IRB BARCELONA

INSTITUTE FOR RESEARCH IN BIOMEDICINE

2008 application call for the "la Caixa" International PhD Fellowship Programme to do a doctoral thesis at IRB Barcelona (ref.02/07/FLC)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Section II, article 6, letters c) and q) of the Statutes of the *Fundació Privada Institut de Recerca Biomèdica* (hereafter referred to as IRB Barcelona) establish that this institution will promote activities that address collaboration and knowledge transfer and also make calls for fellowship (herein referred to as grant) applications and subsequent awards of the same.

Accordingly, this document is to publicize a grant call, which is included in the ""la Caixa" International PhD Fellowship Programme to do a doctoral thesis at IRB Barcelona". This programme is the result of a collaboration agreement signed on 9 January 2008 between IRB Barcelona and the "la Caixa" Foundation. The grants are assigned to students on a PhD programme and writing their PhD thesis under the supervision of group leaders at IRB Barcelona.

I. Objective

These Terms and Conditions serve to regulate the award of PhD grants for the academic year 2008-2009.

II. Grant Call

10 PhD grants are offered for the academic year 2008-2009 within the "la Caixa" International PhD Fellowship Programme to do a doctoral thesis at IRB Barcelona" (herein referred to as "la Caixa" Grant Programme).

1. The grant will cover the period 1 September 2008 - 31 August 2009.

2. The training programme will last 4 years. The grant will be renewable on a yearly basis and will last 2 + 2 years, as established in the Law 63/2006 of 27 January 2006 (BOE num. 29, 3 February 2006). Therefore the first two years will be covered by a grant, after which this initial period will be evaluated for renewal for a maximum of two more years through an employment contract. During the 4-year grant period, IRB Barcelona :

- Will concede the stipend corresponding to the grant in monthly payments at the end of each month. The stipend will be proportional to days worked at IRB Barcelona. In the case of grant renouncement, the awardee will have the right to receive only the amount

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owed for the days of the month in course up to which he/she renounced the grant.

- Will include the awardee in the Social Security System, as stipulated in Royal decree 63/2006, 27 January.

During the contract period, IRB Barcelona:

- Will draw up a training contract with the awardee for doing his/her doctoral thesis. This contract is governed by article 11.1 of the *Estatuto de los Trabajadores* (Royal Decree 1/1995, 24 March).
- Will fulfil its obligations with the Social Security System.

3. The grant will be 18,550 € gross per year during the first two years and 26,700 € gross per year during the following 2-year employment contract.

4. The supervisor of the awardee will be the group leader at IRB Barcelona, previously assigned and agreed with the awardee before signing the grant. This group leader will oversee that the duties assigned to the awardee are fulfilled and will notify IRB Barcelona management of students who do not fulfil these duties and of other pertinent circumstances, in order to start proceedings to withdraw the grant.

III. Additional funds

The awardees of "la Caixa" grants will have the right to receive additional funding of up to 6,400€ gross during the four years of the grant. This funding is destined to cover the fees for PhD or Masters courses as well as (subject to renewal of the grant) academic fees, in addition to expenses derived from international congress attendance and/or stays in international research centres.

IV. Requirements and Selection criteria for the "la Caixa" Grant Programme

1. The programme is aimed at students under 30 (Spanish nationals and non-nationals) who have completed their university studies and who qualify, according to Spanish legislation, to enrol on a PhD programme. Applicants should be in their final year of Biology, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Physics, Medicine or Chemistry degree courses or have completed a degree in the same.

2. Candidates are selected exclusively on merit, on the basis of their curricula. Academic grades and the curriculum of applicants are evaluated as well as recommendation letters and motivation letter. No selection criteria for positive or negative discrimination are applied.

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3. Students, researchers and PhD students who have had a scientific relationship with the centre for more than three months are not eligible for these fellowships.

V. Application Procedure

1. Students can make an online application at www.phd.irbbarcelona.org. The application deadline is **24:00h on 31 January 2008.**

2. For more information, applicants can consult IRB Barcelona's webpage or contact phd@irbbarcelona.org

VI. Applications

Applicants should send a completed online application form together with the following documents:

1. Academic certificate or certified copy of the academic report corresponding to degree studies completed. These documents must show the grades attained in exam periods of February, June and/or September.
Non-Spanish nationals should present: 1) a certified copy and sworn translation of their academic records (in the case that the original is in a language other than English or Spanish).

2."Curriculum Vitae" specifying education and experience, and supported by pertinent documents.

3. Letter of intent.

4. Two recommendation letters from university lecturers or scientists with who the applicant has studied or worked.

VII. Selection

After the application deadline:

1. The Director of IRB Barcelona will set up a Review Board that will comprise IRB Barcelona group leaders. This board will be charged with drawing up a preliminary list of candidates. On the basis of the students' academic merits and supporting documents, the Board will then draw up a list of candidates to be invited to IRB Barcelona for an interview.

2. Group leaders will interview the invited candidates and will make a final selection.

3. Applicants can follow the status of their application online.

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4. Applicants who have not been successful but have received a positive evaluation will be put on a waiting list to cover possible renunciations.

VIII. Documentation

Candidates selected during the interviews must present the following documentation to complete the selection procedure.

1.- Degree certificate or official notification of degree award.
Non-Spanish nationals must present: 1) certified copy and sworn translation of the degree certificate or equivalent level obtained in a university abroad, 2) certified copy and sworn translation of the certificate showing the subjects studied.

2.- A sworn statement expressing intention to register on a university doctoral programme.
3.- A sworn declaration stating that he or she does not receive any other funding or grant.

(Non-compliance with points 2 and 3 will automatically lead to withdrawal of the grant and any amounts received by the awardee in question must be returned to IRB Barcelona.)

IX. Communication of grant award

1. The Director of IRB Barcelona will issue an official grant award certificate to successful candidates.

X. Rights of awardees

1. Each awardee will have the following general rights:

a) To count on collaboration from IRB Barcelona and be provided with the necessary assistance to perform his/her studies and research activities.
b) To become a member of the research programme in which he/she will be performing his PhD.
c) To participate in student governing and representative bodies.
d) To participate in complementary calls for funding to attend scientific congresses or to spend training periods in other centres. The awardee will be able to spend up to 3 months performing research work in another laboratory upon approval of his/her supervisor and the director of IRB Barcelona.
e) To exercise intellectual property rights derived from his/her training activity and in accordance with his/her contribution, as established in the Intellectual Property Law of Royal Decree 1/1996,

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12 April. These rights will be independent, compatible and accumulable with other rights that may arise from the research developed, without negatively affecting the rights of the joint effort when the awardee participates in or is associated with a joint research project.

f) Regarding possible industrial property rights of the awardee, these will be regulated by Patent Law 11/1986, 20 March, and Royal Decree 55/2002, 18 January, governing the exploitation and license of rights on discoveries made in public research organisations. Said rights will not be linked to salary.

2. As established in point II.2 of the present call, the awardee has the right to receive the grant within the established time period, as set out in the terms of this call, without it being considered as salary, and to be registered in the Social Security System, in the terms established in section 1 of the first legal order of Royal Decree 63/2006, 27 January. In addition, the awardee has the right to the same holiday leave and special leave as research staff at IRB Barcelona.

3. The awardee on a contract have employment and Social Security rights derived from the formal employment contract with IRB Barcelona.

XI. Responsibilities of awardees

1. To fulfil the terms and conditions established in this call.

2. To perform his/her research activity under the supervision of a thesis director at IRB Barcelona while the grant is effective. In addition, he/she must perform the activities foreseen in the research training and specialization programmes of this institute.

3. To satisfactorily fulfil the objectives of the training programme.

4. To comply with the internal regulations of IRB Barcelona, particularly regarding working conditions and the prevention of occupational risks.

5. To prepare a report each year informing on the scientific progress of his/her thesis. Moreover, he/she will present this report to his/her Thesis Advisory Committee, named by the Institute.

6. To inform IRB Barcelona in advance of articles that carry his/her name and are published in scientific journals.

7. To undertake the duties that correspond to him/her as a result of being included in the Social Security System and in addition, in the case of students with an employment contract, to undertake the duties established in said contract.

8. To inform IRB Barcelona if he/she receives other grants or funding.

XII. Termination of grants

The grants will be revoked in the case that the awardee has withheld or falsified information.

The grant will also be revoked if the awardee does not fulfil the responsibilities described in point XI.

XIII. Incompatibility

Awardees will be devoted exclusively to the research or technical training and specialisation activities defined in this call. The grants included in this call are not compatible with any other type of grant from other public or private organizations.

XIV. Legal regime

The award of a "la Caixa" grant does not imply a legal employment agreement between the awardee and IRB Barcelona.

XV. Dissemination

Any information regarding this grant will be placed on the announcement board on the IRB Barcelona web site.

XVI. Clarification

The President of the Board of Trustees of IRB Barcelona will be responsible for clarifying queries regarding these terms and conditions.

Barcelona, 11 January 2008

Joan Guinovart
Director of IRB Barcelona

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