







IRTA is a research institute owned by the Government of Catalonia ascribed to the Ministry of Climate Action, Food and Rural Agenda. IRTA is one of the CERCA centers of excellence of the Catalan Research System. Our purpose is to contribute to the modernization, competitiveness and sustainable development of agriculture, food and aquaculture sectors, the supply of healthy and quality foods for consumers and, generally, improving the welfare and prosperity of the society. We are granted by the EU with the [HRS4R](#) distinction for “HR Excellence in Research” and thus we offer a rich environment for knowledge development and exchange where to develop a scientific career, and possibilities for professional promotion according to the attained achievements. Check our initiatives [here](#).

PhD candidate for the Aquaculture Program to work in fish nutrition and health within a 4-year funded project.

[ref. CPI3624]

*IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated PhD candidate to join the Aquaculture Program. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities on aquaculture with a special focus on fish nutrition and health within the funded project entitled **NUTRITIONAL STRATEGIES TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON RELEVANT AQUACULTURE FISH SPECIES: FOCUSING ON MUCOSAL HEALTH AND STRESS RESPONSE** (reference number PID2023-147976OR-C21; Agencia Estatal de Investigación, Spain). The goals of the project is to test, validate and describe the mode of action of different nutritional strategies to cope with heat waves in two farmed fish species. The research approach will be based on testing different dietary formulations and feed additives and testing their performance when fish will be exposed to biotic (bacterial pathogenes) and abiotic (water temperature and hypoxia), as well as understanding their mode of action on host's stress and immune responses, gut microbiota and relevant physiological processes. The achievement of the project's objectives will support a more resilient and sustainable aquaculture. The project is run in collaboration with Prof. A. Ibarz from the University of Barcelona (Non-Invasive Bioindicators in Fish Research Group - NIBIFish)*

-  Supervisor/s: Enric Gisbert (<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7457-8468>)
-  Job location: IRTA La Ràpita (<https://www.irta.cat/es/centre/irta-sant-carles-de-la-rapita/>)
-  Full-time position (37.5 h/week)
-  Terms of appointment: The duration of the PhD Candidate contract will be for four years.
-  Salary: The financial remuneration for the PhD Candidate contract will be € 1.414,29/gross per month (€ 19.800/gross per annum) for the first. From the second to the fourth year, it will be € 1.716,07/gross per month (€ 24.025/gross per annum). Upon termination of the contract, the corresponding compensation will be paid. IRTA will also pay the fees of the doctoral school when receiving the enrolment. ⁽¹⁾
-  Employee Benefits: 22 vacation days, 3 days of family & work conciliation, 45h of personal days, Friday afternoon off, Compressed Summer schedule from 15/06 to 15/09, Conciliation schedule.

Tasks and Responsabilites:

- Execution of scientific and technical tasks taking part in the planning and execution of the project experiments to ensure the achievement of milestones.
- Supervision of MSc students that will support the research project.
- Provide support to on-going activities focused on functional and alternative ingredients.
- Perform literature review, data collection and management, involving statistical analysis.

- Attending consortium meetings.
- Active rol in disseminating the project results.
- Collaborate in the positioning the Program as a group of excellence through regular peer-reviewed publications, contributions at national and international congresses.

Required qualifications and experience

- Candidates must hold one of the following degrees: Biology, Marine Science, Veterinary and Biotechnology.
- A Master's in Aquaculture, Fish Biology, Animal Science or similar
- To be in a position to access a doctoral programme according to the requirements of Catalan universities, *i.e.* accrediting between 60 and 120 ECTS credits at the official university master's degree level or equivalent.
- Not to have a previous PhD degree.

Desirable requirements

- Previous knowledge in fish nutrition and immunology, and interests in omics techniques.
- Proactive profile, solutions-focused approach to work, with ability to adapt to changing requirements.
- Receptive to challenges, ability to align the professional objectives and institutional priorities and strategy.
- A team-player person.
- Accreditation to work with experimental animals (FELASA or equivalent certifications to meet the requirements of EU Directive 2010/63/EU; functions A-C)

Languages

- Proficiency in English
- Catalan and Spanish are valued.

Application process

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, apply via our [Recruitment Platform](#) to the job post with reference CPI3624 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Deadline for application:
30/09/2024

**Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. CPI3624
and health within a 4-year funded project**

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30 natural days	Publication and diffusion of the job advertisement on IRTA's website, EURAXESS Jobs, social media and other specific recruitment places.
5 following working days	Distribution of the pre-selected CVs which matching eligibility criteria to the Recruitment Committee. Communication via e-mail with the not pre-selected candidates who will not be further included in the process.
20 following working days	Recruitment Committee: - Communication via e-mail with the not-selected candidates by the Recruitment Committee. - Interview with selected candidates by the Recruitment Committee. - Accord of the Recruitment Committee stating the selected candidate and detailed reasoning for the decline of the rest of the candidates. - Communication via e-mail with the interviewed and not-selected candidates
10 following working days	Provision by the selected candidate of requested legal and official documentation to the HR department to coordinate the start of the candidate.
Last Trimester 2024	Start of employment

IRTA guarantees an open, transparent, and merit-based recruitment process (OTM-R) to all registered candidacies avoiding thus any bias on gender, origin, age, ideology, or other circumstances that could be discriminatory. Candidates in a situation of social exclusion will be considered in the first place.

Please know that if you are the chosen candidate and you are from a country which does not belong to the UE, IRTA's Human Resources Department will support you to get the residence and working permits.

⁽¹⁾ The financial remuneration of the PhD Candidate contract may not be less than 56% of the salary established for the category of Research Collaborator F of the Collective Agreement of the IRTA during the first two years, 60% in the third year and 75% in the fourth.