

1. Call Opening

1.1. Introduction

The *Biomedical Research Institute of Lleida - Fundació Dr. Pifarré (IRBLleida)* is pleased to announce the launch of its fourth call for postdoctoral researcher contracts.

1.2. Summary

The objective of this action is to attract talented postdoctoral researchers who can contribute to strengthening the capacities of the research groups at IRBLleida.

2. Call Description

2.1. Scope

The work to be carried out by the beneficiaries during the grant will be framed within the research lines of the research group that hosts the postdoctoral researchers.

2.2. Funding & Payment

Up to two contracts will be awarded for hiring post-doctoral researchers for a maximum period of two years.

Each grant will consist of a position at the level of Investigador/a Júnior (Recognised Researcher – R2.3), according to the salary table. In addition, IRBLleida will cover the corresponding amount of company Social Security for the two years.

2.3. Duration & Important Dates

The start date of the two-year contracts will be between September 2026 and December 2026. The salary (and social security costs) associated with these contracts can be supplemented by the hosting research groups if funds are available.

Call Opening: April 7, 2026

Call Deadline: May 7, 2026

Estimated provisional award decision: July 2026

Estimated final award decision: July 2026

3. Candidates profile

3.1. Eligibility

Requirements of the candidates are:

- Have a doctorate in biomedical or experimental sciences that allow them to carry out the tasks set out in the workplan in the research group of choice at IRB/leida.
- The doctoral degree of the candidates must be obtained after 1st January 2024. This deadline can be extended as detailed in Annex I.
- Candidates cannot have previously obtained external postdoctoral grants from programs such as Juan de la Cierva, Sara Borrell, Beatriu de Pinós, or similar.
- A cutoff score of 30 points is established for section A) Evaluation of the Candidate's Curriculum Merits.

3.2. Incompatibility

Each candidate may submit a single application linked to a principal investigator (PI) from any of the IRB/leida research groups. A principal investigator (PIs) may only support a single application to this call.

These grants require full-time commitment and are not compatible with any other employment, except for teaching collaborations in university settings (maximum of 80h/year).

A researcher who serves as the PI of a postdoctoral grant awarded in the 2025 edition is not eligible to apply for another postdoctoral grant.

4. Application & Award Decision

4.1. Proposal Submission

The required documentation must be submitted through the link provided for this purpose on the IRB/leida 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/leida website, in the research section – intramural calls). A summary of the scientific background of the last seven years (or extensions as described in Annex I) of both the candidate and the responsible PI must be provided in the standardized format available on the IRB/leida website.
- CV of the candidate and of the hosting PI (CVA FECYT format).

- Document certifying possession of a doctoral degree.
- A letter from the hosting PI endorsing the candidate's proposal, acknowledging the terms and evaluation criteria of this call, and confirming the availability of the resources required for the successful execution of the candidate's work plan.
- Documentation accrediting mobility and other merits to be evaluated.

Any documentation that does not conform to the standardized templates will not be evaluated.

4.2. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated by the IRB/leida Internal Scientific Evaluation Commission (CIAC), which will issue a reasoned report with the corresponding score for each of the candidates.

IRB/leida 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.

A) EVALUATION OF THE CANDIDATE'S CURRICULAR MERITS

Criteria	Definition	Maximum Score
Publications* (01/01/2019 – deadline of the call) Maximum 5 points per publication	10 publications. Each publication will be assessed in the narrative justification based on the following items (maximum 1.25 points per item): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevance of the article within the field: relative position of the journal, citations, prestige of the citing institutions. 2. Potential or actual impact in innovation or in basic, translational, or clinical application. 3. Candidate's authorship position (first or senior authorship especially valued). 4. Coherence between the selected publications and the candidate's research trajectory in relation to the proposal. 	50
Postdoctoral mobility (in centers different from those where	Short stays (3–6 months abroad or 6–12 months in Spain): 4 points	12
	Significant stays (6–12 months abroad or over one year in Spain): 8 points	

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the degree was awarded)	Excellence stays (over one year abroad): 12 points	
Other merits	PhD extraordinary award or European PhD mention	4
	Participation in competitive projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National: 2 points • International: 4 points 	4
Total Score		70

*The evaluation considers first authorship, impact, and coherence with the proposal. Main authorship of the candidate: first author (or first co-author), last author, or corresponding author. A maximum of 3 main contributors will be considered for the purposes of authorship recognition.

B) MERITS OF THE PI

Criteria	Definition	Maximum Score
Publications* (01/01/2019 – deadline of the call) Maximum 2 points per publication	10 publications. Each publication will be assessed in the narrative justification based on the following items (maximum 0.5 points per item): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Relevance of the article within the field: the relative ranking of the journal and the narrative justification of citations will be evaluated (normalized citation, positional indicators, contextualization of citations in relation to interdisciplinary interaction, and the prestige of national or international institutions citing the work, in accordance with the guide and video "Indicadores para la defensa del impacto científico en convocatorias ISCIII" indicating the consultation date. 2. Potential or actual impact of the results in innovation or in basic, translational, or clinical application. 3. Position of the candidate in the publication (first authorship especially valued) and contribution to the manuscript. 4. Coherence between the selected publications and the research trajectory, in relation to the proposed project 	20
Competitive projects	Discontinuous funding: 1 point Continuous funding: 2 points Overlapping funding: 3 points	5



(01/01/2019 – deadline of the call)	Excellence profile: 4 points Excellence profile plus international funding (e.g., European Commission programs, NIH): 5 points	
Other merits	The PI belongs to an emerging group or is 45 years old or younger in the year of the call (including any extensions described in Annex I).	5
Total Score		30

* The evaluation considers first authorship, impact, and coherence with the proposed project.

Main authorship is defined as: first author (or first co-author), last author, or corresponding author. A maximum of three main authors per publication will be considered.

**Consideration for participation in competitive international projects is restricted to those calls that allow to receive proposals for more than one country.

4.3. Award Decision

After completing the evaluation process, the CIAC will present a prioritization list to the director of IRBLeida (or designee), including the selected candidates and those placed on reserve. The director (or designee) will then issue a provisional funding decision detailing the selected candidates and prioritized reserves. 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 to the allegations within a maximum period of 10 business days. Once the allegations are resolved, the final funding decision will be made public.

Within one month of the publication of the final funding decision, the candidates selected must sign a document accepting the grant and stating the anticipated start date. Failure to accept the position within this period will be considered a renouncement. Exceptions to the start date beyond December 2026 may be granted by IRBLeida management upon written request, subject to CIAC assessment. Any resignations post-acceptance must be notified to IRBLeida in writing (projects@irbllleida.cat). If the resignation occurs within the first six months of the contract, the next candidate not funded in the initial priority list with a score ≥ 75 points may assume the grant for the remaining duration.

5. Beneficiaries' obligations

5.1. Project Follow-up

Candidates must be affiliated (or requested to be affiliated) with the IRBLeida research group at the time of accepting their position. Beneficiaries are required to apply for at least one postdoctoral grant during the term of the contract.

The researchers awarded this grant will be invited to participate in the transformative innovation initiatives promoted by IRBLeida LIST office (*Laboratori d'Innovació Social Transformativa*).

5.2. Project Outputs

To ensure the proper protection of intellectual and/or industrial property arising from this action, Principal Investigators (PIs) hosting postdoctoral researchers must inform the IRBLeida Innovation Office (innovacio@irbllleida.cat) of any communication and/or dissemination related to the work of the postdoctoral researchers.

PIs are responsible for ensuring that the guidelines for the accurate identification of IRBLeida's scientific output are followed.

Any communication or publication resulting from the research carried out under this fellowship must include an acknowledgment of IRBLeida's support with the following statement: "(XXXXX held a 2026 IRBLeida Postdoctoral Fellowship)."

5.3. Final Reporting

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, as well as any publications and communications resulting from this action. The final report template can be found on the website under the intramural calls section.

6. Other Clauses

Participation in this call implies full acceptance of the rules, both by the candidates and by the hosting PI. Failure to adhere to the rules or conditions outlined in the call may result in termination of the postdoctoral contract and/or a two-year suspension from future IREP call applications for the hosting PI. Additional clauses are:

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 to the 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 IRB Lleida, recognizing as authors or inventors the people who have conceived and implemented these ideas and applying the intellectual and industrial property regulations of IRB Lleida.)

6.3. 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.

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.

Certain 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 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.

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.

Temporary incapacity situations and periods of time dedicated to full-time leave due to gestation, pregnancy, risk during gestation, pregnancy or breastfeeding, birth, maternity, paternity, adoption for the purpose of adoption or foster care, or accumulated breastfeeding leave taken as full working days, or analogous situations related to the above, as well as the use of full-time leave for reasons of work-life balance or care of minors, family members, or dependent persons, and the time



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dedicated to leave of absence for the care of a child, a family member, or due to gender-based violence during the duration of the contract, shall interrupt the calculation of the maximum duration of the contract.

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

