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2021 Call for the IRB Barcelona International PhD Fellowships Programme (ref.01/21.1/IRB)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Section II, article 6, letters c) and q) of the Articles of Association of the *Fundació Institut de Recerca Biomèdica (IRB Barcelona)* (hereafter referred to as IRB Barcelona or Institute) establish that the Institute will promote activities that address collaboration and knowledge transfer and also make fellowship calls and subsequent granting of these awards.

Accordingly, this document is to announce a fellowship call included in the IRB Barcelona International PhD Programme. The fellowships are assigned to students on a PhD programme who perform and defend their PhD theses under the supervision of group leaders at IRB Barcelona.

I. Objective

These Terms and Conditions serve to regulate the award of PhD fellowships for the academic year 2021-2022.

II. Fellowship Call

The following will be offered in this call:

- Up to 4 fellowships associated with the “Contratos Predoctorales para la Formación de Doctores (FPI)” 2021 call assigned to the Severo Ochoa Accreditation funded by the “Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU)” (herein referred to as Severo Ochoa fellowships).
- Up to 8 fellowships associated with the “Ayudas para contratos predoctorales para la formación de doctores” 2021 call funded by the “Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades (MICIU)” (herein referred to as FPI Project fellowships).
- 2 fellowships funded by the ITN-Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions call of the European Commission (Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, grant agreement No. 955951) (herein referred to as ITN fellowships).
- 1 fellowship funded by the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation (under the Grant “Relative Timing and Modularity in The Path to the Last Eukaryotic Common Ancestor” and Grant ID GBMF9742).



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FOR RESEARCH
IN BIOMEDICINE

Details of funding and requirements for the ITN fellowships are provided in Annex 1.

The Severo Ochoa and FPI Project fellowships will be regulated by the MICIU call, following the conditions of this government agency. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation fellowship will be regulated by this call described here.

All fellowship awardees will be contracted by IRB Barcelona. Fellowships will be renewable on a yearly basis and up to 4 years from the date of signature of the employment contract by the awardee, provided that he/she complies with all the requirements of point X of this call.

The awardee's supervisor will be the group leader at IRB Barcelona previously assigned and agreed with the awardee before the signature of the fellowship. This group leader will oversee that the duties assigned to the awardee are fulfilled and will notify IRB Barcelona's Academic Office and the Chair of Graduate Training of any incident, alterations in the fulfilment of the allocated duties or other pertinent circumstances, so that corrective measures can be applied and/or proceedings can be started to withdraw the fellowship.

III. Requirements and Selection Criteria

1. The programme is aimed at students who have completed one of the following options by September 2021:

- a) studies that lead to an official Spanish (or from another country of the European Higher Education Area) university degree in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Physics, Medicine, Chemistry or related fields and that have 300 credits (ECTS), of which at least 60 must correspond to master level.
- b) a degree in a non-Spanish university not adapted to the European Higher Education Area and that gives access to doctoral studies in Biology, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Pharmacy, Physics, Medicine, Chemistry or related fields.

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



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IN BIOMEDICINE

IV. Application Procedure

1. Applications can be made online at <http://phd.irbbarcelona.org/>. The application deadline is **15:00 CET on 29 January 2021.**
2. For more information, applicants can consult IRB Barcelona's webpage or contact IRB Barcelona's Academic Office at phd@irbbarcelona.org

V. 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 the degree 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, Spanish or Catalan).
2. Curriculum Vitae specifying education and experience and supported by pertinent documents.
3. Motivation letter.
4. Two recommendation letters from university lecturers or scientists with whom they have studied or worked.

VI. Selection

After the application deadline:

1. A Review Board comprising IRB Barcelona group leaders and members of the IRB Barcelona PhD Advisory Committee will draw up a preliminary list of candidates. On the basis of the applicants' academic merits and supporting documents, the Board will then draw up a list of candidates to be invited to IRB Barcelona for interview.
2. Group leaders and members of the PhD Advisory Committee will interview the invited candidates and will make a final selection.



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IN BIOMEDICINE

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

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

VII. Documentation

Each candidate selected during the interviews must present the following documents to complete the selection procedure.

1. Degree certificate or official notification of degree award.

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

2. A sworn statement expressing intention to enrol on a university doctoral programme.

3. A sworn statement stating that he or she does not receive any other funding or fellowship grant.

(Non-compliance with points 2 and 3 will automatically lead to withdrawal of the fellowship and the awardee must return any amounts received to IRB Barcelona).

VIII. Communication of Fellowship Award

The Head of Human Resources and Academic Affairs department will officially inform successful candidates of the fellowship award.

IX. Rights of Awardees

1. Awardees will have the following general rights:

- a) To be provided with the necessary assistance to perform their studies and research activities.
- b) To become a member of the research programme in which they will be undertaking PhD studies.
- c) To participate in bodies governing and representing the student community.

- d) To participate in complementary calls for funding to attend scientific congresses or to spend training periods in other centres upon approval of their supervisors and the director of IRB Barcelona.
 - e) To have their intellectual and industrial property rights regulated in the employment contract with IRB Barcelona.
2. Awardees will have employment and Social Security rights derived from the employment contract with IRB Barcelona.
3. Awardees will be able to exercise intellectual property rights derived from their training activity in accordance with their contribution, as established in the Intellectual Property Law, Royal Decree 1/1996, 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 awardees participate in or are associated with a joint research project.
4. Regarding possible industrial property rights of the awardees, these will be regulated by Law 24/2015, of July 24, 2015, on Patents, and Royal Decree 55/2002, of January 18, 2002, governing the exploitation and license of rights on discoveries made in public research organisations.

Said rights will not be linked to salary.

X. Responsibilities of Awardees

1. To fulfil the terms and conditions established in this call.
2. To enrol on a university doctoral programme.
3. To perform their research activity under the supervision of a group leader at IRB Barcelona for the duration of the fellowship. In addition, they must perform the activities foreseen in the research training and specialisation programmes of the Institute, as well as 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 their theses. Moreover, they will present this report to their Thesis Advisory Committee, designated by the Institute.
6. To request approval by the group leader who supervising their activity prior to the submission for publication or disclosure of any abstracts and/or publications based on research carried out at IRB Barcelona.
7. To undertake the duties that correspond to them as a result of being contracted by IRB Barcelona, as well as those associated with inclusion in the Social Security System.
8. To defend their theses and obtain the respective PhD degree by the end of the fourth year after the start of the fellowship. In exceptional cases, an extension of one year may be given for the defence of the thesis.

XI. Termination of Fellowships

The fellowship will be revoked if the awardee has withheld or falsified information. The fellowship will also be revoked if the awardee does not fulfil the responsibilities described in point X.

XII. Incompatibility

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

XIII. Legal Regime

Awardees will be subjected to the legal regime applicable to PhD fellowships according to the law in force at the time of drawing up the contract.

XIV. Data Protection

In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation), Organic Law 3/2018 of December 5, and other applicable regulations governing personal data protection, any personal data provided by applicants will be incorporated into the Academic file of IRB Barcelona, for which the Institute is the data processor. The purpose of keeping such data is to manage the relationship of the Institute with applicants. Applicants may exercise the rights of access, rectification deletion, opposition, transfer and expiry, as well as limitation in



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data processing of said information by contacting the Institute at the following e-mail address: dataprotection@irbbarcelona.org, or by writing to the following postal address: C/ Baldri Reixac, 10, 08028, Barcelona.

XV. Dissemination

Any information regarding this fellowship call will be placed on the announcement board on IRB Barcelona's website.

XVI. Clarification

The Director of IRB Barcelona or designated representative will be responsible for clarifying queries regarding these terms and conditions.

Barcelona, 27 November 2020

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Maribel Labrid".

Maribel Labrid
Head of Human Resources and Academic Affairs

ANNEX 1. Specific regulations for ITN fellowships



“This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 955951”.

IRB Barcelona is offering 2 fellowships funded by the ITN-Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions call of the European Commission (Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, grant agreement No. 955951).

The positions available are part of the Evomet network, an international consortium that comprises some of the best academic, clinical and industrial organisations in cancer and metastasis research in Europe.

Evomet fellows will benefit from:

- Outstanding training aimed at fostering scientific, technical and transferable skills.
- Secondments designed to exploit the complementarities between projects, sectors and expertise.
- Scientific advice from internationally recognised experts
- A solid mentoring strategy and follow-up through a personalised career development plan.

Eligibility criteria

To be eligible for an Evomet fellowship, applicants must:

- **Comply with the mobility rule**, meaning that they must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the recruitment date.
- **Fulfil the requirements to be able to enrol in a doctoral programme** at the hosting institution/country.

- Be in the first four years of their research careers and have not been awarded a doctoral degree.

Start date of fellowships: August 2021.

Benefits

The ITN Marie Skłodowska-Curie Programme offers highly competitive and attractive salary and working conditions. Each fellowship includes the following:

- Monthly living allowance: 3,270 euro/month (€39,240/year); this amount is then adjusted through the application of a country correction coefficient to the living allowance of the country in which the researcher is recruited. The country correction coefficients are indicated in [Table 2 of the MSCA Work Programme](#).
- Monthly mobility allowance: 600 euro/month
- Monthly family allowance, if applicable and depending on the family situation: 500 euro/month.

Researchers will be recruited under an employment contract that includes social security coverage.

The living allowance is a gross EU contribution to the salary costs of the researcher. Consequently, the net salary results from deducting all compulsory (employer/employee) social security contributions as well as direct taxes (e.g. income tax) from the gross amounts. The rate indicated here is for researchers devoting themselves to their project on a full-time basis. The mobility and family allowances are fixed amounts, regardless of the country of recruitment, and may be taxable depending on the country in which the researcher is recruited.

For more details please see the [Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#).

All network institutions are equal opportunity employers and seek a workforce diverse in age, culture, nationality and gender. No restrictions on gender, age, ethnic groups, national or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language, disability, political opinion, and social or economic conditions will apply to the network positions.

Evomet is **fully committed to equal opportunities** and proactive measures have been implemented. To this end, during the application procedure, candidates will be asked to



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include information on any career breaks, and these will not be penalized during the selection procedure. In particular, when checking compliance with the mobility rule, the refugee procedure will not be taken into account as a period of residence in the country where the candidate is applying. When all scores and evaluation criteria are equal, preference will be given to candidates from under-represented groups, for example women, and candidates with disabilities or those from refugee backgrounds.

More information and applications at www.evomet-itn.eu