



European Doctoral Day – UPC

May 13, 2026

«Scientific Perspectives: Research in Images»

Agreement of the Standing Committee CP/2026/01/08

Date of approval: January 27, 2026

Terms of the Call

1. Purpose and Objective of the Photography Contest

The Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – BarcelonaTech (UPC), through its Doctoral School, announces the first research photography contest. “**Scientific Perspectives: Research in Images**”, within the framework of the European Doctoral Day, which will be held on May 13, 2026.

The contest is open to doctoral candidates from any discipline and aims to give visibility to the scientific and doctoral research carried out at the UPC, to highlight doctoral training in Europe, and to strengthen the social appeal of research and scientific careers.

The objective is to capture research in action, combining scientific rigor, creativity, and visual impact with a clear outreach focus. All participating photographs will be published on the Doctoral School’s website, and the five winning photographs will also be permanently exhibited at the Doctoral School.

The contest is carried out in two phases:

1. Selection of Winning Photographs: Five photographs, one for each thematic area:

- Architecture, Urbanism, and Building
- Sciences
- Civil and Environmental Engineering
- Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Engineering
- Industrial Engineering

2. Dissemination and Permanent Exhibition: The five winning photographs will be published on the Doctoral School's website and will be permanently exhibited at the Doctoral School. An award ceremony will be held for the presentation of diplomas, with the participation of the authors

The call, the participation process, and the dissemination of results will be centralized on the UPC Doctoral School's website.

2. Participation Requirements for Candidates

Individuals who meet all the following requirements may participate in the contest:

- Be a doctoral candidate at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya – BarcelonaTech (UPC), with active enrolment and payment of the corresponding academic supervision fees for the 2025–2026 academic year.
- Not have defended their doctoral thesis at the time of submitting the contest participation application.

3. Participation Guidelines

3.1. Content and Authorship of the Photographs

The submitted photographs must meet the following requirements:

- Participation may be individual or collective. In any case, each participant may appear in only one photograph submitted to the contest.
- Ensure that the submitted images do not contain confidential data, content, or information related to the research, and do not violate current regulations on confidentiality, data protection, or intellectual property.
- Depict real research results, objects, processes, or phenomena related to a doctoral line, project, or activity carried out at the UPC (for example: microscope images, cells, materials, structures, natural phenomena, fieldwork, simulations, astronomical observations, among others).
- Be original and captured by the participant or participants themselves.
- Not include personal images or content unrelated to the scientific or research field.
- Not be subject to third-party copyrights or any type of usage restrictions.

If identifiable people appear in the photographs, the participant must have the express written consent of the individuals depicted for the capture and use of their image, including public and institutional dissemination without time limitation, within the framework of the contest.

Any liability arising from failure to comply with this requirement shall rest solely with the participant, in accordance with current regulations.

3.2. File Format and Quality

Photographs must be submitted in compliance with the following technical requirements:

- **File format:** JPG
- **Minimum Resolution:** 300 ppp (dpi)
- **Minimum dimensions:** minimum long side of 3,000 pixels
- **Colour:** RGB or grayscale
- **Quality:** without excessive compression, watermarks, or superimposed elements
- **Editing:** Basic adjustments (cropping, contrast, brightness, and colour) are allowed, provided the scientific accuracy of the image is not altered.

The images must be suitable for large-format printing. The organization may request the original file or a higher-quality version if selected, and may exclude photographs that do not meet the minimum technical requirements or do not allow proper printing or exhibition.

4. Call Schedule

Publication of the Call	February 6, 2026
Deadline for Photograph Submission	From 02/06/2026 to 04/06/2026
Review of Applications	From April 7 to April 13, 2026
Selection by the Jury of the Winning Photograph for Each Thematic Area	From April 14 to April 30, 2026
Publication of All Participating Photographs on the Doctoral School Website and Announcement of the Winners	May 5, 2026
Inauguration of the Permanent Exhibition of the Five Winning Photographs, organized by the Doctoral School (Nexus II Building North Campus), with the awarding of diplomas to the winners by the Director of the Doctoral School.	May 13, 2026

5. Submission of Applications

Photographs must be submitted exclusively through the contest registration form available on the UPC Doctoral School website.

Each participant must provide the following information via the registration form:

- Full name
- UPC email address
- Doctoral Program to which they are enrolled
- ID card or passport
- Thematic area of affiliation (Architecture, Urbanism, and Building; Sciences; Civil and Environmental Engineering; Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Engineering; Industrial Engineering)
- Title of the photograph
- Explanatory text in Catalan, Spanish, or English (maximum 100 words). The organization may translate the content for institutional dissemination purposes.
- Express acceptance of these rules and legal conditions

This information will be mandatorily used for public dissemination, exhibition, and publication of the photographs, on any medium used by the organization.

6. Admission Procedure

All photographs submitted through the contest registration form and meeting the requirements established in these rules will be automatically accepted. The exclusive use of the form constitutes the valid method of registration; no individual confirmation or notification of acceptance will be provided to participants.

Once the submission period has ended, no additional registrations or modifications to the photographs will be accepted.

Participants may withdraw their photograph from the contest until the submission deadline by sending a request via email to escola.doctorat@upc.edu.

The organization may exclude from the contest any photographs that do not comply with the rules, contain offensive or discriminatory content, contravene the values of the UPC, or may harm the University's institutional image.

The contest organization reserves the right to make changes or amendments to this admission procedure if deemed necessary, without affecting the rights that participants may be entitled to under applicable regulations.

7. Jury and Evaluation Criteria

7.1. Jury

The contest jury will be appointed exclusively by the UPC Doctoral School and will consist of between 3 and 7 members, who may be students, doctoral candidates, faculty (PDI), or technical-administrative staff (PTGAS). At least two members must belong to the Doctoral School's Standing Committee. The composition of the jury will not be published.

Participants in the contest and the thesis supervisors of participants may not serve on the jury.

The jury evaluation session will take place between April 14 and April 30, 2026.

A secretary will be appointed to prepare an official record with the names of the five winning photographs (one per thematic area), which will be submitted to the Doctoral School within the established timeframe.

The jury's decisions are final and binding. The Doctoral School reserves the right to modify the jury composition or evaluation procedure if deemed necessary, without prior notice and without the possibility of appeals from participants.

7.2. Evaluation Criteria

The jury will evaluate the photographs according to the following criteria:

- Scientific quality and relevance of the content
- Outreach potential
- Technical and aesthetic quality
- Originality
- Alignment with the objectives of the European Doctoral Day

8. Resolution, Awards, and Exhibition

The five winning photographs will receive a **cash prize of €100 each**, intended preferably to contribute to the cost of a subscription to scientific image-editing software for the doctoral thesis, without this use being mandatory. In addition, the winning participants will receive an accreditation diploma and

institutional dissemination of their work under the terms established in these regulations.

along with the names of the authors, will be shared according to the schedule set in the call, through the UPC Doctoral School website, and may also be published on UPC's institutional channels and social media.

The results of the contest, indicating the winning photographs (one per thematic area), will also be published on the Doctoral School website. Winners will be invited to the inauguration of the permanent exhibition of the five winning photographs, organized by the Doctoral School on May 13 (Nexus II Building – North Campus), where the corresponding certificates will also be awarded.

The Doctoral School reserves the right to suspend or modify the contest due to force majeure or unforeseen circumstances that justify it.

Participants agree that their photographs may be used for institutional purposes and UPC promotion, always with credit given to the author.

9. Legal Regulations

9.1. Intellectual Property and Usage Rights

Participants declare that they are the creators of the submitted photographs and retain full intellectual property rights over them at all times. Participation in the contest entails the free, non-exclusive, worldwide, and indefinite transfer to the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC) of the rights of reproduction, distribution, public communication, and transformation strictly necessary for adaptation to different formats, for institutional, outreach, and promotional purposes related to the contest or UPC itself, always with explicit credit to the author.

This transfer does not entitle the author to any form of remuneration

9.2. Liability

Participants guarantee that the submitted works are original, unpublished, have not been awarded in other incompatible contests, and do not infringe intellectual, industrial, or image rights, or any other rights of third parties, and do not violate applicable regulations.

The participant assumes full responsibility for any claims arising from the breach of these guarantees and expressly releases UPC from any related liability.

9.3. Personal Data Protection

The personal data provided by participants will be processed by the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya solely for the purpose of managing the contest, communicating the results, and carrying out related dissemination activities, in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Council (GDPR) and applicable national data protection laws. Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, deletion, objection, restriction of processing, and data portability through the official UPC channels.

9.4. Acceptance of the Rules

Participation in the contest implies full and unconditional acceptance of these rules.

UPC reserves the right to interpret them, make justified modifications, resolve any unforeseen situations, and declare the contest void if deemed appropriate.

9.5. Applicable Legislation

These rules are governed by the current Spanish legislation. Any dispute arising in relation to their interpretation or application will be submitted to the courts of the city of Barcelona, with express waiver of any other jurisdiction that may apply.