







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 Sustainable Plant Protection Program

[ref. CPI1324]

*IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated PhD candidate to join the Sustainable Plant Protection Program. We invite applications from ambitious candidates with relevant research experience and passion to conduct research and innovation activities on the project titled: “**Rhizobiome improvement through the addition of beneficial microorganisms and root exudate metabolites to boost the resilience of grapevine and fruit tree rootstocks against drought and root diseases**”, which is an innovative approach for effectively managing soilborne fungal diseases in vineyards and orchards in a context of climate change, while improving the diversity and functions of soil/rhizosphere microbiota.*

-  Supervisor/s: Dr Amaia Nogales García and Dr Marc Viñas
-  Job location: Cabrils (Barcelona) and Torre Marimon (Barcelona)
-  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. ⁽¹⁾
-  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 be responsible of data (growth, physiology, disease symptoms) and sample (root, rhizosphere) collection, and monitor grapevine and almond tree performance under drought conditions and pathogen infections.
- To be responsible for sample processing, including DNA extractions and amplifications.
- To analyse DNA metabarcoding and metagenome data and statistics.
- To perform root exudate collection and analysis.
- Data management and analysis.
- Results dissemination.
- Scientific writing.

Required qualifications and experience:

- Candidates must hold one of the following degrees:
 - a) A Master's in Agriculture, Microbiology 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:

- Knowledge in data management (Excel, Word, etc)
- Basic knowledge in R (RStudio): basic statistics, ggplot, microbial diversity (DADA2/Qiime2/Vegan).
- Driving license B.

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 CPI1324 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Deadline for application: 22/06

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. CPI1324 *PhD candidate for improving the rhizobiome of woody crops to boost their resilience*

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	Provision by the selected candidate of requested legal and official documentation to the HR department to coordinate the start of the candidate.
Third Trimester 2024	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.