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2017 Call for the IRB Barcelona International PhD Fellowships Programme (ref.01/17/IRB)

TERMS & CONDITIONS

Section II, article 6, letters c) and q) of the Statutes of the *Fundació Institut de Recerca Biomèdica* (hereafter referred to as IRB Barcelona or Institute) 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 announce a grant call included in the IRB Barcelona International PhD Programme. The grants are assigned to students on a PhD programme and who perform and defend 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 2017-2018.

II. Grant Call

For this call the following grants will be offered:

- 1 fellowship is offered for the academic year 2017-2018 within the IRB Barcelona International PhD Programme (herein referred to as IRB Barcelona Grant).
- 4 fellowships through the “Contratos predoctorales Severo-Ochoa para la Formación de doctores” 2017 call funded by the MINECO (“Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad”). (herein referred to as Severo Ochoa Grants).
- 6 fellowships associated with the “Proyectos I+D Excelencia/Retos” 2016 Call funded by MINECO (herein referred to as FPI-project Grants).

The specifications of funding and requirements for IRB Barcelona Grants are shown in Annex 1.



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The Severo Ochoa and FPI-project Grants will be regulated by the MINECO call, following the conditions of this government agency.

All grant awardees will be contracted by IRB Barcelona. The grant 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 the awardee 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 grant signature. 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 assigned duties or other pertinent circumstances, in order to apply corrective measures and/or to start proceedings to withdraw the grant.

III. Requirements and Selection criteria

1. The programme is aimed at students who have completed one of the following options by September 2017:

- a) the studies that lead to an official Spanish (or from another country of the European Higher Education Area) university degree in Biology, 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 that gives access to doctoral studies in Biology, 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 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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3. Applicants should have obtained a degree after January 2014. Candidates over 30 years old are not eligible for the IRB Barcelona Grant.

4. Students, researchers and PhD students who have had a scientific relationship with the centre for more than six months (before the application deadline) are not eligible for the IRB Barcelona Grant.

IV. Application Procedure

1. Students can make an online application at <http://phd.irbbarcelona.org/>. The application deadline is **23:59 h on 15 February 2017.**

2. For more information, applicants can consult IRB Barcelona's webpage or contact the IRB Barcelona 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.



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4. Two recommendation letters from university lecturers or scientists with who the applicant has studied or worked. Only letters with an official letterhead and signature will be accepted.

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 be in charge of 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 interviews.

2. Group leaders and members of the PhD Advisory Committee will interview the invited candidates and will make a final selection.

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. The top-ranked candidate will receive an IRB Barcelona Grant. At least 10 additional fellowships will be offered, funded by MINECO and IRB Barcelona, to candidates placed from the 2nd position downwards.

VII. 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) 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 in a university doctoral programme.



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3. A sworn statement 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 will be returned to IRB Barcelona.)

VIII. Communication of grant award

1. The Director of IRB Barcelona will officially inform successful candidates of the grant award.

IX. Rights of awardees

1. Each awardee will have the following general rights:

- a) To 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 undertaking his 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 his/her supervisor and the director of IRB Barcelona.
- e) The intellectual and industrial property rights of the awardee will be regulated in the employment contract with IRB Barcelona.

2. The awardee will have employment and Social Security rights derived from the formal employment contract with IRB Barcelona.

3. The awardee will be able to exercise intellectual property rights derived from his/her training activity in accordance with his/her 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



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negatively affecting the rights of the joint effort when the awardee participates in or is associated with a joint research project.

4. 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.

X. Responsibilities of awardees

1. To fulfil the terms and conditions established in this call.
2. To enrol in a university doctoral programme.
3. To perform his/her research activity under the supervision of a group leader at IRB Barcelona while the grant is effective. In addition, the awardee 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 his/her thesis. Moreover, he/she will present this report to his/her Thesis Advisory Committee, designated 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 contracted by IRB Barcelona, as well as those associated with inclusion in the Social Security System.



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8. To defend his/her thesis and obtain a 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 to the awardee for the defence of the thesis.

XI. Termination of grants

The grant 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 X.

XII. 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 or fellowship from other public or private organisations.

XIII. Legal regime

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

In accordance with Organic Law 15/1999, 13 December, 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 our relationship with applicants. Applicants may exercise the rights to access, change or delete said information by contacting the Research and Academic Department of the Institute at the following e-mail address: phd@irbbarcelona.org, or by writing to the following postal address: C/ Baldiri Reixac, 10, 08028, Barcelona.

XIV. Dissemination

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



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XV. Clarification

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

Barcelona, 28 December 2016

Joan J. Guinovart Cirera
Director of IRB Barcelona

ANNEX 1 Specific regulations for IRB Barcelona Grant

The IRB Barcelona Grant will cover the period 1 September 2017 - 31 August 2021.
The stipend established will be 20,000€ gross per year. In addition, the awardee of an IRB Barcelona grant will receive additional funding to cover expenses related to PhD registration fees and related university taxes (“enrolment fees”).



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