



*Pau Casals UNESCO Chair
Research Grants* —
2025 —

FUNDACIÓ
Pau Casals

UOC Universitat Oberta
de Catalunya



unesco
Chair



PABLO CASALS

Pablo Casals (El Vendrell, 1876 - San Juan de Puerto Rico, 1973) was one of the most influential musicians of the 20th century. As a performer, his innovation in bowing technique and fingering made him the first virtuoso of the modern cello, positioning it as a solo instrument. As a conductor, Casals matched his genius as a cellist. His gestures followed the musical phrase and had a natural beauty that no school is capable of teaching. His aim went beyond technical perfection and his intention was to communicate the strength inherent to the music. Apart from the Pau Casals Orchestra, he conducted numerous international orchestras. As a composer, he wrote the oratorio *El Pessebre*, the Hymn to the United Nations and the cello arrangement of *El Cant dels ocells*.

Throughout his life, Pablo Casals used music to foment the ideals of peace, justice and freedom. In 1917 he refused to play in Soviet Russia and a few years later, in 1933, he refused to play in Hitler's Germany. From exile he helped thousands of refugees from the Spanish Civil War and in the Second World War he intensified his commitment and his benefit concerts for the victims. In 1946 he refused to play in the Allied countries because of their tolerance towards General Franco's regime, and began a long musical silence. In the late fifties, Pablo Casals extended the scope of his fight against Franco and dictatorships to the achievement of world peace. His concern for the nuclear threat in the Cold War era strengthened his faith in world governance: the United Nations Organization, to which he was invited on three occasions. This attitude earned him, among others, the JF Kennedy Medal of Freedom, the United Nations Peace Medal and a nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize.

[Learn more about Pablo Casals](#)

1. PRESENTATION

1.1 Pau Casals UNESCO Chair

The Pau Casals UNESCO Chair is a project created in 2022 in conjunction between the [Universitat Oberta de Catalunya \(UOC\)](#) and the [Pau Casals Foundation](#) with the aim of promoting contemporary research, knowledge, dissemination and debate on the musical and humanistic dimension of Pablo Casals and his extraordinary legacy, as well as the values he defended throughout his life. A Chair to promote the commitment of culture and music to the major problems of today's society, to bring together people, researchers and artists. A space for reflection and research on the role of music in intercultural dialogue and institutions that defend human rights and multilateralism for a better world.

[Learn more about the Chair](#)

"Music, this wonderful universal language, should be a source of communication between all men."
Pablo Casals

1.2 Objectives of the grants

In 2025 the third call of the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair Research Grants is open for research projects in the following areas:

- I. The musical legacy of Pablo Casals, as a performer, conductor, composer and teacher.
- II. The humanistic legacy of Pablo Casals and the contemporary interpretation of the peace, democracy and human rights defence.
- III. Culture for the peace, human rights, democracy and social justice in the contemporary world.
- IV. The role of music and culture as a fundamental intangible heritage for social cohesion, multicultural dialogue, and conflict prevention according with the 2030 Sustainable Development Strategy.

The grants are not restricted to the figure of Pablo Casals but are open to any topics related to his musical career and the values that the musician defended throughout his life, such as human rights, the culture of peace, international justice or the role of music and culture in conflict prevention and social cohesion.

The Pau Casals UNESCO Chair presents a series of suggested research topics that can be consulted in the Annex, but these are by no means exclusive or restrictive. Candidates are welcome to submit their own proposals.

1.3 Calendar of the call for applications

Period for submission of applications: from **February 3, 2025** at 10:00 am, to **April 3, 2025** at 11:59 pm.

Notification of the selection committee decision to all applicants: **before May 13, 2025**.

Those who are selected as beneficiaries must submit their final research results before **May 3, 2026**.

2. REQUIREMENTS AND REGISTRATION

2.1 Who can apply? What should the proposals be like?

Individuals and proposals that meet the following conditions are eligible for the **Pau Casals UNESCO Chair Research Grants 2025**:

- ✓ Being of legal age at the time of submitting the application.
- ✓ Candidacies of any nationality are accepted.
- ✓ Research proposals must be at an early stage of development, i.e. not yet fully developed, and must be related to the objectives described in section 1.2. The project will be developed once the grant is awarded.
- ✓ Both the applications and the projects of the grantees must be submitted in Catalan, Spanish or English.
- ✓ The research project must be necessarily linked to a university, higher education institution or research group.
- ✓ Applications related to undergraduate final works, master's or postgraduate final projects, works associated with a doctoral thesis, or any research related to the subject of this call can be submitted.

2.2 Incompatibilities

Projects already awarded in other calls are excluded from this call.

Projects already developed and completed at the time of opening of the call are excluded from this call.

2.3 How can you apply? What documentation is required?

Applications can only be submitted online using the form available on the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair website: [FORM](#)

Applicants must submit a research project proposal.

Those who are awarded must develop the project and submit it **before May 3, 2026**.

The required data and documentation to be submitted are:

Personal information

- ✓ Copy of passport or ID card if you are a citizen of the European Union.
- ✓ Personal, contact and notification details: Full name(s) and surname(s). Date of birth. City of birth. Country of birth. Nationality. Town and country of current place of residence. Contact e-mail address. Mobile phone number.

Academic Information

- ✓ Current study or research institution
- ✓ Undergraduate studies or diploma studies (degree and university)
- ✓ Master's or postgraduate studies (degree and university), if applicable
- ✓ Doctoral thesis (degree and university), if applicable
- ✓ Research projects carried out, if applicable
- ✓ Future academic and/or research project

Research proposal

- ✓ Title
- ✓ Objectives
- ✓ Methodology
- ✓ Bibliography and documentation

Documentation

- ✓ Summarised academic and professional curriculum vitae (maximum 1 page).
- ✓ A cover letter from the candidate stating his/her motivation for undertaking the submitted research project (maximum 1 page).
- ✓ Description and justification of the research project (maximum 1 page).
- ✓ Possible complementary documentation (not mandatory): reports from teachers or other researchers.

Candidates must submit all **documentation in a single digital file (PDF)**, which must be uploaded to the appropriate space in the application form. You can access the registration form through the following link on the call's website: [CALL](#)

The organisation reserves the right to call the applicants for an interview prior to the awarding of the grants.

3. SELECTION COMMITTEE AND CRITERIA

3.1 Selection Committee

A selection committee will evaluate the submitted applications in accordance with the assessment criteria outlined in these guidelines and will draw up the respective report. The members of the selection committee will be appointed by the management of the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair, which will ensure that there are representatives from the following fields: musicology, history and art history, peace and human rights, and law.

3.2 Criteria for selection of proposals

The selection committee will choose the research proposals according to the following criteria:

- ✓ Suitability of the topic with the objectives of the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair.
- ✓ Originality and innovation of the topic. Priority will be given to those topics that have not been sufficiently researched and/or have few publications.
- ✓ Specificity of the topic and objectives to be achieved.
- ✓ Planned research methodology.
- ✓ Potential and scope of the research topic according to the existing bibliography and documentation. Priority will be given to topics that allow for research based on the Pau Casals Collection located at the National Archive of Catalonia.
- ✓ Profile and motivation of the candidate.
- ✓ Publication prospects.



4. GRANT PAYMENT

The grants consist of a non-proportional financial endowment to the expenses. Each grantee will receive the **amount of €2,000 for each of the works presented**. This amount will be paid once the research project is submitted within the established deadline and in a single payment.

The payment is entirely subject to the submission of the research project within the established deadline.

In addition to the financial aid, the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair offers:

- ✓ Support and assistance in the development of the project by the selection committee, the Pau Casals Foundation team and the UOC team.
- ✓ Dissemination and publication of the project through the communication media of the Chair, the Pau Casals Foundation and the UOC. These include websites, social media, newsletters and press releases.
- ✓ Access to the Pau Casals Collection located at the National Archive of Catalonia.
- ✓ Publication of the research work in the form of digital publication within the “Papers of the Chair” collection accessible online on the Chair’s website with the possibility of publishing it on the websites of the Pau Casals Foundation and the UOC.
- ✓ Support and advice on potential publications of the research.

5. OPERATION

5.1 Verification, notifications and acceptance

All candidates will receive a confirmation e-mail notifying that the required documentation has been received.

The selection committee (see section 3.1) will propose a list of awards in order of rating. The grants will be awarded to the applicants with the highest scores.

Once the period of proposal submission is over and before May 13, 2025, all candidates will receive an e-mail notification informing them whether their proposal has been selected or not.

Once the grant has been awarded, a written letter of acceptance must be submitted within fifteen (15) natural days. The Chair will provide this acceptance letter to the grantees, outlining the conditions. Failure to submit the acceptance letter within the established deadline will be considered as a resignation and the next candidate will be notified.

The decision of the committee will be final.

All communications will be made in Catalan, Spanish or English.

The organisation reserves the right to call applicants for an interview prior to the awarding of the grants.

5.2 Initial meeting and possible award ceremony

A monitoring commission will be established, consisting of those members of the selection committee most closely linked to the research topics funded by the grants.

Once the grants are accepted, the grantees will be called to a meeting (to be specified whether in-person or online) with the monitoring commission in order to initiate the project with the utmost guarantees. The purpose of this meeting is to offer guidance and support to the grantees by the commission.

The Chair reserves the right to organise a possible grant award ceremony.

5.3 Follow-up

The grantees will be required to submit a mid-term progress report on the research project. This report must be submitted during the month of **September 2025**.

The report will consist of a maximum of five (5) pages and must include at least the following information:

- ✓ Executive summary
- ✓ Structure
- ✓ Encountered difficulties
- ✓ Bibliographical and archival sources consulted
- ✓ Any other relevant documentation

Once the report is submitted, the grantees will meet (in-person or online) with the monitoring commission, which will provide advice and support to continue developing the project.

The organisation reserves the right to request a second follow-up report and a second meeting.

5.4 Delivery and publication

Within the established deadline in section 1.3, the grantees must submit their research project via e-mail to: coordinacio@paucasals.org. They must also deliver a printed copy.

The monitoring commission will verify that there are no obvious cases of plagiarism, and that the submitted works are original and properly completed. If obvious cases of plagiarism are detected or if the works are incomplete, the grants may be revoked. Otherwise, the grantees will receive the amount of €2,000 within thirty (30) natural days in a single payment.

The works will be published in the form of a digital publication within the “Papers of the Chair” collection accessible online through the Chair’s website with the possibility of them also appearing on the websites of the Pau Casals Foundation and the UOC. In addition, the official publication, of an academic nature, will have an ISBN number and a Legal Deposit number.

5.5 Grantee obligations

The grantees have the following obligations:

- ✓ To submit a duly signed written acceptance within fifteen (15) natural days from the notification of the award. The acceptance will establish the conditions.
- ✓ To attend the initial meeting (section 5.2) and the follow-up meeting (section 5.3). If the grantees do not reside in Catalonia, the possibility of holding the meetings online will be offered.
- ✓ To attend a possible award ceremony.
- ✓ To submit a mid-term progress report in accordance with section 5.3.
- ✓ To submit duly completed and original work within the deadline established in section 1.3. If the selection committee detects clear plagiarism at any time, the grant will be revoked.
- ✓ To publish the work on the Chair's website, with the possibility of also being published on the Foundation and UOC websites.

- ✓ To state in the final version of the work, in all the publications, and in the dissemination of the research that may arise, that the project was made possible by the obtention of a Research Grant from the UNESCO Chair Pau Casals 2025.

6. LEGALITY AND DATA PROCESSING

Participants will retain the intellectual property rights of all their projects.

All data provided by the candidates in the registration form will be for the exclusive use of the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair for the Chair Research Grants.

Individuals and entities that will have access to this data:

- Selection and monitoring commissions
- Press
- Technical team of the Pau Casals UNESCO Chair

By accepting the award of the grants, the grantees also agree to the publication of their name and their research work in the communication media of the Chair, the Pau Casals Foundation and the UOC.

Participants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, opposition, deletion, limitation and portability regarding the personal data provided as a result of the call by sending an e-mail to: fundacio@paucasals.org

ANNEX. Suggested topics (not exclusive)

The following are some suggestions for research topics. It's important to note that these topics are not exclusive, and candidates are encouraged to propose their own topics. It should be noted that the grants are not restricted to the figure of Pablo Casals but are open to topics related to the values that the musician defended throughout his life, such as human rights, culture of peace, international justice or the role of music and culture in conflict prevention and social cohesion (see section 1.2).

- ✓ The cello playing technique of Pablo Casals and its influence on the 20th century cellists.
- ✓ The personal and musical influences of Pablo Casals during his learning and musical training years.

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- ✓ Pablo Casals' great career as a performer. From 1895 to 1936. Repertoire and concert schedule.
 - ✓ Casals and orchestral conducting.
 - ✓ The Pau Casals Orchestra. Repertoire and world premieres.
 - ✓ Casals and the foundations of his musical thought, from Bergson to inspiration from nature. His philosophy of life and music.
 - ✓ Pablo Casals' relationship with other artists and creators.
 - ✓ Pablo Casals' relationship with the great musicians of his time.
 - ✓ Pablo Casals as a Maestro. Masterclasses in Prada, Zermatt, Berkeley, Marlboro, Puerto Rico.
 - ✓ Casals' relationships with composers of his time; the works dedicated to him, those he inspired, the evolution of his stance on contemporary music, relationships with certain composers (Schönberg, Tovey, Moor).
 - ✓ Reasoned repertoire as a cellist and as a conductor.
 - ✓ Casals as an inspirer. His influence on young musicians of his time.
 - ✓ Pau Casals, the Republic, and the Spanish Civil War.
 - ✓ The exile of Pablo Casals and World War II.
 - ✓ Casals' relations with the Republican Government while in exile.
 - ✓ Casals and England. Before and after World War II. 1945. Beginning of the musical silence.
 - ✓ The Prades Festival (1950-1966). Inception, relationships with musicians, programs and recordings.
 - ✓ Casals and the United States, after 1945; American support for the Prades Festival and relations with American presidents (Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, and Johnson).

- ✓ Pablo Casals and Puerto Rico. Relations with Governor Luís Muñoz Marín and the musical resurgence of the island.
- ✓ Significant contacts with intellectuals, scientists, artists and politicians of his time.
- ✓ Pablo Casals and United Nations.
- ✓ The Oratorio El Pessebre. From a Christmas poem to an Oratorio for Peace.

WHERE CAN YOU FIND US?

If you wish to contact us at any time during the process, you can reach us at:

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<https://www.catedra.paucasals.eu/>



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The Pau Casals UNESCO Chair is a project of:



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