

Program General Guidebook

BIYSC 2026 - 10th Edition



**Barcelona International
Youth Science Challenge**

**Fundació
Catalunya
La Pedrera**



1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the **Barcelona International Youth Science Challenge (BIYSC)!**

Over the next two weeks, you will work hands-on on a real research project, attend lectures from leading scientists, and share this experience with an incredible group of peers from all over the world.

This year's edition (the 10th!) will be the biggest yet: 173 students from 43 nationalities, 16 research projects, around 100 researchers and scientists, and a staff team of 17 science and technology students who have themselves been through BIYSC or similar programs and are here to guide you.

For full details on the program, visit biyssc.org.

Welcome and enjoy!

BIYSC is structured around six Challenges, each representing a step in your journey as a young scientist. By being selected, you have already completed the first three: **Be Authentic**, **Be Determined**, and **Be Smart**. Three more await you:

- **Be Enthusiastic:** work hands-on with mentor researchers in a research project. Work with other fellow participants in teams, discover diversity, have fun and make friends.
- **Be Ambitious:** prepare and deliver an oral presentation of your project's findings at the Closing Ceremony.
- **Be the Future:** use the inspiration and empowerment of BIYSC to become a great scientist and a key player in making the world a better place through science. Join the Science Fellows Community and stay connected with a global network of over 6,000 young scientists.

Please read the following document carefully, as it contains all the practical and updated information you will need for your time at BIYSC.

2. PRACTICAL INFORMATION

ARRIVAL

On **Monday, July 6th**, if you are arriving by plane or train, a BIYSC Staff Team member will be waiting for you upon your arrival with a BIYSC banner like this:



From the moment of arrival, no student will be left alone. Transportation from Barcelona-El Prat Airport or Barcelona Sants Central Train Station to the residence is fully arranged and supervised with schedules coordinated to match arrival times. The shuttle will drop you off at Yugo Aleu Students Residence, always accompanied by our staff.



- Scheduled shuttles from Barcelona-El Prat Airport to the residence, accompanied by BIYSC staff, will depart at 10:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., 3:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m.
- Participants arriving at Barcelona Sants Central Train Station will be welcomed by BIYSC staff, who will accompany them to the residence.
- Local participants are expected to arrive from **3pm to 6pm** (Barcelona time) at *Yugo Aleu Residence* (Carrer Pau Gargallo, 30, 08028 Barcelona), where the BIYSC Staff Team will warmly welcome you and assist with check-in.
- All participants must arrive at the residence by 7:00 p.m.

Please ensure you provide us with your updated arrival information via your BIYSC online account, including flight or train arrival details and notify at contact@biy-sc.org us promptly of any last-minute changes so we can coordinate your welcome accurately.

If you encounter any issues upon arrival, you can contact the BIYSC Staff by sending a message (SMS or Whatsapp) to (+34) 676 30 08 82.

Lunch on Arrival Day:

- Participants arriving before 1:00 p.m. will be provided lunch at the residence.
- Participants arriving after 1:00 p.m. should have already eaten, bring food with them, or have cash/credit card to purchase lunch (the residence cafeteria offers lunch options for approximately €15).

DEPARTURE

On **Friday, July 17th**, after the Closing Ceremony, participants may depart from the program starting at 2:00 p.m. They may be picked up by their parents at the YUGO ALEU Residence, or, if previously authorized and communicated to the BIYSC team, leave the program on their own. For participants departing later in the afternoon, lunch will be provided at the Residence.

For those departing by plane or train, transportation will be arranged and staff members will accompany participants. A shuttle bus service from YUGO ALEU Residence to Barcelona–El Prat Airport will be available at 2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., and 6:00 p.m., always accompanied by our staff.

For international students who are unable to depart on the afternoon of July 17th and need to stay in Barcelona until July 18th, BIYSC can offer an extra night at YUGO ALEU Residence. Please note that this extra night is not included in the program fee and will incur an additional cost of 130€, to be booked and paid separately. If you require this service, please inform the BIYSC team (contact@biy-sc.org) before Friday, July 3rd to check availability. To confirm this late departure service, please check the specific terms and conditions before payment via our BIYSC intranet: <https://biy-sc.org/late-departure/>

For Late Departure participants there will be a transportation service, accompanied by staff, departing early in the morning at 8:00 a.m. on July 18th.

HEALTH INFORMATION AND INSURANCE

The program is demanding both intellectually and physically. Although healthy young people generally have no issues, changes in climate, diet, and routine may affect participants.

BIYSC provides accident and liability insurance for all participants. Staff can provide basic healthcare, including first aid and daily medication (if provided by the participant and authorized). However, BIYSC insurance does not cover injuries or illnesses requiring medical treatment.

Participants must have original documentation during check-in:

- Private medical insurance (for non-European participants)



- A European Health Insurance Card or private medical insurance (for European Union participants)
- A Social Security Card or private medical insurance (for Spanish participants)

If necessary, participants may be transferred to their home country for further treatment at their own expense or under their own insurance coverage.

Any ongoing treatments or medications must be detailed in the **Participant Health Data Form**, using the full pharmacological name, since very often the medicine is not available under the same trade name as in the country of origin.

If a participant's health status changes within two weeks of arrival, parents/guardians must inform the organization with details of the treatment received.

If a participant develops symptoms during the program that prevent participation, the family will be notified and may be required to collect the participant. Catalunya La Pedrera Foundation reserves the right to apply any necessary health measures.

All medical information will be treated as highly confidential and processed in accordance with current data protection legislation, as specified in the Participant Forms.

ACCOMMODATION

Throughout the entire program (July 6th to 17th), all participants and staff will be accommodated at Yugo Aleu Students Residence, situated on the Barcelona University Campus (UB) at Pau Gargallo Street, 30. The residence is surrounded by various faculties of the University of Barcelona and offers convenient proximity to several BIYSC research centers, some within a few minutes' walking distance. Additionally, it is well-connected by metro to other BIYSC research facilities.

Yugo Aleu Students Residence provides clean towels and sheets for all guests. Laundry service is available for an additional fee. Free WiFi is accessible throughout the residence in all rooms and common areas.

For more detailed information regarding accommodation please visit the BIYSC website [here](#).

Participants, accompanied by BIYSC staff, will commute daily from the residence to various research centers and hospitals throughout Barcelona and its surrounding areas, where they will carry out their research projects.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO BRING ALONG?

Please bring the following items for the program:

- Clothes appropriate for the duration of the program. Barcelona's climate in July is very warm (often above 30°C), so light, breathable clothing and footwear suitable for hot weather are recommended.
- Long trousers and closed shoes for laboratory work, as required in Research Centers. It is also advisable to tie back long hair (if applicable) and avoid wearing long necklaces, dangling bracelets, or rings: check the laboratory safety recommendations for your specific project.
- A light sweater, jumper, or jacket, as most research centers and facilities are air-conditioned, and some evenings may be cooler.
- A small umbrella or raincoat, in case of a heavy rainy day during the program.
- A formal and comfortable outfit (smart casual) for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies.
- Sportswear, sneakers, a bathing suit, flip-flops, and a towel for sports activities.
- Comfortable shoes and clothes for the walking tour, cultural and science experiences, and social and leisure activities.
- Personal hygiene products (including shampoo, shower gel, toothbrush, hair drier...). Clean towels and bed linen are provided at the Residence).
- Insect repellent, sunscreen, and a hat or cap.
- If you play a musical instrument, bring it if possible!
- Laptop, mouse, charger, and **plug adapter** (Barcelona uses Type C and Type F sockets).
- Scientific calculator.



- Basic writing materials (pens/pencils).
- Backpack.
- Water bottle / reusable flask.
- Always ensure internet access (an **eSIM** or similar may be needed for non-EU participants without Spanish mobile data).

FOR THE RESEARCH PROJECT

All projects require the participants to bring your own **laptop computer / tablet**.

The following projects also require the participants to bring a **Lab Coat**:

- Synthetic biology: reprogramming Life to shape the Future (UPF-DMLS)
- Planarian stem cells: the genetics of immortality (UB Genetics)
- Decoding tumorigenesis: using Genetic Tools and Transgenic flies to model cancer (IRB)
- Innovation in Photochemistry and Drug Synthesis: Shaping a Sustainable Future (ICIQ)
- The neurobiology of trauma: effects on behaviour and brain function (INC)
- Molecular breeding & gene editing: Feeding the world in a changing climate (CRAG)
- Broadening medical expertise: from the clinic to the lab bench and back (Hospital Clínic)
- Multi-omics in the fight against leukaemia (IJC)

Although the laboratories are air-conditioned, the weather is very warm in Barcelona at this time of the year, so it may be a good option to wear light clothing under your lab coat to keep you cool and work comfortably.

OPENING CEREMONY

The official **Opening Ceremony** of the 2025 edition of the Barcelona International Youth Science Challenge (BIYSC) will be on **Tuesday July 7th**, 10:00 local time, at the Auditorium of the UNESCO World Heritage Site **La Pedrera (Casa Milà)**, headquarters of the Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera.

The ceremony will include the participation of all the research centers collaborating in this edition.



La Pedrera (Casa Milà)

Opening Ceremony Keynote Speaker: Dr Cristian Canton

Dr Cristian Canton is the Associate Director of the Barcelona Supercomputing Center (BSC-CNS). He holds a PhD in Computer Vision from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC). Before joining BSC, he spent over fifteen years in leading technology companies, including more than eight years at Meta, where he led the Responsible AI team and played a key role in the development of the Llama language models, and five years as a researcher at Microsoft Research in the US and UK. At BSC, he oversees strategic initiatives such as the deployment of the MareNostrum 5 supercomputer and the transformation of the center into an AI-driven hub supporting scientific, industrial, and European missions, with a focus on technological sovereignty, international collaboration, and the application of AI and HPC across fields such as climate science, health, chip design, social sciences, and engineering.



Dr Cristian Canton - Keynote Speaker at the BIYSC 2026 Opening Ceremony.



CLOSING CEREMONY

The official **Closing Ceremony** of the 2026 edition of the Barcelona International Youth Science Challenge (BIYSC) will take place on the morning of Friday, July 17th, at the Aula Magna of the UB Faculty of Law, located at Av. Diagonal, 684, 08034 Barcelona. This venue is just a 15-minute walk from the Residence.

Participants' families are welcome to attend the Closing Ceremony, but advanced registration is required due to limited seating. A few days before the ceremony, families will receive an invitation form to confirm their attendance, available on a first-come, first-served basis until full capacity is reached.

The ceremony will include **presentations of the 16 research projects undertaken at BIYSC 2026** and the awarding of diplomas to BIYSC participants. We will all share the experiences from BIYSC and remember the best moments before saying our goodbyes and heading home.

Although the BIYSC experience will come to an end, the lessons learned, the friendships made, and the experiences shared will stay with us forever! We will stay connected and meet again through the Community of Science Fellows of the Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera, which you will now be a part of.

OPTIONAL SESSION

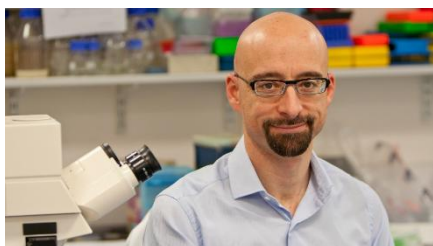
In addition to the 16 Research Projects, we will share some other scientific lectures during BIYSC 2026

This optional session that will be offered is aimed to encourage you to debate, discuss and discover about different topics with a leading scientist regarding ethics in biomedical research.

Ethics in Medicine and Life Sciences: A Conversation with Dr Salvador Macip (July 16th, 18.30-20.00)
In collaboration with the **Fundació Víctor Grifols**, this interactive session invites the students in Medicine and Life Sciences projects to explore some of today's most important ethical challenges in science and healthcare.

Together with the renowned physician and researcher Salvador Macip, students will discuss real-world dilemmas, share ideas, and discover how ethical thinking shapes scientific and medical decisions. An opportunity to ask questions, think critically, and engage in meaningful scientific debate.

Dr Salvador Macip



Salvador Macip is a physician and biomedical researcher with more than 25 years of experience studying the biology of ageing. His research focuses on understanding how ageing contributes to diseases such as cancer and Alzheimer's, and on developing new biomarkers and treatments to improve patients' lives. He is the Director of the Health Sciences Studies at the UOC and leads the Cancer and Ageing Mechanisms Laboratory at the University of Leicester, where he studies the links between ageing, cancer, and neurodegenerative diseases.



RELATIONSHIP WITH FAMILIES DURING BIYSC

For the successful development of the program, participants are expected to fully engage in all BIYSC activities. Families are encouraged to place their trust in the Scientific Teams, Coordinators, and Staff members responsible for the program.

Any incidents will be reported immediately. BIYSC Coordinators will have a list of emergency contact numbers readily available to reach family members if needed. Please ensure that the emergency contact information is correctly filled out in your BIYSC account.

Requests for absence (including family celebrations, travel, or other social events) are not compatible with the philosophy and logistics of the program and will not be granted.

During the program, parents/guardians are not permitted to be present.

For parents' and guardians' peace of mind, participants can be contacted by phone or email during their free time (please refer to the Daily Schedule).

In addition, updates and photos will be shared on BIYSC Instagram: @fclp_ciencia

EMERGENCY CONTACT DURING BIYSC

If you need to contact us in case of an emergency during the program, please send an email to contact@biysc.org or a text message (SMS/WhatsApp) to (+34) 676 30 08 82.



3. BIYSC GENERAL DAILY SCHEDULE UPDATED

	Mon 6th July	Tue 7th July	Wed 8th July	Thurs 9th July	Fri 10th July	Sat 11th July	Sun 12th July	Mon 13th July	Tue 14th July	Wed 15th July	Thurs 16th July	Friday 17th July	Saturday 18th July
7.30-8.00	International Arrivals	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8.00-8.30													Late Departures Check Out
8.30-9.00													
9.00-9.30													
9.30-10.00	Airport shuttle 10:00	Transport to La Pedrera										Check out	
10.00-10.30													
10.30-11.00													
11.00-11.30	International Arrivals & check-in at the Residence	Opening Ceremony	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Science Experience (CosmoCaixa)	BCN Walking tour	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Closing ceremony	
11.30-12.00													
12.00-12.30		Transport to the Residence											
12.30-13.00													
13.00-13.30	Airport shuttle 13:00												
	Lunch at the residence (for international morning arrivals)	Lunch at the Residence	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the Residence	Picnic Lunch	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the Research Center	Lunch at the residence (optional)	
13.30-14.00													
14.00-14.30													
14.30-15.00													
15.00-15.30	Airport shuttle 15:00		Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects			Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Working in Research Projects	Airport Shuttle 14:00 & 16:00h	
15.30-16.00													
16.00-16.30	Local arrivals & check-in at the Residence												
16.30-17.00		Fellows Stories											
17.00-17.30													
17.30-18.00													
18.00-18.30	Airport shuttle 18:00												
18.30-19.00													
19.00-19.30													
19.30-20.00													
20.00-20.30													
20.30-21.00	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Dinner at the residence	Departures	
21.00-21.30													
21.30-22.00	Welcome Briefing	Briefing	Briefing	Briefing		Briefing			Briefing	Briefing			
22.00-22.30					Leisure Activity		Cultural Night	Leisure activity			Farewell Party		
22.30-23.00													

	Official ceremonies
	Research projects
	Compulsary visits / activities
	Optional visits / activities
	Meals



4. BIYSC 2026 STAFF TEAM

Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera organizes BIYSC as part of its vision in developing and collaborating with projects that promote excellence in education, offering young students -like you- excellence opportunities. BIYSC was created based on the knowledge of projects that the Foundation has been running for several years in Catalonia and through the experience of our students that have attended similar international programs around the world.

The following people will be your BIYSC Team and Staff and will always share the BIYSC experience with you, so get familiar with them. We are looking forward to welcoming you very soon! And eager to spend 2 intense weeks and have many amazing experiences together. We will be there for anything you may need!

BIYSC MANAGING & COORDINATION TEAM



LLUÍS FARRÉS
BIYSC Director

Director of Science Academy of Catalunya La Pedrera Foundation. Long background in education, leading and working as a teacher in International Education.



GERARD SEGÚ
BIYSC Coordinator

BIYSC Coordinator since 2022. In charge of the coordination of Science Programs and Partnership at Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera. BS in Biology, MA in International Relations.



MAR FILLAT
BIYSC Coordinator

BIYSC Coordinator since 2023. Participant at Youth & Science 2015 and Crazy about Science on Biomedicine 2016. BS in Neuroscience and MSc in Multidisciplinary Research in Experimental Sciences.



MONICA ECHAGÜEN
BIYSC Coordinator

BIYSC Coordinator since 2022. BA in Geography and History (Ancient History & Archaeology). BA in Social and Cultural Anthropology. PGD in Cultural Management.



EVA JOU OLLÉ
BIYSC Coordinator

BIYSC Coordinator since 2026. Participant at BIYSC 2016 and has been involved in the Science Fellow Community since 2028. BSc in Biochemistry and MSc in Multidisciplinary Research in Experimental Sciences. PGD in Project Management.

STAFF TEAM

All our staff members have themselves taken part in BIYSC or other Fundació Catalunya La Pedrera science programs in previous years. This means they know the experience firsthand, from the excitement to the challenges, and can relate closely to what participants are going through, making them not only mentors but also genuine peers throughout the program:



LUCAS BOGAERT
BIYSC Staff Leader

Currently pursuing a PhD in Conservation Science at University of Helsinki. MSc in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. BSc in Biology. Participated in *Youth and Science* program in 2017 and have been part of the BIYSC staff team for six consecutive years.



JÚLIA CRISTÒFOL TRENCHS
BIYSC Staff – Bellvitge Hospital Group (Heart Science)

I am currently a second-year Medicine student at University Pompeu Fabra. I am interested in healthcare and science communication, and I enjoy learning about the different fields within medicine. In 2023, I participated in the *Youth for Medicine* program, and I am currently collaborating with AQQ on science communication projects.



PABLO GÓMEZ MONTAÑEZ
BIYSC Staff – ICCUB Group (Quantum Entanglement)

Currently studying my last year of Physics at the University of Barcelona, with a strong passion for material physics and quantum many body physics. Participated in *Youth and Science* program in 2021.



JOAN SONNENBERG BARTOLOMÉ

BIYSC Staff – BSC Group (Supercomputing)

Pursuing a bachelor's in physics and Astronomy at the University of Amsterdam. I was a scholar of the *Youth and Science* program in 2021 and have been hooked on science and research ever since.



WASSIMA RACHDI BEN HAROU

BIYSC Staff – Clínic Hospital Group

Medical student at the University of Barcelona. Participated at BIYSC and the *Youth for Medicine* program in 2022. She is an Active member and former Group Leader of the International Collaboration and Exchange Program (ICEP).



MIREIA RIZO ROVIRA

BIYSC Staff – CRM Group (Advanced Mathematics)

Currently in my third year of the double degree in Mathematics and Physics at the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB), I have a particular interest in quantum physics and research. My scientific journey includes participation in the *Crazy for Science* program on Supercomputing in 2022 and in BIYSC in 2024.



OLGA CASTILLO VILASECA

BIYSC Staff – UB Bio (Planarian Stem Cells)

Biology undergraduate at UAB, enthusiastic about understanding biodiversity through ecology, physiology, and evolution. Participated in the *Crazy for Science* program on Bioengineering in 2022.



MIREIA RIVERO SALLENT

BIYSC Staff – IRB Group (Unravelling Tumorigenesis)

Final year Biology student at the University of Barcelona (Biodiversity specialization) with a strong interest in environmental remediation and bioacoustics. Participant in the *Nature Campus* (2020-21) and *And You? Me, Biochemistry!* (2022) programs and winner of the science communication competition *10totheminus9* (2020).



LAIA MAYNÉ ARÉVALO

BIYSC Staff – IFAE Group (Cosmic Rays)

Currently studying Maths and Physics at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, with a strong passion for astrophysics and research. Participated in the *Youth and Science* program in 2021.



SARA LÓPEZ LEÓN

BIYSC Staff – IJC group (Leukemia)

Pursuing a degree in Biochemistry at the University of Barcelona. Participated in the *Youth and Science* program in 2021 developing research in Astrophysics and participated in international research programs.



NIL SALVAT ROVIRA

BIYSC Staff – INC group (Neurobiology)

Graduated in Biochemistry (2021), Master in Neurosciences (2022) and PhD-in-Medicine dropout just last year... I continue to share my passion for science through education in courses and seminars such as BIYSC or *Crazy for Science* and doing science communication with different projects, with whom I have published a book and one board game and a second book pending publication.



INÉS LÓPEZ COLL

BIYSC Staff – CRAG group (Molecular breeding)

Graduated in Biotechnology, currently pursuing a master's in advanced Immunology. Participated in the *Crazy for Science* program on Biochemistry in 2019.



MARC FARRÉS COLOM

BIYSC Staff – UPF Group (Synthetic Biology)

Currently studying the 4th year of Pharmacy at the University of Barcelona. Former participant of on Bioengineering in 2021 and medal winner in the National and Ibero-American Biology Olympiads.



JÚLIA HIGUERAS GARCÍA

BIYSC Staff – Clínic Hospital Group

Currently studying Medicine at the University of Barcelona - Campus Clínic. Interested in integrated and accessible healthcare, with a focus on interdisciplinary approaches. Participated in the *Youth and Science* program in 2019 and in the *Crazy for Science* program in 2020. Second year as a BIYSC Staff Member.



QUERALT NOMEN VALLS

BIYSC Staff – ICFO group (Quantum Cryptography)

Currently studying for a double degree in Mathematics and Physics. Participated in the seventh edition of BIYSC (2023) and in the *Crazy for Science* program on Bioengineering in 2022. Second year as a BIYSC staff member.



NÚRIA CERVELL MATOS

BIYSC Staff – ICIQ Group (Photochemistry)

Currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at the University of Barcelona, with a keen interest in green hydrogen and advanced materials. Former participant of the *Youth and Science* program in 2021 and BIYSC 2023, where I collaborated with researchers from leading national and international institutions.



BRU GÓMEZ BONILLA

BIYSC Staff – Hospital del Mar Group (Infectious Diseases)

Currently studying Medicine at University Pompeu Fabra, with a strong passion for psychiatry, neurobiology and research. Participated in *Youth for Medicine* program in 2021 and 2022 and in the 6th edition of BIYSC in 2022. Second year as a BIYSC Staff Member!



POL TORNÉ FISA

BIYSC Staff – La Salle Group (Engineering Gaudi)

Final year biochemistry student at the University of Barcelona. In 2022, he participated in the *Crazy for Science* program on Biochemistry.



5. WEB & SOCIAL MEDIA

At BIYSC, we prioritize your focus and active engagement in scheduled sessions, making the most of practical opportunities at Research Centers, and fostering meaningful connections with the researchers hosting you. We also encourage you to fully embrace the opportunity to interact with and learn from peers from around the world.

We love it when you share your experience on social media or blogs by posting photos and comments. But please, try to do so during your free time, ensuring it does not distract from ongoing activities, create interference, or disrespect your peers or researchers. Above all, always respect the privacy and dignity of others!

Use the official hashtags (see below) and make sure you have consent from individuals before posting their photos. Participants can follow us on our social networks to see the latest news of the program and be part of the BIYSC community.

- Web: www.biysc.org
- E-mail: contact@biysc.org
- Instagram: fclp_ciencia
- BIYSC official hashtags: BIYSC #BIYSC2026 #BeBIYSC
- BIYSC official slogans: Science moves the world forward, and we are its future!

