

ICIQ International PhD Fellowship Programme "la Caixa" – Severo Ochoa (2016 Call)

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

"la Caixa" Foundation provides support to the ICIQ and the other Centres of Excellence recognized with the **Severo Ochoa Award** by the Spanish Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness. The "*Severo Ochoa Centres of Excellence*" *Support and Accreditation* is a programme that seeks to boost research activities taking place in specific institutional and organizational environments in which scientists perform cutting-edge basic research and are among the world's best in their respective areas. The impact and international scientific leadership of these centres and units is essential for their recognition.

The ICIQ is looking for young, **highly talented and motivated students from the national and international community** who wish to do their PhD within **the ICIQ International PhD Fellowship Programme "la Caixa"- Severo Ochoa**.

ICIQ's PhD-directed research and associated activities are at the core of our commitment to education. We foster graduate students in their path to think, design and execute an individual research project under the supervision and mentoring of an ICIQ Group Leader in a creative and stimulating scientific environment. In partnership with the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV), the ICIQ offers the PhD programmes "Chemical Science and Technology" and "Technologies for Nanosystems, Bioengineering and Energy". Students will have access to the Institute's first class instrumental facilities and will benefit from ICIQ's career development courses.

The current call offers **3 positions** funded by "la Caixa". Successful candidates will have the opportunity to join one of ICIQ's research groups and carry out their research in the frame of ICIQ's Severo Ochoa programme: "**Facing global challenges with catalysis: Small molecules that can change our lives**". Particularly, they will work in the fields of **Solar fuels through light-induced water splitting** and **Activation of small, carbon-based inert molecules**.

More information on the research activities of each group can be found on the ICIQ web pages (<http://www.iciq.org/research/>).

We encourage highly talented students to apply for one of these grants to pursue doctoral studies at ICIQ, one of the world-leading centres in chemical research.

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1.- The students admitted in the ICIQ International PhD Fellowship Programme "la Caixa"- Severo Ochoa will be considered research personnel in training and they will have an employment contract (a pre-doctoral contract) which is regulated in the Spanish Law 14/2011, of June 1st, of Science, Technology and Education. Pre-doctoral contracts are renewed annually for up to 4 years.

2.- The gross yearly salary of the contract shall be €18.546,56 (1st year), €19.303,56 (2nd year), €20.666,16 (3rd year) and €22.558,67 (4th year), split into 12 monthly payments. This salary includes full social security coverage (health and accident insurance) and pension and unemployment benefits.

In addition to the salary, the students will receive once every year an allowance of €1.500 (for 1st and 2nd year) and €1.700 (for 3rd and 4th year). That allowance covers miscellaneous expenses, such as university fees, expenses derived from international congress attendance and/or stays in international research centres.

3.- The grant holder is entitled to temporary interrupt the grant in the following situations: temporary disability, risk during pregnancy, maternity, paternity and adoption or foster care. The time elapsed during this interruption will not be accounted for against the total time.

4.- Successful candidates will join the SO-ICIQ International Graduate Student Programme. Key aspects of the programme are: International perspective, preferential focus on the objectives of the ICIQ - Severo Ochoa research programme, mobility and training in high throughput experimentation methodologies (HTE). The ICIQ also offers training oriented to provide scientific and non-scientific skills, which are of key importance for a successful career development, and language training courses in Catalan, Spanish and English.

5.- PhD students will work full-time at the ICIQ and may not receive any other fellowship or regular income. The PhD thesis has to be completed within 4 years.

6.- Support by this Programme will be duly acknowledged in any scientific publication or communication authored by the grant holder.

ELEGIBILITY CRITERIA

The ICIQ International PhD Fellowship Programme "la Caixa" – Severo Ochoa is addressed to graduate students from any nationality that fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

1.- Candidates must hold a Master's degree in the areas of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Physics, Biology, Biochemistry or Chemical Engineering or an equivalent degree, which allows them to start PhD studies.

2. The successful candidates should have an excellent academic record, strong commitment to scientific research and solid working knowledge of English.

3.- Candidates who have had a previous scientific collaboration with the ICIQ for more than six consecutive months before the application deadline are not eligible for these fellowships. Candidates must not have a predoctoral contract before the fellowship is awarded.

4.- The applicants may not have held a grant for postgraduate studies funded by "la Caixa" Foundation.

In case of doubts about the eligibility criteria, applicants should contact the ICIQ - Severo Ochoa Management Team at positions@iciq.es prior to submission of the application.

APPLICATION PROCESS

All the application procedure will be done online. Applicants must fill out and submit the online application form available at the Jobs & Grants section on ICIQ's website (<http://www.iciq.org/jobs-grants/>) before May 24th, 2016.

After completing the personal data fields, applicants will be asked to attach in PDF files the following documents in English:

1.- Curriculum Vitae, specifying the completed degree and any relevant information (publications, previous fellowships, mobility, professional experience, etc.).

2.- A motivation letter with declaration of interests.

3.- Scanned copy of the certified academic record of the studies granting access to the PhD programme (Both Bachelor and Master academic records). Those candidates which do not have the Master academic record at the application deadline can proceed with the application and will have to be able to present it at the last Stage of the selection process.

For degrees obtained in foreign institutions:

a) The academic record must include the range of marks used in the corresponding countries and the minimum mark to pass. Academic records must show the dates of enrolment, all subjects or courses, units, credits or hours, and grades for each subject.

b) The average grade mark of the academic record shall be calculated by the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA). It is the responsibility of the applicant to ask for the ANECA equivalence of average marks. More information is available on the website <http://notasmedias.aneca.es>

4.- The names and contact data of up to two scientists willing to provide reference letters for the candidate.

Please note that documents sent in hard copy cannot be processed. For academic records not issued in Catalan, Spanish or English, a certified translation in one of the above mentioned languages should be provided.

Once the application is submitted, an acknowledgement e-mail will be automatically sent. Candidates must ensure that all information is included before the deadline. Incomplete proposals will not be considered.

Pursuant to personal data protection organic law 15/1999, we inform you that your details shall be added to an automated database held by (ICIQ) FUNDACIÓ INSTITUT CATALÀ D'INVESTIGACIÓ QUÍMICA. The data provided will be treated only for recruitment processes made by the ICIQ.

You can exercise your rights to access, cancel, rectify and oppose this information by writing to AV. PAÏSOS CATALANS 16 TARRAGONA 43007-TARRAGONA or through this mail address: positions@iciq.es.

EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

Admission to the programme is on a competitive basis. All applications will be evaluated solely on the basis of academic and research excellence of the candidates.

According to the organic law 3/2007 of 22nd March for the effective equality between women and men, ICIQ declares it will ensure equality, value diversity, respect human rights and identify and remove potential barriers to equality.

Our commitment to equality covers all the protected characteristics outlined in the Equality Plan: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation.

The evaluation is organized in three stages:

1.- Stage I: Eligibility.

Submitted proposals will be checked for eligibility by the ICIQ - Severo Ochoa Management Team and those not fulfilling all the criteria will be rejected. There will not be the possibility to modify the application or to add missing documentation after the call deadline.

2.- Stage II: Evaluation and pre-selection.

The ICIQ - Severo Ochoa Management Team will rank eligible applications based on the academic records.

At this stage, two reference letters will be requested to the referees proposed by the candidates. The referees must submit their scanned signed letters of recommendation directly to positions@iciq.es. Only letters with official letterhead and signature will be accepted.

The screening of pre-selected applicants will be performed by a Selection Committee composed by the ICIQ Director, three ICIQ Group Leaders, the ICIQ-Severo Ochoa project manager and the ICIQ HR Unit manager. Candidates will be evaluated based on the following selection criteria: academic marks, scientific merits, working knowledge of English and professional references.

Shortlisted candidates will proceed to Stage III for the oral interviews.

3.- Stage III: Oral interviews.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a personal interview with the Selection Committee and potential supervisors and to discuss their research interests. Since candidate's suitability will be evaluated from two points of view (personal and technical skills), the interviews will be conducted by a Group Leader and a HR specialist.

Before the interview, the candidates will be asked to choose a maximum of three project references in order of priority from a list of ICIQ groups that are accepting applications in the call. The selected candidates will receive this list together with the invitation letter. More information on the research activities of each group can be found on the ICIQ web pages.

In case of face-to-face interviews, travel and accommodation expenses will be covered by ICIQ. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place at the end of June, 2016. Failure to participate in the interview process will disqualify the applicant for being considered for a position.

The Selection Committee will select the final candidates based on the Stages stated above. Successful students will be assigned to the research groups based on the applicants' priorities.

Applicants will be notified of the final selection decision by email and the list of awardees will be published on the ICIQ website. Successful candidates will be requested to inform ICIQ whether they accept or decline the offer within one week after being notified. The offer will be considered declined if the applicant does not respond during this time.

INDICATIVE CALENDAR

Call opening	January 12 th , 2016
Call deadline	May 24 th , 2016
Pre-selection of candidates	May 25 th – June 13 th , 2016
Oral interviews	June 27 th – July 1 st , 2016
Notification to candidates	July 18 th – 22 nd , 2016
Start of fellowships	September-October 2016