

# CRIS OUT-BACK PROGRAMME CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2023

## Introduction

CRIS Cancer is keenly aware of the difficulty faced by clinicians and scientists who want to train themselves in the best international cancer research centers but keeping focus and interest in developing their research career in Spain.

To help address this, the CRIS Cancer is holding a call for applications to the **CRIS Out-Back Programme**, which exists to train outstanding scientists and medical doctors 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 Programme** is to provide competitive economic conditions and incentives for these doctors 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 fellowship grants** covering a maximum of **5 year stage** programme for contracting scientists and clinical investigators to develop their training and research activity at international excellence centers.

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

The CRIS Out-Back Programme includes the **option for a secondment** to another institution anywhere in the world (that must be different from the return institution), but it is also open to short visits (not longer than 8 weeks).

The programme invites applications from all **scientists** who have completed a **PhD** or those that can demonstrate **at least 4 years of experience** in cancer research prior to the year of 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 programme's call deadline.

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

The programme duration and distribution is flexible. Applicants must justify in the application an **international training phase** (Outgoing Stage) of **at least 2 years** and a **Return Stage** at any Spanish institution, of between **1 and 2 years** length. Additional to research training at the host institutions, CRIS Out-Back Programme includes training sessions and webinars that will run quarterly during the development of the programme, and mentoring sessions that will run annually.

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

## **Programme resources**

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.

The five maximum annual installments of €70,000 will include:

- a. Salary: Gross €55,000 to cover labor costs of each beneficiary incurred by the hospital, research center or university that employs or will employ said individual. This amount includes local taxes contributions and any other amounts payable by the institution, as well as the gross remuneration of the beneficiary.
- b. Allowance (optional):
  - → Family allowance €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 programme 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. Costs associated with the research project up to the €70,000 maximum annual grant, including:
  - → Expenses related to the research project such as the acquisition of scientific consumables.
  - → Travel and accommodation expenses to attend each annual CRIS Programme award ceremony.
- d. Other costs: Publications, dissemination, registration for scientific conferences and congresses or travel and expenses of other training/mentoring sessions related to Programme.

This subsidy will be managed by the institutions on behalf of the beneficiary and must be justified independently. CRIS Cancer will sign an agreement with both host institutions. Host institutions will receive the programme allowance and will manage the distribution of the different budget items. The budget distribution will have to be duly justified annually to CRIS Cancer.



The annual budget proposed in the budget 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** (that is, after January 2017), or those that can demonstrate **at 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 programme's year of recruitment.

## **Research Career**

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

#### 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.

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 quarterly session and the annual mentoring session of the Out-Back Programme 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.

#### **Primary 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 Programme 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.
- → Candidates can only be the beneficiary of one CRIS Out-Back Programme.
- → Members of the Peer-Review or Interview Panels will not be able to apply for this programme.
- → Fellows 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 programme's year of recruitment.

## Documentation required for the application

Candidates or their institutions should visit the CRIS Out-Back Programme webpage (<a href="https://criscancer.org/es/outback/">https://criscancer.org/es/outback/</a>) or email <a href="mailto:convocatorias@criscancer.org">convocatorias@criscancer.org</a> in case they have any questions about the call for applications. All applications must be completed online.

Candidates must submit the application and required documentation through the **Programme** Call Platform available at CRIS homepage (<a href="https://criscancer.org/es/outback/">https://criscancer.org/es/outback/</a>). All applicants must register at the platform during the application submission period of the 2023 programme. 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 helpdesk.

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

- → Part A: Administrative form: Personal and contact data of the candidate, hosting institutions data, primary 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 **Programme Call 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 primary **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. Commitment on Ethics

#### 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 standardized format and an abbreviated template of standard forms for national public calls for applications (CVA). Candidates shall use the template provided at the FECYT homepage in its 4-page format.: https://cvn.fecyt.es/editor/#HOME. Both 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
- 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 institution admitting the researcher stage and guaranteeing training at the research line defined in the project. Candidates shall use the provided template.
- f. Ethical compliance form. Candidates shall use the provided template.
- g. 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.
- h. 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 since January 2019.
- i. Research line. 3 pages maximum. Candidates shall use the provided template. The details of this document are set out below.
  - → Summary (half a page, maximum, maximum)



- → Keywords (at least 5 free keywords)
- → Brief description of the candidate's track record and research experience.
- → Specification of the duration of the Outgoing and Return Stage, and justification for it.
- → Project description, including objectives, methods, and a schedule estimation
- → Description of the training objectives, including skills, planned attendance to courses, workshops, and conferences and secondments.
- → Bibliography (not considered for the page count).

#### About the Research Line:

- → The template provided must be used but must not exceed 3 pages. The format of the text should be as follows: DIN A4
- → Calibri, Times New Roman, Arial or Helvetica.
- → Font size 11 or 12.
- → Single line spacing.
- → Margins: 2cm at the sides, 1.5 below.

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. These documents 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 <u>Programme Manager</u> and CRIS Out-Back Programme Operations Team 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. Technical evaluation

Peer-review and Interview Panels 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.



Each candidate will be scored by at least two separate evaluators of the Peer-Review Panel following the General Evaluation Criteria of the Programme between 0-100. CRIS will keep 15% of the written evaluation, in which the foundation's strategy will be considered. The final score will be the average of the different evaluations.

The top-scoring 20% candidates will go onto the interview evaluation phase. 50% of the interviewed candidates must have a clinical background.

All candidates that will enter the interview evaluation will be contacted via 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 20 minutes.
- → Candidates must summarize in five minutes their motivation, experience, research career and the rationale for selecting the hosting institutions and research groups for their training.
- → They will be asked questions 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.

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.

The outcome of the interview together with the previous scoring of the written proposal will result in the **final score** (60% written proposal (Peer-Review Panel evaluation) and 40% interview (Interview Panel evaluation)) that will constitute the final scoring list.

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

## **General evaluation criteria**

In general, two 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.

## 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:



## → Excellence of the candidate (Maximum 50 points)

- a. Motivation of the candidate
- b. Match of proposed training and transfer of knowledge activities with future career development
- c. Capacity of the fellow to independently carry out the project

## → Impact of the candidacy (Maximum 30 points)

- a. Innovative and transformative nature of the project, including inter/multidisciplinary aspects and gender dimension of the research
- b. Impact of the project research and training for the future career development of the fellow, both in and outside academia
- c. Potential impact of the research line in the clinical practice

## → Implementation of the candidacy (Maximum 20 points)

- a. Feasibility of the planned research and training project in terms of planned resources including work plan
- b. Capacity of hosting institutions to implement the project in all of its aspects
- c. Match of all outgoing, return hosting institutions and supervisors with the project and fellow's profile

Each evaluator will prepare an individual evaluation report at the *Programme Call Platform* 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:

- → Candidate (Maximum 60 points)
  - 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

#### → Transferable Skills (Maximum 40 points)

- 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 10 calendar days during which candidates may submit an appeal by email to <a href="mailto:convocatorias@criscancer.org">convocatorias@criscancer.org</a>.



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 Integrity Officer, 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 Programme call for applications section (<a href="https://criscancer.org/es/outback/">https://criscancer.org/es/outback/</a>), as of December 31st, 2023.

If the chosen awardees decide not to take part in the programme, 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 **April 30**<sup>th</sup>, **2024**, 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 could be transferred to another 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. The CRIS Cancer must evaluate the transfer request and issue its approval.

If the line of research developed by the candidate during the Programme 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 Programme**

For the candidates to take ownership of their careers and obtain a multidisciplinary and intersectoral training, the CRIS Out-Back Programme will perform a **Personal Career Development Plan (PCDP)**. This plan consists of periodical mentoring by the programme supervisors, multidisciplinary training sessions and annual mentoring sessions.

For the development of this plan, candidates will fill in a Personal Career Development Plan self-assessment form, to identify candidate's strengths, areas of interests and short-/long-term objectives.

## **Follow-up and Mentoring**

Each fellow will have **three supervisors**: two primary supervisors, one at each host institution (outgoing / Return Stage), and an external co-supervisor provided by CRIS Cancer. In case that the awardee undertakes a secondment, there will also be a secondment supervisor. Supervisors will contribute to the advancement of the project, evaluate the scientific training of the fellows, and provide advice in scientific and other multidisciplinary issues.

Additionally, there will be a **Mentoring Panel**, composed by 5 academic and non-academic experts that will participate in the Annual Mentoring Sessions.



#### **Mentoring Sessions**

The PCDP will be monitored and adapted by the Mentoring Panel and candidate's supervisors in **two Mentoring Sessions**, which will take place after the second and last year of the programme. In these sessions the fellows will perform a presentation of the project status, state their main challenges, discuss with the panel possible solutions to challenges and problems, and make a brief statement on the different aspects of their training during the last year.

Main objectives of these sessions are:

- → Provide guidance on the future of the project and potential candidate's options.
- → Suggest, if necessary, any specific training needs to add to the overall training plan.
- → Share experiences to provide new points of view, propose experiments and focus on the objectives of the project.
- → Identify potential risks or weaknesses of the project

**Attendance at these mentoring sessions is mandatory.** The date will be coordinated considering the availability of both the candidate and the members of the panel.

#### **Training Sessions**

CRIS Cancer has developed planned a schedule of Training Sessions 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, promote interaction and direct communication between other beneficiaries CRIS Programmes and external entities and partners participating in the training. The skills acquired in these sessions will provide fundamental knowledge assuring fellows employability and improving their career expectations.

Sessions will be divided in three Modules:

- → Career Skills: Such as Open Science and Open Data training, project and paper writing, ethics in research, science dissemination, clinical trial planning and implementation, fundraising, leadership, and group managing...
- → Career Counseling: These sessions will be oriented to describe the scientific and medical landscape, not only locally but also internationally. These sessions will also include training on collaborations, networking, and talent attraction.
- → **Knowledge Transfer:** Such as understanding EU funding programmes, intellectual property, business model development, project communication, EU proposal writing, finances for entrepreneurs...

Training sessions will take place as webinars, and they will be provided by experts chosen from CRIS Cancer's partner institutions. There will be 4 **Training sessions per year. Attendance to a minimum of 75% of the sessions is mandatory,** and any missing session should be duly justified.

Fellows will send a training progress report annually that will be reviewed by the Mentoring Panel and discussed in the Annual Mentoring Session.

# **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.

These secondments will be of a minimum of 4 weeks up to a maximum of 6 months and can be split into 2 or more stays not shorter than 2 weeks, to other institutions for intersectorial training. These secondments can take place both, during the outgoing and Return Stage.

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 Programme 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, provided that 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 programme may not reapply to subsequent calls of the programme 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 programme will be immediately excluded from the process and will not be able to reapply in the future.

Taking part in this programme is not compatible with permanent 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 programme.

# **Obligations**

The beneficiary must agree to collaborate in communication activities and events organized by the Foundation related to this programme.

Except for reasons of force majeure, the recipients must agree to attend the official awards ceremony for the programme.

The host institution receiving the candidate will manage and administer the funds allocated annually by the CRIS Cancer to this programme.



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 programme.

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

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

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

The CRIS Cancer fully complies with current data protection legislation.

The personal data of the researchers or any other individual listed in the application documents will be incorporated into the CRIS Cancer database and will only be used for the evaluation of proposals. By submitting an application, the participant agrees for information about their project to be incorporated into the CRIS Cancer database.

For the application and program evaluation procedure to be conducted, anyone who submits an application will need to provide their personal data for incorporation in our database. The purpose of this is to send out notifications concerning the program and application procedure.

To learn more about the transfer of data and how applicants may exercise their rights, you may request additional information by emailing <a href="mailto:convocatorias@criscancer.org">convocatorias@criscancer.org</a> and you may also exercise your rights of access, correction or erasure of your personal data, as well as limit or contest 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 programme 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.

To raise awareness of these topics, the Training Plan will include gender awareness sessions.

Supervisors will be invited to take part in these training sessions as part of their own continuing education.

The **CRIS Out-Back Programme** 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.

CRIS Cancer will specifically encourage researchers at risk to apply to this Programme and participate in the EU Science4Refguees initiative. We will support researchers under refugee status by an adapted mobility rule. Researchers at risk will be able to apply by postal mail, too to facilitate and encourage them to apply. We will also reach out in the call dissemination via specific channels to researchers under refugee status.

In case of investigators restarting their career, the Programme 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 programme 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 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:
  - o 1 year per child in the case of men.
  - o 3 years per child in the case of women up to a maximum of 5 years.
- 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.

The submission of an application for this programme 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.

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 programme 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.