







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](#).

Postdoctoral Researcher for the Animal Welfare Program

INVESTIGO Program funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU

[ref. 109/22]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Postdoctoral Researcher with a PhD related to data Science, telematics engineering, informatic engineering or biostatistics to join the [Animal Welfare Program](#). We invite applications from ambitious candidates to conduct research and innovation activities on the use of Internet of Things (IoT) in the field of farm animal welfare in intensive and extensive husbandry systems, including data analysis and the application of machine learning, AI and development of Apps for researchers, professionals and general public.

-  Head of the Program: Dr. Antoni Velarde
Program's key researcher/s for this position: Antoni Dalmau, Emma Fàbrega and Alexandra Contreras
-  Job location: [IRTA Monells](#)
-  Full-time position (37.5 h/week)
-  Terms of appointment: 2 years position funded by European Union. (DA5^a Reform).
-  Salary: Category F of the IRTA RDT scale €31,187.92 gross year.
-  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 Responsibilities:

- To conduct/contribute to the activities of the research Program, performing scientific and technical tasks, taking part in the planning and execution of the experiments to ensure the achievement of milestones of research projects.
- To develop animal welfare prediction models through information generation segmented by type of animal, production system and region, among others, from animal welfare databases that include health status individual animals on a farm and their behaviour.
- To develop systems reliable welfare information for researchers, farmers, veterinarians, and consumers with data originated from existing applications, protocols and research projects.
- To implement improvements to existing applications and in the continuous monitoring of animal welfare by means of new technologies.
- To perform literature review, data collection and management, including statistical analysis.
- To contribute to the scientific production of the research and innovation activities of the Program.
- To lead and actively contribute fund rising through the preparation and submission of project proposals for public competitive calls and for contracts with the private sector, as well reporting process, such as writing progress and final reports of research activities.

- To lead the use of new technologies for the assessment of animal welfare in different species, including the use of machine learning, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and new sensors.
- To contribute to the teamwork and team-spirit in the Animal Welfare Program, fostering collaboration and integration activities.

Required qualifications and experience:

- Ph.D. related with data science, telematics engineering, informatic engineering or biostatistics will be prioritised, even if not previous relation with animal science would exist. On the other hand, any Ph.D. student related to animal science, with good skills in statistics, and interested in developing their career on the use of IoT in the field of animal welfare for farmed animals in intensive and extensive systems, including data analysis and the application of machine learning, AI and development of app's for researchers, professionals and general public will also be considered.
- Proved research skills: experience on data management and analysis, use of new technologies (i.e. sensors; AI; machine learning, etc...) and on scientific article writing.
- Dissemination skills: presentation/communication skills, and technical writing.
- Capacity to successfully develop collaborative research links with national and international research organizations, and the ability to interact with private companies. The successful candidate will be expected to attract after a time funds from private and public sectors for research and interact with stakeholders.
- Driving licence type B and availability for travelling.
- Requirements established by the INVESTIGO Program at the recruitment date. (Age from 16 to 29. Unemployed and registered at the employment service SOC or SEPE. No contractual relationship with IRTA in the 6 months prior to the beginning of the contract. Last day for recruitment December 31st, 2022).

Desirable requirements:

- Expertise on AI, machine learning, interpretation of accelerometers and use of sensory to assess animal behaviour and welfare.
- Experience on statistical analysis of behavioural and clinical data taken in human or animal science. Experience in public and private funding.
- Good oral communication and writing skills.

Languages:

- Advanced level of English, both spoken and written.
- Catalan and Spanish will be valued.

Application process

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, apply via our [Recruitment Platform](#) to the job post with reference 109-22 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Deadline for application:

23/10/2022

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. 109-22 "Postdoctoral Researcher for the Animal Welfare Program" INVESTIGO Program funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU

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.
December 2022	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.