



## **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions-COFUND Doctoral Fellowships, "BIOTIN" Open Call-2**

### **Biomedical Technologies and Innovation (BIOTIN) Doctoral Programme**

BIOTIN doctoral programme features an international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral approach to provide **10 doctoral candidates (DCs)** a unique blend of research training skills in the convergence of **life sciences, engineering and entrepreneurship skills**, with the aim of advancing **innovation in biomedical and bioengineering fields**.

The programme will be a unique educational experience immersing DCs in courses and trainings on entrepreneurship at the early stages of their curriculum, and on data science and computing, in addition to classical biomedical and bioengineering curricula. All DCs will also be on research and industrial secondments at associated partner organizations in Europe and beyond.

DCs will be enrolled in a doctoral program of one of the host institutions of BIOTIN and will implement the PhD project with the aim of obtaining their doctoral degree. In this call, BIOTIN offers 17 PhD Projects for 9 fellowships. The details of the offered projects can be found at <https://biotinhub.com/en/for-applications>. The projects address the challenges in three intertwined themes of biomedical and bioengineering research: (1) **drug development**, (2) **diagnosis** and (3) **tissue engineering and artificial organs**.

### **Host Institutions**

BIOTIN is coordinated by Izmir Institute of Technology (IZTECH) in collaboration with two partner organisations: Boğaziçi University (BOUN) and Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center (IBG). IZTECH, IBG and BOUN are located in two major cities of Türkiye, Izmir and İstanbul. DCs will be enrolled in a doctoral program of one of these host institutions.

Izmir Institute of Technology (IZTECH) <https://en.iyte.edu.tr/>

Boğaziçi University (BOUN) <https://www.boun.edu.tr/>

Izmir Biomedicine and Genome Center <https://www.ibg.edu.tr/>

In addition to the above-given recruiting institutions, 28 associated partner organizations including 17 academic and 11 non-academic organizations will contribute to the programme. List of all associated partner organizations can be found at [www.biotinhub.com](http://www.biotinhub.com)

### **How to apply?**

**All applications must be submitted using the online portal at <https://biotinhub.com>**

### **When to apply?**

**Call Opening: 30 November 2023**

**Application Deadline: 30 December 2023, 17:00 CET**

With this call, 9 successful applicants will begin their doctoral programme at the start of the academic year 2024-2025, i.e. October 2024.

## Eligibility

Citizens of all nationalities can apply as long as they satisfy the following eligibility conditions:

**1. Mobility rule:** At the time of the deadline for submission of applications, researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in Türkiye for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the reference date. Compulsory national service and/or short stays such as holidays are not taken into account.

**2. Master's degree:** Eligible candidates must be, at the time of recruitment, in possession of a master degree or equivalent degree (certificate available at the time of application) in one of the following areas: all engineering branches, natural sciences (i.e. chemistry, physics, biology, maths), medicine, data science or closely related fields.

**3. Early-stage researcher status:** At the call deadline, applicants must not be in possession of a doctoral degree. Researchers who have successfully defended their doctoral thesis but who have not yet formally been awarded the doctoral degree will not be considered eligible.

**4. English language:** The candidate must have an excellent proficiency of the English language according to the TOEFL (iBT) test or alternative tests PTE, YDS, e-YDS, YOKDIL, CPE or CAE (received within 5 years if the validity period is not specified on the document). The score should satisfy the following criteria: TOEFL/iBT  $\geq 84$  (received within 2 years), PTE  $\geq 71$ , YDS/e-YDS/YOKDIL  $\geq 70$ , CPE  $\geq C$  or CAE  $\geq B$ .

Applicants who have completed their degree in a program conducted fully in English could provide, at the application stage, a certificate/letter from university that awarded undergraduate or postgraduate degree stating that the degree of the candidate (obtained within 3 years) is conducted fully in English.

Applicants, whose mother language is English will not be required to provide English proficiency document at the application stage. Applicants who cannot provide any of the English proficiency documents stated above by the application deadline are still eligible to apply.

All applicants, if they are accepted to the BIOTIN program, must submit their TOEFL (iBT) test or alternative test score before the registration deadline of PhD programs.

The successful applicants who cannot provide the English proficiency score before the registration deadline will be dismissed from BIOTIN program.

**5. GRE score:** Applicants must have minimum GRE quantitative score required by the project to which they apply (received within 5 years). Applicants who cannot provide a valid GRE score document by the application deadline are still eligible to apply, however those applicants, if they are accepted to BIOTIN program, must submit their GRE score document before the registration deadline to the PhD program. The successful applicants who cannot provide the required GRE score document before the registration deadline will be dismissed from BIOTIN program. The minimum GRE score requirements of each BIOTIN PhD project can be found at <https://biotinhub.com/en/for-applications>

## Selection Procedure

1<sup>st</sup> step: Eligibility check of applications.

2<sup>nd</sup> step: Applicants will be ranked by an External Expert-Review Panel on the basis of their academic excellence, extra-curriculum skills, research capability and motivation.

3<sup>rd</sup> step: The 30 best-ranked applicants will be invited for online interviews.

4<sup>th</sup> step: A 30' online interview will be conducted.

5<sup>th</sup> step: Top 9 applicants will be assigned to one of their top five project choices, with priority given to applicants with higher marks.

## **Employment Conditions**

### **Full time contract (48 months)**

**Living and mobility allowance:** gross salary of €2.800/month for 48 months; covering DCs' all expenses linked to their living and mobility (i.e. income tax, social security coverage including benefits for health care, occupational accident, unemployment and disablement benefits, paid parental and sick leave as well as relocation and travel expenses). Please note that all these expenses based on Turkish income and social security laws can reach up to 50% of total gross salary depending on cumulative income in related year. Compared to many European countries, cost of living in Türkiye is more affordable, as estimated monthly costs are around 1500€ for a family of four including the rental fee of a 3-bedroom flat. Please check application guide for details of Turkish tax system, net salary calculation and living conditions in Türkiye.

**Family allowance:** €50/month for 48 months for BIOTIN DCs with family obligations at the time of recruitment.

**Research, training and networking allowance:** DCs will receive additional financial support to cover research related costs such as laboratory analyses and consumables. The funding will be managed by the project management team in coordination with project supervisors.

**Special needs allowance:** BIOTIN will provide additional support for researchers with disabilities to ensure necessary assistance by third persons or for adapting their work environment.

### **Secondments**

BIOTIN DCs will be engaged in at least one research secondment for 6 months at an international academic institution, and at least one short-visit or training at an industry partner among the associated partner organizations of BIOTIN. The list of associated partner organizations involved in BIOTIN programme can be found at <http://www.biotinhub.com>.

**Discover more on the BIOTIN webpage:** <https://biotinhub.com>

**Contact via email:** [biotin@iyte.edu.tr](mailto:biotin@iyte.edu.tr)