



Annual Report 2024

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4 Stepped down from the Board of Trustees
on 24 October 2024.
5 Appointed to the Board of Trustees by decision
of the Board of Directors of Banco Santander,
S.A., on 30 January 2024.

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Mission

Fundación Banco Santander works to help build a fairer, more inclusive, more sustainable society.

To this end, it develops initiatives that pursue the following courses of action: promoting culture and knowledge as tools for understanding the world around us; engaging in social outreach to improve the situation of vulnerable communities; and supporting higher education, employment opportunities and entrepreneurship in order to facilitate the advancement of individuals and businesses.

In all of its programmes, the foundation strives to create ties of cooperation with social enterprises, joining forces to take on the most pressing global challenges.

Transparency



[Learn more](#)






Every two years, Fundación Banco Santander's management system is evaluated by Lealtad Instituciones, an independent agency that assesses the implementation of best practices by foundations in Spain. The reports that accredit our compliance with the requirements established by this agency's panel of experts are published on the foundation's website.

Additionally, each report contains information about our internal rules of corporate governance, the measures we take to prevent money laundering and the financing of terrorism, and details of the annual accounts for the last three financial periods.

The foundation's actions with regard to environmental sustainability are also recorded in its annual report, publishing annual consumption figures for its headquarters.

Environmental Footprint

Fundación Banco Santander measures the annual environmental impact of its activity in order to reduce its consumption, waste and greenhouse gas emissions.

Consumption		Water (m³)	244
		Water (m³/employee)*	14.35
		Electricity from renewables (kWh)	22,254
		Electricity from renewables (kWh/employee)*	1,309.06
		Energy used (GJ)	80.11
		Energy used (GJ/employee)	4.71
		FSC-certified and recycled paper (kg)	600
		FSC-certified and recycled paper (kg/employee)*	35.29
Waste		Paper and cardboard (kg)	618
		Paper and cardboard (kg/employee)*	36.35
Greenhouse gas emissions		Indirect emissions from employee travel (T CO₂ eq)	19.95
		Indirect emissions from employee commutes (T CO₂ eq)	0.65
		Total indirect emissions (T CO₂ eq)	20.60
		Total indirect emissions (T CO₂ eq/employee)*	1.21

* Average number of employees per year: 17.



Figures for 2024

Culture			
20	1,683	54	30
loans of works in the Banco Santander Collection	spectators at the family concerts	podcasts released	partnerships with cultural institutions
Social Outreach			
6,718	30	23	185
beneficiaries	social projects sponsored	women's business initiatives supported in Africa	organisations supported
Higher Education and Entrepreneurship			
20	12	9	32
scholarship programmes	entrepreneurial programmes	job opportunity programmes	university partnerships

Financial resources used	
Activities	Totals ¹
Art	€ 1,321,913
Music	€ 1,843,114
Literature	€ 212,713
History	€ 506,759
Social Outreach	€ 1,740,990
Higher Education and Entrepreneurship	€ 12,495,551
Recovery of Natural Heritage ²	€ 384,582
Other Partnerships	€ 1,797,094
TOTAL	€ 20,302,716

1 Amortisation, administrative and general costs are divided proportionally among the areas.
2 This budget item is for the second year of implementation of the environmental projects that benefited from the previous edition of the Santander for the Seas programme organised in 2023. A description of them can be found in the annual report for that year.

Highlights of 2024

<div>January</div> <div>1st and 2nd sessions of La Colección de Ideas ("Energía y geopolítica" and "El futuro de la agenda verde europea")</div> <div>6th edition of Santander Social Tech (training and advice programme)</div> <div>Publication of the book <i>Las cosas de la vida</i></div>	<div>March</div> <div>First Collector at ARCOMadrid</div> <div>3rd session of La Colección de Ideas ("Amenazas híbridas y desinformación")</div> <div>Publication of the book <i>Pláticas literarias</i></div> <div>Inauguration of La Obra Invitada (Eugui armour)</div> <div>"Sobremesa con..." (Lucas Muñoz Iglesias)</div> <div>Family workshops at the Santander Art Gallery begin</div>	<div>May</div> <div>Biografías e Historia lecture series</div> <div>Improv theatre at the Santander Art Gallery</div> <div>5th session of La Colección de Ideas ("Información e influencia")</div> <div>Winners of the Hispania Nostra Awards announced</div>	<div>July</div> <div>23rd Santander Music and Academy Encounter</div> <div>11th Collecting, Contemporary Art and Society seminar at the UIMP</div>	<div>September</div> <div>Architecture seminar at the UIMP ("Intervenciones sobre edificios existentes")</div>	<div>November</div> <div>"Sobremesa con..." (Juan Francisco Rueda)</div> <div>Publication of <i>María Josefa Amalia de Sajonia, reina de España</i></div> <div>1st call for submissions to Santander Ayuda (education for at-risk children and youth)</div> <div>7th and 8th sessions of La Colección de Ideas ("La influencia de España en la Unión Europea" and "Inmigración: percepción y realidad")</div>
<div>"Sobremesa con..." (Elisa Hernando)</div> <div>February</div>	<div>3rd call for submissions to Investiga Colección Banco Santander</div> <div>"Sobremesa con..." (Nacho Ruiz)</div> <div>9th call for applicants for the SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Award</div> <div>Family concert (Baroque)</div> <div>April</div>	<div>"Sobremesa con..." (Mikel Chillida)</div> <div>5th session of La Colección de Ideas ("Retos de la vivienda")</div> <div>Family concert (Mendelssohn)</div> <div>Publication of <i>Doce filosofías para un nuevo mundo</i></div> <div>June</div>	<div>Closing concert of the Santander International Festival (Debussy, Lalo, Ravel and Stravinsky)</div> <div>August</div>	<div>32nd edition of the Estampa fair</div> <div>Symposium "España y América: una historia común"</div> <div>Family concert (Tchaikovsky)</div> <div>"Sobremesa con..." (Aritz González)</div> <div>6th session of La Colección de Ideas ("Política económica democrática frente a la incertidumbre")</div> <div>October</div>	<div>Swing concert at the Santander Art Gallery</div> <div>Family Christmas concert (Mozart)</div> <div>SRUK/CERU Emerging Talent Awards ceremony (9th edition)</div> <div>December</div>

Letter from the Chairman

The annual report always represents a golden opportunity to review and reflect on our performance. At the foundation, we ended 2024 with the satisfaction of knowing that we accomplished our objectives, and we have jumped into the new year determined to continue improving in order to help build a fairer society.

In 2025, in addition to maintaining our regular activity in the fields of art, music, literature and history, we will finalise the details of Faro Santander's cultural offer as we prepare for its imminent opening. We trust that this new venue will soon become one of the public's favourite places to enjoy art in Cantabria.

Our commitment to at-risk communities will be reflected in the continuity of our social outreach and international cooperation programmes. These will allow us to keep on supporting the charitable efforts of non-profit organisations in Spain and the empowerment of women in Africa. Our initiatives will adapt to future challenges in order to meet society's changing needs.

Another of our top priorities will be to accompany the bank on its mission to support the growth of individuals and businesses by promoting different initiatives that facilitate job opportunities for university students and professional development for entrepreneurs.

I would like to conclude this letter by mentioning the changes in the composition of our board of trustees. I want to thank Ana María Llopis for her valuable contributions over the years and welcome our two new members, Ramiro Mato and Rafael Hernández. With the advice and guidance of our trustees, the backing of Banco Santander's board of directors, and the dedication of our management team, I am certain that we will achieve our aims in the year ahead.

Rodrigo Echenique Gordillo
Chairman

Introduction

It is a pleasure for me to be introducing yet another annual report, in which we review the activities carried out by Fundación Banco Santander over the last year.

An important part of our cultural endeavours consisted in supporting the research and promotion of the bank's art collection, and in designing a programme for Faro Santander, the recreational and cultural centre due to open soon at its former headquarters in the capital of Cantabria.

One novelty in this area was the arrival of the first instalments of Colección Biografías de Historia Fundamental, a collection featuring biographies of forgotten Spanish and Ibero-American historical figures, and of *recolección*, a series of publications dedicated to the most interesting studies of the Banco Santander Collection submitted by research grant applicants.

In the area of social outreach, I must highlight the excellent results achieved by Santander Emplea Cultura, which has been creating jobs in the culture industry for ten years now, and the first edition of Santander Ayuda to focus specifically on educational projects. By launching this programme, we hope to improve the situation of at-risk children and teens, especially those affected by the torrential rains that devastated several Spanish towns and villages in October 2024.

In order to promote equal opportunity for all and job placement, we will step up our cooperation with Spanish universities and other organisations involved in career training and advancement. These initiatives, combined with those already underway in 2023, have made supporting higher education, employability and entrepreneurship one of the foundation's primary missions.

We trust that our efforts have helped to create a more equitable present and a more prosperous future for everyone. Knowing that we make a difference in society encourages us to continue supporting the advancement of individuals in each of our focus areas.

Borja Baselga Canthal
Managing Director

Culture

Art

Banco Santander Collection
Santander Art Gallery
Exhibitions
Supporting Collectors
Partnerships

Music

Fundación Albéniz
Teatro Real
Gran Teatre del Liceu
Orfeó Català Choir School
Orfeón Donostiarra
Santander International
Festival
Francesco Ruggieri Cello

Literature

Colección Obra Fundamental
CartasVivas

History and Heritage

Colección Biografías de
Historia Fundamental
Banco Santander
Historical Archives
Biografías e Historia
Hispania Nostra Awards
La Colección de Ideas
Partnerships



Banco Santander Collection

The collection contains over a thousand pieces which span the period from the second century BC to the present day. Although paintings comprise the bulk of the collection, it also includes sculptures, decorative arts, and a significant selection of coins and notes.

The foundation is responsible for promoting the study and public awareness of these works.

Its responsibilities include facilitating loans to other museums and cultural institutions and carrying out various audiovisual initiatives. The foundation's website offers detailed information and high-resolution images of selected pieces in the collection, as well as the "Vívela" video series, ten episodes in which prominent figures in the culture industry invite us to consider the works from different angles (craft, fashion, food, music, etc.).

Constant research into the collection gave rise, in 2024, to a revised edition of the catalogue with updated information on its works and artists. The third edition of Investiga Colección Banco Santander, the research grant programme, was also organised to encourage cross-cutting, innovative studies of the collection. The conclusions of some of the research papers submitted to this programme are published under the title recolección.



[Learn more](#)

El ámbito del pensamiento
[The Realm of Thought] (1989),
by Guillermo Pérez Villalta. Banco
Santander Collection.





José Gutiérrez Solana
Mujeres vistiéndose
(Coristas de pueblo)

Exhibition *José Gutiérrez Solana. Obras invitadas*

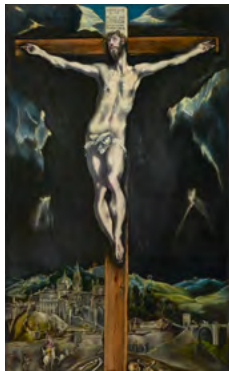
Museo Carmen Thyssen, Málaga
07.11.2023–28.01.2024



José Gutiérrez Solana
La casa del arrabal
(Las chicas del arrabal)

Exhibition *José Gutiérrez Solana. Obras invitadas*

Museo Carmen Thyssen, Málaga
07.11.2023–28.01.2024



El Greco
Cristo agonizante con Toledo al fondo

Exhibition *El Greco. Un pintor en el laberinto*

Palazzo Reale, Milan
11.10.2023–25.02.2024



Pablo Ruiz Picasso
Busto de caballero III

La Obra Invitada exhibition

Museo de Bellas Artes, Bilbao
18.10.2023–10.03.2024



Patricia Gadea
Diosas, esposas, rameras y esclavas

Exhibition *La ocupación. Carta blanca a Cabello/Carceller*

Museo Patio Herreriano, Valladolid
07.10.2023–10.03.2024



José Gutiérrez Solana
Bodegón de la lombarda

Exhibition *Modernidad latente. Vanguardistas y renovadores en la figuración española (1920–1970). Colección Telefónica*

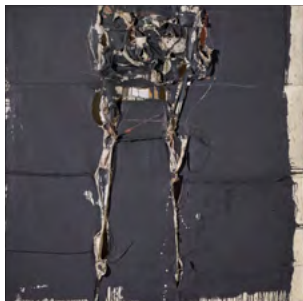
Museo Carmen Thyssen, Málaga
16.03.2024–08.09.2024



José Gutiérrez Solana
El espejo de la muerte

Exhibition *Esperpento. Arte popular y revolución estética*

Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid
09.10.2024–10.03.2025



Manuel Millares
Homúnculo

Exhibition *¿Qué humanidad? La figura humana después de la guerra (1940–1966)*

Museu Nacional d'Art de Catalunya, Barcelona
27.10.2023–11.02.2024



Joaquín Vaquero Palacios
Templo de Apolo en Corinto

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Evaristo Valle
Vagabundos

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Joaquim Mir
Aigües roges

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço
Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Genaro Pérez Villaamil
La catedral de Sevilla por el lado de las gradas

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço
Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Genaro Pérez Villaamil
La procesión del Corpus en el interior de la catedral de Sevilla

Exhibition *Sedes Hispalensis: Fons Pietatis*

Cathedral of Seville
03.11.2024–20.12.2024



Joaquín Sorolla
Niños buscando mariscos

Exhibition *Los veranos de Sorolla*

Fundación Mapfre, Madrid
22.09.2023–07.01.2024



Joaquín Sorolla
Baile en el café Novedades de Sevilla

Exhibition *Sorolla, cien años de modernidad*

Galería de las Colecciones Reales, Madrid
17.10.2024–30.04.2025



Darío de Regoyos
Altos hornos de Bilbao

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço
Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Cirilo Martínez Novillo
Paisaje con figuras

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço
Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Johan de Lagoor
Landscape with Four Trees

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço
Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



José Beulas
Toledo

Exhibition *Natureza Viva, Paisagem e Sustentabilidade*

Edifício dos Leões-Espaço
Santander, Lisbon
07.06.2023–31.01.2024



Niki de Saint Phalle
Dancer

Exhibition *Agnès Varda. Fotografiar, filmar, reciclar*

Centre de Cultura Contemporània,
Barcelona
17.07.2024–08.12.2024

Investiga Colección Banco Santander

The foundation issued the third call for submissions to this research grant programme, created to promote a better understanding of the Banco Santander Collection. The programme is open to individual researchers, groups and non-profit organisations.

Candidates may submit proposals to study the works that make up the collection from the perspective of any field of knowledge, and they can present their research in different formats depending on the content (article, dossier, audiovisual production, curatorial project, etc.).

A committee of independent experts and representatives of Fundación Banco Santander selected the two winners: Aarón Jara Calabuig for a research project that associates art and set design in the work of José Caballero, and Raquel Manrique Alcaide for her study of the historical frames in the collection.



[Learn more](#)



[Download recolección](#)

Additionally, in 2024 the foundation launched *recolección*, an editorial series that publishes the best projects of each edition in Spanish and English. The debut of *recolección* featured one of the research papers selected following the first call for grant applicants: *Art, Luxury and Magnificence: Tapestry in the Banco Santander Collection*, by Jesús Félix Pascual Molina and Miguel Ángel Zalama Rodríguez.

Por la ardiente meseta amarilla me acuerdo de Alberto Sánchez (1970), by José Caballero.
Banco Santander Collection.



Santander Art Gallery

The art gallery, located in Grupo Santander City in Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, opened in 2006 to provide a permanent home for the bank's art collection. Admission is free, and guided tours are available. The gallery is open to visitors from 10 am to 5 pm, Monday through Thursday, and from 10 am to 2 pm on Fridays.

The foundation also organises different activities for group employees at the gallery and offers a cultural mediation service based on education, social inclusion and community involvement with families, schools and diverse social groups.

Activities for Employees

From 21 February to 20 November, the foundation organised six sessions of "Sobremesa con..." [Table Talk with...], where experts from the art world discuss works and artists in the Banco Santander Collection. The guest speakers in 2024 were Elisa Hernando, Lucía Muñoz Iglesias, Nacho Ruiz, Mikel Chillida, Aritz González and Juan Francisco Rueda.

On 8 May, the improvisational theatre company Impromadrid gave a performance set in the Spanish Golden Age. And, as a prelude to the Christmas holidays, on 11 December the Lavanda Jazz Band played classic swing tunes and carols set to swinging rhythms.

Workshops for Families, Schools and Communities

Seventeen family tours were given in 2024. These are fun experiences designed for an intergenerational audience that show how the collection is connected to the surrounding landscape and the sculptures located outside the gallery.

The gallery also offered nineteen workshops for primary, lower and upper secondary pupils from different public schools, plus three specially adapted workshops for two and three-year-olds enrolled at the nursery school in Grupo Santander City.

The community activities are intended for diverse social groups that provide a richer understanding of the artworks on display. Eleven sessions were organised over the course of the year for families with foster children, pupils affected by cerebral palsy, and the users of two senior day care centres and one vocational school.



[Learn more](#)

Permanent exhibition of the bank's art collection at the Santander Art Gallery.



Exhibitions

The foundation manages the permanent exhibition of the bank's art collection at the Santander Art Gallery in Grupo Santander City. Every so often, it rotates the works on display and refreshes the design and layout of rooms dedicated to certain genres or artists.

The foundation also participates in exhibitions organised by other museums and institutions. In 2024, it sponsored two editions of the exhibition programme La Obra Invitada [The Guest Work] at the Museo de Bellas Artes in Bilbao.

La Obra Invitada exhibition
at the Museo de Bellas Artes
in Bilbao.





**Masterpieces
in the Banco
Santander
Collection**

Santander Art Gallery,
Boadilla del Monte (Madrid)

The art gallery, located in Grupo Santander City in Boadilla del Monte, Madrid, exhibits a selection of the works that comprise the bank’s art collection.

Visitors are able to admire Flemish, Dutch and Italian paintings from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as well as remarkable examples of Spanish painting ranging from the Middle Ages to today.

There are special areas dedicated to the canvases that Sert made to adorn the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York, a survey of Gutiérrez Solana’s pictorial career, and several drawings by Nonell, Anglada Camarasa, Tàpies and Laffón.

The exhibition includes sculptures from the fifteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, although most are by major contemporary artists like Chirino, Chillida and Solano.

The decorative arts are represented by two strongboxes from the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and several pottery pieces from the Alcora Royal Manufactory.

Finally, most of the coins and notes from the bank’s impressive numismatic collection, which spans the history of the Iberian Peninsula, are also on display.



La Obra Invitada
Museo de Bellas Artes, Bilbao

The foundation works with the Museo de Bellas Artes in Bilbao to organise two editions of the exhibition programme La Obra Invitada [The Guest Work] every year.

From 12 March to 2 June, the museum displayed three luxury items fashioned by the renowned armourers of Eugui, Navarre, and now in the Spanish Royal Collections managed by Patrimonio Nacional: a sallet (ca. 1596), a buckler depicting the Judgement of Paris (ca. 1598) and a harquebus (ca. 1620). They were accompanied by various nineteenth-century documents: an illustrated book containing the finest creations of those armourers, published by the medievalist Achille Jubinal; photographs by Charles Clifford and Jean Laurent; and a photo album belonging to the Count of Lipa.

From 29 October 2024 to 2 February 2025, the guest work was a selection of forty manuscripts from the Arriola-Lerchundi Library, dated to between the twelfth and nineteenth centuries, including books of hours, royal charters, liturgical books and patents of nobility. Displayed alongside them were several works of art from the museum’s own collection—eleven paintings, one sculpture, one watercolour and two photographs—related to the manuscripts’ content.

Supporting Collectors

First Collector-ARCOmadrid

For the fourteenth consecutive year, the foundation sponsored this programme, which offers free advice to prospective contemporary art buyers during the ARCOmadrid fair. The service is provided by Arte Global, an international consulting firm specialised in art collecting and cultural projects.

From 6 to 10 March, its experts offered personalised recommendations of artists, galleries and works at the fair to anyone interested in starting or growing an art collection. The recommendations are always tailored to the collector's tastes and budget. A digital version of this service has also been available since 2020, allowing users to receive buying suggestions on their phones.

Estampa Fair

Fundación Banco Santander sponsors two activities that are part of the Estampa contemporary art fair programme: the Colecciona seminar and "De la mano de un coleccionista" [A Collector's Guide].

The eleventh edition of the seminar elaborated on the previous year's theme: the relationship between contemporary art collectors and architecture. Between 6 April and 8 June, tours, conversations and lectures were offered in several buildings managed by private collectors of contemporary art to share their collections with the public.

"De la mano de un coleccionista" took place while the fair was open, from 17 to 20 October. In this programme, a collector from the 9915 Association gives guided tours of the gallery booths and artists they find most interesting. Emilio Mendoza, Juan Alfonso Contreras, and Fátima Rodríguez and Elías Cabrera led three tours in 2024.

Seminar at the UIMP

The foundation sponsored the 11th Collecting, Contemporary Art and Society seminar at the Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP) in Santander, organised on 15 and 16 July by Instituto de Arte Contemporáneo (IAC) and the 9915 Association of Private Contemporary Art Collectors.

This year's seminar focused on professionalism in the culture industry and public-private sector partnerships as essential prerequisites for a healthy, flourishing art ecosystem.

Contemporary art fair
ARCOmadrid.



Partnerships

Foundation of Friends of the Prado Museum

The foundation sponsors the Francisco Calvo Serraller lecture series, organised by the Foundation of Friends of the Prado Museum.

From 1 October 2024 to 25 February 2025, the series titled "Entre el amor y la muerte. Las pasiones en el arte" explored how the passions, so fundamental to human life, have been represented in art throughout history.

Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza

The foundation is a corporate friend of the Museo Nacional Thyssen-Bornemisza. As such, it helps to preserve and promote the museum's collection and facilitate the different activities it plans.

Artium Museoa-Museo de Arte Contemporáneo del País Vasco

Fundación Banco Santander is one of several organisations that supports Artium Museoa. Its contribution aids the implementation of the museum's annual programme and the maintenance of its artistic assets, comprising works from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries that have ties to the Basque Country.

Instituto de Arte Contemporáneo

The Instituto de Arte Contemporáneo (IAC) is an independent association that seeks the benefit of the entire art community in Spain. Its initiatives strive to promote the network of contemporary art institutions, ensure the implementation of best practices in the culture industry, and create a positive social perception of Spanish contemporary art.

9915 Association of Private Contemporary Art Collectors

Fundación Banco Santander is an institutional collaborating partner of this association, which defends the interests of private collectors of contemporary art in Spain. Thanks to this partnership, the foundation is able to share experiences and swap ideas and opinions with members of the collecting community.

Temporary exhibition at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza.



Music



Fundación Albéniz

Fundación Albéniz is an institution dedicated to promoting and teaching music via the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía. Fundación Banco Santander sponsors several of its programmes.

Piano Chair

The chair consists of two teaching units, led by Milana Chernyavska and Stanislav loudenitch. The advanced piano studies they offer have allowed students to perfect their skill on this instrument and advance their professional careers by performing at several concerts throughout the school year.

Canal Escuela

This channel offers free public access to the audiovisual archives of the Escuela Superior de Música Reina Sofía, consisting of student concerts and master classes in different instruments taught by international artists.

Family Concerts

The school's orchestras play at the concerts that Fundación Banco Santander organises for group employees and their families. A total of four concerts were offered in 2024, attended by 1,683 people.

Concerts for Schoolchildren

These concerts are part of an educational programme for primary and secondary pupils from schools in the region of Madrid. The programme also includes immersive virtual reality activities that allow children to discover the various instruments that make up an orchestra and the works of great composers.

Santander Music and Academy Encounter

Every year, this event brings young students and renowned masters together to learn, rehearse and perform at various cultural venues across Cantabria. Fundación Banco Santander sponsored the chamber music concert and closing concert, held at the Cantabria Palace of Festivals on 19 and 26 July, respectively.





Teatro Real

The foundation is one of the principal patrons of the artistic season and cultural initiatives of Madrid's Teatro Real. Its extensive programme includes operas, concerts, recitals and dance productions, plus a variety of cultural activities (seminars, workshops, lectures, film screenings, etc.) in connection with some of these shows.

In 2024, Fundación Banco Santander sponsored the premiere in Spain of *Lear*, an opera inspired by the famous Shakespearean tragedy, with music by Aribert Reimann and libretto by Claus Henneberg. Asher Fisch conducted the Choir and Orchestra of the Teatro Real, and Calixto Bieito was the stage director. Six performances were given between 26 January and 7 February.

The theatre also organised two complementary activities: an encounter with the lead singers on 25 January in the Teatro Real's Gayerre Hall, and a conversation between the composer Jorge Fernández Guerra and the musicologist Luis Gago about Riemann's work on 1 February at the Residencia de Estudiantes.



Gran Teatre del Liceu

Over the course of 2024, Fundación Banco Santander sponsored six performances scheduled for the Gran Teatre del Liceu's artistic season.

On 5 May, the Orquestra Simfònica of the Gran Teatre del Liceu, conducted by Josep Pons, played Mahler's Symphony No. 5. On 26 and 27, the theatre presented a concert version of Beethoven's opera *Fidelio*, with an innovative semi-staged production for deaf and hearing audiences.

From 19 to 23 July, the Balletto del Teatro dell'Opera di Roma performed Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*. On 18 and 19 October, the Liceu screened *Oh To Believe in Another World*, an animated film created by visual artist William Kentridge for Shostakovich's Symphony No. 10.

On 24 and 27 October, the soprano Sondra Radvanovksy and the tenor Piotr Beczala gave two concerts to mark the centenary of Puccini's death.

Finally, on 18 December, Marc Minkowski conducted a concert version of the operetta *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss.



Orfeó Català Choir School

The patronage of Fundació Banco Santander drives this educational, artistic and social project that provides musical training to more than two hundred children and young people between the ages of six and twenty-five.

The Escola consists of five choral ensembles—Cor Petits, Cor Mitjans, Cor Infantil, Cor de Noies and Cor Jove—which will supply the future singers of the Orfeó Català.

Their members acquire the technical knowledge needed to eventually join a professional adult choir under the guidance of the Escola's artistic staff, consisting of pianists, conductors, voice teachers, music theory instructors, and guest educators who give master classes.

Along with other groups, the choirs perform in several annual concerts at the Palau de la Música and the Petit Palau and participate in major music events, singing iconic pieces from the universal choral repertoire. They also support various social and humanitarian causes by taking part in charity concerts at hospitals, care homes, etc.



Orfeón Donostiarra

Fundación Banco Santander is a Friend of Honour of the Orfeón Donostiarra, an amateur choral ensemble founded in 1897.

Although it is composed of non-professional singers, being in this choir is a full-time commitment. It gives approximately forty concerts each year, sharing the stage with internationally renowned orchestras, maestros and soloists, and regularly participates in the most important music festivals in Spain and Europe (San Sebastián Musical Fortnight, Santander International Festival, Ruhrtriennale, the Salzburg and Rhine festivals, etc.).

The choir's repertoire includes a large number of symphonic choral works, operas, zarzuelas, folk songs and polyphonic music.

In the course of its long musical history, the ensemble has earned numerous distinctions, such as the Fundación Excelentia Award, Opera Award from Fundación Teatro Campoamor, and the Gold Medal for the Centenary of the Orquesta Sinfónica de Madrid.



Santander International Festival

During the month of August, this festival brings the finest soloists and orchestras on the international music scene to perform in Santander and different historic venues across Cantabria.

Fundación Banco Santander sponsored the closing concert, held on 31 August at Argenta Hall in the Cantabria Palace of Festivals. The Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and the cellist Sol Gabetta, conducted by Mikko Franck, performed Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun*; Lalo's Cello Concerto in D Minor; Ravel's *Schéhérazade*, *Ouverture de féerie*, M. 41; and the suite from Stravinsky's *The Firebird*.



Francesco Ruggieri Cello

The foundation extended the loan of a seventeenth-century cello from its collection to the renowned musician Asier Polo.

The instrument was crafted in about 1689 by Francesco Ruggieri, a luthier of the Cremona school, known for his consummate skill at creating string instruments. In addition to its beauty and the quality of its materials, the cello has two qualities that make it even more valuable. Firstly, it predates the modern cello, whose proportions were established by Stradivari in the year 1700; and secondly, the Catholic Church commissioned it to be played in processions. There is a hole in the bottom, now covered up, for a strap that would have passed round the cellist's neck, allowing it to be played during these types of liturgical ceremonies.

Music critics regard Asier Polo as one of the finest musicians of his generation. In 2019, he received the National Music Prize from the Spanish Ministry of Culture in recognition of his stellar career as an artist and his significant educational work. He currently teaches at the University School of Music of the Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana in Lugano, Switzerland.

Literature



Colección Obra Fundamental

The literary collection published by Fundación Banco Santander revives works by Spanish-language authors from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

After the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent health crisis, the collection was expanded to include contemporary literature, with the aim of creating a space in which to reflect on the societal and individual transformations of our time. This decision resulted in the publication of a trilogy of short stories, poems and philosophical essays. The final volume, featuring texts by twelve representatives of the contemporary philosophical panorama, was published in 2024.

All of the titles in the collection are also released as e-books and, starting in 2021, accompanied by podcasts that can be found on the foundation's website and the main platforms. These podcasts contain interviews with the authors or anthologists and dramatisations or readings of some of their texts.



[Learn more](#)





Las cosas de la vida.
Cartas de José María de Pereda
a Manuel Marañón (1877-1897)
José María de Pereda

This volume is a compilation of more than 260 letters which Pereda, one of the great Spanish authors of the second half of the nineteenth century, wrote to the lawyer Manuel Marañón. In addition to personal matters, the missives provide numerous insights into the writer’s profession at that time and allow us to follow the process of literary creation from start to finish.

Jaime Olmedo, who edited the correspondence and wrote the introduction, is a lecturer in Spanish Literature at the Complutense University, a corresponding member of the Royal Academy of History and vice-chancellor of the Camilo José Cela University.

The podcasts accompanying the book feature an interview with Jaime Olmedo and readings of excerpts from some of the letters contained in the volume.



Doce filosofías para
un nuevo mundo.
¿Hacia dónde camina
el ser humano?
Multiple authors

The final volume in the contemporary literature trilogy is a compilation of essays about the changes that the future has in store, written specifically for this book by twelve philosophers.

Ana Carrasco-Conde, Antonio Lastra, Azahara Alonso, Carlos Blanco, Daniel Innerarity, Eurídice Cabañes, Heike Freire, Javier Echeverría, José Antonio Marina, Josefa Ros, José Luis Villacañas and Victoria Camps propose, among other things, that we change our destructive relationship with nature, move past a gruelling labour system, and make life meaningful by caring for others. Ángel Gabilondo concludes their reflections with an epilogue.

The podcasts contain conversations with the featured philosophers and readings of their texts.



Pláticas literarias
Gazel

This notebook reveals the least-known facet of Gazel, the pseudonym used by journalist and writer Agustí Calvet i Pascual, a reputed war correspondent during World War I and political analyst in the days of the Second Spanish Republic. The volume contains selected articles of literary and art criticism. Shakespeare, Gaudí, Goya, Proust, Goethe, Cervantes, Baroja and Dostoevsky are just some of his subjects.

Francisco Fuster, associate professor of Contemporary History at the University of Valencia and expert on the history of Spanish Silver Age culture, prefaced and selected the texts.

The publication is rounded out by nine podcasts—an interview with Francisco Fuster and eight narrated *pláticas* or “chats”—and a video, posted on the foundation’s YouTube channel, in which the anthologist and Jordi Amat talk about Gazel.



CartasVivas



[Learn more](#)

Fundación Banco Santander and the University of Exeter launched this audiovisual library in 2019 with the intention of highlighting the role which different women played in twentieth-century Spanish and Latin American cultural circles through their own testimonies. These take the form of short film pieces directed by Nuria Capdevila-Argüelles, professor in Hispanic Studies and Gender Studies. Students from the University of Exeter also participated in their production.

In 2024, three new CartasVivas or “living letters” were filmed about the Spanish painters Amalia Avia, Teresa Sánchez-Gavito and Delhy Tejero, played by the actresses Paula Rodríguez, Elena Sanz and Sofía Monreal, respectively. The scripts were based on the artists’ own diaries and memoirs.

All of the shorts made since the start of the project are freely accessible on the website cartasvivas.org.

History and Heritage



Colección Biografías de Historia Fundamental



[Learn more](#)

In 2024, the foundation launched a new book collection that aims to shine a spotlight on figures from the history of Spain and Ibero-America who lived between the fifteenth and nineteenth centuries, particularly people who have been forgotten by the public or systematically ignored by historians.

In each volume, an expert will present the conclusions of their research, along with illustrations and documents to situate the subject in his or her context.

The collection is also published in e-book format and complemented by a podcast that includes dramatisations based on the texts and interviews with the historians. The recordings are available free of charge on the main audio streaming platforms and the foundation's website.



María Josefa Amalia de Sajonia, reina de España. Política, poeta y mística María José Rubio

The opening volume of the collection was dedicated to the third wife of Ferdinand VII, Maria Josepha Amalia of Saxony, the first constitutional queen and the only member of the Spanish monarchy who was also a writer.

In the queen's first biography, the historian María José Rubio debunks certain myths about her life and reveals unknown aspects of her literary work, such as her reflections on the turbulent political events of her reign that marked the course of nineteenth-century Spanish history.

The QR code that comes with the book leads to an interview with the author and a podcast dramatisation of selected passages.



Banco Santander Historical Archives

The foundation has partnered with Fundación UCEIF (University of Cantabria Foundation for the Study and Research of the Financial Sector) to manage and administer the historical archives of Banco Santander.

These archives are a vital source of information for understanding and studying Spain's economic history and financial system. They consist of documents and books owned by Banco Santander and other financial institutions that have been absorbed into what is now Grupo Santander, a collection of banking artefacts (1879–2011), and another of stock and bond certificates and other bank documents (1863–1976).

Fundación Banco Santander oversees all activities related to the conservation, research, digitisation, cataloguing and public dissemination of this valuable documentary heritage.

The building that houses the archives also includes a space dedicated to works in the Banco Santander Collection by the eighteenth-century architect and engraver Giovanni Battista Piranesi.



Biografías e Historia

The Biografías e Historia series, organised by Fundación Banco Santander and Asociación Cultural de la Nobleza Española, analyses historical events through the lives of people who played a leading role in them.

In 2024 the series was dedicated to Francisco Jiménez de Cisneros, a pivotal figure in Spanish history who marked the transition from the Middle Ages to the early modern era.

Historians Carmen Iglesias, Teresa Jiménez Calvente, Sergio Ramiro Ramírez and Jaime Olmedo Ramos discussed his various facets: cardinal and archbishop of Toledo, inquisitor general, benefactor and political regent.

The lectures were held in the assembly hall of the National Historical Archives from 7 to 28 May, and recordings of them (and of past editions) are available on the foundation's YouTube channel.

Hispania Nostra Awards

Each year, Fundación Banco Santander and the association Hispania Nostra present awards to acknowledge best practices in the conservation and defence of Spain's cultural and natural heritage.

There are three prize categories: Land or Landscape Intervention; Conservation of Heritage as a Factor of Socio-Economic Development; and Cultural and Natural Heritage Signage and Publicity.

In 2024, the initiatives selected by the jury in each category were, in the same order: the renovation of a sixteenth-century flour mill and its environs in San Miguel de Corneja, Ávila; the restoration, research and documentation of the facades of the Giralda tower in Seville; and the publication of two books about industrial heritage by the INCUNA association to celebrate its 25th anniversary.

La Colección de Ideas

Fundación Banco Santander created this “idea lab” to reflect and exchange proposals on current issues. At each of the eight sessions held over the course of 2024, the topic was introduced by a speaker and subsequently discussed by several experts.

On 8 January, Miguel Gil Tertre, chief economist of the European Commission's Directorate General for Energy, introduced a debate about the relationship between energy and geopolitics.

Helena Viñes, commissioner of the Spanish Financial Markets Authority (CNMV), discussed the future of the European Green Deal on 17 January.

On 12 March, Álex Romero, CEO and founder of Alto Intelligence, kicked off a discussion of the hybrid threats that aim to weaken states through disinformation.

At the session held on 21 May, renowned news professionals analysed journalism's role in relation to public opinion.

José García Montalvo, researcher and full professor of Applied Economics, examined the main challenges of providing access to housing on 13 June.

On 1 October, Antón Costas, president of Spain's Social and Economic Council, defended the need for a democratic economic policy in a social context fraught with uncertainty.

Jonas Fernández, economist and coordinator of the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament, spoke about Spain's influence in the European Union on 15 November.

Finally, the social perception and truth of the migration phenomenon was the topic addressed by Sara de la Rica, full professor of Economics, in the session on 28 November.



Partnerships

Congress of Hispanic American History Academies

Fundación Banco Santander was a sponsor of this event organised by Fundación Obra Pía de los Pizarro in partnership with Spain's Royal Academy of History.

At the congress, held on 4 October at the Barrantes-Cervantes Palace in Trujillo, Cáceres, and inaugurated by King Felipe VI, representatives of history academies in Spain and Hispanic America came together to strengthen ties and share different perspectives on their common past.

The final session was a round table discussion among several Trujillo congress attendees, held on 7 October at Casa de América.

Real Fundación de Toledo

Fundación Banco Santander sits on the Board of Protectors of this institution devoted to preserving, researching and publicising the cultural and historical heritage of the city of Toledo. To this end, it organises exhibitions, urban planning initiatives, heritage restorations, workshops, lectures, concerts and other activities.

The foundation's headquarters on Roca Tarpeya also house the Museo Víctorio Macho and Espacio Rafael Canogar, where the work of these two artists from Toledo is on public display.

Architecture Seminar at the UIMP

Fundación Banco Santander sponsored a course titled "Intervenciones sobre edificios existentes", led by architect Antonio Ortiz, at the Menéndez Pelayo International University.

Between 2 and 4 September, architecture professionals gathered to discuss the significance and scope of architectural renovations, specifically in connection with the bank's remodel of two buildings in Santander: the regional head office in Calle Hernán Cortés, and the former main headquarters in Paseo de Pereda.



Social Outreach

-
- Santander Ayuda
 - Santander Social Tech
 - Santander BEST Africa
 - Santander Emplea Cultura

Santander Ayuda

The aim of this programme run by Fundación Banco Santander is to support non-profit organisations that work to improve the lives of at-risk children and teens in Spain.

There were two calls for submissions to Santander Ayuda last year, with different focuses: combating poverty (first call), and striving to boost educational progress (second call).

The results of the programme's second edition, which had called for submissions in November 2023 and focused on breaking the cycle of poverty by promoting the holistic development of children, teens and their families, were announced in April 2024. The thirty selected projects were implemented over the course of 2024 and benefited 5,566 people, 4,154 of whom were children and adolescents. The beneficiary organisations were also eligible to compete for the Santander Ayuda Awards, which come with a cash prize and are awarded to the three social outreach initiatives that are considered the most relevant based on their innovative approach and social impact. The winning associations were Ciudad Joven, Norai and Nuevo Futuro.

The foundation also organised an event that brought all the selected organisations together to share their experiences and receive instruction in subjects of interest to them all.

The submission period for the first call of the education-centred programme began in November 2024. This time fifteen projects will be chosen, prioritising those whose scope of action includes the areas affected by the torrential rains and flooding in October of last year. The results are expected to be announced in April 2025.



Santander Social Tech

Santander Social Tech is a programme created by the foundation to support the digital transformation of organisations that serve society and increase the impact and efficiency of their actions.

It consists of three phases—training, advice and financial aid—and there are two calls for submissions. The first, issued during the first quarter of the year, is for organisations in need of training and expert advice; and the second, held in December, is for applicants seeking funding.

In the initial phase, the organisations are given free online digital skills training to perfect their fundraising, internal management and, above all, communication abilities. After completing this training, they are offered personalised advice for two months to make progress on a specific aspect of digitalisation. Finally, they can apply for financial aid to implement improvements that will boost their digital transformation.

The submissions period for the training and advice phase of the programme's sixth edition began in January 2024, and the decision will be announced in March. Twelve workshops were held in 2024 for a total of 132 organisations, seventy-two of which also received advisory services. The financial aid packages will be awarded in 2025.

The names of the fifty-one organisations granted funding in the fifth edition of the programme were announced in April 2024.



Santander BEST Africa

Santander BEST Africa aspires to contribute to the socio-economic development of this continent by supporting women entrepreneurs and their communities in the sustainable tourism sector.

The programme promotes a network of inclusive businesses, preferably led by women, related to tourism products or services. Beneficiaries receive technical and financial assistance to support their enterprises and are chosen based on their commitment to promoting jobs for women and social and environmental sustainability.

Santander BEST Africa is currently present in Gambia, Senegal, Morocco and Mozambique. The foundation's website contains information about some of the businesses it supports in these countries, the stories of the enterprising women behind them, and the principal organisations that work with the programme.

During the past year, Santander BEST Africa supported twenty-three projects that are improving professional skills and employability, creating jobs and generating income for 1,142 individuals, 1,053 of whom are at-risk women.

Additionally, in partnership with Banco Santander's People and Culture Department, the foundation has instituted an awareness programme to encourage the sharing of knowledge and experiences between bank employees and the female entrepreneurs of the Santander BEST Africa network. Over the course of 2024, forty-one Banco Santander professionals took part in four trips to different destinations in Gambia, Senegal and Morocco.



[Learn more](#)



Santander Emplea Cultura

Fundación Banco Santander created this programme in 2014 with the goal of facilitating job placement for young people specialised in the contemporary arts and driving the sustainable growth of culture industry organisations.

Santander Emplea Cultura is a programme for organisations that want to hire new employees and for candidates interested in filling those positions. The ten beneficiary organisations receive a stipend to cover the monthly salary of the hired workers for one year, and five of them can get additional funding if they keep those employees on for a second year.

To celebrate the programme's tenth anniversary, in 2024 a consulting firm that specialises in cultural management was asked to prepare a report analysing the characteristics and needs of this industry, evaluating the impact of Santander Emplea Cultura, and proposing strategies for the future. The results of this study were quite encouraging: 86.5% of the sponsored job positions were maintained after the financial aid ended, 74% of participating professionals were still working in the culture industry, and two thirds of participating companies had consolidated their position or grown.

Additionally, a workshop day was held in November, where representatives of the programme's ten editions discussed how employment in the culture industry has evolved over the last decade, the current challenges it faces, and potential opportunities for transformation.



Higher Education and Entrepreneurship

- Fundación Universidad Villanueva
- Fundación de Estudios Superiores e Investigación - ESIC
- National Distance Learning University
- University of Salamanca
- University of Valladolid
- University of Santiago de Compostela
- University of Cantabria
- Agrifood Campus of International Excellence (ceiA3)
- Oxentia Foundation
- Fundación UCEIF
- Fundación Comillas-Centro Universitario CIESE
- Fundación Universia
- Mujeres por África
- Fundación Carolina



[Learn more](#)

Fundación Universidad Villanueva

Fundación Banco Santander and Fundación Universidad Villanueva implemented a scholarship programme based on academic excellence to help students who want to enrol at this university to cover the cost of higher education. The university offers a wide range of single and dual undergraduate degrees with specialisms.

Scholarships are awarded based on the candidates' classification in upper secondary school or equivalent vocational programme, and discounts on academic fees are calculated according to their performance in these pre-university stages of education.

Fundación de Estudios Superiores e Investigación - ESIC

Fundación Banco Santander and its parent bank sponsored grants to facilitate access to the ESIC business school.

The Santander International Mobility Grants are awarded to fifteen Latin American students who want to take one of the master's courses in business administration and management that ESIC offers in Madrid, Barcelona and Valencia.

Candidates may come from Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Peru or Venezuela. The grant money covers a percentage of the tuition and part of the cost of getting settled in Spain.



National Distance Learning University

Fundación Banco Santander partnered with the National Distance Learning University (UNED) on several programmes that offer aid to students and graduates in the areas of education, job placement and entrepreneurship.

Educational initiatives included the mentor classmate prize, the Supera Santander scholarships to help students continue their undergraduate courses, athletic scholarships, mobility grants for PhD candidates, and reduced-mobility grants.

Awards for the transfer, research and publication of scientific information, predoctoral contracts, and financial aid for off-campus work experience and research work were granted with the aim of facilitating access to the job market.

Additionally, 2024 witnessed the conclusion of the eleventh edition of the startup programme for UNED students and graduates interested in getting an entrepreneurial project off the ground.

University of Salamanca

In 2024, Fundación Banco Santander signed a partnership agreement with the University of Salamanca to support several of its initiatives related to student training, entrepreneurship and employability.

Under the terms of this agreement, the foundation sponsored three international scholarship programmes for young Ibero-American students interested in pursuing a bachelor's or master's degree or doctorate at this university.

A predoctoral contract programme was also introduced with a view to making PhD candidates more employable, and various activities, grants and prizes were offered to promote entrepreneurship and business development.



University of Santiago de Compostela

With the foundation's support, the University of Santiago de Compostela launched several programmes to promote education, employability and entrepreneurship among its students.

To facilitate access to higher education, scholarships were awarded to master's students in research groups and to researchers working towards a PhD. Scholarships were also awarded to students enrolled at the university to promote the practice of sports.

To improve their chances of finding work, the university offered grants to help bachelor's and master's-level students acquire complementary skills, as well as a talent acquisition and retention programme for post-doctoral researchers.

Additionally, it launched a patent valuation plan, offered entrepreneurial training, and supported different technology-based business initiatives to help students and researchers hone their entrepreneurial skills.

University of Valladolid

Fundación Banco Santander partnered with the University of Valladolid on several initiatives to facilitate access to education and employment for its students and researchers.

Three scholarship programmes were offered for the 2024/2025 school year, for Asian and Ibero-American students interested in doing a master's course at this university, bachelor's or master's-level students with the best academic records, students with socio-economic difficulties, and women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

Other initiatives provided training and job opportunities for research staff by awarding predoctoral study and mobility scholarships to research institutes associated with the University of Valladolid.



University of Cantabria

Fundación Banco Santander supports the University of Cantabria's various research initiatives. This public institution is home to 173 research, development and innovation groups associated with thirty-seven different university institutes and departments.

One of its primary focuses is the partnership between the business world and institutions of higher learning. The University of Cantabria is associated with different companies that require solutions to their R&D+i needs.

It also has a Technological Development Centre that facilitates the creation of tech startups in the region, encourages R&D+i groups to share their findings with businesses, and promotes innovation in Cantabria's services and industry.

Moreover, the UC-Business Forum has become a permanent instrument of analysis and cooperative work with the corporate sector.

Agrifood Campus of International Excellence (ceiA3)

In 2024, Fundación Banco Santander supported several initiatives carried out by this public entity, a joint endeavour of the universities of Córdoba, Almería, Cádiz, Huelva and Jaén, which works with the Andalusian Institute of Agricultural and Fisheries Research and Training (IFAPA).

Its programmes attempt to address the agrifood challenges of the twenty-first century, strengthen ties between the university and business communities, train qualified professionals, and support the industry's transformation and transition to a more sustainable model.

Some of the most relevant are the grants for professionals who teach in the master's course offered by the campus, courses for young researchers and entrepreneurs with tech companies, work experiences for graduates, and the competition of ideas and projects for new agrifood businesses.



Oxentia Foundation

Fundación Banco Santander and this foundation associated with the University of Oxford have an agreement that enables them to work together on different international initiatives for entrepreneurs.

In 2024, this partnership invited scaleups and startups in eleven countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and the United States) to submit proposals to the Santander X Global Challenge in three different categories: Innovation in Healthcare; Education, Employability and Entrepreneurship; and the New Era of Customer Experience.

The companies participating in each had to propose innovative solutions for improving healthcare services, boosting education, employability and entrepreneurship, and perfecting the customer experience.

The winners received funding to implement their plan, access to a network of contacts and opportunities to collaborate with other companies via the Santander X community and Banco Santander's open innovation team, and visibility on its social media and official channels.

Fundación UCEIF

Fundación Banco Santander partners with Fundación UCEIF on the launch of Santander X Explorer Training, a programme that offers training and advice to entrepreneurs from twelve different countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Germany, Mexico, Poland, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Uruguay and the United States).

Two calls are issued every year, and applicants must present innovative business ideas in the pre-incubation phase that are related to the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations.

Over the course of twelve weeks, selected candidates receive training in how to start and run a business, acquire social skills and are introduced to key players in the entrepreneurial ecosystem (investors, agents, model entrepreneurs, etc.).

At the end, they are given a certificate of completion and access to a global community of young innovators.



Fundación Comillas-Centro Universitario CIESE

Fundación Banco Santander is an institutional patron of Fundación Comillas, a foundation based in Cantabria and devoted to the study, research and dissemination of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. Its mission is to make culture a driving force of economic and social growth in the region through digital transformation, educational innovation and social entrepreneurship.

Classes are taught at CIESE (International Centre for Advanced Spanish Studies), an institution attached to the University of Cantabria. This centre offers a variety of official degrees, such as the BA in Hispanic Studies, the MA in Teaching Spanish as a Second Language, two graduate programmes related to health and technology, and Spanish courses for foreign students.

Fundación Universia

Fundación Banco Santander partners with Fundación Universia on MetaRed, an initiative that seeks the improvement of higher education institutions in which more than one thousand centres are currently participating. This cooperate inter-university ecosystem focuses on three major challenges: digital transformation (MetaRed TIC), university entrepreneurship (MetaRed X), and social responsibility and sustainability (MetaRed ESG).

MetaRed TIC aims to help universities achieve digital transformation by offering training, implementing best practices and seeking joint solutions to shared problems.

MetaRed X fosters entrepreneurial activity in the university ecosystem by creating international working groups and pursuing various strategies to create quality jobs.

Finally, MetaRed ESG aspires to ensure that the university community complies with the principles of good governance and sustainable development goals.



Mujeres por África

Thanks to an agreement signed in 2024, Fundación Banco Santander and Mujeres por África made a commitment to support the political, financial and academic empowerment of African women by pursuing different projects with universities. The primary areas of activity are entrepreneurship and sustainability; peace and security; education and research; health; and culture.

The partnership between the two organisations sought to identify high-impact initiatives that can contribute to the advancement of women; work with academic partners to implement programmes that also benefit their communities; and design a plan of action that will allow these women to pass on the education and training they receive in their places of origin.

Fundación Carolina

Fundación Carolina promotes cultural relations and cooperation in the fields of education and science between Spain and the rest of the world, especially the countries of Ibero-America.

To achieve this goal, it offers training, specialisation and knowledge refreshing activities and an international visitors' programme, which invites relevant figures to visit Spain and interact with other professionals in their field.

Fundación Banco Santander supported the nineteenth edition of Young Ibero-American Leaders, an activity organised as part of the international visitors' programme to promote entrepreneurship, and scholarships for young professionals who want to do a master's course in the areas of social science, law, energy, environment, sustainability or infrastructure at a Spanish university.



Other Partnerships

Fundación Princesa de Asturias

Among other things, this private, non-profit institution acknowledges individuals and institutions whose efforts promote social, cultural and humanistic values.

In 2024, Princess Leonor's tenth year as honorary chair of the institution was celebrated with over one hundred cultural events in which past award winners also participated. The awards ceremony took place on 25 October at the Teatro Campoamor in Oviedo.

Casa de América

Casa de América is a public consortium that promotes Ibero-American culture in Spain by organising a variety of activities (lectures, exhibitions, film cycles, concerts, etc.).

Fundación Banco Santander supports its annual programme with a view to establishing social, political and economic ties with the Americas, especially Latin American and Caribbean nations.

Fundación Premios Rei Jaime I

Every year, Fundación Premios Rei Jaime I grants awards to recognise the achievements of Spain's scientific and business community. The winners receive a cash prize, which they pledge to invest in Spanish research and entrepreneurial projects.

The 2024 awards ceremony, initially set for 22 November, was put off until 14 February 2025 in consideration of the tragic aftermath of the torrential rains that affected the region of Valencia.

Real Instituto Elcano

This private, non-profit institute actively studies Spain's interests in the international context. Its primary purpose is to be a forum of encounter and debate that facilitates communication between public and private actors in the field of security and international relations.

Among other activities, it prepares documents and reports that help government authorities and private entities make informed decisions.

Linares Palace in Madrid, headquarters of Casa de América.



Asociación Cursos de La Granda

Fundación Banco Santander is a sponsor of the La Granda courses, where experts in different fields come together every summer in Asturias to debate topics related to science, industry and culture.

In 2024, the forty-sixth edition was held at the Hotel Meliá in Avilés from 31 July to 30 August.

Fundación Renal Española

Fundación Renal Española is a foundation dedicated to providing holistic care for persons with kidney disease.

The sponsorship of Fundación Banco Santander facilitated the development of Nefrodiet, a mobile app that helps patients follow a diet designed to slow the progress of chronic kidney disease. The latest version contains a section with recipes prepared by a team of nutritionists and tailored to the users’ clinical condition.

Fundación Museo del Ejército

The Museo del Ejército (Spanish army museum) preserves the rich heritage of Spain’s lengthy military history.

Fundación Banco Santander regularly contributes to the conservation of its holdings. In 2024 it sponsored the restoration of six flags, four standards and a Sahrawi drum. All these pieces are part of the museum’s permanent exhibition.

Fundación Reina Sofía

Fundación Reina Sofía promotes cultural, social welfare, research and educational activities.

Fundación Banco Santander partnered with this foundation to organise a charity gala, chaired by Queen Sofía, during the International Music and Dance Festival of Granada. The Ballet Nacional de España performed at the event, and the proceeds were used to fund research into the causes and treatment of neurodegenerative ailments.

Fundación General CSIC

Fundación Banco Santander works with Fundación General CSIC on the organisation of two initiatives for young scientists: Good Scientific Practices and ComFuturo.

The former is a training programme that promotes responsible conduct among researchers in the course of their careers.

The ComFuturo programme recruits talent for the Spanish science and technology sector by inviting fifteen researchers to spend three years working at institutes of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC).

Fundación Pro CNIC

Fundación Banco Santander is an institutional patron of this foundation, made up of various companies that share a commitment to prevent and combat cardiovascular diseases.

Fundación Pro CNIC supports the efforts of the Spanish National Centre for Cardiovascular Research (CNIC), fosters research, development and innovation in this field, and promotes the adoption of healthy habits in society.

Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom (SRUK/CERU)

Fundación Banco Santander and the Society of Spanish Researchers in the United Kingdom grant an award to recognise the professional achievements of young researchers who are working in the UK. The winner of the ninth edition was Emilio Martínez-Pañeda, a researcher at the University of Oxford.

The foundation is also a sponsor of Connects-UK, a project that aims to promote scientific cooperation with the European Union in the post-Brexit era.

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