INTERCEPT-MDS

European Commission

INTERCEPT-MDS
INTERNATIONAL PhD FELLOWSHIPS

Josep Carreras LEUKAEMIA Research Institute

biobam BIOINFORMATICS SOLUTIONS

MRI Klinikum rechts der Isar Technische Universität München

UNIVERSITAS BERGENSIS

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI FIRENZE

MLL

vetmeduni vienna

GEORG SPEYER HAUS INSTITUTE FOR TUMOR BIOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL THERAPY

Inserm Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale

Erasmus MC Universitair Medisch Centrum Rotterdam
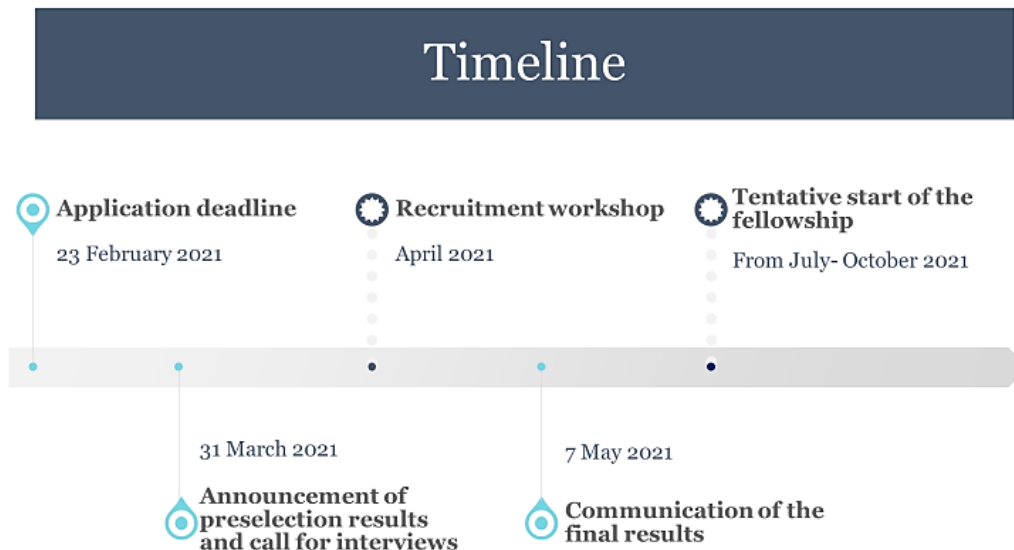
HOST INSTITUTIONS:

- **Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute. Spain > Badalona**
- **Erasmus Medical Center. The Netherlands > Rotterdam**
- **Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München. Germany > Munich**
- **Institut national de la sante et de la recherche medicale. France > Paris**
- **Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien. Austria > Vienna**
- **Università degli Studi di Firenze. Italy > Florence**
- **Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus. Germany > Frankfurt**
- **MLL Munich Leukemia Laboratory. Germany > Munich**
- **University of Bergen. Norway > Bergen**
- **BioBam Bioinformatics. Spain > Valencia**

RESEARCH PROFILE: First Stage Researcher (R1[1])

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 23 February 2021 at midnight (Central European Time)

EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAME: HORIZON 2020

MARIE SKOLODOWSKA CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407

Timeline

Application deadline
23 February 2021

31 March 2021
Announcement of preselection results and call for interviews

Recruitment workshop
April 2021

7 May 2021
Communication of the final results

Tentative start of the fellowship
From July- October 2021

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[1] First Stage Researcher (R1) PhD candidate or equivalent. Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.

OFFER DESCRIPTION

The Innovative Training Network (ITN) **"INTERCEPT-MDS - Exploring cell-to-cell heterogeneity and exploiting epigenetic regulation for the interception of myeloid disease cells"** is recruiting 12 highly motivated PhD candidates. The offered positions are available with a duration of 36 months. The fellowships are funded as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Innovative Training Networks under the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme. MARIE CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407

See more info at: https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/actions/research-networks_en

SCIENTIFIC PROJECT

Disease interception is a novel concept referring to the treatment of a disease before it fully develops by removing altered cells. To make disease cell interception a reality, researchers need to overcome two key challenges: First, to identify a few altered disease cells among many healthy ones. Second, the development of strategies that allow the specific targeting of malignant cells without affecting healthy cells. INTERCEPT-MDS will approach these challenges using myeloid diseases as a suitable paradigm for clonally evolving diseases and several innovative research tools, aiming at improving the diagnostics and treatment of haematological malignancies and other cancers. The highly complementary composition of the INTERCEPT-MDS network will provide all the key expertise and infrastructure to support the scientific excellence of our PhD candidates, and the transfer of knowledge is guaranteed through shared training.

REQUIREMENTS:

Eligibility criteria:

We welcome applications from PhD candidates from any country fulfilling the following criteria:

- Eligible candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract, which is planned between July and October 2021).
- Eligible candidates shall at the date of recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract), be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not have been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Eligible candidates must have a master's degree relevant for the chosen position (including biology, medicine, biochemistry, bioinformatics or a related discipline, depending on the individual PhD Project) or its equivalent that would entitle them to a doctorate by July 2021, or must hold an official university qualification from a

country of the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 300 ECTs of official university studies.

Successful candidates must have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English, which will be assessed with the motivation letter and the interview, respectively.

APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applications will be solely accepted through the INTERCEPT-MDS online application form (Apply here) and must be in English.

During the application process, candidates will need to upload the following documents as a single PDF (please merge the multiple files into a single document if necessary):

- CV including publications (if any),
- motivation letter,
- 2 reference letters,
- copies of Bachelor's and Master's degree certificates. Candidates should include the transcripts in English of academic records for the studies that make them eligible for a doctoral programme. If these studies have been completed by the deadline for applications, the total number of credits for the degree and the credits awarded must also appear.

Applicants will receive a confirmation email the first time they submit the application form. After the submission, applications can still be reviewed and edited through the Candidate login option as many times as needed (please note that no confirmation email will be sent after saving changes). Applicants will be able to submit and modify the information until the deadline (23 February 2021 at midnight, Central European Time). Applications will be considered as they are at the time of the deadline.

Each applicant may apply to a **maximum of three individual PhD projects**. To do so, it is necessary to complete the application process for each of the projects individually. During the application process the candidate will be asked to rank the projects to which she/he is applying in order of preference (please note that there is no need to apply to more than one PhD project).

SELECTION PROCESS:

Eligible applications will be ranked on the basis of CVs and merits by a selection committee: up to 30 points for the CV, up to 15 points for the motivation letter and up to 5 points for the two reference letters.

The 3 best candidates for each position will be invited to a recruitment workshop in April 2021 (date to be confirmed) where the final candidates will be selected.

Applicants with a positive evaluation but not selected will be included on a reserve list to cover eventual future positions and might be contacted at a later stage.

TIMELINE:

- Application deadline: 23 February 2021 at midnight (Central European Time)
- Announcement of preselection results and call for interviews: 31 March 2021
- Recruitment workshop: Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed at the end of April 2021 (date to be confirmed). Owing to the current situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate the possibility of conducting interviews in a virtual format. Full details regarding the interview process will be sent to invited candidates during the arrangement of interviews.
- Communication of the final results: 7 May 2021
- Tentative start of the fellowship: Between July and October 2021

BENEFITS:

- 3-year full time employment contract (salary depends on the country of the recruitment considering both the local and MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers and their family status at the time of the recruitment).
- Enrolment in a PhD programme.
- Shared research and innovative multidisciplinary and multisectoral training by experts and experienced trainers from two sectors (academia and industry) and two research environments (clinic and basic).
- A structured training programme consisting of soft skill courses, targeted workshops, retreats, social events and networking.
- Secondments at other institutions within the INTERCEPT-MDS consortium.
- Gaining experience abroad.
- Opportunities for participation in national and international meetings.
- Enlarged professional network and improved future scientific career perspective in academia and the private sector.

If you have any further questions about the application process, the eligibility criteria or any other aspect of the call, please write an email to:
intercept-mds@carrerasresearch.org.