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CarrerasLeaders



Agència
de Gestió
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GUIDE FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATORS

Carreras Postdoc Program
Empowering Future Leaders
to Fight Blood Cancers



CERCA
Centres de Recerca
de Catalunya

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 **Fundación
JOSEP
CARRERAS**
IMPARABLES CONTRA LA LEUCEMIA

1. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF CARRERASLEADERS CALL?

CarrerasLeaders is the new innovative and international postdoctoral programme designed by Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute (IJC) and co-funded by the MSCA COFUND program under the title “Carreras Postdoc Program Empowering Future Leaders to Fight Blood Cancers” (Project Grant Agreement Number: 101081347). The aim of the programme is to fund 16 excellent postdoctoral researchers for a period of 3 years. Applicants have complete freedom of research choice within the scope of blood cancers from understanding disease biology to the implementation of products and processes in the market and into the clinical practice through the development of a global translational approach. Candidates need to choose an IJC group leader or head of service platform as supervisor.

2. CANDIDATES

CarrerasLeaders is open to researchers of any age, nationality, and gender without restrictions. Candidates must meet the following requirements that have already been technically checked.

- Be in possession of a PhD degree in a life science discipline.
- Meet the MSCA transnational mobility rule of not having resided or carried out their main activity in Spain for more than twelve months in the three years immediately prior to the call deadline.
- Research experience. Candidates shall have been awarded their first PhD up to 7 years prior to the call deadline.
- Publications. To guarantee quality of research expertise, candidates must have at least one peer-reviewed publication (published or in press) as first author in a journal.
- Proficiency in English language.

3. EVALUATION AND SELECTION

Applicants will be evaluated twice. This guide refers to the first evaluation that will be an external evaluation of their CV and scientific proposal coordinated by Agència de Gestió d'Ajuts Universitaris i de Recerca (AGAUR). Candidates can receive a maximum of 50 points in the external evaluation. Maximum points for the CV are 30 and for the proposal 20 (see the below table for an overview of subcriteria). Candidates that rank higher than 35 over 50 will be invited to the second evaluation that will be in form of an interview. Evaluators will have to introduce in the evaluation form (Annex 1) the specific score to each criterion together with a consistent explanation of such score to elaborate the evaluation summary. Full score means excellent without short-comings, 75% of maximum score means ‘Very Good with minor short-comings’, 50% of maximum score means ‘Good but several improvements are possible’ and 25% or less of maximum score means ‘Poor, several major weaknesses’.

DIMENSION	SUB CRITERIA	SCORING (MAX POINTS)
<i>External evaluation by AGAUR</i>		
CV	Academic merit: academic transcript, publications, etc.	25
	Research skills and other relevant competences	5
Excellence	Research project: quality, innovative character, methodology, multidisciplinary approach, adequacy of the host group for the researcher's career (supervision)	10
	International and intersectoral secondment	5
Impact	Quality of the proposed measures to disseminate, communicate and exploit results. Convincing two-way transfer of knowledge between the fellow and the group	5
Total (Threshold 35/50)		50

EVALUATION TEMPLATE

Candidate Full Name	Project Acronym	Evaluation Date

CV dimension, Sub criteria	Weighting	Your score*
Academic merit: academic transcript, publications, etc.	50 %	.../10
Your evaluation:		
Research skills and other relevant competences	10 %	.../10
Your evaluation:		

Excellence dimension, Subcriteria	Weighting	Your score
Research project (section 2 of proposal): quality, innovative character, methodology, multidisciplinary approach, adequacy of the host group for the researcher's project	20 %	.../10
Your evaluation		
International and intersectoral secondment (section 3 of proposal)	10 %	.../10
Your evaluation:		

Impact dimension, Subcriteria	Weighting	Your score
Quality of the proposed measures to disseminate, communicate and exploit results. Convincing two-way transfer of knowledge between the fellow and the group. Gender and diversity dimension of the proposed research.	10 %	.../10
Your evaluation:		

Feedback
Strengths:
Weaknesses:
Final justification and final score:

*The scoring system of Evaluation template is adjusted to the Scoring system used by AGAUR. After the evaluation it will be converted into the scoring system presented in the Guide above.

Instructions on How to use the Evaluation Template?

1. Score the three dimensions of the Candidate's Application based on the Evaluation Criteria (see below and the Guide for External Evaluators): *CV, Excellence, Impact*.
2. Each subcriterion has a maximum of points. Full score means 'criterion is excellently addressed without short-comings', 75% of maximum score means 'Very good with minor short-comings', 50% of maximum score means 'Good but several improvements are possible' and 25% or less of maximum score means 'Poor, several major weaknesses'.
3. For each dimension, you should add comments that would reflect a fair, accurate, clear, and complete evaluation of the Strengths and Weaknesses of the Candidate.
4. Keep in mind that the comments should not negatively criticize the Candidate's Application but rather be constructive recommendations on how to improve the shortcomings or weaknesses. The Evaluation feedback will be passed to the Candidates.
5. Avoid comments based on assumptions and use the criteria to give concrete feedback.

For questions or doubts, contact CarrerasLeaders Program Management Office by email, carrerasleaders@carrerasresearch.org.

Additional guidance on how to evaluate each dimension:

CV dimension:

We accept applicants with 0-7 years of postdoctoral experience and wish to select those that are excellent at any career stage. *Therefore, evaluators shall consider the career stage of applicants when judging quality of their track-records.* Applicants provide their CVs in a free format. The following aspects shall be considered:

- Research experience to the field of the project proposal.
- Quantity and quality of publications.
- Awards, grants, and other honours received.
- Evidence of critical thinking, analytical, and problem-solving skills
- Strong communication skills, including ability to effectively communicate research results.
- Ability to collaborate across disciplines, sectors, and countries.

Excellence dimension:

a. Research project: We wish to promote research covering any aspect of the research related to blood cancers. This can include basic, translational, and clinical research approaches. To allow evaluators to assess the excellence of research projects, candidates have been requested to complete 3 sections in the proposal template that are Background, Rationale/Motivation/Objectives and Work Plan. In addition, we have asked candidates to briefly self-assess ethical aspects. Evaluators shall consider:

- Relevance for blood cancers and related diseases.
- Quality and novelty of the research project.
- Evidence of original thinking and innovative approaches.
- Feasibility of the work plan and its timeline.

While we do not evaluate the chosen host group or scientific platform, evaluators are asked to evaluate the project matches the expertise and exploits the strength of the chosen host.

b. Quality of secondment: A goal of CarrerasLeaders is to promote collaboration with institutions in other countries and partners from the non-academic sector. As such we highly recommended to pre-define a several month-long secondment during which the candidate would work at a partner that makes most sense for the proposed research. Candidates provide this information in the proposal in section 3. As guidance for evaluation, we suggest giving a full score (5 points) for relevant secondments that are both international and intersectoral and a maximum of 50% score (2.5 points) for relevant secondments that are either international or intersectoral.

Impact dimension:

We equally value basic and applied research which will generate different types of results and impacts. Evaluators are asked to take the type of research into account when evaluating impact. Please judge whether the proposed measures for dissemination, communication and exploitation are suitable for the type of expected results.

Evaluators shall also judge the quality of the two-way transfer of knowledge from the host to the candidate but also vice versa what the candidate brings to the group. Evaluators shall reduce their score by 20% if candidates have not considered the gender, sex and diversity dimension of their proposed research.

Apply and join our fight for
advancing the cure of blood
cancers

CarrerasLeaders



*Our fight will endure
until there's a cure*

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