

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The *Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida - Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRB Lleida)* opens the 14th call for fellowships to support the completion of doctoral thesis. 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 2024 through the following external programs: 1) pre-doctoral personnel in UdL training in 2024 (own and Santander program), 2) fellowships for the recruitment of new research personnel (FI) and (FI-SDUR) 2023 and 2024, 3) industrial doctorate 2024 (AGAUR) or 4) Marie Curie pre-doctoral call 2024 (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

One grant is offered through open competition. The grant 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.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

The expected start date of the contracts is from March 2027 and no later than July 2027.

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 June 30th, 2028.

Opening Call: June 15, 2026

Deadline: September 30, 2026

Estimated Provisional resolution: November 2026

Estimated Final resolution: December 2026

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

The ongoing 3-year pre-doctoral contract awarded to the candidate must end between February 2027 and the end of June 2027.

3.2. Incompatibility

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

These grants 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/>).

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

- Completed and signed application form (available on the IRB Lleida website, in the research section – intramural calls) with a description of the research work to be carried out by the candidate during the period in which they enjoy the grant according to the template form available on the web of IRB Lleida.
- Candidate and thesis director 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 2024 (own and Santander program) or fellowship for the hiring of research staff novel (FI-SDUR) and (FI) 2023 and 2024 of the AGAUR, Industrial Doctorate (AGAUR) or predoctoral call Marie Curie 2024 (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.
- A summary of the scientific background of the thesis director and the candidate including the most relevant publications in the last 7 years (period extendable according to Annex I) in the standardized format available on IRBLeida website.
- A letter from the candidate's doctoral thesis director showing their support for the proposal presented, acceptance of the bases and evaluation criteria of this call, and certification that they have the economic and human resources to guarantee the correct development of the work plan presented by the candidate.
- Documentation accrediting mobility (including date, duration, and authorization from the receiving centre) and other merits to be evaluated.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the IRBLeida Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission (CIAC). The IRBLeida 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.

IRBLeida 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) (last 7 years)	Maximum 8 points per publication	25
	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	Publications (DORA Criteria) (last 7 years)	Maximum 5 points per publication	25

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and Thesis Director	Competitive Projects as a PI* (last 7 years)	National/Regional funding: 3 points International funding: 5 points	10
Alignment of the proposal with the scientific strategy of the institution	The thesis director of the proposal is not eligible to submit the candidate to the UdL's call for the 4th-year doctoral thesis completion fellowships.		20
	The thesis director of the proposal leads an emerging research group or is younger than 45 years old. (period extendable according to Annex I).		5
Maximum	Total sum		100

* The following are not considered competitive research projects: support grants for research groups recognized by the Government of Catalonia (SGR), grants aimed at the recruitment of research personnel, and intramural research calls within the IRBLeida programme.

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 IRBLeida (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 IRBLeida (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@irbllleida.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 IRBLeida 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 IRBLeida in writing (projects@irbllleida.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, IRBLeida

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 IRBLeida, will have to request their affiliation at the time of formalizing their contract with IRBLeida as beneficiary of the fellowship.

During the duration of the contract, the beneficiaries of this call will have to meet the requirements for attendance at the IRBLeida 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 IRBLeida, through the address: 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 IRBLeida.

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 Final year PhD Contracts from IRBLeida/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 IRBLeida. The announcement and proof of this seminar must be included in the final report.

A final report must be sent to the IRBLeida Projects Unit (postaward@irbllleida.cat) within two months after the end of the grant. This report must include details of 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.

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 (IRBLleida).

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.irblleida.org/en/legal-notice/>.

The data provided by applicants will be incorporated into the processing system owned by IRBLleida to manage and resolve the selection process, and will be processed in a



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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.

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 IRB Lleida 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 IRB Lleida (Avda. Rovira Roure, 80, 25198 Lleida), to the e-mail address protecciodedades@irbllleida.cat or to the IRB Lleida's Data Protection Delegate, 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

In cases where the evaluation of any type of merit is subject to a defined assessment period, the time frame will be adjusted to exclude the proportional duration of interruptions due to the reasons listed below, calculated according to the following criteria:

- A) Periods of leave related to maternity or paternity, adoption, or foster care, taken in accordance with the protected situations recognized under the General Social Security Regime. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of leave taken per child.
- B) Temporary incapacity due to serious illness or accident of the applicant, with a medical leave of three months or more. A one-year extension will be applied.
- C) Temporary incapacity during pregnancy due to pregnancy-related causes. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times the number of weeks of leave. This extension may be added, where applicable, to the one indicated in section A.
- D) Care for dependent persons, as established in Law 39/2006 of December 14, on the Promotion of Personal Autonomy and Care for People in a Situation of Dependency. An extension in weeks will be applied, calculated as 4 times 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.

Institut de Recerca Biomèdica
Intramural Research Program