

## LA CAIXA/ CNB INTERNATIONAL PhD PROGRAMME (2011 CALL)

### BACKGROUND AND SCOPE

The National Centre for Biotechnology (CNB) was created in 1985 as a strategic research centre of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), serving both an academic and a technology transfer purpose in Biotechnology.

The mission of the CNB is the generation of scientific knowledge and its application to solving human and animal health issues, environmental, and agricultural challenges, while collaborating with industries and ensuring the transfer of technology. The excellence of research conducted ranks the CNB among the leading research institutions in the world (as evaluated by EMBO in 2005).

Ten PhD positions to be carried out at the CNB have been made available since 2008 by Fundación La Caixa within the following areas of study:

- [Macromolecular Structures](#)
- [Cellular and Molecular Biology](#)
- [Microbial Biotechnology](#)
- [Plant Molecular Genetics](#)
- [Immunology and Oncology](#)
- [Systems Biology](#)

The objective of the La Caixa/ CNB International PhD Programme Fellowships is the completion of a Doctoral Thesis in any of the candidate research groups at the CNB. The duration of the fellowship is one year renewable on a yearly basis up to a maximum of four.

### GENERAL CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The present call is open to university graduates in **biomedical sciences from all nationalities**.

The university degree should enable the access to a PhD degree according to Spanish regulations. Non-European university degrees should be equivalent to a European diploma or degree. Prior to enrolment, Spanish regulations require degree homogenization by the Spanish Ministry of Education and Science.



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Candidates must have an **outstanding academic record**, a strong motivation for scientific research, and a good command of English. Previous research experience is a plus.

Students, researchers, and PhD fellows having had a scientific relationship with CNB for more than three months at the time of deadline are not eligible.

#### APPLICATIONS

The application form can be downloaded from the [CNB website](#). Complete application forms, **together with full academic transcripts** should be sent by e-mail to [CNBfellowships@cnb.csic.es](mailto:CNBfellowships@cnb.csic.es).

Recommendation letters are optional.

Application deadline is February 13<sup>th</sup> 2011.

Please note that only applications meeting all of the eligibility and submission criteria above will be considered.

#### EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

Complete and eligible applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee composed by the centre's Director and Vice-Directors, and one staff scientist of each area of study. Based on the applicant's academic merits, qualifications and experience, a list of candidates will be established. Short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview and for submission of documentation.

After the evaluation process, the list of successful candidates will be published on the CNB website.

The Selection Committee will also establish a reserve list. Awardees will be notified by email and will have to confirm acceptance within one week after notification. Failure to do so implies the fellowship being awarded to a reserve candidate. Prior to appointment, awardees can be requested to present original documents (passport, official diplomas, academic certificates and transcripts of records, etc.).

#### SALARY

Fellowships will follow a 2+2 scheme, as established by the Real Decreto 63/2006 January 27<sup>th</sup> 2006. Stipend will be EUR 18,550 gross per annum during the first two years. Upon grant renewal, awardees will receive an employment contract during the third and fourth year and a salary of EUR 26,700 gross per annum. Additionally, awardees will receive a total of 6,400 EUR (1,500 EUR during the first and the second year and 1,700 EUR during the third and the fourth year) to cover miscellaneous expenses. Payment will be made by bank transfer at the end of each month.



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Fellowships are awarded for full time training and are therefore not compatible with any other grant stipend, salary or income.

Fellows will benefit from health and occupational insurance.

These fellowships do not imply any further employment agreement or incorporation of the awardees to the CNB staff.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES**

Successful candidates are expected to enrol during September-October 2011.

Awardees must complete and defend a Doctoral Thesis in a maximum of 4 years from the start date of their fellowship.

Awardees will present at the end of each year an annual report on their project for evaluation and grant renewal.

The research group leader will provide scientific training and supervision, and all necessary resources, equipment, materials, etc. to ensure adequate progress of the fellow's research project.

#### **INFORMATION AND ENQUIRIES**

For further information and enquiries please write to [CNBfellowships@cnb.csic.es](mailto:CNBfellowships@cnb.csic.es)