







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](#).

Junior Postdoctoral Researcher for the Aquaculture Program in Microbiome studies

INVESTIGO Program funded by the European Union – NextGenerationEU

[ref. 110/22]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated young postdoctoral researcher (<29 years old) to join the [Aquaculture Program](#) to support its projects on improvement of health and/or productivity of farmed fish and molluscs. Themes include nutrition, novel aquafeeds, reproduction, and immunity, working both in fish and shellfish. We expect that the selected candidate will put special focus on microbial sequencing to study both pathogens and commensal bacteria, using an integrative approach of viable cultures, performing whole genome sequencing for the pathogens and microbiome studies. These would include population-scale analysis of microbial communities. The successful applicant will work independently and will be based in the IRTA at La Ràpita Centre, one of the most advanced aquaculture research centres in Spain. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities on the microbiome studies related to different areas of aquaculture.

-  Head of the Program: Dr. Enric Gisbert
Program's key researcher/s: Dr. K. B. Andree, Dr. D. Furones Nozal
-  Job location: [IRTA la Ràpita](#)
-  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:

- Create, design, and execute experiments for further understanding and characterization of the role of microbiota on the performance, health, and condition of aquatic organisms (finfish and molluscs).
- To 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.
- Apply bioinformatic programs and manipulation of bioinformatic pipelines for microbiome studies using NGS technologies.
- Interpretation of microbiome data from both taxonomical and functional views.

- Support microbial culturing methods at the laboratory level, expansion of the curated collection of microbial isolates, microbial isolate characterization (genotypic and phenotypic), selective isolation and sequencing of microbial species of interest from ongoing studies and data analyses.
- Providing guidance on appropriate sample collection methods, fixation and sample extraction of nucleic acids for library preparation, sequencing (16S rRNA, ITS2, metagenomics), and data analyses.
- Work with live animals (aquatic - fish and shellfish) and exposure to infectious organisms (bacteria).
- To identify opportunities for cutting-edge research and innovation to address strategic priorities of the Aquaculture Program within the Animal Production Area of IRTA.
- 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 contribute to the teamwork and team-spirit in Aquaculture Program, fostering collaboration and integration activities with other research programs of the Animal Production Area.
- Train and mentor project participants and junior trainees.
- Attend courses, seminars, and lab meetings to expand knowledge of research and laboratory techniques.

Required qualifications and experience:

- A Ph.D. degree in microbiology, microbial genomics, molecular biology, bioinformatics, biology, marine science, or related fields.
- Proved research skills: experience on project proposal writing, literature review, experimental design and implementation, data analysis, 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 closely with private companies.
- 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:

- Experience with next generation sequencing platforms (Illumina, Oxford Nanopore Technologies).
- Omics and EHR data integration.
- Familiarity with command line sequence analysis tools.
- Familiarity with Phylogenetics tools (e.g. RAxML, BEAST, iqtree...etc).
- Knowledge of scripting language(s) such as R or Python.

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 110-22 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:
02-11-2022**

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. 110-22 “Junior Postdoctoral Researcher for the Aquaculture Program in Microbiome studies”

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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.
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.