



**Researcher for the project “*Fostering prophylactic and therapeutic strategies to fight the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic*” in the ANIMAL HEALTH Program**

**IRTA** is a research institute owned by the Government of Catalonia ascribed to the Department of Agriculture and Livestock. It is regulated by Law 04/2009, passed by the Catalan Parliament on 15 April 2009, and it is ruled by private regulations. IRTA is one of the CERCA centres of excellence of the Catalan Research System.

IRTA's 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.



Contribute to the modernization, competitiveness and sustainable development of the agrarian, food and aquaculture sectors, to the provision of healthy and quality food for consumers and, in general, to improve the welfare of the population.



Become a scientific reference, an engine of innovation and technology transfer. We want to be the strategic ally of the agri-food sector.



1. Commitment
2. Creativity
3. Learning
4. Innovation
5. Leadership
6. Respect
7. Vocation of service

## THE ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM

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The **Animal Health** program engages in the research, technological development, transfer, and teaching in the animal health area. To improve the health, quality, and safety of animal products fit for human consumption, innovative and effective vaccines are under development, the epidemiology, immunological response, and mechanisms of the pathogens are being studied, the risk for human health is being assessed, and models of standardized infections and diagnostic techniques are being developed. IRTA Animal Health Program is located at CReSA, a new and technologically advanced building with conventional laboratories as well as biocontainment with level-3 biosafety plus (BSL-3+) laboratories and animal facilities.

## ROLE PROFILE

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IRTA is currently seeking a **Postdoc Researcher** with expertise in **Virology** to work in the project *Fostering prophylactic and therapeutic strategies to fight the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic* which is also supported by Grifols. *The project is embedded in the Animal Health Program.*

Within this framework, IRTA is proposing a research position with the following characteristics:

## DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

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- To contribute to the high scientific and technological impact projects within the field of biocontainment or biosafety level 3 (BSL-3) facilities in collaboration with the group of emerging animal and zoonotic exotic diseases.
- To work under BSL-3 conditions in cell culture models to assess the efficacy of antiviral candidates or to analyse the humoral responses in plasma from human patients elicited after infection and/or vaccination.
- To work with biological samples from animals experimentally infected with highly pathogenic viral agents for experimental purposes and to participate in the necropsies. Studies will be mainly focused on testing the efficacy of vaccine candidates and/or therapeutics in mice or hamsters challenged with SARS-CoV-2.
- To write scientific articles and reports on progress of the designated project.
- To collaborate in the design, planning, and implementation of research projects and contracts.
- To supervise the technical personnel that will support the research project.
- To help positioning the Program as a group of excellence through regular peer-reviewed publications, contributions at national and international congresses.



## REQUIRED EXPERIENCE

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### **Essential requirements:**

- To hold a PhD degree in Health Sciences specifically in Medicine, Veterinary or Biology with a postdoc experience of at least 2 years.
- Proven experience in management of BSL-3 pathogens and in the associated personal protective equipment.
- Experience in writing and publishing peer-reviewed scientific articles in English.
- Good level of English, both spoken and written. Catalan and Spanish will be valued.

### **Desirable requirements:**

- Proven experience in public and private funding.
- Experience in international Research Projects.
- Proven experience in state-of-the-art biosafety level 3 labs.
- Good oral communication and writing skills.

### **Personal profile:**

- Strong organizational capability and ability to learn and successfully work within multidisciplinary teams.
- Teamwork skills and ability to establish and build relationships that will allow pursuing the objectives of the R&D activities.
- Willingness to organise and share information. Proactive in suggesting improvements.
- Flexibility and adaptation. To be able to prioritize tasks effectively. Capacity to anticipate, plan and write R+D projects, reports and technical documents.
- Receptive to challenges, ability to align the professional objectives and institutional priorities and strategy.

## TERMS OF THE APPOINTMENT

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This is a **full-time position** for a period of two years with the possibility to extend the contract up to three years. Gross salary will correspond to category E from the Researchers salary scale at IRTA: 34,566.44€ per year.

IRTA offers a rich environment for knowledge development and exchange where to develop a scientific career, and possibilities for professional promotion according to the attained achievements.

## LOCATION: UNIVERSITAT AUTÒNOMA DE BARCELONA (UAB)

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IRTA's CReSA is located in the campus of the UAB. The UAB ranks 172 in the Performance Ranking of Scientific Papers for World Universities. The UAB continues to be among the 200 best universities worldwide, and is the second university in Spain, after the UB and followed by the University of Valencia and the Autonomous University of Madrid.

In the rankings by subject, the UAB scores highest in Spain in Animal and Plant Science (occupying position 69 worldwide), and stands out in Agricultural Science (100 worldwide), Environmental Science (101), Mathematics (104), and Pharmacology and Toxicology (156).

## BARCELONA

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### *A city with character*

Barcelona is an open, vibrant, and creative city with a busy cultural, political, business and commercial life. It is a metropolis where every imaginable language can be heard, as well as a city that invites its residents and visitors alike to discover its Catalan culture and traditions.

### *The Catalan capital*

Barcelona is the capital of Catalonia, a country whose nation boasts a long history, enjoying self-government as an autonomous region in the Spanish State. It is situated on the north-east coast of the Iberian Peninsula, facing the Mediterranean Sea and bordered by Andorra and France along its north. Catalonia also has its **own language**, Catalan, which grew out of Latin, as did Spanish, French, Italian and Portuguese. **Catalan is its official language**, together with Spanish, and is used regularly in every walk of life.

In addition, most of the people working in international trade and the country's main tourist areas speak English and other languages as well. Barcelona has always attracted people from all over the world, making it even more **multilingual and special**. It is the people living there, with their different backgrounds and cultures, who make it so **cosmopolitan, diverse and intercultural**.



## *Economic powerhouse of a prosperous region*

One of the biggest metropolitan areas in Europe has grown up around the capital, consolidating Barcelona as an **outstanding business, technological and industrial center, as well as a major economic powerhouse**. In fact, the city has always stood out for its intensive business and commercial activities and proved its ability to modernize and adapt itself to the new times. It has become such a magnet for global talent that it is now a European center for business creation, especially in **leading sectors** such as information and communication technologies, biotechnology, sustainability, design and aeronautics. The city also plays host to several of world's most important international trade fairs, such as the **Mobile World Congress** and the **Barcelona Meeting Point**. Innovation is another Barcelona's hallmarks: it is the number-one smart city in the Spanish State and the fourth in Europe. It is also one of the cities with the highest quality of life in the world and the life expectancy of its residents is among the highest in Europe.

## BARCELONA



**9 WORLD HERITAGE SITES**

Source: UNESCO

## KEY STEPS IN THE SELECTION PROCESS

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, go to the link:

<http://www.irta.cat/en/work-at-irta/>

and register yourself. You should load your **CV in Adobe Acrobat pdf format** before the 10<sup>th</sup> of July 2021. All information will be in the strictest confidence.

During the recruitment process, Human Resources Department will keep you informed on which step is your application.

Register to have full access to our job vacancy publications and future opportunities



Deadline timing job ref. 4421/21 Researcher for the project "Fostering prophylactic and therapeutic strategies to fight the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in the Animal Health Program	
30 days	Publication and diffusion of the job advertisement on IRTA's website, EURAXESS Jobs, social networks, and other specific recruitment places.
5 following working days	Distribution of the pre-selected CVs which match eligibility criteria to the Selection Committee. Communication via e-mail with the not pre-selected candidates who will not be further included in the process.
20 following working days	Selection Committee: - Communication via e-mail with the not-selected candidates by the Selection Committee. - Interview with selected candidates by the Selection Committee. - Accord of the Selection 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.
5 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.
September 2021	Start of employment (approximately)