







*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

[ref. CPI2523]

*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 framework of a project funded by the Spanish ministry of Science and Innovation. The main goal of this project is the **control of diseases** in young pigs, caused by pathogens that use the respiratory tract as entry way. The nasal microbiota is an important factor in the predisposition to develop respiratory and invasive disease. On many occasions, these diseases are still controlled with antibiotics due to the lack of effective vaccines capable of mounting a protective response. Antibiotic use in farm animals contributes to the emergence of resistant bacteria that can be transferred to humans and the environment, highlighting the importance of a One health perspective. Although the consumption of antibiotics has been notably reduced in the last year, the best way to further reduce it would be to safeguard the health of the animals. Our proposal is intended to solve the problem of overuse of antimicrobial in animal production, by exploring alternative ways of control (stabilization of the microbiota and vaccines). The general objective of this project is to identify the essential components of the nasal microbiota that are needed to establish a stable community with full functional capacities. To reach this objective, several cutting-edge technologies will be used such as in vitro organoids and organ-on-a-chip together with classic microbiology and molecular biology techniques.*

-  Supervisor/s: Dr Virginia Aragon and Dr Marina Sibila
-  Job location: [CReSA](#)
-  Full-time position (37.5 h/week)
-  Terms of appointment: The duration of the PhD Candidate contract will be for four years.
-  Salary The financial remuneration will be of €1,291.18 gross per month (€ 18,076.52/gross per annum) for the first year. For the second year will be of €1,311.41 gross per month (€ 18,359.74/gross per annum). For the third year, it will be €1,619.64/gross per month (€ 22,674.96/gross per annum) and for the fourth year it will be € 1,729.26/gross per month (€ 24,209.64/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 Responsabilites:**

- The ones corresponding to a PhD student. The selected candidate will be enrolled at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and will need to fulfil the academic requirements of the PhD program.
- Team working is a must. The student will develop his/her thesis as part of a team at IRTA and in collaboration with other students in the group.
- Good communication skills in English. Spanish and Catalan are highly recommended.
- Write a PhD thesis and publish scientific papers on the grounds of the PhD project.

## **Required qualifications and experience**

- To hold an undergraduate degree in any area of Biological sciences, including Microbiology, Veterinary Medicine, Biotechnology or related fields and Master degree or equivalent in any of these areas.
- To be in a position to access a doctoral programme according to the requirements of Catalan universities.
- Previous experience in animal experimentation and bacteriology would be valued, albeit all dedicated and skilled individual candidates will be considered.
- Not to have a previous PhD degree.

## **Desirable requirements**

- Bioinformatics knowledge and programming skills will be considered a plus.
- Good communication skills.
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Analytical and organizational capacities.
- Driver license.

## **Languages**

- Proficiency in English
- Catalan and Spanish are valued

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## **Application process**

If you wish to be considered for this position, please, apply via our [Recruitment Platform](#) to the job post with reference CPI2523 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:**

**Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. CPI2523 MICROBIOTA AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO CONTROL DISEASES IN YOUNG PIGS: ORGAN-ON-A-CHIP AS A MODEL**

<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>Last Trimester 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.

**THE APPLICATION WILL BE OPEN UNTIL A SUITABLE CANDIDATE IS FOUND.**