

ICIQ PhD FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2022 – THIRD CALL

The PhD Fellowship Programme offered by The Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ) is aimed at exceptional graduate students from all over the world, to support their enrolment in a training and research programme in the field of chemistry, ultimately leading to the completion of a Doctoral Thesis in partnership with the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (URV). The programme will also contribute to their professional career development, in the fields of academia and industry.

This objective is achieved by:

- The performance of an individual research project under the direction of an internationally renowned Group Leader, in a creative and stimulating scientific environment.
- Opportunities for short stays in distinguished international research institutions.
- Opportunities for complementary training in both technical and soft skills. Trainings are designed to ensure a successful career: weekly scientific seminars, hands-on training in the use of state-of-the-art scientific instrumentation, IP management, entrepreneurship, research integrity, knowledge and technology transfer, grant applications, project management, communication skills and career development.

The programme is addressed to highly qualified and talented graduate students with a keen interest in chemical research. Candidates should have an excellent academic record, strong commitment to scientific research and a solid working knowledge of English.

Admission to the programme is on a competitive basis.

I. Available positions: See Annex 1

II. Application process

The entire application process will be completed 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/>). Applications sent by email or any other means will be ineligible.

Only one application per person will be considered. In case of multiple applications, only the first application submitted will be taken into consideration.

After completing online form, applicants must attach the following documents:

1) Required documentation

- a. A full **Curriculum Vitae** (in PDF format). It should include the academic background, work or research experience, publications, conferences, grants and awards, previous participation in ICIQ programmes, other relevant merits and references.
- b. A **personal statement** that describes the applicant's academic background, research experience and career goals (maximum two DIN A4 pages, in PDF format). This is a very important section of the application process. The candidate must be able to communicate their interests and how these would align with ICIQ and a PhD training. Candidates should also mention the research group where they would like to carry out their PhD, and the reasons why they are interested in a particular group leader and their research project.
- c. **Official transcripts** of BSc and MSc studies in PDF format. A scanned copy of the certified academic record of the studies granting access to the PhD programme (BSc and MSc if available). In case that the MSc studies have not yet been completed at the time of the application, candidates must include details on the subjects in which they are currently enrolled (subject name and number of credits). For academic records not issued in Catalan, Spanish or English, a certified translation in English should be provided; otherwise, applications which do not include a certified translation of the academic record will be non-eligible and, therefore, not taken into consideration. For degrees obtained in foreign institutions, the academic record must include the range of marks used in the corresponding countries and the minimum mark to pass, as well as the hours or ECTS and marks for each subject.

- d. **Contact details for letters of recommendation** of two University professors or other relevant individuals who can assess the candidate's potential for research. ICIQ will contact the people listed as references only in the event that a candidate is shortlisted. We suggest informing your references.
- e. **English proficiency level:** Applicants must provide evidence of their proficiency in written and oral communication in the English language. Preferably, by the submission of a B2 certificate, First Certificate, IELTS 6 or equivalent. This certificate is not mandatory but desirable, and alternatively late stage candidates will be interviewed to assess their English level. Applicants from Anglosphere (UK, Ireland, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand) are exempt from this requirement.

2) Desirable documentation

- a. **Chemistry level:** Graduate Record Examination (GRE) – Chemistry Test scores are an added advantage for evaluation.

Please note that documents sent in hard copy cannot be processed.

Applicants should select only one PhD supervisor.

Once the application has been successfully completed, an acknowledgement e-mail will be automatically sent. Candidates must ensure that all information is included before the deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

III. Eligibility and evaluation criteria

The programme is open to graduate students, from any nationality that fulfil the following **eligibility criteria**:

- a. Candidates must have a Master's or an equivalent degree in the areas of Chemistry, Pharmacy, Physics, Chemical Engineering or related disciplines that must be completed by the time of enrolment in the PhD programme.

When in doubt regarding the eligibility criteria, applicants should contact the ICIQ Human Resources Team at positions@iciq.es prior to submission of the application.

Candidates who fulfil the eligibility criteria will be evaluated according to the following **evaluation criteria**:

- a. Curriculum vitae.
- b. Personal statement.
- c. Academic marks.
- d. English level.
- e. Personal interview for short-listed candidates.

IV. Evaluation and Selection Process

The evaluation and selection of the candidates will be performed by the project supervisor supported by the Human Resources team, and following the below procedure:

1. Submitted applications will be checked for eligibility and those not fulfilling all the criteria will be rejected. It won't be possible to modify the application or to add missing documentation after the call deadline.
2. The selection will be based on the evaluation criteria described in Section III.
3. At the late stages of the selection process, short-listed candidates will be contacted for a personal interview.
4. All applicants will be notified of the final selection decision as of the end of October of 2022. The name of the awardees will be published on ICIQ's website.

Successful candidates will be requested to inform ICIQ whether they accept or decline the offer within five business days after being notified. The offer will be considered declined in the event that the applicant does not respond during this time.

ICIQ follows in its selection process a gender equality opportunity policy and a non-discrimination policy on the basis of age, ethnic or social origin, religion or belief, sexual orientation, language and disability.

ICIQ is committed to promoting a work-life balance for its employees and, as such, offers flexible working hours.

V. Grant Conditions

1. The awardees of an ICIQ PhD fellowship 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.
2. Pre-doctoral contracts are renewed annually for up to 4 years. Renewal is subject to satisfactory performance in the PhD studies and related research activities.
3. The gross yearly salary of the contract shall be split into 12 monthly payments and distributed as shown below:

First and Second year of PhD:	16.971,64 € /year
Third year of PhD:	18.183,90 € /year
Fourth year of PhD:	22.729,87 € /year

4. The fellowship includes full social security coverage through the Spanish Social Security system, providing access to the Spanish public health care system and pension and unemployment benefits.
5. The grant holder is entitled to temporarily interrupt the fellowship 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.
6. The contract will take effect on the date when the awarded student joins the centre.
7. The PhD fellowship includes the costs of enrolment in the PhD programme. These costs will be paid by each beneficiary to the university, and later they will be refunded by ICIQ. The PhD thesis has to be completed within 4 years.
8. The PhD fellowship awardees will work full-time at ICIQ and may not receive any other fellowship or regular income.
9. The PhD fellowship is incompatible with any other fellowship with the same purpose.

Calendar

Call opening	September 12 th 2022
Call deadline	October 9 th 2022
Notification to candidates	From October 24 th 2022
Start of fellowships:	November-December 2022

Tarragona, September 5th 2022

Dr. Laia Pellejà i Puxeu

Administrative & Communication Director

Prof. Emilio J. Palomares Gil

ICIQ Director

Annex 1: Available positions

Supervisor: Dr. Elisabet Romero

https://www.iciq.org/research/research_group/dr-elisabet-romero/

Project Title: The role of coherence in photosynthetic light-harvesting: does energy transfer proceed via a quantum-coherent mechanism?

Number of positions: 1

Reference: PhD 2022-15 ER

Supervisor: Prof. Feliu Maseras

https://www.iciq.org/research/research_group/prof-feliu-maseras/

Project: Computational mechanochemistry

Number of positions: 1

Reference: PhD 2022-16 FM

Supervisor: Prof. Núria López

https://www.iciq.org/research/research_group/prof-nuria-lopez/

Project: Metal-oxide and oxide-oxide interfaces for CO₂ recycling

Number of positions: 2

Reference: PhD 2022-17/18 NL

Supervisor: Prof. Antoni Llobet

https://www.iciq.org/research/research_group/prof-antoni-llobet/

Project: Molecular Solar Fuels via Redox Catalysis

Number of positions: 1

Reference: PhD 2022-19 ALL

Supervisor: Prof. Pau Ballester

https://www.iciq.org/research/research_group/prof-pau-ballester/

Project: Molecular containers with polar cavities and versatile functions

Number of positions: 1

Reference: PhD 2022-20 PB

Supervisor: Dr. Katherine Villa

https://www.iciq.org/research/research_group/dr-katherine-villa/

Project: Light-driven microswimmers for energy and environmental remediation.

Number of positions: 1

Reference: PhD 2022-21 KV