







*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 centres 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 Program

[ref. CPI1124]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated PhD candidate to join the Postharvest Program. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities on the project titled: "**Phenotypic plasticity of sour rot causal agent due to the sustained increased temperatures**", being the main objective of this project to unravel the effect of the current increased temperatures on the development and survival of an emerging stone fruit pathogen (*Geotrichum candidum*). Basically, the activities will focus on the analysis and identification of those virulence genes and proteins and the metabolites involved in the resilience of this pathogen to these news climate scenarios.

-  Supervisor/s: Dr Núria Vall-Illaura Espinosa and Dr Rosario Torres Sanchis
-  Job location: Fruitcentre (Lleida)
-  Full-time position (h/week): 37.5
-  Terms of appointment: 4 years
-  Salary: The financial remuneration for the PhD Candidate contract will be €1,336.3/gross per month (18,708.20/gross per annum) and for the first and second years. For this third year, it will be €1,431.83/gross per month (€20,045.62/gross per annum) and for the fourth year it will be €1,789.79/gross per month (€25,057.06/gross per annum) which will be subject to the corresponding withholdings, pursuant to prevailing regulations, and to the collective employment agreement of IRTA. IRTA will also pay the fees of the doctoral school when receiving the enrolment. <sup>(1)</sup>
-  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 contribute to the activities related to the analysis of the research line, performing scientific and technical tasks, and taking part in the planning and execution of the experiments to ensure the achievement of milestones of the research projects linked to the PhD project.
- To perform literature review, data collection and management.
- To contribute to the scientific production of the research activities of the research line.
- To contribute to the teamwork and team-spirit in the research line.

- To participate in communication and dissemination activities (attending conferences, workshops and transfer activities...).
- To supervise bachelor's degree students doing practices related to the project.

### **Required qualifications and experience:**

- Candidates must hold one of the following degrees: Biotechnology, Plant Science, Agronomy, Biology or similar
- a) A Master's in Biotechnology, Plant Science, Agronomy, 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.
- Not to have a previous PhD degree.
- Candidates who have been chosen for an interview with the Selection Committee, should bring or send –for the interview- a certified copy of the degree and/or master, as well as the academic record showing the marks of all subjects studied.

### **Desirable requirements:**

- Expertise in methodological approaches related to biochemical and molecular biology of fruit and microorganisms.
- Experience in fruits and plants will be valued.
- Willingness to conduct field, laboratory and bioinformatic work.
- Good written and oral English skills.
- Proved research skills: experience on laboratory work, literature review, experimental design and implementation, data analysis, and scientific article writing.
- Dissemination skills: presentation/communication skills, and technical writing.

### **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 CPI1124 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

**Deadline for application:**  
**19/07/2024**

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. CPI1124

PhD candidate for the Postharvest Program

<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: - 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
<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>Third Trimester 2024</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.