



Announcement of the European research grants Charles V European Award-José Manuel Durão Barroso promoted by the European Academy of Yuste Foundation

The Regional Minister for Education and Culture, Trinidad Nogales, along with the Director General for External Action and Director of the European Academy of Yuste Foundation, Enrique Barrasa, announced the European Research and Mobility Grants for European Studies. This year the grant scheme is called Charles V European Award-José Manuel Durão Barroso and the research theme will be "History, memory and the European integration from the point of view of EU's transatlantic relations".

The current president of the European Commission, José Manuel Durão Barroso will be presented with the Charles V European Award next 16th January at a ceremony held at the Royal Monastery of Yuste. He chose the research subject himself and notified it in a communication where he also supported the grant scheme.

The grants come with a monetary award of 3,000 Euro for the selected researchers, but they also involve the organization of a Doctoral Seminar of Multidisciplinary Studies on Contemporary Europe, to be held at the Royal Monastery of Yuste, as well as the publication of the papers by the scientific publishing house Peter Lang, in collaboration with SEGEI Network and the Jean Monnet Chair of Contemporary European History at the Catholic University of Leuven. Also, the selected researchers become part of the Network 'Alumni of Yuste', in which they continue to collaborate with open lines of work.

10 grants are awarded in each edition; one of them is reserved for researchers coming from Extremadura.

These grants are intended for PhD students all over Europe, specifically for European researchers who are preparing a doctoral thesis related to the European construction and integration process, in history, political science, economics, law and other disciplines of the social and human sciences, or other branches related to the theme proposed.

UPCOMING DATES AND DEADLINES

Within two months the terms of the call for applications will be ready. A team of experts from different European universities are working on it. These Universities include the Sorbonne University in Paris, the University of Cologne, the Catholic University of Leuven, the Robert Schumann European University Institute in Strasbourg and the Universities of Salamanca and Extremadura in collaboration with the European Academy of Yuste Foundation.

The publication of the terms of the call for applications in the Official Journal of Extremadura, as well as its diffusion, is expected by March. Over a period of two months, March and April, applications may be submitted, and the jury shall be composed; after the deadline, the jury will examine the papers (between May and June), deliberate and announce its decision on a public event expected to take place in July.

After this process, the selected group of young researchers will be informed so that they can begin their specific research, which they will coordinate with a group of experts. Finally, the grant holders will present their work in the Doctoral Seminar of Multidisciplinary Studies on Contemporary Europe, which will be held in the last quarter of 2014. It has an average duration of three days and it is open for discussion with the grant holders and the experts on the presented papers and new perspectives, it will be possible to clarify doubts and deepen the analysis on the subject of study.

The research and findings of this doctoral seminar will be published. The Charles V European Award winner of each edition is responsible for choosing the topic of the grants.

Enrique Barrasa said that some of the topics chosen on previous editions include 'Relations between Europe and Russia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries', 'Portugal and Spain in the twentieth-century Europe', 'Times of change: Germany in Europe in the twentieth century', 'Memory and Identity in the Mediterranean: EU's external relations and policies and the cooperation with the Mediterranean', to name but a few, "no doubt that all these subjects had at the time a great relevance in Europe, some of them are part of current political debates, which enhances the value of the research conducted at the time; the results are available in their respective publications".

A WORD FROM DURÃO BARROSO

The European leader justified his choice of research topic with the aim of addressing European Union relations with America in its broadest sense, which deals with trade and exchange, academic and cultural arrangements, not to mention the historical ties between countries of the old continent and the American territory as a whole: Spain and Latin America, Portugal and Brazil or the U.S. and England, France and Canada and so on.

According to Barroso, "the study and research of contemporary relations could help to better understand the progress made in recent years, to identify opportunities for improvement and provide guidance to improve agreements and future relations between the two continents". "This line of work, which also connects to the opening of Extremadura to the outside world, will also support European PhD students who are currently conducting their research in the various countries of the American continent" concluded Barroso in the communication he sent to the Government Extremadura.

GRANTS FOR THE EUROPEAN CONSTRUCTION

As Trinidad Nogales stated, 60 grants have already been awarded in the eight previous editions to researchers from different European countries and even from some non-European ones such as Brazil. The grants are aimed at supporting researchers, their mobility for documentary research in European countries and the dissemination of research results on European themes. "Extremadura will be the center of attention at European level not only on 16th January, with the ceremony of the Charles V European Award, but also with these grants, they turn Extremadura into the epicenter of research and European integration during this year", the Regional Minister stressed.

Meanwhile, Barrasa noted that this is the ninth edition of a grant scheme that helps build "a stronger European Union from Extremadura".