2027 Call for the IRB Barcelona International IRB-DRIVE Fellowships Programme (ref.01/27.2/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: http://phd.irbbarcelona.org/. You will be able to upload all your documents and personal information to submit your application.

Do I need to register to submit an application?
Yes. You will need to provide your details the first time you enter by clicking on "Log in". 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.
The IRB-DRIVE application and selection process is run in parallel to the opening of the 2027 IRB Barcelona International PhD Fellowship call. Applicants should complete and submit the online form.
Those candidates applying for the IRB-DRIVE call who wish their candidature to also be considered for the 2027 IRB Barcelona International PhD fellowship call only need to submit a single application, which will be considered in both calls.

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.

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How can I find out whether my referees have uploaded their reference letters?
Once each reference letter has been uploaded, the symbol for the reference letter will change to . Please remember that both letters must have this symbol for your application to be considered eligible. You can check the status of the letters only once you have submitted your application.

Should I contact a specific group with which I want to do my PhD before applying for the fellowship?
In the application form, you will be asked to indicate your preference of Research Cluster(s) and/or Research group(s) (up to 3, in total).

When do I need to submit my application form?
The deadline for applications is 15:00 CET on 7 January 2027. Preselected candidates will be invited for interviews on 9–10 March 2027.

SELECTION PROCESS

Does the selection process involve an interview?
Yes. Pre-selected candidates will be invited to an interview at IRB Barcelona (Spain). Travel and accommodation costs will be covered by the IRB Barcelona International PhD Programme. Teleconference interviews will be used only for candidates with prior commitments that cannot be rearranged and that thus prevent them from travelling to Barcelona.

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 February 2026.

If I am selected to join one of the IRB Barcelona research groups, when does the fellowship start?
Fellowships start in September 2027.

Can I check the progress of my application once I have submitted it?
The online application process will allow you to check the status of your application, including information about your letters of reference.

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 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.

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