







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 Animal Welfare Program

[ref. CPI23/24]

IRTA is currently seeking an enthusiastic and motivated PhD candidate to join the [Animal Welfare Programme](#). We invite applications from ambitious candidates who have passion for research and are willing to join our team. The research project is pioneering in the field of improving the welfare of rabbits and broiler chickens during the slaughter process. Experimental studies will be conducted both under experimental and commercial conditions by collecting behavioural, physiological and brain activity data to assess animal welfare at slaughter. The effects of stunning methods on meat quality will be also evaluated.

-  Supervisor/s: DrAlexandra Contreras-Jodar & Dr Antonio Velarde
-  Job location: [IRTA Monells](#)
-  Full-time position (h/week):37.5
-  Terms of appointment: 4 years
-  Salary: The financial remuneration will be of €1,291.18/gross per month (€18,076.22/gross per annum) for the first and second years. For the third year, it will be €1,383.41/gross per month (€19,367.74/gross per annum) and for the fourth year it will be €1,729.26/gross per month (€27,209.64/gross per annum), which will be subject to the corresponding withholdings, pursuant to prevailing regulations, and to the collective employment agreement of IRTA ⁽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:

- Collaboration in the design of the methodology and procedure of the experiments
- Collection of experimental data: behaviour, electroencephalograph (EEG), electrocardiograph (ECG), meat quality (e.g., pH, colour, water holding capacity)
- Data management and analysis
- Scientific writing
- Supervision of experimental development and provision of refinement or improvements
- Results dissemination
- Supervision of the students involved in these experiments.

Required qualifications and experience:

- a) A bachelor degree in veterinary medicine, agronomy, animal science, 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 of Animal Science or equivalent.
- Driving licence and car
 - Not to have a previous PhD degree.

Desirable requirements:

- Interest and experience in animal welfare at slaughter
- Interest in learning EEG and ECG methodology and analysis of data
- Certificate of competence as researcher able to use animals in experimentation
- Basic knowledge in statistics
- Basic knowledge on Boris software or similars.

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 CPI2024 and upload your CV and motivation letter. All information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

Deadline for application:
02/09/2024

Timings in the Recruitment Process of ref. CPI2324

PhD candidate animal welfare slaughter on rabbits and broiler chickens

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	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
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.