

CNIC INTERNATIONAL PhD PROGRAMME "la Caixa"- Severo Ochoa 2014 CALL

The "la Caixa" Foundation is a non-profitmaking organisation, which receives its funding from the third biggest financial entity in Spain, the Caja de Ahorros y Pensiones de Barcelona, "la Caixa". In terms of budget and business volume, the "la Caixa" Foundation is among the ten most important Foundations in the world.

Since 1982, the "la Caixa" Foundation has run various fellowship programmes to enable Spanish students to study postgraduate courses in Spain and other countries. In these twenty-five years, thousands of students have been able to develop their studies thanks to a fellowship from the Foundation.

The "la Caixa" Foundation has selected the *Centro Nacional de Investigaciones Cardiovasculares* (CNIC; Spanish National Cardiovascular Research Centre) as one of the Spanish centers of excellence awarded in the first edition of the Severo Ochoa Award. During 2014 "la Caixa" Foundation will provide support for four highly qualified graduate students to carry out their experimental work towards obtaining a PhD degree at the CNIC within an International PhD Programme.

In the context of this CNIC International PhD Programme la "Caixa"-Severo Ochoa, we are seeking **exceptional and highly motivated PhD students** interested in receiving ample cross-disciplinary training in state-of-the-art basic and applied cardiovascular research.

Successful candidates will join research groups with top-level scientists and will carry out their research in one of the following departments:

- Epidemiology, Atherothrombosis and Imaging
- Cardiovascular Development and Repair
- Vascular Biology and Inflammation

WHO CAN APPLY?

This call is open to applicants from all nationalities.

Students that have obtained a degree in biomedical sciences within the European Higher Education Area of a minimum of 240 + 60 ECTS are eligible to apply to do their PhD research training at CNIC. The university degree should qualify for the start of a PhD thesis in the student's home country. Non-European university degrees should be

equivalent to a European MSc. The National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA) is responsible for the calculation of equivalent average marks of University studies abroad, for those cases that equivalence is required in order to be able to present an application in a competitive process (<http://notasmedias.aneca.es/home>). Students, who expect to be awarded with such qualification during the first half of 2014, are eligible to apply to the Programme.

Studies should have been completed no more than two years ago.

Applicants must have an excellent academic record and previous research experience.

Candidates must have a solid working knowledge of English.

Co-authorship of publications in MedLine-listed journals will be positively considered.

Individuals may not have had a scientific relationship with the CNIC for more than six consecutive months before the closing date for applications (7 March 2014). A scientific relationship includes any research activity carried out by the student within the CNIC installations or using CNIC funds.

The earliest date of incorporation into the Programme is 1 September 2014 and the latest the 30 October 2014.

Applicants having doubts about their eligibility should contact the Training Office (predoc@cnic.es) prior to submitting their application.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

Students who gain a place in our PhD programme will obtain full financial support, including tuition, regardless of nationality. During the four years of the program, students will receive an employment contract with a gross annual salary of:

- 18.546,56 € - First year
- 19.303,56 € - Second year
- 20.666,16 € - Third year
- 22.558,67 € - Fourth year

For the first and the second year, participants will receive an annual allowance of 1,500 € to cover miscellaneous expenses, such as university fees, expenses derived from international congress attendance and/or stays in international research centres. During the third and fourth year, the students will receive an annual allowance of 1,700 € to cover the previous expenses.

Employment contracts will be prepared in accordance to Spanish laws and regulations, and employees will be included in the general Spanish Social Security System.

Monthly rates of the employment contract will be paid at the end of each month through a bank transfer to a Spanish bank account.

All students will receive full health and occupational insurance coverage.

Students will also be entitled to social benefits such as holidays, subsidized meals and aids for studying Spanish or English.

All students will join the CNIC PREDOCTORAL Programme. The rules governing this programme can be found in the CNIC's web page http://www.cnic.es/doc/formacion/preddoctoral/normativa_preddoctoral_2013.pdf

Doctoral students at CNIC usually have their doctoral degree awarded by a Spanish University. However, international PhD students may also choose to have their doctoral degree awarded by a university of their home country.

During the duration of the contract the students must devote themselves entirely to research at CNIC and may not be beneficiaries of any other, contract, grant, stipend or regular income.

This contract does not imply any obligation of CNIC regarding further incorporation of the employee.

Expenses associated with the interview: applicants invited to Madrid for interviews will be provided with a return flight ticket and overnight accommodation. All bookings will be directly handled by the CNIC.

The contracts will be awarded on a competitive basis and will be renewable annually for up to four years, depending on a positive evaluation by the supervisor.

Students will present at the end of each contract year an annual report in the Scientific Training Office at CNIC explaining their productivity, scientific progress and any activities related to the PhD Programme carried out during the year. This report must be signed by the student and his/her supervisor.

Within a period of six months after the end of the four year contract the student will send a scanned copy of their PhD title to the CNIC's Scientific Training Office.

The student and his/her supervisor will inform the Scientific Training Office two months in advance of publication of any scientific publication or communication where the student is an author.

Support by this programme will be duly acknowledged in any scientific publication or communication where the student is an author.

This programme will fund only one PhD student per group per year.

DEADLINES

The deadline for the receipt of complete applications (including reference letters) will be 7 March, 2014.

All candidates must be selected by the end of July 2014.

Fellowships must be started in September-October 2014.

The PhD thesis has to be completed within 4 years, without exceptions. Should the PhD thesis not be completed within 4 years, the laboratory where the student is carrying out his/her work will refund the monies invested in the contract to the general CNIC funds.

HOW TO APPLY

Application must be submitted exclusively through the CNIC's web site. The application form must be completed in English. In the online application process you will be asked to enter your personal data, information regarding your education, your scientific interests and names/contact details of two referees. Moreover, you will be asked to upload several documents (*Curriculum vitae*, a "motivation letter", academic records, academic certificates and eligibility acknowledgement). All documents should be submitted in English.

In the application form candidates should **choose three of research projects on offer**.

In the application form you will have to give the names and email addresses of two scientists who will write a letter of reference on your behalf. **You will have to download the "reference letter" form from this web site and send it to two people who have agreed to act as referees on your behalf.** Your two referees must submit their scanned signed letters of recommendation directly to predoc@cnic.es. **It is your responsibility to ensure that all reference letters are sent to CNIC before the deadline (March 7th, 2014).**

To complete your online application form you will be asked to upload several files:

- a) *Curriculum vitae*. Where your publications should include the complete title and list of authors (as published) in PubMed format.
- b) Your academic official transcript of records: These documents must show the grades attained in exam periods and must be presented in Spanish or English.
- c) Any academic certificates.
- d) A "motivation letter" Where you should outline your research interests as well as your skills and knowledge. Also state the reasons why you would like to do your PhD at the CNIC.
- e) Eligibility acknowledgement form stating the applicant's suitability, on the basis of the degree qualifications (bachelor's and master's degrees), to begin doctoral studies in the country that issued his/her degree certificates.

All files are preferred in pdf format; doc format is also accepted (size below 1MB).

After having entered all required information you can submit your application by pressing the "Submit" button. After submission you will receive an automatic e-mail confirmation acknowledging receipt. However, remember that **your application will not be considered complete and will not be reviewed until all reference letters have been received**.

Incomplete applications will be rejected.

Only one application per candidate will be accepted. If more than one application is received from the same candidate, only the last one will be considered as valid.

For more information, or if you have any question about this application, please e-mail predoc@cnic.es

LIST OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

Supervisor	Research Project
Hidalgo, Andrés	Defining the multifaceted functions of neutrophils in tissue homeostasis
Lara, Enrique	Regulation of alternative splicing in the infarcted heart
Flores, Ignacio	Telomerase, heart rejuvenation and regeneration
Andrés, Vicente	Identification of new mechanisms of aging and associated cardiovascular disease
Ruiz-Cabello, Jesús	Nanomedicine and Advanced Multimodal cardiovascular imaging: role of protein corona in the nanotoxicity and pharmacokinetic and advanced programming
Alegre, Jorge	Single-molecule mechanobiochemistry of cardiac proteins
Martínez del Hoyo, Gloria	Role of tetraspanin family members CD9 and CD81 during the immune response and inflammatory diseases
R. Ramiro, Almudena	B cells in cancer and autoimmunity
Ricote, Mercedes	Cardiac macrophages in homeostasis and repair
González, Susana	Análisis del modelado de la cromatina como pieza clave en el mantenimiento de células madre y en el desarrollo de cardiomiopatías
Mercader, Nadia	Cellular and molecular mechanisms of cardiac regeneration and fibrosis regression in the zebrafish
De la Pompa, Jose Luis	Intercellular signaling in cardiac development, disease and repair
Isern, Joan	Contribution of mesenchymal lineages to embryonic hematopoiesis and cardiac organogenesis
Torres, Miguel	Role of Meis transcription factors in Cardiac Development
Bernal, Juan Antonio	New genetic approaches to correct human mutations using induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells as study model
Laclaustra, Martín	Epidemiological research on metabolic syndrome and cardiovascular risk factors, oxidative stress, mitochondrial genetics and subclinical atherosclerosis
Filgueras, David	Magnetic Resonance Imaging-based 3D Modeling of Ventricular Substrate for Accurate Characterization of In Vivo Scar-Related Monomorphic Ventricular Tachycardia: Translational Study from Pigs to Humans

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION

Admission to the programme is on a competitive basis. All applications are evaluated solely on the basis of academic qualifications and scientific potential.

Applications will be screened initially by the CNIC's Training Office to ensure that they are complete and eligible. All eligible applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, formed by CNIC faculty members, which will evaluate candidates based on the following criteria:

- The candidate's academic merit and potential for successful research while at the CNIC, as evidenced by their qualifications and grades, and previous research experience.
- The information given by the candidate on the application form, and documents attached.
- Recommendation letters.

The Selection Committee will consider all the applications and select a number of candidates to visit the CNIC in Madrid where they will be interviewed by potential supervisors and discuss their research interests. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place between 9 and 16 May 2014. Applicants should be prepared to travel to Spain at that time. Failure to participate in the interview process will disqualify the applicant for being considered for a position.

Shortlisted candidates will be selected by the Selection Committee on the basis of this personal interview.

The Selection Committee will assign successful students to the different research groups at the end of the interview process.

The final selection of candidates requires approval by the Direction of the CNIC.

Applicants will be notified of the Selection Committee's final decision by e-mail and the list of successful candidates will be published on the CNIC's web site. Successful candidates are requested to inform CNIC whether they accept or decline the offer within 2 weeks after being notified.

Original documents, such as original academic certificates and diplomas, or certified translations, will have to be presented at this time.

The offer will be considered declined if the applicant does not respond during this time.

INDICATIVE TIMETABLE

Call opening	December 2013
Call deadline	7 March 2014
Pre-selection of candidates	late April 2014
Oral interviews	9-16 May 2014
Notification to candidates	July 2014
Start date of fellowships	September-October 2014

RESIDENCE PERMIT/STUDENT VISA

To stay in Spain, foreign students from non-EU countries need a residence permit or a student visa. The CNIC Human Resources Department will provide administrative support in visa formalities to such students.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

1- In accordance with the provisions of article 5 of Organic Law 15/1999 of 13 December on the Protection of Personal Data, we inform you that personal data collected as a consequence of the current session will be incorporated into an automated file called HR registered in the Spanish Agency of Data Protection under the ownership of the Foundation National Center for Cardiovascular Research CARLOS III, its purpose being to process your registration and participation in this notification/announcement, as well as to track your career and professional training by sending different corporative material of the Centre to the address you provided. There is no expectation of the transfer of personal data to any third party outside to the Center. Also, you may exercise your right to object to the treatment described, as well as the rights of access, rectification and deletion of information provided to the Centre by contacting the following address: National Center for Cardiovascular Research Carlos III (CNIC), Calle Melchor Fernández 3, (28049) Madrid.

The processing of your personal information as described in the previous section is necessary for the Centre to manage your registration in this training event, without which, the inscription will not be possible.

2- The ongoing development of this programme shall be subject to CNIC budget availability. If necessary, the CNIC may approve the temporary suspension or alteration of the contributions made to the programme.

3- The regulation of industrial property rights for research personnel in training and participants in training programmes or placements will be governed by the rules published in the CNIC's web page

http://www.cnic.es/en/formacion/propiedad_industrial.php