



INVESTIGACIÓN PARA
OTRA OPORTUNIDAD

CRIS

**OUT-BACK
FELLOWSHIP**

Call for Applications 2026

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Introduction

CRIS Contra el Cáncer (hereafter CRIS) is keenly aware of the difficulty faced by physicians and scientists who want to train themselves in the best international cancer research centers but keep focus and interest in developing their research career in Spain. CRIS is also aware that many researchers decide not to pursue training at international centers because they perceive that returning to Spain is very complicated, due to the scarcity of positions, funding, and institutional support.

To help address this, CRIS is holding a call for applications to the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** to support **early-career researchers and physician scientists with high potential, committed to excellence in cancer research and to contributing to the strengthening of the Spanish research ecosystem through the transfer of knowledge and leadership acquired abroad.**

Scope of the call

These calls aim to fund translational cancer research projects with the ultimate goal of improving outcomes for cancer patients. The fellowship is structured in two consecutive phases: an outgoing phase carried out at a host institution outside Spain, followed by a return phase at an institution in Spain (research centre, hospital, or university). CRIS Programmes support individual projects across any area of cancer research, including (but not limited to) tumour biology, cancer immunology, precision oncology, early diagnosis, resistance mechanisms, or innovative therapeutic strategies.

CRIS focuses on research with clear translational potential and clinical relevance. Even when addressing fundamental research questions, projects are framed around clinical applicability and meaningful impact for patients, in line with CRIS strategic priorities.

Duration and budget

Projects shall have a maximum duration of five years, but candidates may apply for a shorter duration.

The project must be carried out in two consecutive phases:

- (i) **Outgoing Stage**, to be conducted at a host institution outside Spain, with a minimum duration of two years and a maximum of four years.
- (ii) **Return Stage**, to be conducted at a host institution in Spain, with a minimum duration of one year and a maximum of two years.

The programme provides **annual installments of up to €90,000 during the Outgoing phase** and up to **€70,000 during the Return phase.**

- a. **Personnel costs:** The gross salary must be no less than €55,000. This amount includes Social Security contributions and any other amounts payable by the host institution, as well as the gross remuneration of the beneficiary. To comply with the host institution's salary scales or employment regulations, the annual amount allocated to personnel costs may be increased up to €90,000 during the Outgoing phase of the programme.
 - If the candidate is supported by a talent-attraction programme such as Ramón y Cajal, Juan de la Cierva, Juan Rodés, Río Hortega, Miguel Servet, or other comparable public talent-

attraction programmes, part of the CRIS funding may be used to supplement the salary up to a maximum that will depend on the salary scales of the host institution.

- (Only during the return phase for researchers with medical load) Intensification of between 50% and 100% of the candidate's working hours when the candidate is employed by a hospital. The endowment will cover the costs incurred by the institution hosting the programme beneficiary.

During the Return Phase up to a maximum of 80% of the total grant may be allocated to the salary of the Beneficiary

- b. **Costs associated with the research project.**
- c. **Moving assistance** (optional)
- d. **Family support** (optional)

In no case may indirect costs associated with the project be applied by the host institution.

These amounts will be subject to the corresponding legal tax retention.

Applicants may find further details regarding eligible costs and funding conditions in the [CRIS Cost Guidelines](#) associated with this call.

Timeline

Opening of the online platform for Applications	Application deadline	Evaluation process	Interviews with selected candidates	Resolution of the call	Initiation of funded projects
9 March 2026 8am	13 May 2026 15pm	From June to November 2026	November 2026	31 December 2026	From February to June 2027

The timelines indicated are subject to change for organisational reasons, and all dates and times refer to mainland Spain time (Central European Time, CET).

The list of selected Beneficiaries, together with the Reserve List, will be published on the CRIS website ([CRIS Out-Back Fellowship](#) section) before **31 December 2026**. Beneficiaries can take up their position at the host institution as soon as the resolution of the call is published. In duly justified cases of force majeure, this start date may be postponed, subject to individual assessment by CRIS.

Eligibility

Beneficiary

The [CRIS Out-Back Fellowship](#) is open to researchers of all nationalities.

Applications will be accepted from researchers who have completed a doctorate in the last 5 years prior to the year in which this call is published (i.e., after January 2021) or those that can demonstrate between 4 and 9 years of full-time equivalent experience in cancer research prior to the year of the call for

applications. The date on which the candidate defended their PhD thesis will be taken as the date on which they completed their PhD and earned the title of doctor.

The period for obtaining the doctorate can be extended in the event that any of the following situations is duly accredited:

- Maternity/paternity leave, adoption or foster care. To be applied: up to 1 year per child for men and 3 years per child for women
- Temporary disability related to pregnancy: an extension of 4 weeks for each week of justified leave.
- Temporary disability due to other causes: an extension of up to 1 year.
- Reductions or exemptions of working hours due to family illness, dependency, or gender-based or terrorist violence: an extension of 4 weeks for each week of activity as a non-professional caregiver, duly justified.
- Compulsory military service (for non-Spanish candidates): an extension equivalent to the duly justified period.

CRIS reserves the right to approve or reject any extension request, and written approval will be required in all cases.

Supervisor

The candidate must propose a supervisor for the training and the research project at both host institutions (for each Outgoing/Return Stage).

The role of these mentors will consist of:

- Following up on the awardee's Personalized Career Development Plan (PCDP).
- Providing guidance on the future of the project and potential candidate's options.

Beneficiaries and mentors are required to meet at least once per year. At least one of these annual meetings is mandatory and may be held flexibly, including in a virtual format.

Hosting Institution (Outgoing/Return)

Only universities and non-profit private or public research centres can host beneficiaries of the **CRIS Out-Back programme**.

Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to the submission of applications:

- Once the application has been submitted, the choice of host institutions will be binding.
- Applicants must not have resided or carried out their work or activity in the country of the Outgoing Stage host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the Fellowship's year of the call for applicants (since January 2023).
- If an applicant has been rejected previously due to a lack of scientific integrity, they may not reapply.
- Candidates who have previously applied to this Programme with the same project will only be eligible to apply again if they submit a substantially different proposal.

Proposal submission

Candidates or their institutions may raise any question about the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** call for applications, at (<https://criscancer.org/es/outback/>) or emailing convocatorias@criscancer.org.

All applications must be completed on-line using the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship Platform**, which will be made available to candidates at <https://criscancer.org/es/outback/>

All applications must provide two blocks of documentation.

Part A: Administrative Form

Part B: Documentation

Part A: Administrative form

Please note that you must complete this form before you can proceed with the rest of the documentation. This section must be completed entirely in English.

The form includes the following elements:

- a. **General information about the candidate:** First and last name, ID number, year of birth, academic background (doctorate or research experience), the position and institution where the candidate spent the last 12 months and contact details.
- b. **Details of the supervisor** at each institution (Outgoing/Return): First and last name, institution, and contact details.
- c. **Details about the hosting institution** at each phase (Outgoing/Return): Name and address.
- d. **Complete name of the research group** at each phase (Outgoing/Return).
- e. **Details of the project** or the techniques related to the training period of each phase: Title, acronym, abstract (no less than 200 and more than 4000 characters) and keywords of the research line.

Part B: Documentation

Candidates must provide all required documentation in PDF format, in accordance with the following requirements: each page must include a header indicating the candidate's name and the acronym of the application, and none of the submitted documents may exceed 4 MB in size.

- a. **Curriculum vitae** of the candidate using a standardised summarised format (CVA, in its 4-page format), following an abbreviated template of standard forms for public calls for applications (<https://cvn.fecyt.es/>). This document must be provided in English.
- b. **ID card.** Candidates must provide a clear and legible copy of both the front and back sides of their national ID card (or equivalent identification document).
- c. **Motivation letter.** A short one-page-long letter that explains why you are the perfect candidate for the position by using examples of your interests and achievements. This document must be provided in English.
- d. **Doctoral certificate or an official equivalent** document stating the date on which the doctorate was awarded. In case of not having a doctorate, the candidate must provide evidence for at least 4 years, and no more than 9 years, of full-time cancer research experience (employment contracts, a commitment letter signed by the supervisor and the institution, ...).

- e. **Letter of commitment from the supervisor of each phase** (Outgoing/Return) with a commitment to support the training and development of the candidate's research activity in the project area and at the proposed institution. The provided template must be used.
- f. **Letter of acceptance from the host institution of each phase** (Outgoing/Return) signed by the managing director or scientific director of the center guaranteeing support for the researcher and the research line of the particular project. The provided template must be used. To assist applicants, CRIS has made available a list of institutions that have expressed interest in hosting candidates for the outgoing phase. The list can be accessed via the "Interested Host Institutions" button at <https://criscancer.org/es/outback/> or through the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship Platform**.
- g. **Personalized Career Development Plan (PCDP) self-assessment form** that includes future career perspectives, training, and skills that they want to acquire and possible secondments that they want to undergo. Candidates shall use the provided template. This document must be provided in English.
- h. **Research line**. 3 pages maximum. The provided template must be used. This document must be written in English.
- i. **Project budget**. The provided excel template must be used. A financial external audit at the end of the project may be included in the budget.
- j. **Lay summary**, in Spanish, presenting the project in clear and accessible language, with a focus on its relevance and potential impact for patients. The provided template must be used. This document should include sufficient information to allow a general audience to understand the overall development and potential impact of the project. The patients' perspective and/or participation must also be considered and included.
- k. **Ethical compliance form**. The provided template must be used.
- l. **Compliance with the mobility rule**. The provided template must be used. Documents to support the mobility rule should be provided by the candidate

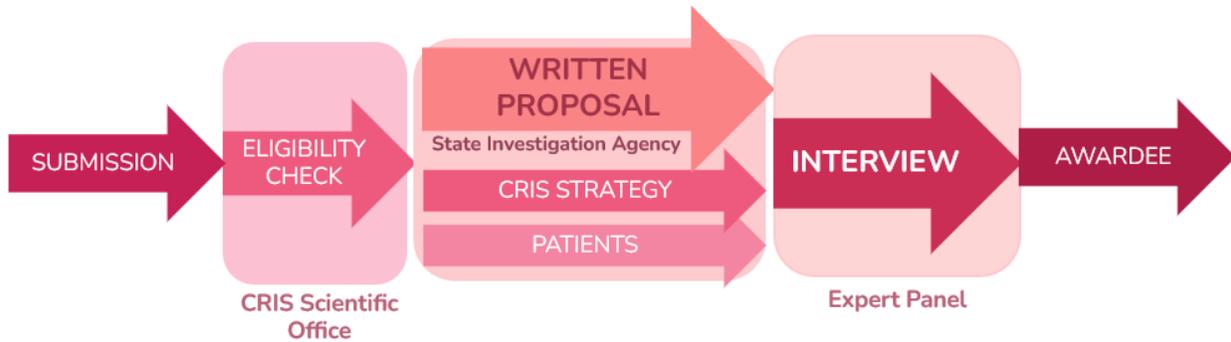
For supporting documentation for which no template is provided (e.g., doctoral certificate), applicants may submit the documents in the original language. However, if they are not in English or Spanish, they must be accompanied by a certified translation.

Evaluation process

The selection process is designed to identify outstanding candidates regardless of their origin, gender, nationality, or other aspects that could skew the selection. The goal is to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality throughout the process.

- Administrative Evaluation (Eligibility Check)
- Written Proposal Evaluation: External agency, CRIS Strategy and Patients Experts.

The selected candidates will proceed to the interview stage, conducted by an expert panel, in which the final beneficiaries of the fellowship will be decided.



CRIS will fund two beneficiaries under the [CRIS Out Back Fellowship](#). In addition, a reserve list will be established, comprising candidates who, despite not being awarded funding in the first instance, are considered to have sufficient scientific quality to be funded in the event of a withdrawal by beneficiaries or if circumstances allow CRIS to allocate additional funds to these applications.

The evaluation decision will be final and not subject to appeal.

More information regarding the selection process and the evaluation criteria can be found in the [CRIS Evaluation Guidelines](#).

Agreement

Applicants selected as Beneficiaries of the [CRIS Out-Back Fellowship](#) will be subject to the execution of a collaboration agreement between CRIS and the host institutions (Ongoing and Return). This agreement shall define the rights and obligations of both parties and shall include, among others, provisions on the allocation of project funds, ethical compliance, scientific/economic/impact monitoring, communication obligations of the researcher, and intellectual property.

Once the contract has been signed, any transfer of the project to a different host institution shall require a formal request with supporting documentation and acceptance by the new institution, and must be approved by CRIS; if approved, the original agreement will be terminated, the remaining budget returned to CRIS, and a new agreement will be signed with the new host institution for the remaining period and funds.

Follow up and monitoring

All follow-up documentation shall be submitted through the same grant management platform used for the application process. CRIS reserves the right to audit the development of the project at any time.

Annually beneficiaries should provide the following documentation:

- **Impact report:** to collect key information on scientific progress, in order to monitor the project's development and assess the scientific and clinical impact of CRIS funding.
- **Scientific and technical report:** to describe the progress of the project throughout the duration of the programme.
- **Financial report:** detailing the costs related to the activities carried out by the candidate.

At the end of the programme, beneficiaries must submit the corresponding final versions of the above reports, together with a final financial audit report issued by an independent external auditor, certifying that the awarded funds have been used in accordance with the approved budget and the terms and conditions of the call.

Data protection and privacy

CRIS fully complies with current legislation on the protection of personal data.

The personal data of the researchers or any other individual listed in the application documents will be incorporated onto the CRIS database and will only be used for the evaluation of proposals or CRIS information and further grant dissemination. By applying, the participant agrees for information about the Project to be incorporated onto the CRIS database.

To learn more about the transfer of data and how applicants may exercise their rights, you may request additional information by emailing convocatorias@criscancer.org and you may also exercise your rights of access, correction, or erasure of your personal data, as well as limit or contest the processing of said data.

Exploitation of the results derived from the project

Participation in the call implies that the Host Institutions accept that, in the event of being awarded funding, CRIS may participate in the benefits derived from the exploitation of the project results. Should the awarded Host Institution exploit the project results directly or through a third natural or legal person following the granting of a licence, CRIS shall be entitled to receive an annual percentage of the net revenues derived from such exploitation until the total reimbursement of the grant has been completed, under terms to be agreed between the parties.

Observations

The submission of an application for this funding presupposes the candidate's express acceptance of these terms and conditions. Any breach of these conditions may lead to termination of the application or programme, revocation of the funding, and, where applicable, reimbursement of the funds received. Funding awards and amounts may be modified according to CRIS's available resources.

Beneficiaries must comply with data management and funding rules; failure to do so, including cases of double funding, may result in corrective measures or reimbursement. Data generated under the project must be managed in accordance with applicable regulations, deposited in an appropriate repository, and made openly accessible whenever possible, in line with FAIR principles, with beneficiaries retaining ownership while granting CRIS a non-exclusive licence for research and policy purposes.

The **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** includes the option for a short secondment to another institution (that must be different from the return institution). In this case, the fellow will have an additional supervisor at the secondment host institution, and a respective secondment agreement.

Training

For the awardee's training, CRIS has developed a schedule of Training Courses.

Some of the skills that will be worked on during the fellowship will include:

- Group Managing, teamwork and conflict resolution.
- Scientific Communication: Paper writing, oral presentations, posters...
- Project and Grant Writing
- Science dissemination and communication
- Career Development

Training sessions and courses will take place remotely. There will be at least one course per year. Attendance to a minimum of 75% of the courses is mandatory, and any missing session should be duly justified.