain networks under stress and transition.
- Climatology, Hydrology & Atmospheric Physics — climate change impacts, resilience, and risk for infrastructure and engineered systems.
- Crop Modelling & Precision Agriculture — data-driven and mechanistic models for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Candidates with experience in exploring applications and synergies between these fields and the Institute’s existing research areas, including power and energy systems, are particularly encouraged to apply.

2. What We Offer

Tenure-Track Contract

- 5-year tenure-track contract
- Full integration into the IIT research community with access to all institute resources from day one.

Start-up Package

- Relocation allowance of up to €10’000 for researchers joining from abroad.

- Dedicated doctoral positions linked to the fellow's research programme. To be co-directed with other IIT members.
- Access to computing infrastructure, laboratory facilities, and shared technical services.
- Specific infrastructure requirements can be considered on request.

Remuneration & Benefits

- Internationally competitive salary with excellence complement above the standard academic scale.
- Access to Comillas's full benefits package (health insurance, social services).
- Up to €1.5 million may be made available, subject to the approved research plan, institutional budgeting and applicable University procedures. This amount will include salary of the candidate, research team and required infrastructure.

Research Environment

- Dedicated support from the IIT projects office for future ERC Consolidator/Advanced and Horizon Europe applications.
- Established network of collaborations with Spanish stakeholders and leading European research institutions.
- Freedom to define and lead your own research line, supervise doctoral students, and build your group, within the framework of the IIT and the University policies.
- Support for international mobility (sabbaticals, conference funding, co-supervision agreements).

3. Eligibility Criteria

- PhD in a relevant discipline with at least 5 years of post-doctoral research experience.
- Recipient of the ERC Seal of Excellence in the last 4 years, or former ERC grantee (not current grantees).
- Demonstrated record of high-impact publications in top international venues.
- Evidence of independent research leadership and capacity to attract competitive funding.
- Commitment to long-term integration into the IIT and Universidad Pontificia Comillas.

4. What we expect

- Breakthrough research proposal
- From year 2, we expect involvement in project proposals with other IIT members
- Full integration into the IIT research community application with strong collaboration with other members

5. Selection Process

The selection process will consist of three stages:

Stage	Description	Timeline
1	Eligibility screening and document review	Weeks 1–3
2	Evaluation and shortlisting	Weeks 4–7
3	Research seminar and interview at IIT	Weeks 8–10

6. How to Apply

Interested candidates should submit the following documents in a single PDF to srf@iit.comillas.edu with subject line: «Senior Fellow Application – [Surname] – [Research Area]».

- Full CV including full list of publications.
- Applications should follow the format of Part B1 and Part B2 of the application form of the specified European Research Council[1], adding a new section on how the research will be aligned with IIT research and codirection of PhD students
- ERC Seal of Excellence notification or official proof of the former ERC Grant agreement / final report approval (depending on the candidate's eligibility path)
- Names and contact details of three referees (letters may be requested at a later stage).
- Brief motivation letter (max. 1 page) explaining your interest in IIT Comillas.

Key Dates

Call opens	10 November 2026
Application deadline	10 December 2026
Notification of shortlist	20 December 2026
Interviews at IIT	January-February 2027
Notification date	February- March 2027

7. Contact & Further Information

Research Office: Instituto de Investigación Tecnológica, Universidad Pontificia Comillas
Email: info@iit.comillas.edu
Website: https://www.iit.comillas.edu/careers

IIT Comillas is committed to equal opportunity, diversity, and inclusion. We strongly encourage applications from underrepresented groups. The selection process complies with the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers (HRS4R).

8. Data Protection

The data controller of your personal data is *Universidad Pontificia Comillas* (Tax Identification Number R2800395B), with registered office at Alberto Aguilera 23, 28015 Madrid, Spain. The University has appointed a Data Protection Officer, who may be contacted at dpo@comillas.edu.

Personal data provided by applicants will be processed for the purpose of managing and evaluating applications submitted under this call, conducting the selection process and, where applicable, taking the necessary steps prior to the formalisation of an employment relationship. The legal basis for the processing is the application of pre-contractual measures requested by the data subject pursuant to Article 6(1)(b) GDPR.

Personal data may be accessed by members of the evaluation committee and authorised University personnel involved in the assessment and recruitment process. Applicants who provide personal data relating to referees or other third parties shall ensure that such persons have been informed of the disclosure of their data.

[1]Available at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/information-for-applicants_he-erc-stg-cog_en.pdf

Personal data will be retained for as long as necessary to fulfil the purposes described above and thereafter for the period required to comply with applicable legal obligations and limitation periods.

In accordance with applicable data protection legislation, applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, erasure, restriction of processing, objection and data portability by writing to Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Alberto Aguilera 23, 28015 Madrid (Spain), or by email to prodatos@comillas.edu.

Further information on the processing of personal data is available at: www.comillas.edu/es/protecciondedatos. Applicants also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Spanish Data Protection Agency (AEPD).