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FOR RESEARCH
IN BIOMEDICINE

La Caixa/IRB Barcelona International PhD Fellowships 2012
Frequent Questions FAQs

ELIGIBILITY

Can I apply for an IRB Barcelona PhD fellowship before I receive my undergraduate degree?

Yes, both recent graduates and students in the final year of their undergraduate degree may apply. You must however have finished your degree before taking up your position with IRB Barcelona.

What kind of background do I need to have to work at IRB Barcelona?

We are looking for highly motivated students from a wide range of fields in the area of the life sciences. Students with outstanding qualifications in biology, biochemistry, chemistry, computational sciences, physics, pharmacology, medicine and related fields are all encouraged to apply.

APPLICATION

Where can I find the online application?

The direct link is: <http://phdlacaixa.irbbarcelona.org/> . You will be able to upload all your documents and personal information to submit your candidature.

Do I need to register to submit an application?

Yes. You will need to provide your personal details the first time you enter by clicking on “Login”. Once you have saved your personal information, you will receive an automatic email with your login details. You will be able to save your application as many times as you like and continue working on it until you click on the “Submit” button or until the deadline.



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Can I send the reference letters on behalf of my referees?

No. You are responsible for ensuring that referees submit their letters but you cannot send the letters directly to us. Fill in the section reserved on the application form for the names of the referees contacted and click the “Send letter” button to forward an automatic email to your referees asking for a letter of recommendation. Otherwise, download instructions for the referees (the link is in the application form) and forward these instructions on to them.

How can my referees send their reference letters by email?

Referees may upload their letters **directly into the application** proceedings, as indicated in the instructions that they will receive. Alternatively, they can send their letters either by e-mail to phd@irbbarcelona.org or by airmail to our contact address.

How can I find out whether my referees have uploaded their reference letters?

Once each of the reference letters have been uploaded, the symbol for the reference letter will change to . Please remember that both letters must have this symbol in order to consider your application eligible.

How can I get the instructions for reference letters?

You can send your referees the instructions **directly from the application** form once you introduce their details. Otherwise, the instructions can be downloaded from the programme webpage.

Should I contact a specific group which I want to do my PhD activities before applying for the fellowship?



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No. In the application form you will be asked to indicate your preference of 2 programmes. If you wish to work with a specific group, please indicate this in your cover letter.

When do I need to submit my application form and when will I be informed of the outcome?

The deadline for applications is Tuesday, January 24, 2012. Candidates will be invited for interviews during spring 2012.

SELECTION PROCESS

Does the selection process involve an interview?

Yes. Pre-selected candidates will be invited to attend an interview that will take place at IRB Barcelona (Spain). Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the LaCaixa/ IRB Barcelona International PhD Programme.

When will I know whether I have been invited for an interview?

If you are selected for an interview, you will receive the invitation by March 2012.

If I am selected to join one of the IRB Barcelona research groups, when does the fellowship start?

Selected candidates should start their fellowships by September 2012.

Can I check the progress of my application once I have submitted?



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The online application process will allow you to check the status of your application, including information on your letters of reference.

Do I need to register separately with a university to do my PhD at IRB Barcelona?

Yes. Students are free to register with the University of their choice, normally a local one (Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, or Universitat Pompeu Fabra). They complete their coursework at this university, while concurrently doing practical training and work toward their thesis in an IRB Barcelona research laboratory. Students generally spend up to four years at IRB Barcelona, after which they complete and defend their thesis.