

YOUTH & SCIENCE PROGRAMME

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS – SUMMER 2021



INTRODUCTION TO THE PROGRAMME

The Youth & Science programme of Catalunya La Pedrera Foundation is intended to promote scientific vocations in young and talented students interested in science. It is meant to encourage their enthusiasm for pursuing scientific research and careers in science. The programme is an opportunity for the participants to learn about the essence of scientific activity and to work very closely with researchers who are involved in first-rate research.

Every year, 50 students from more than 800 applications are selected to become part of this three-year programme, which has a three-part structure that includes:

1st YEAR **MONNATURA PIRINEUS SCIENCE CAMP (PHASE 1):** 50 students in their final year of compulsory secondary education (10th grade) are chosen to participate in a unique scientific research experience at the MónNatura Pirineus centre www.monnaturapirineus.com. The 50 students participate in one of the 5 projects offered in this phase (10 students per project).

The students must write a scientific article during the first term of 11th grade to be part of the second phase of the programme. The quality of this work will be determining to obtain a place in the next phase of the programme.

2nd YEAR **RESEARCH CENTER STAY (PHASE 2):** the students selected the previous year are given the opportunity to work in a real scientific environment during summer by working in a project at a local research centre. Students choose a project to work on during summer among the ones offered in this phase.

3rd YEAR **INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STAY (PHASE 3):** this is the final phase of the programme, where students are given the opportunity to work during summer at an international research centre, or to participate in an international science programme. The participants can create their own scientific experience looking for or developing a research project that suits their interests or choosing an international project or science programme to work on during summer among the ones offered in this phase.

DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS – PHASE 2-3

RESEARCH CENTER STAY AND INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH STAY

The Youth & Science programme opens this call to all local and international research centres wishing to host one or more students of the programme to do a stay in one of their laboratories in the framework of the second or third phase of the programme (“Research Centre Stay” and the “International Research Stay”, respectively) durant 2021. The students join a scientific research team to conduct hands-on and cutting-edge research in an international scientific environment.

Students that are in the second phase of the programme (11th grade, 16-17 years old) will be candidates to apply for the places in the local centres that enter this call. This group of participants had already the opportunity to work in scientific research during the first phase of the programme (at the “MónNatura Pirineus Science Camp”), and the aim of this second phase is to maintain their motivation for science by offering them experiences in a more real environment: in local research centres.

Students that are in the third phase of the programme (12th grade, 17-18 years old) will be candidates to apply for the places in the international centres that enter this call. This group of participants have more experience, since all of them have already done a stay in a local research centre. The aim of this phase is to give them the opportunity to work in an international research environment and get to know scientific teams from other parts of the world, with different ways of working.

In order to be able to adapt the stays to students’ school hours, the stays should be held during the **summer of 2021**, from the end of June ending the school to the beginning of September, for a period from two to four weeks, approximately.

PROJECT PROPOSALS PRESENTATION

The project proposals presented by the different research centres should include:

1. Name of the research centre (include a link to the institution’s website).
2. Laboratory or research group from where the research stay is proposed.
3. Internship starting and ending dates, in which the student/s could do the stay (period from two to four weeks, approximately).
4. Number of students that could be hosted.
5. Contact details of the researcher/s in charge of the project.
6. Title of the project.

7. Brief description of the research project (such as an *abstract*).
8. Type of tasks performed by the student/s during the stay (experimental work, theoretical study, participation in conferences and/or debates, etc.).
9. Knowledge acquired by the student/s at the end of the stay.
10. Specific skills required by the student/s interested in the project or recommended readings (if applicable).
11. Budget for the economic support of the students stay: the material to be used by the student/s, if necessary (maximum budget: 500€ per hosted student).

DEADLINE

All proposals should be received by **January 13th, 2021** to the following email address: jovesciencia@fcatalunyalapedrera.com.