



# BIST Catalysers 2025 Programme description



With the support of:

**<sup>B</sup>Sabadell**  
Foundation

## 1. Introduction to the BIST Catalysers

The BIST Scientific Community has a significant track record of fostering disruptive innovation. With the support of the Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT)/Innovation offices, BIST Community researchers have translated their discoveries into 51 spin-off companies, 41 of which are active, and has generated 250 active patent families. These ventures have collectively raised more than €240 million in private and public funds and are creating a significant number of qualified jobs.

To further strengthen the innovation mindset of the BIST Community, and with the support of the BIST institutional board member Fundació Banc Sabadell and the leadership of the BIST Innovation Commission, BIST is launching the BIST Catalysers programme. BIST Catalysers offers a 92-hour training programme featuring specialised sessions and workshops on innovation-related topics, including fireside chats, a multidisciplinary innovation exercise and a visit to an innovation hub.

## 2. Programme objectives

- The goal of the BIST Catalysers programme is to nurture the entrepreneurial spirit of a cohort of BIST Community scientists—the Catalysers—through training and immersion in innovation ecosystems. Catalysers will include doctoral and postdoctoral researchers, senior scientists, and staff from across the diverse disciplines of the BIST community.
- The programme aims to strengthen participants' innovation mindset by helping them become more comfortable with risk, learn from failure, evaluate opportunities, and identify innovation potential in their own research and collaborations.
- BIST Catalysers also seeks to empower the wider BIST community by providing tools and opportunities to translate research into innovation, including innovation-related activities that will be open to all members of the community.

## 3. Programme practical details:

### a) Participants:

The programme is open to PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and other researchers and staff within the BIST Community.

### b) Duration

The programme consists of 92 hours of training and will run over a period of nine months, from October 2025 to June 2026:

- The initial training phase will be concentrated within the first month, to minimise disruption to ongoing research activities.
- Subsequent activities—including workshops, visits, and fireside chats—will take place regularly, typically one Friday morning per month. Please refer to the Programme Calendar for exact dates.

### c) Location

The programme will take place at various locations in the Barcelona metropolitan area, most of them at: Travessera de les Corts, 131-159, Recinte Maternitat, 08028 Barcelona.

### d) Price

Free of charge for participants.

This is a programme of new inception. The Fundació Banc Sabadell cosponsors this programme together with the centres of the BIST community and the BIST foundation.

## 4. Contents and programme calendar:

<b>Programme Kick-off *</b> Oct 3, 2025 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the programme and its objectives.</li> <li>• Get to know the other participants.</li> <li>• Get to know the teams that will work together during the From Science to Business (FS2B) course.</li> </ul>
<b>BIST-ESADE From Science to Business Course</b> Oct 13, 14, 15, 23,24, 2025 09h-17h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the process of developing a venture and validate a business model.</li> <li>• Understand the company from a strategic point of view and analyse the environment.</li> <li>• Understand the financial needs of a venture and how to develop a financial plan.</li> </ul>
<b>Entrepreneurial skills</b> Nov 12, 2025 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools for leadership and team management.</li> <li>• Tools for management of uncertainty, risk, and fear of failure.</li> </ul>
<b>Creativity</b> Dec 12, 2025 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tools for creative ideation and problem solving.</li> <li>• Opportunity Discovery.</li> </ul>
<b>The Market</b> Jan 16, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Market aspects of a venture. Use a health-based venture as an example.</li> <li>• Understand the need, the user and the payer.</li> <li>• Understand reimbursement and the interests of a public health decision maker.</li> </ul>
<b>Patent and IP law for scientists**</b> Jan 30, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basics of patenting and IP</li> <li>• Analyse case studies and suggested cases.</li> </ul>
<b>Fireside Chat</b> Mar 6, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversation and cocktail: The entrepreneur perspective.</li> </ul>

<b>Company Incorporation **</b> Apr 3, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The must-know of incorporating a company.</li> <li>• Deep dive using case studies and examples on the legal matters of licensing and incorporation.</li> <li>• Negotiation techniques</li> </ul>
<b>Fireside Chat</b> Apr 24, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversation and cocktail: The investor perspective.</li> </ul>
<b>Visit to an Innovation hub</b> May 15, 2026 9h-17h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participants accompanied by the KTT personnel of their centres will be invited to visit a European Innovation hub.</li> <li>• Learn of best practices in translation of science.</li> <li>• Meet with startups.</li> <li>• Meet with Tech transfer leadership.</li> </ul>
<b>Innovation Exercise</b> Jun 5 & 12, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In multidisciplinary teams, tackle a problem of choice in the health or sustainability space, craft a solution, validate it and shape a pitch.</li> </ul>
<b>Closing Ceremony*</b> Jun 18, 2026 10h-14h	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing of the BIST Catalysers programme.</li> <li>• The results of the innovation exercise will be showcased during the closing ceremony.</li> </ul>

\* The Kick-off, the closing ceremony, and the fireside chats, are open to all the BIST Community.

\*\* A portion of the *Patent and IP law for Scientists* session and the *Company Incorporation* session will be offered as a webinar to all the BIST community.

## 5. Eligibility criteria:

- I. The applicant must be a researcher developing an activity at one of the BIST Community centres as a PhD student, Post-doc, senior researchers or staff.
- II. The applicant must have at least a year of contract/grant remaining at the centre, starting at the date of notification of the results of the selection process.
- III. The candidate must be interested in innovation, not only to be applied to its own research, but in a wider sense.
- IV. The participant must commit to participate in 75% of the sessions.
- V. Supervisors need to write a supporting letter (required for PhD students, postdocs and associated researchers). Not needed if researcher is independent.

## 6. Evaluation criteria:

Candidates will be evaluated based on their scientific excellence, potential, and motivation to promote innovation and knowledge transfer in academia or industry.

- The decision for supporting a candidate of a BIST community centre will be made by the KTT director of that centre and the designated KTT representatives.
- Special consideration will be given to ensuring diversity of experiences and institutional profiles.
- Despite post-proposal PhD students and early postdocs being the preferred applicants, group leaders and other roles will be considered, if the rest of the conditions are fulfilled.

Equal opportunities shall be guaranteed, no discrimination for ethnics, age, culture, national or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion, or any other non-scientific aspect shall bias the evaluation.

The applicants will receive adequate confidential treatment. No information of whatsoever kind shall be disclosed outside the collective forming part of the evaluation procedure.

## 7. Call calendar:

Call for BIST Catalysers applicants	
Activity	Dates
Call open	4 <sup>th</sup> June – 16 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Selection of participants	17 <sup>th</sup> July – 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2025
Notification of participants	29 <sup>th</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> July 2025

## 8. Registration and communication:

Contact your KTT office to present your candidacy to the BIST Catalysers programme:

CRG: [michael.potter@crg.eu](mailto:michael.potter@crg.eu)

IBEC: [techtransfer@ibecbarcelona.eu](mailto:techtransfer@ibecbarcelona.eu)

ICFO: [ktt@icfo.eu](mailto:ktt@icfo.eu)

ICIQ: [fbravo@iciq.cat](mailto:fbravo@iciq.cat)

ICN2: [business.innovation@icn2.cat](mailto:business.innovation@icn2.cat)

IFAE: [techtransfer@ifae.es](mailto:techtransfer@ifae.es)

IRB Barcelona: [innovation@irbbarcelona.org](mailto:innovation@irbbarcelona.org)

For further information about the programme, contact:

Laia Bahima, Community Programmes Manager at [lbahima@bist.eu](mailto:lbahima@bist.eu)

20<sup>th</sup> of June 2025