

INCENTIVES FOR RESEARCH PROGRAM 2025

IRTA ATTRACT PROGRAM

PhD research grants for the Scientific Objectives of the Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Background

In the framework of [IRTA's Strategic Plan 2024-2027](#), eight Scientific Objectives were identified that will be deployed during this period. The list of Objectives and their coordinator is as follows:

Scientific Objective	Coordinator
1. Boost the digital transformation of the agrifood sector	Joan Bonany
2. Optimise water management for agricultural use	Jaume Casadesús
3. Improve carbon sequestration and soil health	Maite Martínez-Eixarch
4. Promote bioeconomy by valorising organic waste and agrifood byproducts	Belén Fernández
5. Boost the alternative protein sector	Massimo Castellari
6. Guarantee animal health and welfare in the context of reduced antibiotic use	Virgina Aragón
7. Enhance resilience to emerging biological risks	Júlia Vergara
8. Boost research into viticulture in response to the new challenges facing the sector	Maria del Mar Alsina

Objective

These Scientific Objectives, which will work in a coordinated manner, could benefit of new research personnel dedicated to them. Through the IRTA Attract Program, the funding of 2 PhD researchers for 4 years for each of the Objectives has been identified as an interesting effort to enhance collaborative work between researchers from different IRTA Programs. Therefore, 16 PhD grants are announced for joint research projects between researchers of two different IRTA Programs.

Eligibility of IRTA researchers

- IRTA researchers must have a permanent structural position, an IRTA Consolidated position or be holders of a Ramon y Cajal grant.
- Applicants must have proven research experience in the field of the proposal aligned with the Scientific Objective at hand. Researchers must be PI or members of the research team of at least one national or international competitive project (e.g., MICIIN, RTA, H2020, PRIMA, Grup Operatiu, CDTI) in their respective Programs at the time of the submission of the application.

Incompatibilities

PIs cannot apply to this grant if they are recipients of an IRTA-Fellowship PhD grant within the program of the "Incentius de la Recerca" associated with:

- PhD grants for recently recruited researchers or RyC grant holders.

Moreover, if an PI also submits a proposal for the Recently Recruited Researchers call within the program of the “Incentius de la Recerca” 2025, only one of them will be finally granted.

Funding

The PhD grants will be funded in the 2025 call. Each PhD grant will include funding for hiring of a PhD researcher for a maximum of four non-extendable years (under the conditions of IRTA’s internal regulations and according to the EPIF (*Estatuto del Personal Investigador en Formación*)). IRTA’s Scientific Direction will cover 50 % of the cost of the PhD grant; the other half will be split between the two Programs (25 % each) where the applying researchers belong. The Program will also cover the academic fees (four academic years) of the PhD program at a Catalan University.

Applications

- **Deadline** for the presentation of the PhD project proposal: 27th of April 2025.
- **Documentation:**
 - **Project proposal** (in English), maximum two pages (Arial 10, single space, 2.5 cm margins), according to the attached model (**Appendix 1**). This document will be signed by both researchers and the Heads of the corresponding Programs.
 - **CV of the two researchers** for the last 10 years, according to the [CVA templates](#).

The documentation must be sent in a single document in pdf format, which will be submitted before the deadline to <https://forms.office.com/e/cWFt031j0E>. If you have any questions about the call, you can contact us at comite.cientific@irta.cat.

Selection procedure

The selection procedure for the PhD project proposals will consist of the following stages:

1. An internal evaluation committee formed by:
 - a. Two consolidated researchers (at least category D) who are experts on each specific topic. These researchers will be designated by the scientific objective coordinator.
 - b. The members of the Scientific Coordination team.

The proposals will be prioritized considering two criteria:

- a. Scientific-technical quality and impact of the research project (70%)
- b. CV of the applicant researchers (30%)

Each criterion will be scored between 0 and 10, being 10 the best.

A representative of the Scientific Coordination team will share the resolution of the call with

the coordinators of the scientific objectives.

2. Researchers responsible of the selected research proposals will prepare an IRTA Sponsored Fellowship call for the public announcement of the vacancy (People's Direction personnel will provide the necessary support). The responsible researchers will take part of the selection committee of the PhD candidate. The two researchers from each Program who submitted the proposal will direct the doctoral thesis.

Start of the PhD Research contract

The PhD contracts should start before the 31st of November 2025.

PhD RESEARCH PROJECT PROPOSAL

(Two pages max, Arial 10, single space, 2.5 cm margins)

Call:	PhD research grants for Scientific Objectives
Scientific Objective:	
Project title (acronym):	
Applying researchers:	
IRTA Programs:	

Background

Goals, expected impact and alignment with IRTA's Scientific Strategic Plan 2024-2027

Work Plan

References

Additional information:

Supporting research project/s from competitive calls (Title, Financing body, reference code, IRTA activity code, start-end dates, IPs, total budged).

Signatures of both researchers and the Heads of the corresponding Programs:

Applying researcher (name):	Head of the Program (name):
Date:	Date:
Applying researcher (name):	Head of the Program (name):
Date:	Date: