

## 1. Call Opening

### 1.1. Introduction

The *Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida - Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRB Lleida)* opens the 12<sup>th</sup> call for fellowships for Research Staff in training. This call is funded with funds from the *Diputació de Lleida* and IRB Lleida.

### 1.2. Summary

The fellowship's primary objective is to offer support to pre-doctoral researchers who have obtained a 36-month fellowship through open competition, excluding those with reduced duration due to previous awards. Eligible candidates may request a contract of up to 12 months at IRB Lleida, starting once their existing fellowship concludes, to facilitate the completion of their doctoral thesis.

## 2. Call Description

### 2.1. Scope

Applications are invited from PhD students who were awarded a 3-year pre-doctoral fellowship in 2022 through the following external programs: 1) pre-doctoral personnel in UdL training in 2022 (own and Santander program), 2) fellowships for the recruitment of new research personnel (FI) and (FI-SDUR) 2021, 3) industrial doctorate 2022 (AGAUR) or 4) Marie Curie pre-doctoral call 2022 (ITN or Doctoral Networks).

The work to be carried out by the beneficiaries during the fellowship will be framed within their thesis project and must be supervised by researchers affiliated with IRB Lleida.

### 2.2. Funding & Payment

Up to six contracts are offered through open competition. Each fellowship will finance the salary costs for a fourth-year pre-doctoral researcher contract. The gross salary remuneration is established in the IRB Lleida salary tables, and is set in accordance with the provisions of the Statute for pre-doctoral research staff in training. Currently, the gross annual salary is set at €23,871.33.

For this call, a thesis director may only present one candidate.

### 2.3. Duration & Important Dates

The expected start date of the contracts is from July 2024 and no later than April 2025. Since the contracts can be extended up to December 31st, 2025, any contract signed after January 1st, 2025, will have a duration of less than the maximum one year allowed by the call.

Whenever possible, contracts will begin immediately after the end of the external fellowship/pre-doctoral contract and will end after 12 months or the last day of the month that thesis defence takes place. The thesis must be deposited during this period. Contracts cannot be extended any longer beyond December 31st, 2025. Therefore, any contract with a start date after January 2025 will only be able to enjoy the proportional part of financing from the contract start date until December 2025.

**Submission of applications:** May 31<sup>st</sup> 2024

**Estimated Provisional resolution:** June 2024

**Estimated Final resolution:** June 2024

### 3. Candidates profile

#### 3.1. Eligibility

The ongoing pre-doctoral contract awarded to the candidate must end between April 2024 and the end of April 2025.

#### 3.2. Incompatibility

These fellowships are for full-time dedication and are incompatible with any other work activity.

### 4. Application & Award Decision

#### 4.1. Proposal Submission

The required documentation must be submitted through the link provided for this purpose on the IRB Lleida website in the intramural calls section (<https://www.irbllleida.org/es/convocatorias-intramurales/>).

The application must include a summary of the thesis project, the specific tasks to be carried out by the candidate throughout the duration of the contract, the schedule in months corresponding to these tasks, and any other information considered relevant or valuable for the evaluation.

To formalize their application, the candidates will have to submit:

- Completed and signed application form (available on the IRBLleida website, in the research section – intramural calls).
- Candidate and thesis director CV (CVA FECYT format).
- Document accrediting the granting of a predoctoral fellowship (Granting resolution and/or scholarship holder's credential) of the call for predoctoral personnel in training UdL of the year 2022 (own and Santander program) or fellowship for the hiring of research staff novel (FI-SDUR) 2021 and (FI) 2021 of the AGAUR, Industrial Doctorate (AGAUR) or predoctoral call Marie Curie 2022 (ITN or Doctoral Networks).
- Certificate of enrolment in the Doctoral School of the field of biomedicine at a Spanish university stating the date of first registration and that you are currently enrolled.
- Description of the research work to be carried out by the candidate during the period in which they enjoy the contract according to the template form available on the web of IRBLleida. If a stay in another centre is contemplated while the fellowship is being received, this must be included (with date, duration, and authorization from the receiving centre) and duly justified in the research work report.
- A summary of the scientific background of the research group affiliated with IRBLleida in which the candidate is doing his/her doctoral thesis, which includes the most relevant publications (maximum 5) and awarded grants of the candidate's thesis director in the last 5 years (period extendable according Annex I). This summary will be presented in the standard model present on the IRBLleida website and must include all the information requested therein. Since the contracts can be extended up to December 31st, 2025, any contract signed after January 1st, 2025, will have a duration of less than the maximum one year allowed by the call.
  - In case of maternity, by default, this period will be extended by a minimum of 6 months.
  - In case of temporary disability due to severe illness or accident of the applicant, with medical leave equal to or greater than three months, an extension equal to the time of leave will be applied.
  - In case of temporary disability during pregnancy for reasons related to it, an extension of weeks equal to the time of leave will be applied.
  - In case of care for people in a situation of dependency, in accordance with the provisions of Law 39/2006, of December 14, on the Promotion of eleven Personal Autonomy and Care for people in a situation of dependency, an extension in weeks will be applied resulting from the product of 4 times the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional

caregiver provided that these occurred between 1st January 2018 and the end date for submission of applications.

- Document accrediting maternity/paternity leave to benefit from the extension of the term for these concepts.
- A letter signed by the candidate's doctoral thesis director shows their support for the proposal presented by the candidate, acceptance of the bases and evaluation criteria of this call, and certification that they have sufficient economic and human resources to guarantee the correct development of the work plan presented by the candidate.
- Supporting documentation (certificate of the host institution in the international mobility).

#### 4.2. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the IRBLleida Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission (CIAC). The IRBLleida Projects Unit will verify that the candidates meet the requirements of the call and will send the list of candidates who meet these requirements to the CIAC. The applications will be evaluated by members of the CIAC, which will issue a reasoned report with the corresponding score for each of the candidates.

IRBLleida has adhered to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) with the conviction that we are at an optimal moment to move towards a new culture of evaluation of research activity in all its diversity. These criteria will be applied during CVA evaluation.

Criteria	Definition	Points	
Evaluation of the candidate	Publications (DORA Criteria)	40	
	International Mobility	Mobility 30 days or more: 5 points Mobility 60 days or more: 10 points Mobility 90 days or more: 15 points	15
	Evaluation of Research Group and Thesis Director	Publications (DORA Criteria) Competitive Projects/Grants	35
Others	Alignment of the project with the IP line of work, project impact, and results potentially susceptible to Technology transfer	10	
Maximum	Total sum	100	

### 4.3. Award Decision

Once the evaluation process of the candidates is finished, the CIAC will submit the prioritization of the candidacies and the evaluation reports of each one of the candidates to the director of IRBLleida (or whomever he designates). In this prioritization, the candidates who have been selected and those who remain in reserve will be indicated. The director of IRBLleida (or whomever he designates) will issue a provisional award decision with the candidates selected by this call and a prioritized list of reserve candidates. After the provisional funding decision, applicants will have 5 working days to submit any possible allegations to the decision by sending an email to [projects@irblleida.cat](mailto:projects@irblleida.cat). The allegations will be studied by the panel, and a response will be given within a maximum period of 10 business days. Once the allegations are resolved, the final funding decision will be made public.

Within a period of one month from the publication of the final award decision, the selected candidates proposed as beneficiaries will have to sign a document accepting the fellowship. This document will contain the expected start date. If the proposed person does not sign the acceptance document within this period, it will be understood that he/she declines the contract. In special cases, the IRBLleida Management may authorize variations in the date of incorporation, provided that the beneficiary has requested it in writing and the reasons have been positively assessed by the CIAC.

Any resignations post-acceptance must be notified to IRBLleida in writing ([projects@irblleida.cat](mailto:projects@irblleida.cat)).

If all the positions offered are not covered or resignations occur, and there are not enough candidates on the prioritized reserve list to fill the possible vacancies, IRBLleida Management may invest the unused resources in new actions that are strategic for the institution.

## 5. Beneficiaries' obligations

### 5.1. Project Follow-up

The beneficiaries, if they are not affiliated with IRBLleida, will have to request their affiliation at the time of formalizing their contract with IRBLleida as beneficiary of the fellowship.

During the duration of the fellowship, the beneficiaries of this call will have to meet the requirements for attendance at the IRBLleida research seminars that the rest of the students of the UdL Health Doctorate program.

## 5.2. Project Outputs

The thesis directors will have to notify the Department of Innovation of IRBLleida, through the address: [innovacio@irbllleida.cat](mailto:innovacio@irbllleida.cat), any communication or dissemination of the results of the research projects that are the object of the fellowship, whether oral or written, in the form of an article, poster, clinical practice guide, etc., national or international, before it takes place so that adequate protection of intellectual and/or industrial property can be guaranteed.

The thesis directors must follow the recommendations for the correct identification of the scientific production of IRBLleida.

In any communication and/or publication resulting from the research work carried out within the framework of this fellowship, it must be stated that it has received funding from the Lleida Provincial Council through the "Fellowship to Research Staff in Training" (eg: XXXXX held predoctoral fellowship "Ayudas al Personal Investigador en Formación" from IRBLleida/Diputació de Lleida). The thesis directors must express their commitment to these requirements by signing the Fellowship application.

## 5.3. Final Reporting

During the final two months of the fellowship, the beneficiary will have to give a seminar in the "Friday Seminars" organized by IRBLleida. The announcement and proof of this seminar must be included in the final report.

Within a maximum period of one month after the end of the fellowship, the thesis directors will have to submit to the IRBLleida Project Unit via email ([projects@irbllleida.cat](mailto:projects@irbllleida.cat)), a final report with the scientific objectives achieved that are the result of the research work of the beneficiaries during the period in which they have received the fellowship, as well as the list of publications and communications to which these results have given rise, including those that are in the process of being published and those that are pending publication. In this report, it will also be necessary to state the thesis deposit receipt and a manuscript of the article in which the beneficiary is listed as the first author or corresponding author.

While respecting the duty to inform the Project Unit of the willingness to communicate and/or disseminate results throughout the execution of the action, within a maximum period of one month after the end of the fellowship, it will have to be submitted to the IRBLleida Projects Unit, in person or by email to [projects@irbllleida.cat](mailto:projects@irbllleida.cat), a report with the scientific objectives achieved, as well as the list of publications and communications to which the results have given rise, which are in the process of being published, and those pending publication.

## 6. Other Clauses

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of the bases, both by the candidates and by the thesis directors. Failure to comply with the duties or conditions established in the call for this fellowship entails the loss of beneficiary status. If the cause of noncompliance is attributable to the thesis director, the latter will not be able to present candidates for the call for Fellowships for Research Staff in Training in any of its modalities during the following two years.

### 6.1. Proposal Documentation Confidentiality

The documentation associated with the proposals will be treated as confidential information, being obliged to maintain the confidentiality of the information to all persons involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject the prior consent of the applicants.

### 6.2. Personal Data Collection Purpose and Processing Information

**Responsible party:** Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRB Lleida).

**Purpose:** Management of calls and, where appropriate, the awarding and delivery of the prize.

**Legitimation:** The legal basis of the processing is the carrying out of a selection process to provide financial support for research projects.

**Addressees:** The data will not be transferred to third parties except in the legal obligations established by law.

**Rights:** Access, rectification, and deletion of data, as well as other rights, as explained in the additional information.

**Additional information:** You can consult additional and detailed information on Data Protection on our website <http://www.irbllleida.org/en/legal-notice/>.

The data provided by applicants will be incorporated into the processing system owned by IRB Lleida to manage and resolve the selection process, and will be processed in a lawful, fair, transparent, adequate, relevant, limited, accurate, and up-to-date manner in compliance with the provisions of Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and Organic Law 3/2018, of 5 December (LOPDGDD). The legal basis for the processing of data is the fulfilment of a legal obligation on the part of the controller reinforced with the consent of the data subject.



Fellowships to support the completion of  
doctoral thesis  
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This data must be kept for the period strictly necessary to fulfil the purpose, respecting in all cases the period determined by these rules and regulations governing the call for applications and the applicable archiving regulations.

Specific data may be communicated to third parties in the public or private sphere, either because the intervention of these entities during the aid management process may be necessary because it is correctly resolved or because it is provided for in a regulation with the status of law.

As long as the interested party does not communicate otherwise, it will be understood that their details have not been modified and that they undertake to notify the IRBLleida of any variation.

Applicants may exercise their rights of access, rectification, limitation of processing, suppression, opposition to the processing of their data or exercise their right to portability by writing to IRBLleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address [protecciodedades@irblleida.cat](mailto:protecciodedades@irblleida.cat) or to the IRBLleida's Data Protection Delegate, [dpd@ticsalutsocial.cat](mailto:dpd@ticsalutsocial.cat). You must attach a photocopy of your ID card or sign the e-mail with a recognized electronic signature. In the event of disagreement with the processing, you also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Catalan Data Protection Authority.





## 7. Annexes

### 7.1. Annex I

Important aspects that will be evaluated in this call are inputs (funding, industry contracts, etc) and outputs (publications, patents, etc) of the candidates and hosting PIs during the last 5 years. This period of 5 years can be extended due to the following situations:

- Six months for each maternity/paternity leave
- Temporary incapacity during pregnancy for reasons related to it. An extension of the same duration as the sick leave will be accumulated to the extension included in section a).
- For temporary disability due to serious illness or accident of the applicant, with medical leave equal to or greater than three months, the extension period will be the same as the disability duration (certified with official leave).
- Care of people in a situation of dependency, in accordance with the provisions of the Law 39/2006, of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Attention to people in a situation of dependency. An extension will be applied in weeks resulting from the number of weeks of activity as a non-professional caregiver.

All the leaves must be correctly credited at the time of filing the grant application.