



2026 Extraordinary Call for the IRB Barcelona International PhD Fellowships Programme (ref.01/26.3/IRB) – FAQs

ELIGIBILITY

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

You must have finished your master's 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 graduates from a wide range of fields in the area of the life sciences. Young scientists 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: <https://l1nq.com/mfl9k5v> You will be able to upload all your documents and personal information to submit your application.

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.

When do I need to submit my application ?

The deadline for applications is 15:00 CET on 28 October 2026. Candidates will be invited for online interviews on November 2026.

SELECTION PROCESS

Does the selection process involve an interview?

Yes. Pre-selected candidates will be invited to an online interview.

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 email during November 2026.

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

Fellowships can start in January 2027.

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

Yes. Fellows 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 working toward their thesis in an IRB Barcelona research laboratory. Fellows generally spend up to four years at IRB Barcelona, after which they complete and defend their thesis.