



PREBIST PhD Fellowships

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

When will the calls for the PREBIST postdoctoral fellowship program be?

Call 1: 01/11/2017, deadline 07/01/2018 end of the day CET, selection 03/2018, incorporation foreseen for 08/2018 (*)

Call 2: 15/04/2018, deadline 31/05/2018 end of the day CEST, selection 07/2018, incorporation foreseen for 09/2018 (*)

(*) the exact date of incorporation will be agreed with the host centre once the award is granted. The indicated entry dates are tentative and may be negotiated with the corresponding host centre in justified cases.

How many PREBIST fellowships are available?

The program will fund 28 fellowships of 4 years duration, distributed in 2 calls until the first half of 2018.

How do I apply?

Applications need to be presented through the BIST online submission platform. Please read with attention the "Submitting an application" section before you apply to make sure you can meet the call's requirements.

Which research projects are offered for the fellowships?

Applicants freely choose the offered research project within the thematic area corresponding to a hosting group. After a first review step for general suitability for the PREBIST program, shortlisted pre-selected candidates will be invited to an interview.

Which are the participating centres hosting the fellowships?

- The Institute of Photonic Sciences (ICFO)
- Institute of Chemical Research of Catalonia (ICIQ)
- Catalan Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICN2)
- Institute for High Energy Physics (IFAE)
- Institute for Research in Biomedicine (IRB Barcelona)

Where can I carry out the fellowship and what are the conditions?

PREBIST fellowships will be placed within the host group the successful candidate has chosen during the application process. The working contract will be between the host centre and the fellow. BIST itself will not contract fellows directly.

The specific working conditions of the host centre and the MSCA-COFUND program apply. All participating centres have obtained the "HR Excellence in Research" recognition or have corresponding action plans ongoing.





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Annual gross salary: 26.519,19€ plus a single allowance of 1504,89€ relocation support (Spanish tax and social security deductions apply).

The fellow will receive close mentoring and supervision through prestigious researchers, a personalized doctoral career development plan and a training program for scientific and transferable skills.

What will be my salary? How much is the fellowship worth?

Annual gross salary: 26.519,19€ plus a single allowance of 1504,89€ relocation support (Spanish tax and social security deductions apply).

We cannot indicate the precise net salary. It very much depends on your particular situation and additional incomes you might have. You can estimate it yourself through the following web: <http://www.calcularsueldoneto.com/csn-en-calculate-net-salary.php>

The estimated net figures there are only informative, tentative and not binding for the final fellowship.

Can the PREBIST fellowship be prolonged?

The duration the fellowship is 48 months and usually cannot be prolonged.

What are the eligibility criteria?

The eligibility criteria can be found in the "Eligibility Criteria" section.

Can I apply if I have lived or worked in Spain previously?

If you have worked in Spain for more than 12 months out of the last 36 months at the date of the call deadline, you are not eligible for PREBIST.

Can I apply if I do not yet possess a University degree that qualifies me for a BIST PhD programme?

To be eligible, candidates must hold a University degree sufficient to join a BIST PhD programme by the time of enrollment in the PhD program.

Can I apply if I already do have a PhD?

No, holders of a PhD degree are not eligible for PREBIST.

I hold a PhD degree and would like to develop my career at a BIST centre. Is there also a post-doctoral program?

Yes, please follow this link to the [PROBIST](#) post-doctoral fellowship program.

How do I get access to the application platform?

After having checked the requirements for a successful application, you can start the submission process on our website. The platform will guide you through the process. You will be asked to answer an application questionnaire and to upload documentation. You



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can save and complete your application any time until the call deadline. Only complete applications are eligible for further review.

The application platform will be open for submission from the official call opening date to the call deadline.

What is the exact deadline?

Call 1: opens 01/11/2017, deadline 07/01/2018 end of the day CET

Call 2: opens 15/04/2018, deadline 31/05/2018 end of the day CEST

Are referees mandatory and will they be contacted?

You will be asked to present the contact of at least two referees for your application. As the referees are important for the evaluation of your application, it is mandatory to provide sufficient contact details. The referees will be contacted by BIST after you have validated your application in the on-line system. The referees will receive an e-mail with a request to answer a questionnaire and to provide a recommendation letter before the call deadline via the online submission platform. It is the applicant's responsibility that referees provide the necessary information and documentation before the call deadline. Once you have submitted your application you will be able to follow in the system if your referees have submitted a statement or letter. You can send them a reminder if necessary.

Not having presented two referees will be considered as incomplete applications. Not obtaining sufficient feedback from your referees may negatively impact the evaluation of your candidature.

What are the structure and the formal requirements for the project description and the CV?

Any CV design is allowed but please make sure that key aspects of your career (trajectory, publications, awards, etc.) are easy to find and understand. The file format of all uploaded documents ideally should be pdf.

What are the different steps in the selection process?

The evaluation of eligible candidates will be carried out by an external, independent selection panel. The evaluation will be objective, independent, free of conflicts of interest and the selection will be based on merits, equal opportunities and freedom of choice of research.

The review procedure will be carried out in various steps:

- First review by the selection panel reviewing the documentation submitted with the application. General suitability for PREBIST will be evaluated.
- Second review by the selection panel: interviews with shortlisted candidates.
- Decision on awardees, reserve list and rejected candidatures.

Selected candidates (awardees) will be offered the grant. Rejected offers may be offered to candidates from the reserve list.





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What are the evaluation criteria?

The evaluation criteria to be applied to **review 1** (pre-selection phase) are:

Scientific capacities: assessed based on application material presented:

- Education: graduate education, level and grades achieved. (45/100)
- Research experience: research skills acquired, ability for scientific analysis, scientific production in terms of publications, patents, and attendance to international conferences, etc. (10/100)
- Quality and support of Referees (15/100)
- Strength and relevance of Motivation (25/100)
- Mobility experience: experience in multicultural environments, capacity for adaptation to different working environments, etc. (5/100)

Admissibility to the corresponding hosting centre's PhD programme: academic suitability assessed based on application material presented (Y/N).

Only the best shortlisted candidates shall pass to the next step.

The evaluation criteria to be applied to **review 2** (selection phase) are:

- Creativity, independent thinking, resourcefulness (20/100)
- Research experience (20/100)
- Motivation for applying for the PREBIST fellowship (15/100)
- International and/or multicultural experience (15/100)
- Industrial collaboration and/or technology transfer knowledge/experience (15/100)
- Presentation and outreach skills, social awareness (15/25)

Final overall score = $0,75 * \text{score pre-selection phase} + 0.25 * \text{score selection phase}$

The weightings in the final overall score may be modulated in order to ensure fair and coherent cross-comparison of evaluations in the different call themes. The threshold for being included into the final short-list for fellowship concession is set at 70%.

Is it possible to update my application after the submission?

No, modifications will not be accepted after the call deadline. Pre-selected candidates, however, will be able to upload additional information and documents.

How do I know about the state of my application?

Applicants will be informed on the progress at all stages of the process. E-mail is the main instrument for communication during the process.

When is the result communicated?





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Candidates are informed approximately 2 to 3 months after the call deadline whether they will be granted a fellowship. The result can be an offer by BIST, forming part of the reserve list, or a rejection.

Candidates being offered the grant should actively accept the offer within a week.

Otherwise, reserve list candidates may be contacted. Once you have accepted the grant you will receive an appointment letter.

When should the fellowship start? When should be the incorporation to the host centre?

You can start immediately the preparation of formal issues (work permits, visa etc.) after you have received the appointment for the grant. It is expected that you to start two months after having received the appointment letter.

Where can I find practical information regarding living and working in Spain?

An excellent updated guide on all you have to know before you arrive can be found on the [website of the Catalanian Government](#).

What languages do you speak?

English is the language required at least for working at the BIST centres. Sound command of English is a requirement for effective work in the fellowship.

For your information we state that in Catalonia dominate 2 official languages: Spanish and Catalan. Although you do not need to be able to speak Spanish or Catalan to begin your fellowship, for your own interest we strongly encourage to learn these languages.



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