

Instituto de Neurociencias

INTERNATIONAL PhD PROGRAM

"la Caixa" - Severo Ochoa

2015



CSIC

UNIVERSITAS Miguel Hernández

INSTITUTO DE NEUROCIENCIAS

Programme description

The “la Caixa” Foundation is a non-profitmaking organisation, which receives its funding from the third biggest financial entity in Spain, the Caja de Ahorros y Pensiones de Barcelona, “la Caixa”. In terms of budget and business volume, the “la Caixa” Foundation is among the ten most important Foundations in the world. Since 1982, the “la Caixa” Foundation has run various fellowship programmes to enable Spanish students to study postgraduate courses in Spain and other countries. In these twenty-five years, thousands of students have been able to develop their studies thanks to a fellowship from the Foundation.

The “la Caixa” Foundation has selected the Instituto de Neurociencias CSIC-UMH (IN) as one of the Spanish Centers of Excellence awarded with the Severo Ochoa Award. During 2015 “la Caixa” Foundation will provide support for three highly qualified graduate students to carry out their experimental work towards obtaining a PhD degree at the IN within its International PhD Programme (http://in.umh.es/doctorado_description.aspx).

In the context of this IN International PhD Programme la “Caixa”-Severo Ochoa, we are seeking exceptional and highly motivated PhD students interested in receiving ample cross-disciplinary training in state-of-the-art basic and focused neuroscience research.

Number and duration of fellowships

The present call offers 3 PhD scholarships each for a period of 4 years

Eligibility

This call is opened to candidates of all nationalities To be eligible, applicants must, at the time of the deadline for submission of their individual fellowship application, fulfil the following requirements:

- Students with a degree in biomedical sciences or related fields within the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 240 + 60 ECTS are eligible. The university degree should qualify for the start of a PhD thesis in the student’s home country. Non-European university degrees should be equivalent to a European MSc. The National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA) is responsible for the calculation of equivalent average marks of University studies abroad, for those cases that equivalence is required in order to be able to present an application in a competitive process (<http://notasmedias.aneca.es/home>). Students, who expect to obtain the required qualification during the first half of 2015, are also eligible to apply to the Programme.
- Studies should have been completed no more than two years ago at the application deadline.
- Applicants must have an excellent academic record and previous research experience will be considered.
- Candidates must have a solid working knowledge of English.
- Individuals may not have had a scientific relationship with the IN for more than six consecutive months before the closing date for applications (6 March 2015). A scientific relationship includes any research activity carried out by the student within the IN installations or using IN funds.

Appointment conditions

Students who gain a place in our PhD programme will obtain full financial support, including tuition, regardless of nationality. During the four years of the program, students will receive an employment contract with a gross annual salary of:

- 18.546,56 € - First year
- 19.303,56 € - Second year
- 20.666,16 € - Third year
- 22.558,67 € - Fourth year

For the first and the second year, participants will receive an annual allowance of 1,500 € to cover miscellaneous expenses, such as university fees, expenses derived from international congress attendance and/or stays in international research centres. During the third and fourth year, the students will receive an annual allowance of 1,700 € to cover the previous expenses.

Employment contracts will be prepared in accordance to Spanish laws and regulations, and employees will be included in the general Spanish Social Security System.

All students will receive full health and occupational insurance coverage.

The fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis and will be renewable annually for up to four years, depending on a positive evaluation by the supervisor.

How to apply

Applications for IN INTERNATIONAL PhD PROGRAMME “la Caixa” - Severo Ochoa (2015 CALL) are accepted exclusively online and should be sent to in.predoc@umh.es. They should include the following documents:

- A full CV
- Academic records
- A letter of motivation of not longer than one page.

The 2015 call will be open until March 6, 2015.

Selection process

Admission to the programme is on a competitive basis. All applications are evaluated solely on the basis of academic qualifications and scientific potential.

Applications will be screened initially by the IN's Training Office to ensure that they are complete and eligible. All eligible applications will be reviewed by a Selection Committee, formed by IN faculty members, which will evaluate candidates based on the following criteria:

- The candidate's academic merit and potential for successful research while at the IN, as evidenced by their qualifications and grades, and previous research experience.
- The information given by the candidate and documents attached.

The Selection Committee will consider all the applications and select a number of candidates that will be interviewed by potential supervisors and discuss their research interests. Interviews are tentatively scheduled to take place between 11 and 15 May 2015. Failure to participate in the interview process will disqualify the applicant for being considered for a position.

The Selection Committee will assign successful students to the different research groups at the end of the selection process.

The final selection of candidates requires approval by the Direction of the IN.

Indicative timetable

Call opening:	December 2014
Call deadline:	06 March 2015
Pre-selection of candidates:	Late April 2015
Oral interviews:	11-15 May 2015
Notification to candidates:	July 2015
Start date of fellowships:	September-October 2015

Help Desk

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