



INTERCEPT-MDS



# INTERCEPT-MDS INTERNATIONAL PhD FELLOWSHIPS



12 full-time PhD positions

**HOST INSTITUTIONS:**

- Josep Carreras Leukaemia Research Institute. Spain > Badalona
- Erasmus Medical Center. The Netherlands > Rotterdam
- Klinikum rechts der Isar der TU München. Germany > Munich
- Institut national de la sante et de la recherche medicale. France > Paris
- Veterinärmedizinische Universität Wien. Austria > Vienna
- Università degli Studi di Firenze. Italy > Florence
- Institute for Tumor Biology and Experimental Therapy, Georg-Speyer-Haus. Germany > Frankfurt
- MLL Munich Leukemia Laboratory. Germany > Munich
- University of Bergen. Norway > Bergen
- BioBam Bioinformatics. Spain > Valencia

**RESEARCH PROFILE: First Stage Researcher (R1<sup>1</sup>)**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE: 23 February 2021**

**EU RESEARCH FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME: HORIZON 2020**

**MARIE SKOLODOWSKA CURIE GRANT AGREEMENT NUMBER: 953407**



<sup>1</sup> First Stage Researcher (R1) PhD candidate or equivalent. Early stage researcher with less than 4 years FTE research experience.

## **About the INTERCEPT-MDS network**

The **INTERCEPT-MDS** network will train Europe's first experts in the novel field of disease interception. Through an international call and open recruitment procedure, we will recruit 12 PhD candidates to carry out specific projects under the supervision of a Principal Investigator within one of the 10 world-leading European host institutions from the network. Our future fellows will be enrolled in a PhD programme and will receive an outstanding and tailored training designed specifically for them. In addition to the training offered by the university, supervisors and host institutions, the PhD candidates will also carry out secondments in other European institutions within the network to provide the needed interactions to achieve research and training excellence, and improve the future career perspectives of our PhD fellows. The embedding within the INTERCEPT-MDS network's experts and experienced trainers from two sectors (academia and industry) and two research environments (clinical and basic) offers a unique multidisciplinary and multisectoral training opportunity in the emerging field of disease interception within the health sciences.

### **Scientific project**

Disease interception is a novel concept referring to the treatment of a disease before it fully develops by removing altered cells. To make disease cell interception a reality, researchers need to overcome two key challenges: First, to identify a few altered disease cells among many healthy ones. Second, the development of strategies that allow the specific targeting of malignant cells without affecting healthy cells. INTERCEPT-MDS will approach these challenges using myeloid diseases as a suitable paradigm for clonally evolving diseases and several innovative research tools, aiming at improving the diagnostics and treatment of haematological malignancies and other cancers. The highly complementary composition of the INTERCEPT-MDS network will provide all the key expertise and infrastructure to support the scientific excellence of our PhD candidates, and the transfer of knowledge is guaranteed through shared training.

### **Eligibility criteria:**

We welcome applications from PhD candidates from any country fulfilling the following criteria:

- Eligible candidates must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of their host institution for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to their recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract).
- Eligible candidates shall at the date of recruitment by the host institution (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract/equivalent direct contract), be in the first 4 years (full-time equivalent research experience) of their research careers and not have been awarded a doctoral degree.
- Eligible candidates must have a master's degree relevant for the chosen position (including biology, medicine, biochemistry, bioinformatics or a related discipline, depending on each PhD project) or its equivalent that would entitle them to a doctorate by July 2021, or must hold an official university qualification from a country of the European Higher Education Area with a minimum of 300 ECTs of official university studies.

Successful candidates must have a high level of proficiency in written and spoken English, which will be assessed with the motivation letter and the interview, respectively.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

### **Application and selection process**

The application will be done through an online application platform to be found on the INTERCEPT-MDS website: [www.intercept-mds.eu](http://www.intercept-mds.eu). Applications must be in English. Each applicant may apply to a **maximum of three individual research projects**.

Eligible applications will be ranked on the basis of CVs and merits by a selection committee. The 3 best candidates for each position will be invited to a recruitment workshop in April 2021 (date to be confirmed) where the final candidates will be selected.

Applicants with a positive evaluation but not selected will be included on a reserve list to cover eventual future positions and might be contacted at a later stage.

### **Timeline**

- Application deadline: 23 February 2021
- Announcement of preselection results and call for interviews: 31 March 2021
- Recruitment workshop: Short-listed candidates will be interviewed at the end of April 2021 (date to be confirmed). Owing to the current situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we anticipate the possibility of conducting interviews in a virtual format. Full details regarding the interview process will be sent to invited candidates during the arrangement of interviews.
- Communication of the final results: 7 May 2021
- Tentative start of the fellowship: Between July and October 2021

### **Benefits**

- 3-year full-time employment contract (salary depends on the country of the recruitment considering both the local and MSCA regulations for Early Stage Researchers and their family status at the time of the recruitment).
- Enrolment in a PhD programme.
- Shared research and innovative multidisciplinary and multisectoral training by experts and experienced trainers from two sectors (academia and industry) and two research environments (clinic and basic).
- A structured training programme consisting of soft skill courses, targeted workshops, retreats, social events and networking.
- Secondments at other institutions within the INTERCEPT-MDS consortium.
- Gaining experience abroad.
- Opportunities for participation in national and international meetings.
- Enlarged professional network and improved future scientific career perspective in academia and the private sector.

For further information on the INTERCEPT-MDS ITN and the application process, please visit [www.intercept-mds.eu](http://www.intercept-mds.eu).

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