BSC has been accredited as Severo Ochoa Centre of Excellence, the award with which the Spanish government recognises leading research centres in Spain of international standing in their respective areas.

The Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness' Department of Research, Innovation and Development, within its Institutional Strengthening programme, awards the Severo Ochoa mark to research entities involved in frontier research activities that are among the best in the world in their respective fields. The international scientific impact and leadership shown by these centres is a central consideration for receiving a Severo Ochoa award for excellence.

BSC first obtained a Severo Ochoa award in 2011 (SEV-2011-0067), receiving a grant for 4 years. It was awarded a second in 2015 (SEV-2015-0493), for a programme to be developed in the period 2016-2019.

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