

ELIGIBILITY

Can I apply if I have not finished my PhD?

Yes. You can if you are officially awarded your PhD degree before the start of the fellowship (September 2011).

I have four years postdoctoral training. Can I still apply?

You are eligible for a period of 5 years following the successful completion of your PhD at the date of the interviews. You can apply if you fulfill all other eligibility criteria.

I finished my PhD 5 years ago but I was on sick leave the whole last year due to an accident, is this period taken into account?

Yes. We will extend the 5-year rule for applicants whose academic career has been interrupted for maternity or paternity leave (one additional year per child up to a maximum of three years), illness or other special circumstances. Your career break must be reported in *Additional Notes* of the online application. If you are selected for an interview, you will be asked to provide additional supporting documents.

I am 35 years old but I finished my PhD last year, am I still eligible?

Yes. You are still eligible. There is no age limit for the IRB International Postdoctoral Programme.

I am a European candidate and have been working in a Spanish institute for the last 6 months, am I still eligible?

Yes. Only researchers who have resided or carried out their main activity in Spain for **more than 12 months** in the 3 years prior to the call deadline are excluded. Short stays such as holidays will not be taken into account.



APPLICATION

Where can I find the online application?

The direct link is: <http://postdoc.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.


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 postdoc@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.

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 IRB Barcelona International Postdoctoral Programme.

Do I have to write a project?

Yes. You are required to write a Statement of Research Interests, including a short proposal of the prospective research project (600 words) and a motivation and research skills declaration (400 words). You can use the template available on the website.

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 the beginning of May 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 no later than end October 2012.