







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](#).

PhD candidate for the Postharvest and the Genomics and Biotechnology Programs

[ref. 21/22]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated PhD candidate to join a collaborative project between the [Postharvest](#) and the [Genomics and Biotechnology](#) Programs. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities on the field of plant breeding and postharvest technologies. In the framework of **sustainable agriculture**, the aim of the study is to develop new melon varieties with slow maturation and higher performance at postharvest to **reduce food lost and waste**. In this context, the candidate will be engaged in a multifaceted and innovative project to provide insight on the role of different **genes/QTLs involved in melon ripening**, while using the **latest postharvest and fruit quality assessment technologies**.

-  Supervisor/s: Gemma Echeverria and Marta Pujol
-  Job location: [Fruitcentre](#) (Lleida) and [CRAG](#) (UAB Campus, Barcelona)
-  Full-time position (37.5 h/week)
-  Terms of appointment: The duration of the PhD Candidate contract will be for one year, extendible by yearly periods to a maximum of 3 years.
-  Salary: The financial remuneration will be of €1,236.39/gross per month (€17,309.45/gross per annum) for the first and second years. For the third year, it will be €1,324.10/gross per month (€18,545.84/gross per annum) which will be subject to the corresponding withholdings, pursuant to prevailing regulations, and to the collective employment agreement of IRTA ⁽¹⁾
IRTA will also pay the annual fees of the doctoral school when receiving the enrolment.
-  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:

- The PhD candidate will perform a wide range of duties including laboratory and field work.
- Study the ripening behaviour of pyramided lines with different ripening-related QTLs.
- Fruit quality evaluation of new melon lines at harvest and after storage.
- Evaluation of the impact of shelf life on fruit flavour and consumer acceptance.
- Writing of scientific articles.

Required qualifications and experience

- Candidates must hold one of the following degrees:
- **a)** A Master's in Plant Biotechnology, Agronomic Sciences, Food technology, Plant breeding or similar.
- **b)** To be in a position to access a doctoral programme according to the requirements of Catalan universities, *i.e.* accrediting between 60 and 120 ECTS credits at the official university master's degree level or equivalent.
- Not to have a previous PhD degree.
- To have a driver's license.

Desirable requirements

- Any prior experience in matters of plant science, genotyping, biochemistry, food technology, and chromatography will be viewed positively.
- Good statistical data analysis skills will be valued.
- Good communication skills, verbal and written, would be valued as well.

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 CPI2122 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Deadline for application:
11/2022

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. CPI2122 **Breeding for sustainable melon production**

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	<p>Recruitment Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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	<p>Provision by the selected candidate of requested legal and official documentation to the HR department to coordinate the start of the candidate.</p>
First Trimester 2023	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.

⁽¹⁾ The financial remuneration of the PhD Candidate contract may not be less than 56% of the salary established for the category of Research Collaborator F of the Collective Agreement of the IRTA during the first two years, 60% in the third year and 75% in the fourth.