

Practical Guide for foreign researchers in the Valencia Region

The Valencian Science-Technology-Enterprise System



In the course of history, various factors (demography, size and geographic situation, natural resources, industrialisation, provision of public capital and investment in human resources through education) have fostered the progress of nations. At the present time, in addition to the foregoing, Research & Innovation represents a dynamic factor in the economic growth and enhanced competitiveness of a territory, i.e. the capacity to generate and to assimilate new knowledge, turning this into technological developments that affect production processes and their diversity, thus generating socio-economic development that leads to greater well-being.

● The **Valencia Region's government (Generalitat Valenciana)** is fully aware of the need to foster science and technology in our Region, with a view to bring the average level of public and private investment closer to that of the most advanced regions in the rest of Spain and Europe. For this, taking as reference the actions foreseen in national and European frames, it has been decided to reinforce the Valencian Science-Technology-Enterprise System (SVCTE) through [Spanish law 2/2009, of 14 April of the Generalitat Valenciana on the coordination of the Valencian Science-Technology-Enterprise System](#) as an effective instrument for increasing the standards of its own research and for the incorporation and training of researchers in the institutions of our Region.

Nowadays, the authority related to Science and University is held by the [Conselleria de Educaci3n, Investigaci3n, Cultura y Deporte](#) (Department of Education, Research, Culture and Sport) and issues related to innovation are developed by the [Conselleria de Economía Sostenible, Sectores Productivos, Comercio y Trabajo](#) (Department of Sustainable Economy, Productive Sector, Trade and Labour).

The Autonomic Secretariat for Education and Research of the Conselleria de Educaci3n supervises the work of different areas including:

- Direcci3n General de Universidad, Investigaci3n y Ciencia (Directorate-General for University, Research and Science), which focuses on science policies, higher education, university centres, research resources and European programmes.

The [Conselleria de Economía Sostenible, Sectores Productivos, Comercio y Trabajo](#) has the priority of promoting business innovation as one of the main drivers of the economy, carrying out actions such as supporting private investment in Research & Innovation, diversification of the productive network in preferential areas, business participation in national and European research programmes and the promotion and coordination of the Technology Institutes' network in our Region.

The Autonomous Secretariat for Sustainable Economy, Productive Sector, Trade and Labour comprises the following areas:

- Direcci3n General de Economía, Emprendimiento y Cooperativismo (Directorate-General for Economy, Entrepreneurship and Cooperatives).
- Direcci3n General de Trabajo y Bienestar Laboral (Directorate-General for Labour and Workers' Welfare).
- Direcci3n General de Industria, Energía y Minas (Directorate-General for Industry, Energy and Mines).
- Direcci3n General de Internacionalizaci3n (Directorate-General for Internationalisation).
- Direcci3n General de Comercio y Consumo (Directorate-General for Trade and Consumers).

● In **the Valencian Research & Innovation System (SVIDI)**, the Valencian universities stand out as major players due to the number and quality of the researchers, as well as the capital expenditure in these activities. The universities play a key role as vehicles for the transmission of knowledge and engines of basic and applied research. In fact, the technological and research activity in Valencian universities has grown strikingly and in a complementary way to their teaching activity.

The Valencia Region has 5 public universities:

- [Universitat de València](#)
- [Universitat Politècnica de València](#)
- [Universidad de Alicante](#)
- [Universitat Jaume I de Castelló](#)
- [Universidad Miguel Hernández de Elche](#)

and 4 private universities:

- [Universidad CEU Cardenal Herrera](#)
- [Universidad Católica de Valencia "San Vicente Mártir"](#)
- [Universidad Internacional de Valencia](#)
- [Universidad Europea de Valencia](#)

As regards research, the universities are usually structured in departments, university research institutes or R&I centres, laboratories and Research Results Transfer Offices (OTRI). All the programmes are channelled and managed via the Pro-Vice-Chancellorships for Research of each University.

The **university Departments** are the university structures in charge of organising and conducting research in their respective areas of knowledge. In them, Research Groups appear increasingly as the natural units for the performance of Research, Development and Innovation activities.

In the **technological infrastructures of the universities**, the University Research Institutes and R&I Centres are particularly noteworthy since they are organisations dedicated specifically to scientific and technical research. Thus, they act as organisational units that foster the research work of the departments, and the integration of the departments with others inside or outside the same university.

In addition to these structures, the universities also enjoy the technical support of Laboratories and other Research support services, in addition to the research and innovation structures, which in turn provide companies with numerous services.

Each university in the Valencia Region also has a **Research Results Transfer Office (OTRI)**, which handles university-enterprise relations. The OTRIs disseminate and manage the technological capabilities of the universities, negotiating and managing R&I projects, and they provide information and advice for researchers and companies on intellectual property rights and funding sources.

 In 2001, with a view to establish a common position of all the Valencian universities as stakeholders in the Science-Technology-Enterprise system, **RUVID** was created: **the Network of Valencian Universities for the Promotion of Research, Development and Innovation**, through a collaboration agreement between the five public universities of the Region. In September 2003, RUVID was established as a non-profit association and is currently made up of seven Valencian universities.

RUVID's principal objectives include:

- Fostering scientific and technological research, and research results transfer in all the Valencian universities, promoting the coordinated participation of their research groups in projects.
- Helping, by means of the research results of their groups, to increase the competitiveness of companies and institutions in the Valencia Region, in national and international markets, through technological innovation.

On the other hand, each one of the five public universities of our Region has a **Science Park**. The creation of these parks, with over one million square metres total surface area, has undoubtedly provided great benefits for the entire Valencia Region economy, promoting a culture of innovation and competitiveness from the knowledge-generating companies and institutions installed in or associated with these parks.

 In addition to the Universities, the Valencia Region also has other **Public Research Bodies (OPI)**. The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) has eight joint centres with public universities and the Generalitat Valenciana, as well as three centres of their own in our Region, thus contributing more than 200 researchers in addition to those belonging to the universities.

The Valencian science environment is complemented by the presence of other research organisations pertaining to the Generalitat Valenciana, university-enterprise foundations and other private foundations with public and/or private capital. One must also consider the centres for research and technological development belonging to the Conselleria de Agricultura, Desarrollo Rural, Emergencia Climática y Transición Ecológica (Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Climate Emergency and Ecological Transition) and the Conselleria de Sanidad Universal y Salud Pública (Department of Health).

 Regarding technological innovation, the Valencia Region pioneered the implementation of the model of support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) through the creation of Instituto Valenciano de Competitividad Empresarial (IVACE). This public body belonging to the Generalitat Valenciana is in charge of promoting the innovation of the Valencian Government through Small and Medium-sized Valencian Enterprises, as well as collaborating with business associations on strategic actions for different sectors in the region.

In order to carry out this objective, IVACE provides several services and carries out a number of annual action programmes in order to provide support to industrial SMEs, while at the same time promoting a network of innovation-supporting technical infrastructures, embodied by the Technology Institutes and European Business and Innovation Centres (CEEI). The Valencia Region has four European Business and Innovation Centres, located in industrial areas, which boost the creation of business projects contributing to the innovative activity in the area.

 On the other hand, the mission of the **Technology Institutes**, as centres of innovation and technology of a non-profit, private and independent character promoted by the Generalitat Valenciana, is to revitalise and encourage technological innovation in enterprises. At present the Valencia Region has a network of 11 technology institutes that range through the different business sectors:

AIDIMME (Metallurgy, Furniture, Wood and Packaging Technological Institute)

AIJU (Toy and Leisure Technological Institute)

AIMPLAS (Plastics Technological Institute)

AINIA (Agri-food Technological Institute)

AITEX (Textile Technological Institute)

IBV (Biomechanics Institute of Valencia)

INESCOP (Footwear Technological Institute)

ITC (Ceramic Technological Institute)

ITE (Energy Technological Institute)

ITENE (Packaging, Transport and Logistics Research Center)

ITI (Institute of Computer Technology)

All of them are members of **REDIT**, which promotes the coordination and cooperation between these institutes.