

MSCA-PF: Expression of Interest

1. European Postdoctoral Fellowships

Purpose

- Support excellent researchers of **any nationality** who want to conduct research in Europe or move within Europe.
- Enhance scientific excellence, mobility, and acquisition of new skills through advanced training.
- Improve talent and facilitate knowledge transfer across Europe.

Mobility & Eligibility

- Supported fellows must be **postdoctoral researchers** at the date of the call deadline.
- At the call deadline, researchers must have a **maximum of 8 years** full-time equivalent experience in research, measured from the date of award of the doctoral degree.
- Researchers must comply with the **mobility rule**: they must not have lived or worked in the host country for more than 12 months in the last 36 months before the call deadline.
- Researchers can be of **any nationality**.

Duration

- 12 to 24 months hosted in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
- An **additional period of up to six months at the end of the project** can be awarded to researchers who will spend that period in a non-academic organisation established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.

Impact for Fellows

- Improved research and transferable skills.
- International, inter-sectorial and interdisciplinary experience
- Stronger employability inside and outside academia.
- Broader networks and enhanced communication skills.

Allowance

There are two types of contributions:

- a) Contributions for the recruited researcher (per person-month)
- **Living allowance: 6350€** (minus all compulsory deductions under national legislation).
 - **Mobility allowance: 710€**. This allowance covers their additional, private mobility-related costs (e.g. travel and accommodation costs).
 - **Family allowance: 660€**. If the postdoctoral researcher has or acquires family obligations during the action duration
 - **Long-term leave allowance: 7060€ * % covered by the beneficiary**. This allowance contributes to the personnel costs incurred by the beneficiary in case of the researcher's leave, including maternity, paternity, parental, sick or special leave, longer than 30 consecutive days.
 - **Special needs allowance: Requested unit * (1/number of months)**. This allowance contributes to the additional costs for the acquisition of special needs items and services for researchers with disabilities
- b) Institutional unit contribution (per person-month)
- **Research, training and networking contribution: 1000€**. This should cover, for example, costs for training and networking activities that contribute directly to the researchers' career development.

A country correction coefficient (CCC) applies to the living allowance to ensure equal treatment and purchasing power parity for all researchers. For Spain, the CCC is **94.2%**.

For more information, you can access the full work programme [here](#).

2. Brief description of IRB CatSud

The Institut de Recerca Biomèdica Catalunya sud (IRB CatSud) is an institution that integrates research in the field of biomedicine in the Camp de Tarragona and the Terres de l'Ebre. IRB CatSud is the instrument that the university hospitals of both health regions have been endowed with (Joan XXIII University Hospital of Tarragona, Verge de la Cinta Hospital of Tortosa, Sant Joan de Reus University Hospital, Institut Pere Mata University Hospital of Reus) and Rovira and Virgili University, in order to bring together and manage biomedical research and innovation in the territory.

Seu Reus:

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Avda. Josep Laporte, 2
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43204 (Tarragona)

Seu Tarragona:

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C/ Doctor Mallafre, 4
Edifici IRBCatSud
43005 (Tarragona)

The research we lead aims to answer relevant questions related to the health of the population through the scientific method, the most advanced technology and the talent of the people who work in our teams. We listen to patients, we look for strategies to develop our projects, we seek financing to carry them out and, finally, we transfer the results achieved to society by promoting spin-offs or medical devices that we patent.

IRB CatSud and the research groups that belong to it have enormous international prestige. We are part of the CERCA institution (Institution of Research Centers of Catalonia Foundation (I-CERCA) of Catalonia).

For more information about our Institute, visit the following website:
<https://www.iispv.cat/en/>

3. Short presentation about the group and research lines

Human Nutrition Unit (HNU) (ANUT-DSM)

The Human Nutrition Unit at URV is a multidisciplinary research environment devoted to advancing knowledge in food science, nutrition, and metabolism, while also strengthening teaching and innovation in human nutrition and dietetics. Within IRB CatSud, the associated research group Food, Nutrition, Development and Mental Health (ANUT-DSM) has extensive experience in coordinating large-scale epidemiological studies, randomized interventions, and translational research in nutrition.

The group's core research lines include:

- Mediterranean diet and cardiovascular disease
- Nutritional epidemiology and public health
- Dietary intervention studies and mechanisms of action
- Obesity, inflammation, and related comorbidities
- Circulating metabolome and metabolic profiling
- Interactions among genetics, epigenetics, and nutrition
- Biochemical and metabolic biomarkers of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and cognitive impairment
- Identification of novel biomarkers for prevention strategies in chronic diseases
- Metagenomics, gut microbiota, and nutritional regulation of cognitive health and dementia

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The group is particularly well positioned for MSCA projects at the interface of clinical nutrition, precision nutrition, metabolomics, microbiome science, chronic disease prevention, cardiometabolic health, cognitive ageing, and maternal/child health. It offers a competitive environment for fellows seeking advanced training in interdisciplinary and translational nutrition research.

More information: <https://www.iispv.cat/en/grup/alimentacio-nutricio-desenvolupament-i-salut-mental-anut-dsm-2-2/>

Candidate profile

We are seeking an outstanding and highly motivated postdoctoral researcher interested in developing a competitive Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal in one or more of the following areas: nutrition and metabolism, nutritional epidemiology, precision nutrition, metabolomics, gut microbiota, chronic disease prevention, cardiometabolic health, or related biomedical disciplines.

The ideal candidate should have:

- A PhD in Nutrition, Medicine, Public Health, Epidemiology, Biomedicine, Bioinformatics, Molecular Biology, or a related field
- A strong publication record relative to career stage
- Demonstrated experience in at least one of the following: cohort studies, clinical trials, dietary assessment, metabolomics, microbiome analysis, biomarker research, or advanced biostatistics/data science
- Capacity to work in an international, interdisciplinary, and collaborative research environment
- Strong scientific writing and communication skills in English
- Interest in developing an independent research profile under high-level supervision and within European research networks

For the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026, applicants must generally hold a PhD at the call deadline, have a maximum of eight years of postdoctoral research experience, and comply with the mobility rule, meaning they must not have resided or carried out their main activity in Spain for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before the call deadline. The 2026 call is scheduled to open on 9 April 2026 and close on 9 September 2026.

Supervisor profile

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a.- Prof. Nancy Babio

The proposed supervisor is Prof. Nancy Babio Sánchez, Professor at the Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology, Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV). She is listed by the Human Nutrition Unit as a senior academic member and, together with Prof. Jordi Salas-Salvadó, as one of the group responsables of the Food, Nutrition, Development and Mental Health (ANUT-DSM) research group at IRB CatSud. Prof. Babio works within a well-established translational nutrition environment with strong expertise in observational and interventional nutrition research, particularly in the field of the Mediterranean diet, chronic disease prevention, and precision nutrition. She also has experience in the coordination and participation of competitive research projects within the Human Nutrition Unit environment, including projects related to childhood obesity, nutritional epidemiology, and lifestyle-related health outcomes, which makes her profile particularly suitable for supervising an MSCA fellow in nutrition, metabolism, epidemiology, and biomarker-oriented research.

b.- Prof. Sangeetha Shyam

The proposed supervisor is Dr. Sangeetha Shyam, Miguel Servet Investigator at IRB CatSud and Professor Ad Honorem at URV. She is listed as a senior investigator in the Human Nutrition Unit and is part of the ANUT-DSM research group at IRB CatSud. Dr. Shyam's profile is especially suitable for projects in nutrition epidemiology, diet quality, sustainable diets, and chronic disease prevention. Her recent work highlighted by IISPV and URV includes research on dietary biodiversity and mortality, contributions to scientific discussions on nuts and dried fruits in relation to diet quality and health, and participation in international nutrition initiatives such as the IUNS ACTIVATOR project. These activities position her well for supervising an MSCA proposal with an international and interdisciplinary dimension. She also appears as a participating investigator in international and collaborative projects of the Human Nutrition Unit, reinforcing her integration in the group's European and global research networks.

If you are interested in this opportunity, send your expression of interest to upi@irbcatsud.cat, indicating the [MSCA-PF + research group](#) in the subject.