

Pre-Scholarship

Duration: 7 months (from October 2024 to April 2025)

The University of Barcelona School of Economics invites applications for one pre-Scholarship to work on one of the following topics:

1. Innovation concentration in the territory and income inequality
2. Gender and innovation
3. Social exclusion, social economy and the territory
4. Human development gaps and individual well-being
5. Inequality of subjective well-being and the moderating role of territorial conditions

We are seeking candidates at the pre-doctoral level interested in joining the [PhD in Economics programme at the University of Barcelona](#) in the academic year 2024-2025. Opportunities for PhD supervision are welcomed, and candidates will be assisted in applying for full scholarships to start on May 1, 2025.

The successful candidate will conduct their research assistantship within the framework of the INSPIRE project, aimed at supporting the inclusion, well-being, and growth of rural areas through multi-actor Smart Villages labs for enhanced governance frameworks. The research team comprises [Rosina Moreno](#), [Jordi López-Tamayo](#), and [Vicente Royuela](#) from the [Regional Quantitative Analysis Group \[AQR\]](#).

INSPIRE project supports sustainable and inclusive development of European rural areas by promoting social wellbeing and inclusion of rural dwellers and vulnerable groups. In particular, the project contributes to advancing in a multi-dimensional way the concept of social inclusion in rural areas, and supports the access to high-quality social services by rural citizens through a series of awarenessraising, capacity-building, and pilot deployment activities that focus on social entrepreneurship in a set of 7 different pilot territories (e.g., coastal, rural, peri-urban, mountainous). To realise its objectives, the project provides a novel territorial typology of rural areas, sets up and operationalises "Smart Village labs", and enhances governance frameworks and informed policy making through EDemocracy and user-innovation techniques, to eventually deliver a dedicated Rural Social Inclusion Policy Dashboard.

Essential skills:

- Excellent quantitative and data analysis skills for economic research
- Proficiency in Stata
- Committed and collaborative team player with the ability to work constructively and effectively with international and interdisciplinary research partners
- Able to manage their own areas of responsibility independently without constant direct supervision

- High levels of accuracy and attention to detail, along with a demonstrated ability to take responsibility for the delivery of research outputs
- Good writing skills in English
- Ability to undertake literature reviews and synthesize evidence effectively

Preferred skills (but not essential):

- Ability to work with georeferenced data and skills in GIS techniques
- Previous research on topics related to some of the proposed topics of research
- Interest and enthusiasm for carrying out research within the topics of the project

Applications

Only complete applications will be considered [Step 1 and 2]. Candidates must:

1. Complete the application to [PhD in Economics programme of the University of Barcelona](#) before **March 15, 2024**.
2. Send a letter of interest (500 words max in pdf) to school.economics@ub.edu before **March 31, 2024**, indicating your past experience, interest in the areas covered by the project, why you would be a great candidate, and what you expect to like the most and least about the position. Please use the following email subject: "INSPIRE" followed by your name and surname (for instance, "INSPIRE: Mary Black")

Email enquiries should be directed to: school.economics@ub.edu

The University of Barcelona is a leading center in southern Europe, 1st university in Spain, deeply committed to excellence in research. With a longstanding tradition in teaching, it offers a wide array of undergraduate and postgraduate degree programs in Economics and Business. Within this framework, the [UB School of Economics](#) serves as a pivotal platform for research and graduate education in Economics. [According to IDEAS](#), the UB School of Economics is ranked 107th in the world, making it a top 10% economics department.

The PhD in Economics programme has been awarded the distinction of Excellence following a comprehensive and rigorous external evaluation conducted by the Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency [AQU]. This recognition acknowledges the quality and impact of the research conducted within the framework of the PhD programme.