







*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 Animal Health Program to study the biology of *Campylobacter* in poultry

[ref. PRO0122]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated PhD candidate to join the [Animal Health Program](#). We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities on the biology of *Campylobacter* focussing on the host pathogen interactions in poultry.

-  Supervisor/s: Marta Cerdà ([marta.cerda@irta.cat](mailto:marta.cerda@irta.cat)) and Miquel Nofrarias ([miquel.nofrarias@irta.cat](mailto:miquel.nofrarias@irta.cat))
-  Job location: [CReSA](#)
-  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 <sup>(1)</sup>.  
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 student will be mainly involved in developing the activities to achieve the specific objectives of the project, including: -

- Identify the *Campylobacter coli* genotypes posing the greatest threat to industry and the genetic markers for them.
- Determine the host-pathogen interactions between different *Campylobacter coli* strains and broiler chickens, including: identifying differences in immune responses, the role of the chicken gut microbiome on host interaction with *Campylobacter* and impacts on gut health.

### Required qualifications and experience

-Candidates must hold one of the following degrees:

- a) A Master's in Microbiology, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology 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.
- Candidate will apply to open competitive predoctoral calls, and therefore must **acknowledge an excellent academic record**.
- Not to have a previous PhD degree.

## Desirable requirements

- Any prior experience in matters of research laboratory work (in the field of microbiology and molecular biology), statistics, and scientific literature review will be viewed positively.
- Familiarity with statistical programming languages (e.g., R and/or Python) will be valued.
- Experience or interest in bioinformatics analyses.

## Languages

- Proficiency in English
- Catalan and Spanish are valued

## Application process

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, apply via e-mail to the supervisors with your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:**  
**30/11/2022**

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. PRO0122	Study the biology of <i>Campylobacter</i> in poultry
<b>30 natural days</b>	Publication and diffusion of the job advertisement on IRTA's website, EURAXESS Jobs, social media and other specific recruitment places.
<b>5 following working days</b>	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.
<b>20 following working days</b>	Recruitment Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Communication via e-mail with the not-selected candidates by the Recruitment Committee.</li> <li>- Interview with selected candidates by the Recruitment Committee.</li> <li>- Accord of the Recruitment Committee stating the selected candidate and detailed reasoning for the decline of the rest of the candidates.</li> <li>- Communication via e-mail with the interviewed and not-selected candidates</li> </ul>

<b>10 following working days</b>	Provision by the selected candidate of requested legal and official documentation to the HR department to coordinate the start of the candidate.
<b>January 2023</b>	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.*

<sup>(1)</sup> 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.