



INVESTIGACIÓN PARA  
**OTRA OPORTUNIDAD**

# CRIS

## OUT-BACK FELLOWSHIP

Call for Applications 2025

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## Introduction

CRIS Cancer 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.

To help address this, CRIS Cancer is holding a call for applications to the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship**, which exists to train outstanding scientists and physician researchers of any nationality who wish to train themselves in any foreign country and return to Spain, in order to develop their cancer research career in Spanish research centers, hospitals or universities and become the future leaders of cancer research.

The aim of the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** is to provide competitive economic conditions and incentives for these researchers to develop their training abroad and establish their career in Spain. CRIS Cancer believes that the training of researchers should go farther than the purely practical and scientific. For this reason, the awardees will be involved in a training plan that will provide them with mentoring and essential skills and insights to become future leaders of cancer research.

## Call for Applications

Every year, the CRIS Cancer awards two grants covering a maximum of 5-year stage Fellowship for contracting scientists and clinical investigators to develop their training and research activity at international excellence centers and return to excellence centers at Spain.

**CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** has a maximum duration of 5 years, but candidates may apply for a shorter duration. They need to complete a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 4 years abroad (Outgoing Stage) at any hospital, research center or university outside Spain, and a Return Stage at any research institution in Spain, of a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years stage (Return Stage).

The **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** includes the option for a secondment to another institution anywhere in the world (that must be different from the return institution).

The Fellowship invites applications from all scientists who have completed a PhD in the five years prior to the call for applicants (after January 2020), or those that can demonstrate at least 4 years of experience in cancer research prior to the call for applications.

Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host institution of the Outgoing Stage for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately before the Fellowship's year of the call (since January 2022).

Once the application has been submitted, the choice of host institutions will be binding. Candidates must present a letter of interest from the host institutions of the Outgoing and Return Stages together with the application.

The Fellowship will effectively begin when the management of both hosting institutions and the candidate sign the agreement with CRIS Cancer.

The Fellowship duration and distribution are flexible. Applicants must justify in the application an international training phase (Outgoing Stage), of between 2 and 4 years, and a national training phase (Return Stage) at any Spanish institution, of between 1- and 2-years.

Additional to research training at the host institutions, **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** includes training sessions, webinars or courses that will run during the development of the Fellowship, and mentoring.

Each fellow will have two supervisors: one at each host institution (Outgoing / Return Stage).

The call opens on 1st March 2025 and closes on 14th May 2025 at 23:59 Central European Time (CET).

## **Fellowship resources. Budget Overview and Allocation Statement**

The budget is designed to support researchers throughout their fellowship, ensuring they can fully focus on their work while covering essential living costs.

The maximum grant awarded will be **€350,000**, which will be spread over a **maximum of 5 annual installments of up to €70,000** a year, which include:

### **a. Personnel Costs**

This portion covers salaries, social security, and taxes for project staff. Personnel costs must be calculated based on local salary rates and must be no less than 55,000 euros.

If the local salary rates are higher than the maximum established for personnel costs, the entire grant amount can be allocated to salaries. However, in such cases, the recruiting institution must submit a letter assuring that they will cover all other direct costs necessary for the implementation of the project.

### **b. Allowance (optional):**

- **Family allowance** of €1,200 gross per annum for each of the researcher's dependent children, up to a maximum of €2,400 and as long as they are under 18 years of age (or can prove a certificate of dependency). Family support will be determined on the date the researcher joins the center and it will be reviewed annually at the time of the fellowship renewal. In case of no applicability of family allowance, these funds could be added to the research costs.
- **Mobility allowance** of €1,250 for installation in the destination city for Outgoing and Return Stages.

### **c. Other Direct Costs**

After allocating funds for salaries and allowance (if needed), the remaining budget is dedicated to research purposes. These funds focus on supporting activities that advance the research and facilitate the integration of researchers into collaborative networks, such as:

- Acquisition and maintenance of scientific equipment and consumables.
- Travel costs and associated expenses, registration fees at congresses, seminars, and scientific conferences.
- Management costs for industrial and intellectual property rights related to the project, costs of patents.
- Publications, dissemination, ...
- Other expenses related to the development of the project.
- Travel costs associated with the trip to the CRIS Cancer annual event.
- Travel and expenses of training/mentoring sessions related to the Fellowship, ...

The Maximum Grant Amount is of 70000 euros per year. The total requested CRIS contribution could be used to cover all above mentioned project expenses.

CRIS Cancer will sign an agreement with both host institutions.

Host institutions will receive the Fellowship allowance. This subsidy, the distribution of the different budget items, will be managed by the institutions on behalf of the beneficiary and must be justified independently. The budget distribution will have to be duly justified annually to CRIS Cancer.

The annual budget proposed in the research line may not exceed a maximum of €70,000 per year. Part of the funds for subsequent years is possible but must be duly justified in the budget.

Under no circumstances may indirect costs associated with the project be included as an item in the budget submitted.

The contractual relationship between the applicant and the institution shall comply with the law as it stands at any given time.

The investigator is the named recipient of the finance and will be recruited by the host institutions.

## Requirements for applicants

### Background

Applications will be accepted from cancer researchers who have completed a Doctorate in the last 5 years (after January 2020), 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.

Fellows must not have resided or carried out their career 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 (since January 2022).

### Research Career

The candidate must provide the information related to the track record and the publications of its field of research.

Candidates will have to fill in a personalized career development plan self-assessment that includes future career perspectives, training, and skills that they want to acquire and possible secondments that they want to undergo.

Fellows must attend the training and the mentoring sessions of the [CRIS Out-Back Fellowship](#) and will be encouraged to attend training sessions at their host institutions, partners conferences and networking events, short secondments in other institutions and any other training in transferable skills.

### Research line

Candidates must provide a research line and a synopsis of the field of research that will be the focus of the main project of their stage. The project should demonstrate a high level of scientific and technical quality.

### Supervisors

The candidate must propose a primary supervisor for the training and the research project at both host institutions (for each Outgoing/Return Stage) and provide information about his/her background.

### Nationality

CRIS Out-Back Fellowship is open to researchers of all nationalities.

### Restrictions

The following restrictions apply to the submission of applications:

- The duration of the Outgoing Stage cannot be shorter than 2 years.
- Return Stage must be developed at a Spanish institution and must have a duration of a minimum of 1 year and a maximum of 2 years.
- Applicants can only be the beneficiary of one CRIS Out-Back Fellowship.
- Members of the Peer-review or Interview Panels will not be able to apply for this Fellowship.

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.

## Documentation required for the application

Candidates or their institutions should visit the CRIS Out-Back Fellowship webpage (<https://criscancer.org/es/outback/>) or email [convocatorias@criscancer.org](mailto:convocatorias@criscancer.org) in case they have any questions about the call for applications.

Candidates must submit the application and required documentation through the CRIS Out-Back Fellowship Call for Applications Platform available at CRIS homepage (<https://criscancer.org/es/outback/>). All applicants must register at the platform during the application submission period of the 2025 call for applications. Candidates will receive a confirmation email allowing them to verify their email and access to their application. There is a guideline for completion at the platform and assistance to candidates through the platform or email.

All candidates must provide two sets of forms, using the proposed templates when provided, which must be fully completed in English.

- **Part A: Administrative form.** Personal and contact data of the applicant, hosting institutions data, supervisors' data and project information.
- **Part B: Documentation.** CV of the candidate, doctorate certificate (or evidence of research experience), motivation letter of the candidate, research line, personalized career development plan, supervisors' and institutions' letters of acceptance, compliance with the mobility rule, ethical commitment, ...

## Part A: Administrative form

Access to this form may be via the CRIS Out-Back Fellowship Call for Applications Platform, available at CRIS homepage (<https://criscancer.org/es/outback/>).

This 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.
- f. **Commitments on Ethics and on the Mobility Rule.**

## Part B: Documentation

The templates for several of the documents in this section are provided on the candidacy website and the platform. These templates must be used; any other format will not be accepted. Each page will have a header indicating the name of the candidate and an acronym for their candidacy.

- 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. The FECYT or Instituto de Salud Carlos III templates are valid.
- b. **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.
- c. **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, ...).
- d. **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. Candidates shall use the provided template.
- e. **Letter of acceptance from the hosting institution of each phase** (Outgoing/Return) signed by the managing director or scientific director of the center guaranteeing the institution admitting the researcher stage and guaranteeing training at the research line defined in the project. Candidates shall use the provided template.
- f. **Personalized Career Development Plan 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.

- g. **Research line.** 3 pages maximum. Candidates shall use the provided template. This document must be provided in English.
- h. **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. Indirect costs cannot be included.
- i. One-page summary, in Spanish, to explain the project in terms that a patient can understand.
- j. **Ethical compliance form.** Candidates shall use the provided template.
- k. **Compliance with the mobility rule.** Candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the host organization of the Outgoing Stage for more than 12 months in the past 3 years (since January 2022). Candidates shall use the provided template.

Documents uploaded to the application in PDF format must be clear and legible, and not bigger than 4Mb. In addition, each page of the original document must correspond to a page of the PDF document. Official documents (Thesis defense, ...) may be provided in the language in which they were issued, but if they are in a language other than English or Spanish, they must be accompanied by a certified translation.

## Selection process

The selection process is designed to identify outstanding candidates interested in being trained as cancer researchers, regardless of background, independent of origin, genus, nationality, or any other aspect that could skew the selection. The goal is to ensure transparency, fairness, and impartiality throughout the process.



Evaluation committees will choose the candidates that, according to their criteria, prove the highest achievements and capacities.

### 1. Eligibility check

All applications received will be reviewed by the CRIS cancer Scientific Office and those that do not meet the eligibility criteria set out in the terms and conditions of the call for applications will be rejected.

There will then be a corrective period of ten days during which any outstanding documentation will be requested, and any corrections or clarifications should be made.

All rejected applications will receive a notification detailing the reason for rejection.



## 2. Written proposal evaluation phase

External Evaluation Panel, Patients' Panel and Interview Panel will be in charge of the evaluation of candidates and will be composed of multidisciplinary scientists from national and international high impact disciplines.

Candidacies will be evaluated in accordance with the **General Evaluation Criteria**.

### a. External Evaluation

Each application will be scored by at least two separate evaluators of the **External Evaluation Panel** (State Investigation Agency; Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI)) following the **General Evaluation Criteria** of the Fellowship between 0-100. The final score will be the average of the different evaluations.

### b. CRIS Strategy

CRIS cancer Scientific Office shall assign a score to each application considering the CRIS strategy.

### c. Patients' evaluation

An evaluation panel composed of cancer patients shall assign a score to each application considering the needs of patients.

The top-scoring candidates, considering the scores of the External Evaluation Panel (80%), the CRIS strategy (15%) and the patients' evaluation (5%) will go onto the interview evaluation phase.

## 3. Interview phase

All candidates that will enter the interview evaluation will be contacted via telephone or email. The interviews will be conducted by an **Interview Panel** which includes top international researchers.

Prior to the interviews, the Interview Panel will meet to discuss the candidates put forward, discuss the most relevant aspects of their motivations, profile, experience, and project, and prepare the questions to be asked during the interview phase of the candidates selected for the interview.

The criteria applied in this interview are set out in the **General Evaluation Criteria**.

Candidates who are offered an interview should consider the following:

- Interviews will last about 15 minutes.
- Candidates must summarize in 5 minutes, without slides, their motivation, experience, research career and the rationale for selecting the hosting institutions and research groups for their training.
- They will be asked questions, for around 10 minutes, relating to their past and future career and to their project.
- The candidate must respect the confidentiality and identity of the evaluators that participate in the interview session.

The outcome of the interview will result in the final ranking list.

All candidates who make it into the last assessment round will be notified of the comments resulting from the final discussions of the **Interview Panel**.

## General evaluation criteria

In general, three main questions will be considered to ensure the excellence of the candidates:

- The background of the candidate, potential impact of the stage in their career and training workflow.
- The selected research groups, supervisors, and hosting institutions.
- The project design and application to clinics.

### Written Proposal Evaluation. Peer-review Panel.

Below we summarize the main criteria of the **Peer-Review Guide** that is provided to the **Peer-Review Panel** including standard questions to evaluate the following items:

#### 1. CANDIDATE (55%)

- a. Candidate's motivation and interest in acquiring new skills and knowledge.
- b. Candidate's ability to carry out the project independently.
- c. Previous relevant contributions in his/her current or past fields of research.
- d. The candidate's potential to make significant advances in the treatment of cancer.
- e. Clarity, concreteness, and feasibility of the Personal Career Development Plan.

#### 2. PROPOSAL (25%)

- a. Originality, innovation and transformative nature of the line of research.
- b. Adequacy and degree of innovation of the methodology proposed for the development of the project.
- c. Inter/multidisciplinarity, gender dimension and statistical robustness of the research.
- d. Feasibility of the research project, in terms of expected resources and schedule
- e. Suitability of the outgoing-phase proposed supervisor to ensure the success of the project and candidate's growth.
- f. Suitability of the return-phase proposed supervisor to ensure the success of the project and candidate's growth.
- g. Capacity of the outgoing host institution to implement the project.
- h. Capacity of the return host institution to implement the project.

#### 3. IMPACT (20%)

- a. Impact of the project for the future professional development of the candidate, both within and outside academia.
- b. Degree of translationality of the project and potential impact on clinical practice.
- c. Definition of a dissemination plan, both to the scientific community and to the general public.

Each application will be scored by at least two separate evaluators. Each evaluator will prepare an individual evaluation report including the scoring, comments, and observations on every item.

### Interview. Interview Panel.

Below we summarize the main criteria of the **Interview Guide** that is provided to the **Interview Panel** including standard questions to evaluate the following items:

## 1. Candidate

- a. CV presentation
- b. Attractiveness and potential of the candidate's profile
- c. Motivation of the candidate
- d. Translational projection of the candidate's career

## 2. Transferable Skills

- a. Ability to take part in a scientific discussion
- b. Presentation Skills
- c. Team and leadership skills

In case of ex aequo, the **Interview Panel** will prioritize Candidate over Transferable Skills.

## Appeals

From the date of dispatch of the rejection notification, there is a period of 5 calendar days during which candidates may submit an appeal through the platform or by emailing [convocatorias@criscancer.org](mailto:convocatorias@criscancer.org).

The procedure for making an appeal will be kept strictly confidential and will not result in a scientific re-evaluation by the panel. The independence and objectivity of the assessment is guaranteed by the selection and evaluation process.

Any appeals submitted will be resolved by the CRIS cancer Scientific Office, which will notify the candidate of its findings by email within 30 calendar days from the date the appeal is received.

### Appointment

The list of awardees chosen by means of the Evaluation Stage will be published on the website of the CRIS Cancer in the **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** call for applications section (<https://criscancer.org/es/outback/>) as of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

If the chosen awardees decide not to take part in the Fellowship, the respective grant will be awarded to the next highest-scoring candidate as ranked by the complete evaluation.

The beneficiaries must begin work at their respective center by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at the latest. In duly justified cases of major force, this incorporation could be postponed. Each case will be assessed by CRIS Cancer on an individual basis.

Once the contract has been signed, the project may be transferred to another institution (for example, if the candidate returns to Spain as group leader in a different institution or if the candidate needs to change the return institution). A formal transfer request must be submitted along with all the documentation requested in the terms and conditions of the call for applications, along with an official acceptance from the new host institution. CRIS Cancer must evaluate the transfer request and issue its approval. If the researcher finally moves to a different host institution, the original agreement (signed with outgoing and return host institution at the submission) would be terminated on the date of the change of institution, and the remaining budget at that date would be returned to CRIS cancer. CRIS contra el cancer would then sign a new agreement with the new institution, specifying the deadlines and budget remaining to be consumed by the project.

If the line of research developed by the candidate during the Fellowship differs from the area stipulated originally in their application, it must not be too far from their initial preference, in terms of content, field or discipline. If there are significant changes, candidates must inform the CRIS Cancer.

## Training and Mentoring Plan

CRIS Cancer considers it essential during the initial stages of the research career of the awardees to have constant training in skills that will advance them professionally, as well as support and guidance from other more senior researchers.

### Training

For the awardee's training, CRIS Cancer has developed a schedule of Training Courses that is aimed to go beyond the purely practical and scientific by enhancing different aspects of a researchers' career, providing the fellows with useful professional tools in the future, assuring fellows employability and improving their career expectations.

These courses will focus on aspects that, although important, it is difficult to find specific and in-depth training programmes that provide young researchers with adequate resources and strategies.

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.

### Mentoring

For the awardee's mentoring, CRIS cancer requests applicants to develop a Personalized Career Development Plan (PCDP) Self-assessment form. This document is intended for candidates to identify their training and career objectives during this Fellowship, as well as the long-term goals they aspire to during their career.

This document will serve as the basis to be worked on with a mentor, who will be assigned to each awardee by CRIS Cancer at the beginning of the Fellowship. This mentor is a figure independent of the Outgoing and Return supervisors.

The role of these mentors will consist of:

- Following up on the awardee's PCDP and guide him/her to achieve his/her goals.
- Assisting the awardee in adapting the PCDP as the fellowship progresses.

- Providing guidance on the future of the project and potential candidate's options.
- Making suggestions to the awardee about his/her future career options, training possibilities, congresses or collaborations.
- Sharing experiences to provide new points of view.

Awardees and mentors will meet at least once a year. Holding at least one of these annual meetings, which may be held flexibly and virtually, is mandatory.

## Secondment and short visits

Fellows have the option of a secondment phase at another host institution, which must be different from the outgoing or return hosting institutions.

During secondments, the fellow will have an additional supervisor at the secondment host institution, and the respective secondment agreement with the secondment host institution will cover any ethics aspects and ensure that these are in line with the ethical principles of the Spanish institution.

**CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** is also open to short visits (not longer than 4 weeks) during the two stages to other institutions.

## Incompatibilities

Candidates must run the training project in person, at the host research centers, hospitals or universities. Clinical practice and research must be carried out on a full-time basis at the host institutions.

The candidate may carry out teaching activities, if he/she notifies the CRIS Cancer, and such activities will be for a maximum of 80 hours per year.

Any chosen candidates who decide not to take part in the Fellowship may not reapply to subsequent calls of the Fellowship unless their reasons are duly justified and documented.

Any candidate who has been in contact with any member of the evaluation panels regarding issues related to the Fellowship will be immediately excluded from the process and will not be able to reapply in the future.

Taking part in this Fellowship is not compatible with full-time employment contracts at any other institution that is not the outgoing or the return host institution.

Any breach of ethical considerations will lead to immediate termination of funding and said individuals will not be allowed to reapply to the Fellowship.

## Obligations

The beneficiary must agree to collaborate in communication activities and events organized by CRIS Cancer related to this Fellowship.

Except for reasons of force majeure, the recipients must agree to attend the official awards ceremony for the CRIS Programmes and Fellowships.

The outgoing and return host institutions receiving the candidate will manage and administer the funds allocated annually by the CRIS Cancer to this Fellowship.

The CRIS Cancer will request from the host institutions a detailed economic report breaking down the costs of activities carried out by the candidate. This report will be required annually and at the end of the Fellowship.

At the end of the Fellowship, candidates must submit the report of an economic external audit justifying the allocation of this funding.

The candidate must submit a scientific-technical annual report in relation to the development of the project.

Host institutions and supervisors compromise to allow the applicant to sign as author in the publications derived from the projects the candidate participated during the stage.

At any time, the CRIS Cancer reserves the right to request accreditation by asking the candidate to provide the original documents or certified copies of any document indicated in the application or curriculum.

## **Data protection and privacy**

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

For the application and Fellowship evaluation procedure to be conducted, anyone who applies will need to provide their personal data for incorporation in our database. The personal data of the researchers or any other individual listed in the application documents will be incorporated onto the CRIS Cancer database and will only be used for the evaluation of proposals, to send out notifications concerning the fellowship and application/evaluation procedure, CRIS Cancer information and further grant dissemination. By applying, the participant agrees for information about the Project to be incorporated onto the CRIS Cancer 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](mailto:convocatorias@criscancer.org) and you may also exercise your rights of access, correction, or erasure of your personal data, as well as limit or oppose the processing thereof.

## **Equal opportunity policy**

CRIS Cancer follows the Spanish equal opportunities policy, which is based on the national regulation/law for gender equality (Ley Orgánica 3/2007, de 22 de marzo, para la igualdad efectiva de mujeres y hombres - Ley de Igualdad ("Gender Equality Act")). The recruitment of the candidates will not be biased by their gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, social-economical background.

Equal opportunities will be granted not only during the evaluation process but also during the Fellowship development and supervision. Evaluation Committees and Project Supervisors will be asked to scrutinize how they provide equality of opportunity and treatment to the researchers during the selection process and equality of support during their fellowships.

CRIS Cancer committees will also be gender balanced. CRIS wants to support talented women in research, as they are still underrepresented, especially in the higher categories of scientific careers. CRIS Cancer policy states that in case there are several candidates with similar profiles, quality, and experience, preference will be given to the female candidate.

The **CRIS Out-Back Fellowship** supports researchers with disabilities by including funds for additional costs that these researchers face due to the increased costs of their mobility, to cover entry conditions/visa, to ensure necessary assistance by third persons or for adapting their work environment. It cannot cover costs which are already covered by another source, such as social security or health insurance.

In case of investigators restarting their career, the Fellowship will be flexible on mobility rule requirements allowing them to spend no more than 3 years in the host country in the last 5 years.

## Observations

The Fellowship has a maximum duration of 5 years, but candidates may apply for a shorter duration, provided that they complete at least 2 years in the Outgoing Stage and 1 year in the Return Stage.

The timeframes and times contained in these terms and conditions are understood to refer to mainland Spain (Central European Time - CET).

The submission of an application for this Fellowship presupposes the candidate's express acceptance of these terms and conditions, as well as the criteria and decisions made by the CRIS Cancer regarding any queries in the interpretation of the requirements and conditions set forth herein.

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

- Maternity/paternity leave following childbirth, permanent adoption, or foster care (provided that the date of birth or judicial/administrative resolution occurred during the scientific career of the candidate, stipulated in the terms and conditions). The following shall apply:
  - 1 year per child in the case of men.
  - 3 years per child in the case of women.
- Temporary disability during pregnancy for related reasons. 4 weeks of extension will be applied for each week of leave.
- Temporary disability due to other causes. A maximum of 1 year extension will be applied.
- Exemptions or reductions in the candidate's working hours due to family illness, dependency, gender-based violence, or terrorist violence. 4 weeks will be applied for each week of activity as a non-professional caregiver.
- In the case of non-Spanish candidates, participation in compulsory military service. The extension that will be applied corresponds to the period justified by means of the appropriate documentation.

CRIS Cancer will assess how projects integrate the gender dimension in both scientific design and team management. This evaluation will focus on two key aspects:

- Gender Dimension in Research and Innovation Content: Projects must address biological and social differences between sexes and genders in their research, i.e. how these differences influence study

outcomes, ensuring that methodologies are gender-sensitive, and promoting research findings that are relevant and equitable for all genders. This requirement is evaluated under the scientific aspects during proposal assessments.

- Gender Equality in Research Teams and Leadership: CRIS Cancer will promote gender balance within research teams and decision-making bodies. This includes fostering inclusive environments, encouraging equitable participation in leadership roles, and ensuring that research organizations actively implement gender equality plans. This requirement is evaluated under the management aspects during proposal assessment.

In the event that results susceptible to economic exploitation are derived, the CRIS contra el Cáncer Foundation will have the right to receive a return of the amounts paid. In any case, the parties will sign the appropriate agreement in order to determine such participation.

If the candidate is found not to have complied with these terms and conditions, regardless of when this occurs or what stage of the application process or fellowship the candidate has reached, their candidacy will be terminated, and any funding granted will be revoked. If the beneficiary does not comply with the aforementioned commitments - or any others included in the conditions indicated herein - the CRIS Cancer reserves the right to proceed as appropriate and even request that the beneficiary returns any funding received.

CRIS Cancer strongly recommends that all publications derived from the awardee's research be published as open access.