

FAQs BITRECS website

1. Who are BITRECS clinician-scientists?

They are promising and motivated young postdoctoral researchers who have combined research with clinical activity in the past but interested in improving their research career for the next 3 years. To be selected by the programme they should prove an excellent track record in research. Furthermore, they can come from any background (such as physicians, biologists, pharmacists, physicists, chemists, psychologists among others) but it is mandatory to certify a clinical residency training or experience acquired in a hospital or a healthcare centre contributing directly or indirectly to the patient care. BITRECS is a unique opportunity for these young clinician-scientists to boost their scientific career and have as future perspective to become clinician-scientist leaders in the future.

2. Which candidates are eligible to apply?

Candidates fulfilling all eligibility criteria: research experience, clinical training/experience, English language and research publications. For more details about how to fulfil all these criteria, please check the "eligibility criteria".

Candidates must meet the BITRECS eligibility criteria at the time of the call deadline (April 10th). The eligibility must be proven and demonstrated. The documents to certify the accomplishment of the eligibility should be presented in English or attached to their translation in English.

3. Could I apply if I am not an EU resident?

Yes. This program is open to experienced researchers living all over the world.

4. Could I apply if I am not an EU national?

Yes. This program is open to experienced researchers from any nationality.

7. Could I apply if I do not have my PhD diploma yet?

Yes. To be eligible, candidates must have defended their PhD. In that case they should present an official document in which the date of the thesis defence must appear.

8. Could I apply if I did not perform any clinical residency training?

Yes, BITRECS is also open to those researchers who can prove at least 3 years of clinical practice (certificate/s of professional activity required).

9. Which experience is accepted in BITRECS if I did not perform any official clinical residency training?

It is accepted to demonstrate experience acquired in a hospital or healthcare centre equivalent to the expertise acquired during an official clinical residency training. For example: patient clinical evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, care, prognosis and/or rehabilitation. Besides, it is also eligible to certify experience acquired in a lab contributing to the patient care.

10. Can I perform patient care or other activities during my BITRECS fellowship?

BITRECS Programme offers **full-time research only placements**. If you find the opportunity to perform additional activity during the fellowship, not being part of your research project with the purpose of increasing your employability in the future or maintain the contact with the healthcare environment, it is mandatory for you to apply for consent to the BITRECS Programme manager. If you are allowed to perform this activity, it cannot be a cause for not accomplishing with the obligations linked to the BITRECS fellowship.

11. Which is the minimum scientific publication record to apply for BITRECS?

To be eligible, you must be the main author (first, last or corresponding) of an original article with impact in a specific research area.

12. How do I apply?

Applications need to be presented via email: bitreCS@recerca.clinic.cat

You need to attach the following documentation:

- Application form duly completed by the applicant (template on the website)
- Research proposal (template on the website)
A 36-month research proposal fitting in one of the BITRECS research lines.
- Motivation letter. Indicating the motivation to join the selected research project.
- Two reference letters.
- English level certificate
- University degree
- PhD diploma
- Clinical residency diploma or equivalent
- Accrediting documentation of the merits presented and the required qualification.
- The application must include also **signed authorization in reference to personal data protection law** -European Regulation (UE) 2016/679 (document on the website)

13. How many applications can be submitted?

One application per call and per person can be submitted.

14. What type of research can I propose?

BITRECS is a fellowship programme for clinician-scientists at postdoctoral level in the field of biomedicine. The programme is aligned to the research freedom principle. This means the candidate can design a research proposal focused on any topic. However, it is mandatory to fit this proposal into an IDIBAPS research line.

15. How do I design my research project?

You freely choose your research project. But you should:

- Fit this research into one of the proposed IDIBAPS research lines
- Get in touch with the corresponding PI so he/she can help you with the design of your proposal. This is not mandatory but we strongly recommend you to do so.

18. How can I contact with the IDIBAPS PI?

In the application section of the [IDIBAPS website](#), you will find the research lines. All of them include the email of the PI who will be in charge of supervising the fellow in case he/she is selected. At application stage, this person will be available to help you with the design of the research project.

19. Is it possible to update my application after the call deadline?

No, modifications concerning the information included in the forms will not be accepted after the call deadline.

20. Is it possible to submit additional material after the call deadline?

Yes, if some of the required documents are missing at the time of the call closing date, you will be considered as ineligible in a provisional way. In that case, you will be given one week to provide us with the missing documents through email. Once these documents are validated, if correct, you will be considered eligible.

21. Which communications will I receive along the selection process?

After the eligibility checking the candidates will be informed if they accomplish with the criteria. After the remote phase they will be informed if they move to the next step. After the face-to-face interview they will be informed if they are being offered a fellowship.

22. When and how the results of the calls will be communicated?

The final decision for those of you who are selected will be made in May 2024 by e-mail. Additionally, the resolutions of the calls will be published in the IDIBAPS website, BITRECS section.

23. Which is the timeline of the process for accepting the fellowship?

Candidates being offered the grant should actively accept the offer within 15 working days. Otherwise, reserve list candidates may be contacted. It is expected the candidate to start within 1-3 months, although exceptions may be considered.

24. How many fellowships are available?

The program will fund a total of 1 fellowship.

25. What is the duration of the fellowship?

The program proposes a 3-year duration full-time contract.

29. When should the fellowship start?

You can start immediately the preparation of formal issues (work permits, visa etc.) after you have received the appointment for the grant. It is expected you to start from 1 to 3 months although some exceptions can be accepted if justified.

30. Which are the conditions?

BITRECS fellow will be placed within the host group chosen during the application process. The working contract will be between IDIBAPS and the fellow whereas the specific working conditions of IDIBAPS.

Funding for the fellow:

- The salary will be covered by the BITRECS fellowship. The gross salary will be approximately 55.000€ per year
- Additional amount for lectures, courses, and travel (6.000€) is also covered by the fellowship
- The costs of recruitment and expiration of the contract will be covered by the institution. And the rest of the costs will be assumed by the research group

Additionally, from IDIBAPS:

- Training programs in specific scientific topics (seminars) and topics of general interest (Stepping-Stone, Toolbox)
- Support in the dissemination of the research results

From the research group: participation in training and networking activities with other researchers with similar professional profiles.

31. Can the BITRECS fellowship be prolonged?

BITRECS offers a fixed-term fellowship of 36 months. In case a parental or sick leave over 3 months is taken during the fellowship, an extension may be added at the end of the contract for the relevant number of days.

33. How do I know about the state of my application?

Applicants will be informed on the progress at all stages of the process by the BITRECS Programme Manager. The candidates being assessed in the remote evaluation phase and the face-to-face interview phase will receive e-mail communications informing about their status in the process. They can ask more details at any stage through writing an e-mail to bitrecs@recerca.clinic.cat