

Who can apply?

Q

Can I apply if I have not finished my university studies?

A

You can only apply if you hold a Master's Degree or an equivalent of a University Degree that allows you to start a PhD in Spain by October 2027.

Q

Are there any nationality restrictions to apply?

A

No, there are no nationality restrictions. Students of all nationalities are welcome to apply to the CRG PhD International Programme, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.

Q

Should I contact the supervisor(s) to discuss my application?

A

There is no need to contact potential supervisors before applying. In the application form, you will be asked to indicate up to two preferred research groups. If you are pre-selected, you will have the opportunity to speak with the group leaders during the recruitment process.

Submission

Q

How can I submit my application?

A

Applications must be submitted online via the CRG website's application system.

You will need to provide the names of two referees, who must upload their reference letters before you can submit your application. It is your responsibility to ensure the letters are uploaded before the deadline.

Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email with a reference number to use in any future correspondence.

Q

Do I need to register to submit an application?

A

Yes. To start a new application, go to the online system and click "Start new application." After saving your personal details, you'll receive a confirmation email with login info. You can complete the application right away or return to it anytime before the deadline.

Submission

Q | May I provide the reference letters on behalf of my referees?

A | No. Applicants must provide the contact details of two referees in the online application portal. Once you click “Send Request”, your referees will automatically receive an email with instructions to submit their recommendation letter online. Please note that applications are only considered eligible if both letters are received before the deadline, so make sure to send the requests early. You will be able to see whether and when the letters were submitted, but you will not have access to their content.

Q | Who should I name as referees?

A | Your referees should be two scientists familiar with your academic background and/or research experience who can assess your potential as a PhD student. Ideally, one should be your current or most recent supervisor, and at least one must be able to comment on your academic record and previous research experience. Referees must not be affiliated with the CRG.

Submission

Q

I made a mistake in my application, and I have submitted it - can I change it?

A

No, once submitted, applications cannot be modified, and the CRG team will not make changes on your behalf. Please ensure you carefully review your application before submission.

Q

Can I submit two applications to the call?

A

No, you may only submit one application.

Q

If I do not have the transcripts of my Masters yet, what shall I upload in the form?

A

If you do not have the transcripts of your masters by the time you fill the form, please upload an official document proving your enrolment in a Masters Programme and/or an official document stating that the transcripts are in the process of being issued.

Submission

Q | When is the deadline for applications?

A | The deadline for applications for the current call is 23.59 (midnight) (CET) on Sunday, November 22, 2026.

Selection Process

Q | Which are the evaluation criteria for the applications?

A | The selection of the fellows will be organized in different steps and based on the candidates' academic qualifications and research excellence as described on the website. The call timeline is available on the website

Q | When will candidates be informed about pre-selection and final results?

A | All candidates will be informed about the pre-selection outcome by late December 2026. Candidates that will be invited to the on-site interviews will be informed by the end of January 2027.

Selection Process

Q | Does the selection process involve an interview?

A | Yes, pre-selected candidates will be invited to online panel interviews in January. Successful candidates will then be invited to the Centre for Genomic Regulation (CRG) in Barcelona to continue the recruitment process from 23 to 25 February 2026. Travel and accommodation will be provided, and full details of the interview process will be sent to invited candidates 4–6 weeks after the application deadline.

Q | If my application is successful, when will the fellowship start?

A | Successful candidates would be expected to start the PhD latest by October 2027.

Others

Q | Do I need to register separately with a university to do my PhD at CRG?

A | Yes, but university admission will be managed later. Selected candidates will receive all instructions.