

SRUK/Bizkaia:Talent Young Basque Investigator Award

The Society of Spanish Scientists in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU) announces the first edition of the “SRUK/Bizkaia:Talent Young Basque Investigator Award”. **This award aims at recognizing and supporting the professional career of a young Spanish researcher linked to the Basque Autonomous Community who carries out his/her research activity in the United Kingdom.**

This award is sponsored by Bizkaia:talent and is framed within their line of action involving the recognition of the international professional career of highly-qualified young Basques and in this case the aim is to give young scientists the opportunity to do research in the most innovative areas of the sector through fellowships and special programmes.

Financial award: There will be three awards: one amounting to 5,000 Euros and another two amounting to 1,000 Euros each. This sum must cover any aspect which helps to develop the research career of the winner.

Requirements of the candidates: To be eligible, candidates must fulfil the following requirements:

1. Being a regular member of SRUK/CERU and up to date with the payment of the appropriate fee. Memberships regularized on the date this application is submitted will also be considered.
2. Providing evidence of research activity in the field of Natural Sciences, Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences.
3. Having Spanish nationality and having carried out research work in the UK for at least 1 year.
4. Being born in the Basque Autonomous Community or having been registered in any municipality of said Community for at least two years before the application is sent. In the case of registration in the Basque Autonomous Community, evidence must be given of having lived in the UK for at least one year.

Should the researcher be registered in the British Consulate, he/she must have been born in the Basque Autonomous Community.
5. Being younger than 40 years of age.
6. Holding a Bachelor's/Engineering degree or an equivalent academic degree.
7. Holding a position of master, doctorate or post-doctorate and having no more than 5 years of postdoctoral experience on the date the call is closed. Interruptions in the research career due to maternity, paternity and adoption leaves will count as a 12-month extension period per child. Similarly, interruptions due to sickness or to taking care of a third party will be taken into account when calculating the years of postdoctoral experience (the appropriate supporting documents must be submitted)
8. Not having received this award on previous occasions.

Submission deadline: Submission of applications will be open until 31 May 2017.

Required documents: All candidates must register and provide the required information regarding their profile through the following link:
<https://extranet.bizkaia talent.org/profesionals/register.php>

1. Copy of Identity Card and certificate of registration in the Basque Autonomous Community or certificate of residence/work in the UK, where appropriate.
2. Research memory explaining the most relevant achievements in his/her research career (maximum 2 A4 pages, single line spacing, Arial font, size 11 and 2 cm margin).
3. Motivation letter (maximum 1 A4 page, single line spacing, Arial font, size 11 and 2 cm margin) explaining where the financial award will be invested and how it will help develop the applicant's research career.
Proposals which state that the winner will use this financial award to promote international relations among research groups from the United Kingdom and the Basque Autonomous Community, including mobility and exchange of knowledge, will be given special consideration.
4. Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages) via <https://extranet.bizkaia talent.org/profesionals/register.php>.
5. A reference letter from a senior researcher in the candidate's area of research supporting his/her application.
6. In the event that the financial award is requested for a mobility stay in a research centre, it will be necessary to provide the letter of admission.
7. In the event that the financial award is requested to attend a conference, the appropriate registration must be provided.

Evaluation: The applications will be evaluated by the Scientific Committee of SRUK/CERU and the award will be decided on by a mixed jury made up of members of the Board of Directors of SRUK/CERU and representatives of Bizkaia:talent. The evaluation will take into account the following criteria:

1. Quality of the applicant (researcher's CV and experience, up to 30 points out of 100). The CV will be assessed in accordance with the applicant's level of experience.
2. Research memory (up to 30 points out of 100). The memory will be assessed in accordance with the applicant's level of experience. Proposals which include mobility between the United Kingdom and the Basque Country will be given special consideration.
3. Motivation letter (up to 40 points out of 100) explaining what the award will be used for. Proposals which state mobility between the United Kingdom and the Basque Country will be given special consideration.

Award procedure: The award will be based on merit and will be given to the applications which have obtained the highest score among those which were submitted in time.

In the event of a tie between two or more applicants, women's participation will be an asset. All in all, in case of ties, priority will be given to:

1. Female applicants.
2. Participation of female researchers in the activities described in the motivation letter.
3. CV.
4. Research Memory.
5. Motivation letter + Relationship with the Basque Country.
6. Letter of Reference.

Bizkaia:talent and CERU may decide to cancel the award due to:

- lack of applicants; and/or
- applications not fulfilling the expectations and objectives of the Association and the Society.

Complaints: Should there be any complaints by the candidates, they will have 7 days as from the reception of the result of their application to bring an appeal.

If a candidate considers there have been any deficiencies during the evaluation process, an appeal committee made up of two external evaluators will be established. Should an error be observed, the whole or a part of the proposal will be re-evaluated.

Decision and Award Ceremony: The researchers who have won the “SRUK/Bizkaia:Talent Young Basque Investigator Award” will be notified in July 2017. The award will be given in September 2017 in Bilbao within the Science+ meeting. Travel and accommodation expenses¹ for the winners to attend the award ceremony will be covered.

Award cancellation: If the applicant did not fulfil the requirements established herein at the time when the award was given or a condition or requirement which would have made him/her ineligible for the award has occurred.

For further information, candidates may contact basquetalentawards@bizkaitalent.eus for any enquiries related to the platform and the application submission process and awards@sruk.org.uk for general and specific issues related to the call.

¹ Bizkaia:talent will cover travel expenses from the United Kingdom to Bizkaia, as well as accommodation for one night if necessary.

- Eligible means of transport: bus, train, plane.
- Travel: Round trip from the city of origin to destination (expenses within the province will not be funded).

Bizkaia:talent may arrange travel and accommodation whenever necessary.

Should the winner arrange travel and accommodation directly he/she will require the prior authorization of Bizkaia:talent. In this case, the payment of the expenses will be made after the presentation of the appropriate supporting documents and a copy of the tickets/hotel voucher.