

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The “Institut de Recerca Biomèdica de Lleida Fundació - Dr. Pifarré (IRBLeida)” opens the first call Four-year PhD Fellowships. This call is financed with funds from the Diputació de Lleida and IRBLeida. The communication of this call will be made through the website, social networks and corporate email list by subscription of the IRBLeida, as well as other web portals for this purpose. The framework regulations for this call lies in:

- Royal Decree 103/2019, of March 1, 2009, which approves the Statute of the Predoctoral Research Staff in Training. Predoctoral Research Staff in Training.
- Article 21 and additional provisions one and eighteenth of Law 14/2011, of June 1, 2011, on Science and Technology. 14/2011, of June 1, 2011, on Science, Technology and Innovation.
- Royal Decree 2720/1998, of December 18, 1998, which Article 15 of the Workers' Statute is developed in relation to fixed-term contracts. fixed-term contracts.

1.2. Summary

The grants will consist of the formalization of an employment contract, under the form of a pre-doctoral contract. The purpose of the contract will be to carry out research tasks, within the scope of a specific and innovative project, on a full-time, for a fixed term, which may not exceed four years, except in the cases included in point 2.2.

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

The purpose of this call is to promote the retention and attraction of research talent in the predoctoral stage (R1), through the granting, in a regime of publicity, objectivity and competitive concurrence, of 3 grants aimed at the completion of the doctoral thesis within the research groups of the IRBLeida.

The applications submitted, within the framework of this call, must be linked to the completion of the candidate's doctoral thesis in the field of biomedicine within one of the IRBLeida research groups, under the supervision of a single researcher (for the purposes of this application) who meets the requirements described in section 3.1.

2.2. Funding & Payment

An employment contract will be formalized with the beneficiaries of the grant, which will have the following characteristics:

- The contract will be formalized between the predoctoral research personnel in training in their capacity as workers and IRB Lleida in its capacity as employer.
- The contract must be accompanied by a letter of admission to the doctoral program by the unit responsible for the program or by the doctoral school, as well as proof of payment of the enrolment fee. This documentation must be updated annually.
- Situations of temporary disability, risk during pregnancy or breastfeeding, maternity, adoption, custody for adoption purposes or fostering, and paternity will suspend the duration of the contract. Likewise, situations foreseen in article 45.1.n) of the revised text of the Workers' Statute, as a measure to protect women who are victims of gender-based violence, will also suspend the duration of the contract. In case the contract is interrupted due to any of the mentioned situations, it will be extended for a period equal to the interruption.
- The gross annual remuneration that the contracted person will receive will be determined by the current and public salary tables of IRB Lleida for the corresponding category.
- The grant beneficiary will be directly awarded an International Mobility Grant for Predoctoral Modality from IRB Lleida's IREP program, which they can enjoy during the last two years of the predoctoral contract. The beneficiary must adhere to the regulations of the International Mobility Grant bases for Predoctoral Modality of IRB Lleida, without the need to go through the selection process.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

The contract will have a maximum duration of 48 months, except in the cases included in point 2.2, with full-time dedication (37.5 hours per week).

The duration of the contract is conditioned to the continuity of the beneficiary in the doctoral program. In any case, the contract will be resolved when the candidate obtains the doctorate degree or 48 months after the start date of the contract.

Opening date of the call for applications: August 1st 2024

Deadline for the submission of applications: September 30th 2024 11.59 p.m.

Resolution and acceptance of the grant: October 2024

Contract start date: November 2024

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

The requirements for participants are as follows:

- Degree of Licentiate, Engineer, University Graduate with at least 300 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits, or a University Master's degree, or equivalent, at the time of acceptance of the grant.
- Not hold a doctoral degree.
- Be enrolled or have a letter of admission, at the time of acceptance of the grant, in one of the doctoral programs in the field of biomedicine that are eligible within this grant.
- Not have previously any predoctoral contract before the grant application.

The requirements for the Thesis Director supervising the applicant are as follows:

- Must hold a Doctoral degree.
- Have an affiliation with IRBLeida, either through a contract with the Institute or as an affiliate through a specific agreement with their contracting center (UdL, ICS, or GSS). The affiliation with IRBLeida must have a minimum duration of 6 months prior to the application deadline and must remain in force throughout the entire Thesis project.
- Belong to a research group at IRBLeida at the time of the grant application.
- Be the Principal Investigator (PI) of an active extramural competitive project (regional, national, or international) at the time of the application deadline and the start of the predoctoral contract.

3.2. Incompatibility

The contracts will be incompatible with any other employment contract by the predoctoral researcher.

No person acting as a thesis director may appear in more than one grant application in this call. The submission of more than one application by the same person will result in the exclusion of all the affected applications.

4. Application & Award Decision

4.1. Proposal Submission

All the applications for this call must be submitted through the link provided in the IRBLleida website in the intramural research calls section.

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

- A standardized application form, including the scientific-technical proposal, with the corresponding responsible declaration signed by the candidate and thesis director.
- Academic certificate of the Bachelor's and Master's degrees, accrediting the completion of the required training to access the doctoral program, having completed a minimum of 300 ECTS credits at an official university at the time of submission of the application. The certificate must contain the subjects taken during the corresponding degree, as well as the grades obtained. If the candidate has not completed the Master's studies by the application deadline, they must provide documentary proof of completion and the obtaining of 300 ECTS at the time of acceptance of the grant, if their application is prioritized. In this case, the average grade of the bachelor's degree will be counted 100% during the evaluation process.
- Applicants who have completed their bachelor's, degree, diploma, or master's studies partially or entirely at institutions outside the Spanish university system must accompany their academic records with calculated equivalency declarations, in accordance with the provisions of the Ministry of Universities: [Grade Equivalency Calculation](#).
- Abbreviated Curriculum (CV) of the candidate.
- Document accrediting pre-admission or enrolment in a Doctoral program in the field of biomedicine, within the Health Doctoral program. If the candidate does not have this document by the application deadline, they must present it at the time of acceptance of the grant if their application is prioritized.
- Abbreviated Curriculum Vitae (CVA) of the Thesis Director in FECYT format.
- Acceptance letter from the Thesis Director.
- Supporting documentation for the merits of the candidate included in the CV for evaluation (except participation in projects and publications).
- If the Thesis Director falls under any of the circumstances described in point 2.2, it will be necessary to attach supporting documentation to extend the evaluation period of their scientific merits by a period equal to the documented leave time.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of the received applications will be divided into 3 sections:

- **Evaluation of the CV of the candidate (50%)**

The Internal Scientific Evaluation Committee (CIAC) of IRBLleida will evaluate, in the first phase, the CV of the candidates based on various criteria contained in the following table:

Evaluation of the candidate (50 points out of 100 of the overall evaluation)			
Description			Maximum score
Predocctoral University Studies		Average Bachelor's degree grade (80%) Average Master's degree grade (20%) *If 300 ECTS credits have been obtained without a Master's degree or if a Master's is currently being pursued without final grades, the average Bachelor's degree grade will be counted 100%.	35
		Other Merits	
	Publications	DORA Criteria	5
	Academic stays (outside the country of the Bachelor's/Master's degree)	Erasmus o Erasmus+: 5 Other programs: 3	5
	Non-academic research stays	Extracurricular internships of ≥ 300h accredited	3
	Extra merits (1 point per item)	Participation in dissemination activities, congresses, scientific talks, specialized health training	2

- Evaluation of the Thesis Director (40%)

The Internal Scientific Assessment Committee (CIAC) of the IRBLeida will evaluate, in a second phase, the publications and scientific production of the thesis director in the last 5 years, where the main authors are considered the first and last signatories of the manuscript, and the authors of correspondence. The ability of the director to obtain funding through competitive public projects and the alignment of the active projects to the present proposal will also be evaluated. An additional 20 points will be awarded if the thesis director is the PI of a “Generation of Knowledge 2022” project (AEI 2022) or of an R&D&I project in health (AES 2022), provided that at the time of closing the call period, the director has not been granted (provisionally or definitively) a FI-AGAUR Joan Oro 2023 or 2024 grant, a “Personal Predoctoral en Formació UdL 2024” grant, a PFIS 2023 grant or a FPI 2022 grant, associated with said project. This 20-point bonus is linked to the project and can only be granted to one of the co-IPs, if there is more than one. Finally, the training capacity of the thesis supervisor will be assessed, as well as his/her transfer activity.

For the calculation of the 5-year period that will be considered for the evaluation of the thesis supervisor's merits, the assumptions included in point 2.2 will be considered.

Applications will be evaluated by the IRBLeida Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission (CIAC) according to the following criteria:

Evaluation of the Thesis Director (40 points out of the overall evaluation)			
Description			Maximum score
Scientific Production in the last 5 years	Publications	DORA Criteria	7,5
Competitive projects over 10.000€ active in the last 5 years	Only as PI (Human resources projects, SGR groups, or NETWORKS will be not considered)	IREP Research Projects: 1 Regional: 1,5 National: 2,5 International: 5	7,5
National Projects	The director is the PI of a PI22 or AEI22 grant without associated FI-AGAUR 23 or 24, PFIS23, FPI22, or UdL24 fellows		20

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Supervision of Predoctoral Personnel	Thesis supervised in the last 5 years	Defended thesis 1.25 points Ongoing enrolled thesis 0.5 points	2,5
Transfer capacity	Licensed or registered patents, active in the last 5 years	Licensed: 2,5 Registered: 1,25	2,5

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 in the first two sections of the application.

- **Scientific Policy (10%)**

Extra points will be awarded to those projects where the PI meets one or more of the following conditions:

Scientific Policy (10 points out of the overall evaluation)			
Description			Maximum Score
Young Researchers or Emerging Group at IRBLleida	PI in an emerging group or PI born in or after 1979	Yes/No	5
Projects Requested by the PI as Coordinator or WP Leader in HORIZON EUROPE (or H2020)	HE/H2020 projects requested in the last 5 years with a minimum budget of €50,000 assigned to IRBLleida	1 point per WP leader / 3 points per coordinator	3
Participation in Institute Life and/or Scientific Outreach Activities	Participation in the last 5 years in IRBLleida commissions/committees, Big Friday seminars, Area activities, etc. Institutional outreach activity: nit de la recerca, institutional visits, schools...	0,25 points per activity	2

4.3. Award Decision

Approximate Resolution Date: October 2024

5. Beneficiaries' obligations

After the awarding of the grant, the following rights and obligations arise, which affect both candidate and thesis director:

5.1. Project Follow-up

The doctoral student will provide documentary evidence through the e-mail projects@irbllleida.cat of any training received or stay carried out during the development of the thesis.

Thesis directors must report any absences, temporary or permanent leave of the doctoral candidate, or any other events related to the candidate. Additionally, they must notify the completion of the doctoral thesis to the IRB Lleida Project Department (projects@irbllleida.cat).

- Annual follow-up reports: the beneficiary of the grant must submit an annual report (every June), following the standardized model for this purpose, summarizing the main scientific milestones achieved during the period to which the report refers (maximum length of 1 page). In addition, a list of the activities carried out within the framework of the grant (attendance to congresses, presentations, training, etc.) must be submitted. In the case of beneficiaries enrolled in a doctoral program at the UdL, they may submit the annual evaluation report submitted to the doctoral schools instead of the monitoring report detailed above. Failure to submit the annual monitoring reports or the negative result of the evaluation reports of the doctoral program may lead to the termination of the contract.
- The beneficiary doctoral student is obliged to present two seminars of the scientific program "Friday Seminars". The first one before the end of the second year of the contract and the second one before the last semester of the fourth year. In addition, he/she must participate in other mentoring activities approved by IRB Lleida.

5.2. Project Outputs

- A change of thesis supervisor may only be requested in extraordinary situations that affect the proper development of the beneficiary's doctoral thesis. Such

situations include the loss of affiliation/contract with IRBLleida by the supervisor or conflicts between the candidate and the supervisor.

- The IRBLleida management has the authority to assess the relevance of the request for a change of supervisor. If it is deemed that the request is in the best interest of the candidate, it will be presented to the CCI (Interdisciplinary Scientific Committee), and if recommended by the CCI, it may be approved by the management.

5.3. Final Reporting

Any material made public within the framework of the project linked to the grant from this call, as well as any dissemination actions involving the grant beneficiary, must include a mention of the internal funding sources from the Diputació de Lleida ("This work has received funding from the Diputació de Lleida – La força dels Municipis") and from IRBLleida ("This work has received funding from the IRBLleida Intramural Research Grants Program"). The thesis director, responsible for each predoctoral researcher, must inform the IRBLleida Innovation Office (innovacio@irblleida.cat) of the material to be disseminated, in order to assess its potential for protection.

5.4. Final Justification

- Final report: The PhD student must submit a final report (in the last month of the year in which the grant ends), following the standardized format for this purpose, which should include a summary of the achievement of the initial project objectives through the scientific development executed (maximum length of 3 pages). Additionally, a list of conference attendances/presentations and scientific publications made within the framework of the grant must be provided.
- Submit a PDF copy of the final doctoral thesis document once defended, as well as inform about the grade received.

6. Other Clauses

Participation in this call for proposals implies knowledge and acceptance of all its terms and conditions, including:

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 all persons involved in the evaluation and assessment of the proposals, and may be used for informative and dissemination purposes, subject to prior consent of the applicants.

6.2. Terms and Conditions, Industrial and Intellectual Property

The intellectual or industrial property and exploitation rights that may derive from the implementation of the granted idea will belong to IRBLeida, recognizing as authors or inventors the people who have conceived and implemented these ideas and applying the intellectual and industrial property regulations of IRBLeida.

6.3. Personal Data Collection Purpose and Processing Information

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

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 IRBLeida in order 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.

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

Certain data may be communicated to third parties in the public or private sphere, either because the intervention of these entities in the course of 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@irbllleida.cat or to the IRBLleida'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.

