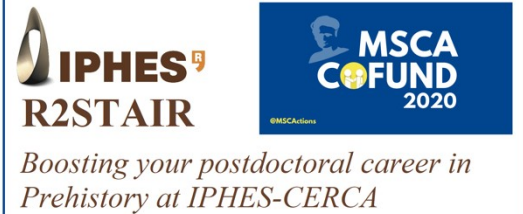


Frequent Asked Questions (FAQs), v1



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1. General aspects of the call

Q: What is the R2STAIR Programme?

A: R2STAIR is a H2020-MSCA-COFUND-2020 Programme focused on Prehistory and Human Evolution studies. It is managed by the Institut Català de Paleoeologia Humana i Evolució Social (IPHES-CERCA), a research centre belonging to the CERCA program of the Generalitat de Catalunya, supported by different public bodies (www.iphes.cat), and also being a research institute associated to the Universitat Rovira i Virgili (Tarragona, Spain).

Q: Which type of employment contract must be signed between the fellow and the IPHES-CERCA?

A: A two-years contract under the Spanish employment regulation and its public social security system, including illness leave and medical coverage, parental leave, and vacation days.

Q: Which are the steps to apply for?

A: Before to start the application preparation, the applicants must contact to one of the 22 potential IPHES-CERCA supervisors to agree on a research project to be carry out during two years under her/his supervision and prepare together the application, according to the established templates.

2. Supervisors and co-supervisors

Q: Is it possible to choose other supervisors or co-supervisors different from the list?

A: Yes. Although applicants should preferentially choose an IPHES-CERCA supervisor from the list is it possible to have another supervisor from the current postdoctoral researchers with ongoing fixed-term contracts at IPHES-CERCA, arguing in the proposal her/his capacity and suitability as supervisor of the project.

In addition, according to the 'Individual driven mobility principle', the proposals can include other supervisors than those from the list of Partner Organizations (PO) and other participants supporting this Action that are available for undertaking secondments, with a previous agreement with the IPHES-CERCA academic supervisor and a proved approval by a specific official letter of acceptance from the proposed co-supervisor and her/his Host Secondment.

Q: Is it possible to have more than one academic supervisor at IPHES-CERCA?

A: No. The role of academic supervisors is limited to only one academic supervisor.

Q: Can an academic supervisor support more than one application in the same call?

A: No. An academic supervisor can only support one application per round call.

Q: What are the differences between academic supervisor, academic co-supervisor and non-academic co-supervisor?

A: The academic supervisors are preferentially based on the list of 22 potential supervisors (10 women, 12 men) that can be extended to other IPHES-CERCA senior researcher staff from the current postdoctoral researchers with ongoing fixed-term contracts at IPHES-CERCA, all able to cover the 7 research areas belonging to the programme.

The academic co-supervisor will act as secondment co-supervisor and are mainly based on the Partner Organizations that have already supported the programme and are available for undertaking secondments.

Knowledge Transfer Manager at IPHES-CERCA's Project and Transfer Unit will act as a non-academic co-supervisor during the fellowship, being paired to the project and the fellow and the academic supervisor. Non-academic co-supervisor will propose, in accordance with the fellow and the academic supervisor, the non-academic short stays, including those related to get a first-hand practical experience in heritagisation process developed by IPHES-CERCA.

Notice that applicants must not explain neither the non-academic supervisor, nor the non-academic short stays in their proposals since they will be discussed after the hiring process in the kick off meeting, and according to the corresponding projects as a part of the training and the Personalised Career Development Plan.

3. Eligibility

Q: Am I eligible?

A: You are eligible if **(1)** you have got your doctoral degree less than 4 years prior to the deadline for applications, although some extensions can be applied by specific personal situations, **(2)** you have not resided or carried out your main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the R2STAIR call deadlines (Mobility rule), and **(3)** you have at least two publications as first author or corresponding author in journals indexed by the Web of Science or Scopus at the time of the call deadline. Only accepted and/or published papers with a DOI are eligible.

Q: Which is the date considered of obtaining the PhD qualification?

A: It is the date of public presentation and approbation of the doctoral dissertation that you can certificate by means of an official academic document. This date must not be earlier than 4 years on the date of call deadline.

Q: I have been awarded more than one PhD, which PhD should I use to calculate the number of years since obtaining the PhD?

A: The PhD to be used for calculating the time since the researcher became a doctor is the first PhD obtained, independently of the relation between the subject concerned in any of the PhDs obtained and the present application.

Q: Are there reasons to benefit for an extension to the eligibility window of PhD dates?

A: Yes, particular exceptions will be made for documented periods of parental leave, serious illness and military or social services. Other equivalent exceptions may be considered when properly documented and motivated by the applicant as in the case of candidates with disabilities, or candidates from underdeveloped countries, minorities, and/or refugees, among others. The time-extensions will be taking account before and after the PhD award, especially if the candidate was enrolled as predoctoral researcher in an Official Doctoral Program.

Q: What specific time extension is applied to the eligibility window of PhD dates?

Maternity: 18 months extension for each child born before or after the PhD award. If the applicant can document a longer maternity leave, the eligibility period will be extended by the documented amount of actual leave taken until the call deadline.

Paternity: extension by the documented time of paternity leave taken until the call deadline for each child born before or after the PhD award.

Long-term illness: Over 90 days for the applicant or a close family member (child, spouse, parent, or sibling).

National service, candidates with disabilities, from underdeveloped countries, minorities, and/or refugees: extension by the documented amount of leave taken by the applicant until the call deadline for each incident which occurred after the PhD award date.

4. Research topics

Q: What research topics can be proposed?

A: There are 7 research areas with specific related Research lines belonging to the R2STAIR-COFUND programme.

Zooarchaeology: Taxonomy and comparative anatomy, Taphonomy and Neo-taphonomy, Spatial analysis of marks in bone surfaces, Subsistence strategies during the Quaternary, Coevolution between hominins and carnivores as driving force in hominine subsistence behaviour.

Lithic analysis: Technological and morphometric analyses, Lithic raw materials, Gestural sequences studies, Cognition and social learning, Refit analysis and spatial distribution, Use-wear analysis, Multi-proxy analyses of residues in lithic artifacts.

Geoarchaeology: Characterization of sedimentary facies, Micromorphology, Stratigraphy and micro-stratigraphy, Petrographic characterization of lithic raw materials, Archaeostratigraphy: diachronic and synchronic cultural series.

Spatial analysis: Intra-site spatial analysis, Landscape and regional (cultural) archaeology.

Paleoecology: Paleontology-biochronology, Biogeographic modelling, Quantitative Terrestrial Paleoclimatology (Mutual Ecogeographic Range, Bioclimatic Analysis), Stable isotope analysis, Tooth wear analyses (meso- and microwear), Palynology, Anthracology, Quantitative eco-anatomy.

Paleoanthropology: Dental use-wear, Paleodiet, Post-cranial anatomy and taxonomy, 3D morphometrics, Study of hand bones, European neandertalization process.

Archeo-paleontological conservation: Characterization of bone and stone alterations, Efficiency of conservation techniques, Preventive conservation.

Q: Is it possible to apply to another research line?

A: Yes, but if it is justified in a rationale statement in the proposal. The proposed research lines are in a broad sense, matching both with the expertise of the potential supervisors and those of Partner Organization's ones. It will be important to explain in the proposal even the indirect relationship of your proposal with these 36 lines of research and the evaluation committee will decide if your proposal is according to the objectives of R2STAIR.

Q: What about if my proposal involves ethic issues?

A: Please, check in the Guide for Applicants how to proceed and if necessary, ask your specific case to r2staircofund@iphes.cat

5. IPHES-CERCA labs and research facilities

Q: Could I use the research facilities that I need to develop my project?

A: Yes, IPHES-CERCA has labs and research facilities www.iphes.cat/facilities or other Large Research Equipment taking full advantage of the URV's analytical equipment www.iphes.cat/large-research-equipment. Moreover you can also benefit of the external collaborations of IPHES-CERCA, as well as from the already engaged Partner Organizations that can act as secondment. Please, talk on this with your academic supervisor when you are preparing the application.

6. Secondments and short stays

Q: What is a secondment?

A: A secondment is a stay than more than 2 months and a maximum of 4 in a different institution that IPHES-CERCA. Each fellowship in the programme includes at least one international mandatory secondment phase according to the project objectives.

In the Guide for Applicants there is a list of Partner Organizations, in which you can propose a stay under an academic co-supervision. Nevertheless, in accordance with the 'Individual driven mobility principle', in agree with your academic supervisor you can suggest additional entities and schedule your secondments in a flexible way and also according to the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q: Is it possible to do more than one secondment?

A: Yes. The secondment phase can be a single period or can be divided into shorter periods, but it will cover a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 4 months. It can take place at one or more organizations, which can be located in Spain, in Europe or abroad. If the project needs to do stays lower than 1 months it will be considered short visits, not secondments. In addition, if you get the grant you must do shorts stays in a non-academic organization monitored by the IPHES-CERCA non-academic co-supervisor.

Q: What does a non-academic short stay mean?

A: Is a stay in a non-research oriented organization or entity. If you get the contract, R2STAIR will provide you a first-hand practical experience performing short or medium term stays during a minimum of a month throughout the two years of the contract. This will be carried out under the IPHES-CERCA non-academic co-supervisor paired to the project, and as a part of your tailored Career Development Plan.

In the Guide for Applicants there is a list of potential supervisors at non-academic Partner Organizations already involved in the programme. Notice again that, according to the 'Individual driven mobility principle', the proposals can involve other entities, in previous proved agreement with the IPHES-CERCA non-academic co-supervisor and a specific official letter of acceptance from the proposed supervisor at non-academic organisation.

Q: Is it possible to do a secondment abroad Europe?

A: Yes, it is possible to do a secondment in any country. However, if activities undertaken in non-EU countries raise ethics issues, all the parts involved must ensure that the research conducted outside the EU is legal in at least one EU Member State, and according to the required international standards.

Q: Will I have to pay the costs of the secondments, short term non-academic stages, and other research activities?

A: Not. As a R2STAIR fellows you will receive a monthly mobility allowance, and a financial support when doing the secondment. To secondment support you will receive EUR 300/month (up to EUR 7 200), regardless of the duration of the secondment. It will be paid as a complement in your pay sheet.

In addition, IPHES-CERCA will cover your spends up to EUR 825/month during the two years (up to EUR 19 800) to pay possible bench fees at the secondments, and other research, training and networking activities, such as costs of consumables, small equipment, fees for scientific journals publication and open access, training, travel or conference participation. In this case these costs will be paid by IPHES-CERCA directly to the provider.

7.- Eligibility costs. The uses of the money by the fellows

Q: Can I use money to be enrolled in formal training courses?

A: Yes. During the contract you can participate in all manner of training and specialisation activities, and they will be paid by IPHES-CERCA up to the amount of EUR 19 800. These costs will be paid by IPHES-CERCA directly to the provider.

8. The CDP (Career Development Plan)

Q: Is it necessary to put a CDP in the proposal?

A: Not. In the proposal you must propose a feasible work plan in a Gantt Chart. If you get the contract, you will meet at the beginning of the fellowship with your academic supervisor and the IPHES-CERCA Research Office in order to create your Career Development Plan (CDP) according to your project. The progress of this CDP will be measured by effective reaching of the aims, training and deliveries targets as planned in the proposed work plan.

9. The evaluation process

Q: How will be carry out the evaluation and selection process?

A: The R2STAIR application and evaluation procedure consists of four (4) stages. Please, check in the Guide for Applicants about the details.

Q: Who composes the evaluator panels?

A: The evaluator panels will be composed by a pool of experts engaged by IPHES-CERCA to act as panellists of the programme. The experts will match with the keyword's checklist filled by each expert and with the 31 research lines of the programme. Any academic supervisor will participate at any stage of the selection process.

Q: How are organized thematically the panels?

A: Each one of the 7 research areas will have a specific panel of experts.

Q: If an application is accepted, how long must I wait before being hired?

A: The date to start the contract in this 1st call is January 1, 2022.

10. Commitments of the fellows and supervisor and IPHES-CERCA

Q: Which commitments undertakes the academic supervisor during the two years of the fellowship?

A: The academic supervisor will monitor the correct execution of the project according to the work-plan scheduled in the Project's Gantt Chart. She or he will be also supported by the academic co-supervisor for the secondments, and by the non-academic co-supervisor for the activities in the non-academic institutions.

Q: Which commitments does the fellow acquire?

A: The fellows will be abided by the provisions of the EU Grant Agreement No. 101034349, the Program Maria de Maeztu Unit of Excellence (CEX2019-000945-M) and IPHES-CERCA regulations and internal rules. Please, check in the Guide for Applicants about the details.

Q: I should publish my results in Open Access?

A: Yes. In fact, R2STAIR fellows must follow IPHES-CERCA commitment to the practice of Open Science. As any other project at IPHES-CERCA, all fellowships will make their research outputs publicly available as soon as possible, ensuring Open Access to scientific publications, managing their data according to the FAIR principles, creating a Data Management Plan at the beginning of the project.

Q: Will I do some report of progress reporting of the project? Where does it appear? Is there any template for it?

A: Yes, but the progress reporting will be carried out as a part of the Personalised Career Development Plan agreed by the fellow, the academic supervisor and the non-academic supervisor, all supported by the IPHES-CERCA Career Development Officer.

For additional information, please contact with r2staircofund@iphes.cat