COMPOSTELA GROUP OF UNIVERSITIES
IX RESEARCH PITCHES CONTEST (2025)

GUIDELINES

1. Objectives

The aim of this contest is to promote and recognise the research work undertaken in the Compostela Group of Universities (CGU) member universities.

CGU researchers are invited to present their work through research pitches. A pitch is a short presentation that aims to convince someone of the value of something, usually with the objective of selling a product or obtaining funding for a project. The idea is that CGU researchers have the opportunity to disseminate their work at their university and beyond, to:

- Find funding.
- Contact other research groups that carry out similar research works.
- Attract other researchers and doctoral students who wish to develop the same type of research.
- Disseminate research results to the academic community and society in general.

This contest will reward the pitches submitted by the researchers from our member universities that best reach the general public and transmit the relevance of the project, as well as its contribution to society.

2. Participants

Researchers from the CGU member universities can participate in the contest. For this purpose, such researchers are understood to be those who meet at least one of the following requirements:

- To be part of a research group in a CGU member university.
- To be enrolled in a doctoral programme from a CGU member university.
- To be granted a university research scholarship by a CGU member university during the present call.

3. Prizes

Three prizes will be awarded in this edition:

1st prize: 1500 euros gross and a diploma of recognition.
2nd prize: 1000 euros gross and a diploma of recognition.
3rd prize: 500 euros gross and a diploma of recognition.

The monetary prize will be transferred directly to the natural persons who are the authors of the winning pitches, in a single and indivisible payment by bank transfer.

Prizes are subject to withholding taxes. The CGU reserves the right to apply those withholding taxes in accordance with Spanish Law.

Diplomas of recognition will be awarded to the natural persons who are the authors of the winning pitches, through the representative of their CGU home university, during the official presentation ceremony of the contest at the annual CGU General Assembly.

4. Submission of applications

Researchers have to complete the **online application form** available on the page of the Research Pitches Contest on the website of the Compostela Group of Universities (www.gcompostela.org). This form must be compulsorily filled in online and in English for the application to be accepted. Besides, they have to provide the following documentation:

a. **Motivation letter** of up to **100 words maximum**, explaining why the researcher participates in the contest, as well as the content and objectives of the submitted pitch. The motivation letter must be written in English.
b. **Pitch** submitted to the contest in digital format. The pitch file must be named with the author's name and surname only: <<pitch_first_name_surname>>.
c. **Letter of support** validated by the CGU delegate of the home university or the appointed person.
d. **Declaration of responsibility.**

The templates for the submission of the letter of support and the declaration of responsibility can be found on the CGU's website.

5. Timeline and deadlines

December 2024 – Launching of call 2025 of the contest.
January 2025 – Designation, where appropriate, of a representative for the signature of letters of support by the member universities.

31 March 2025 (12:00 PM – noon. Peninsular Spanish time) – Deadline for the submission of applications.
June 2025 – Jury deliberation and announcement of the winning pitches.
September 2025 – Official presentation of the winning pitches during the annual Compostela Group of Universities General Assembly.

6. Pitches features

UNITS:

- Each researcher (natural person) may present a maximum of one research pitch.

CREATION:

- The research work and pitch must be original and self-created.
- The researcher must present the subject of his/her research, the problem s/he has identified, how it contributes to finding solutions to that problem, and its interest for society in general and the academic community in particular.

TECHNICAL FEATURES:

- The pitch submitted to the contest must meet the following technical features:
    - o It must be a monologue by a single natural person researcher, who has to be in focus at all times.
    - o Video background: uniform white.
    - o Resolution: Full HD (1920x1080 pixels, aspect ratio: 16:9).
    - o File format: MP4 (H.264 codec).
    - o Audio format: AAC or MP3 format, with a minimum quality of 128 kbps.
    - o Maximum file size: 300 MB.
    - o Duration: maximum 2m 59s 99cs.

- The logo of the home university of the researcher author of the pitch and the logo of the CGU must be present throughout the recording, as shown in the given sketch.

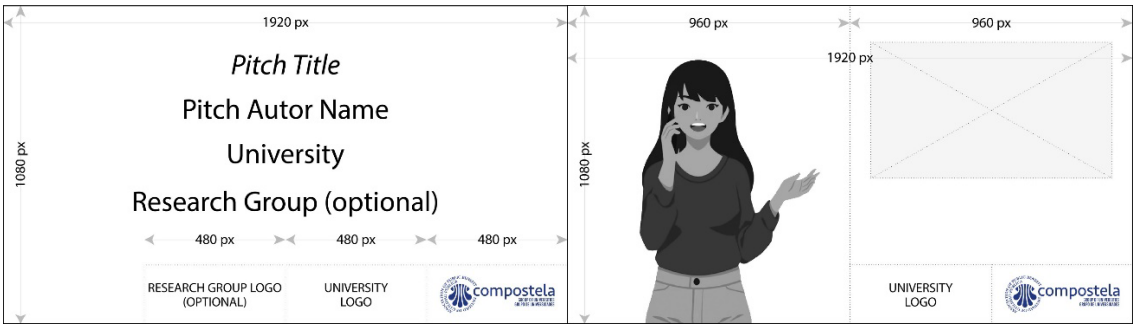
INTRODUTION OF THE PITCH:

- The credits or pitch introduction must follow the specifications of the sketch. Specifically, the following:
    - o The credits should be at the beginning of the recording.
    - o The length of that introduction shall be 3 to 5 seconds.
    - o The text shall be in English and shall be black on a white background.
    - o The title of the pitch shall be in italics.
    - o The name and surname of the author shall be written without any titles or complements.
    - o The name of the author's home university.

o Identification of the research group, if applicable.

Format and layout of elements in first image for credits or pitch introduction

Format and distribution of elements during pitch recording



A 'cape' with the CGU logo in the correct layout is provided as an annex to these guidelines, for use throughout the video recording.

AUDIOVISUAL SUPPORT:

- Only 3 still images may be used as a support element for the pitch.
- Those images should never cover the image of the person making the presentation nor interrupt his/her speech, and shall be positioned on the part of the screen as indicated in the given sketch.
- The use of physical objects during recording is not allowed.

LANGUAGE:

- Presentations may be made in English. If another language is used, the pitch must be subtitled in English.

7. Jury

The jury is composed of three members:

- President of the CGU.
- Two members from the CGU member universities: one representative per university.

The CGU Executive Secretary will act as Secretary of the jury (with voice but without vote).

Its composition will be made public on the website of the Compostela Group of Universities well in advance.

8. Selection process and criteria for voting

To select the winning pitches, the jury will consider the following criteria:

- **Clarity of the presentation,** whether it helps the general public understand the research work and follows a logical argument.
- **Nature, objectives and relevance** of the research.
- **Enthusiasm** of the presenter for his/her research, as well as his/her ability to capture and maintain the audience attention.
- **Pitch features.** Compliance with point 6 of these guidelines.

The CGU Secretariat will make all pitches submitted for the contest available to the jury on a private CGU channel.

The jury will vote the pitches online. Each member will score each pitch from 1 to 5 points and will issue a reasoned report on the evaluation. The pitch with the highest total score will receive the first prize; and so on, up to a maximum of three winning pitches. In the event of a tie, a second ballot will be held among the tied pitches. Besides, the jury may declare the competition void if it deems it appropriate.

The jury and the organisation of the contest reserve the right to exclude any content of obscene, violent, sexist, racist or other works that violate any of the fundamental rights established in the Spanish Constitution and, in particular, the articles contained in Title I "Of the fundamental rights and duties".

9. Acceptance of the prize and publication of winners

Acceptance of the prize

Research staff authors of the winning pitches will be formally notified of the award by e-mail, and those will have 15 calendar days for:

a. Accepting the prize, by e-mail to grupo.compostela@usc.es.
b. Sending a thank you video.

In case of non-compliance with the above (a. and b.), it will be understood that the award is declined.

Publication of the winners

Upon acceptance of the award, the winning pitches will be published in due time on CGU's YouTube channel and dissemination resources.

10. Acceptance of the contest guidelines

Participation in this contest implies acceptance of all its terms and conditions. Research participants are solely responsible for any copyright/image claims of people appearing on their recordings or materials used.

In accordance with Organic Law 15/1999 on the protection of personal data, the participants, by signing the application form, will give their consent to the processing of their personal data for the purposes indicated in the contest's guidelines.

All videos submitted to the contest will become the property of the CGU, and they may be used for promotion of the network, broadcast in meetings and events of the network, and publication at the website, social networks or other channels of dissemination of the network.

Research participants will be allowed to use their videos for other purposes as long as permission is granted by the CGU.

11. Responsibility

The CGU is not responsible for any technical, hardware, software or other problems, of any kind, nor for any loss, electronic failure, or incorrect, incomplete, inaccurate or delayed communications caused by the user or by any associated or used equipment or programming, or by any human error, or other, that may occur during this contest.

**Note: the guidelines for this contest have been edited in English and Spanish. In case of any discrepancy or misunderstanding in their interpretation, the Spanish version shall always take precedence over the English version.*