

## **SEVERO OCHOA INTERNATIONAL MOBILITY PROGRAM (2024-2028)**

CREAF researchers have strong active collaborations with research groups from all over the world. Enhancing existing networks of international research collaborations between CREAM staff and renowned researchers of other leading research institutions is an outstanding objective of CREAM's scientific strategy. CREAM internationalization actions are promoted to enhance the growth of this network of international contacts and to place the center as a reference for terrestrial ecology and global change at the international level.

Mobility plays a key role in research training and development. Therefore, the presence of foreign researchers at the center, as well as the mobility of CREAM researchers to the best institutions worldwide is essential in this strategy of expanding the network of international and multidisciplinary institutions linked to CREAM.

In the framework of the Severo Ochoa award, CREAM offers three international mobility programs:

- We offer a **Visitor Program** inviting outstanding researchers from international institutions to stay at CREAM from 1 to 3 months.
- We also offer a **Sabbatical Program** for researchers who are on sabbatical so that they can join CREAM.
- We have also created an **Internal Mobility Program** for facilitating stays abroad for early-career CREAM research staff.

### **Visitor Program for external outstanding researchers**

This program establishes a system of funds for foreign researchers with established careers to visit CREAM by offering fellowships to collaborate with CREAM staff. The main goals of the program are to promote knowledge exchange with external researchers and to expand the international network of research collaborators of CREAM.

#### **Conditions**

Each visitor will stay at CREAM from 1 to 3 months unless exceptional circumstances apply. The visiting scientist will have access to all CREAM facilities as well as to the training and networking opportunities offered by the center. In each case, CREAM will provide its selected visitors with office and laboratory space and the assistance of all support staff. Support on legal and administrative matters, including administrative formalities such as visa request, information on housing and schools, medical insurances and others, will also be offered to visitors.

During their stay, each visitor will give a seminar (CREAFTalk) to the whole CREAM community and develop mentoring activities with junior researchers.

CREAF will co-fund visitor's stays. Visiting researchers will receive € 1,500 per month (€50/day) for accommodation and subsistence expenses (or the proportional part for the corresponding days if in the month of beginning and end they does not cover the entire month) and up to €1,500 for travel expenses. They will only be entitled to receive the corresponding amount for travel expenses that are properly justified and documented to CREAM, under the required terms.

### **Application**

Interested applicants should first contact a potential CREAM host researcher to discuss mutual research interests. The applicants will then send to the electronic address below the following application form (**Annex 1**) including: the duration of the visit, the CREAM researcher/s who will be hosting the visit, a short CV and a description of the research proposal for the stay.

**Contact person:** Maria José Broncano ([mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat](mailto:mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat)).

### **Calendar**

The candidates can send their application at any time throughout the year, the call for applications is permanently open. Candidates will be selected in November 2024, 2025, and 2026 from the proposals submitted up to that point. Once the researcher has been selected, the grant will be executed within the next 12 months. The stay can begin one month after the grant is awarded.

### **Selection process**

A gender balanced committee of researchers from CREAM will evaluate all the proposals and select those that will be funded. The selection committee and criteria will be made public in the CREAM website. The applications will be selected based on the merits of the candidate, the relevance of the project and the program of activities that he/she wants to develop during his/her stay, giving preference to consolidated researchers

## Sabbatical Program for external researchers on sabbatical

This program establishes a system to host prestigious researchers who are on sabbatical and aim to spend a few months at CREAM. The main goals of the program are to promote knowledge exchange with external researchers on sabbatical and to expand the international network of research collaborators of CREAM.

### Conditions

Each sabbatical visitor will stay at CREAM from at least two months, unless exceptional circumstances apply. The scientists on sabbatical will have access to all CREAM facilities as well as to the training and networking opportunities offered by the center. In each case, CREAM will provide its sabbatical visitors with office and laboratory space and the assistance of all support staff. Support on legal and administrative matters, including administrative formalities such as visa request, information on housing and schools, medical insurances and others, will also be offered to visitors.

During their stay, each visitor will give a seminar (CREAFTalk) to the whole CREAM community, will carry out periodical meetings with senior researchers to search for collaboration opportunities and will develop mentoring activities with junior researchers.

CREAM will co-fund sabbatical stays. Sabbatical researchers will receive up to € 1,000 for relocation expenses and up to a maximum of € 1,500 for travel expenses.

The beneficiary will only have the right to receive the amount corresponding to the travel and relocation expenses that he duly justifies and accredits to CREAM, in the terms that are required.

### Application

Interested applicants should first contact a potential CREAM host researchers to discuss mutual research interests. The applicants will then send to the electronic address below the following application form (**Annex 1**) including: the duration of the visit, the CREAM researcher/s who will be hosting the visit, a short CV and a description of the research proposal for the stay.

Contact person: Maria José Broncano ([mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat](mailto:mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat)).

### Calendar

The candidates can send their application at any time throughout the year, the call for applications is permanently open. The stay can begin one month after the grant is awarded.

## Internal Mobility Program promoting international exchange of early-career CREAM research staff

CREAF promotes an Internal Mobility Program for early-career CREAM research staff (i.e., without a permanent position but with the title of doctor), for carrying out research stays abroad at top-level international research institutions. This will facilitate sustained collaboration with other research groups and increase the links between CREAM and foreign researches and institutions.

### Conditions

The duration of the stay will be from one to 3 months unless exceptional circumstances apply. Visiting researchers will receive a monthly aid for accommodation and maintenance expenses of 1,950 euros per month (€65/day), or the proportional part for the corresponding days if in the month of beginning and end they do not stay in the center during the whole month.

In accordance with the provisions of article 7.j) of Law 35/2006, of November 28, on the “Impuesto sobre la Renta de las Personas Físicas y de modificación parcial de las leyes de los Impuestos sobre Sociedades, sobre la Renta de los no Residentes y sobre el Patrimonio”, this amount will be exempt under the terms established in Royal Decree 439/2007, of March 30, which approves the Regulation of the Tax on the Income of Physical Persons and modifies the Regulation of Pension Plans and Funds, approved by Royal Decree 304/2004, of February 20.

The beneficiary will also receive up to a maximum of € 1,500 for travel expenses. He/she will only be entitled to receive the amount corresponding to travel expenses that is duly justified and accredited to CREAM, in the terms that are required. For trips outside the EU or to countries with different healthcare systems, CREAM will contract a private medical insurance policy, which will be deducted from the €1,500 allocated for travel expenses.

At the end of the visit, the CREAM researcher must submit a certification of the stay issued by the host R&D center, in addition to offering a seminar at CREAM about their experience.

### Application

Interested applicants will send an application to the electronic address below including: their CV; and a letter of a maximum of 1000 words describing the hosting institution and the research proposal for the visit.

The applicants will then send to the electronic address below the following application form (**Annex 1**) including: the duration of the stay, the researcher/s who will be hosting the visit at the host institution, a short CV and a description of the hosting institution and the research proposal for the stay.

Contact person: Maria José Broncano ([mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat](mailto:mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat)).



## **Calendar**

The candidates can send their application at any time throughout the year, the call for applications is permanently open. Candidates will be selected in November 2024, 2025, and 2026 from the proposals submitted up to that point. Once the researcher has been selected, the grant will be executed within the next 12 months. The stay can begin one month after the grant is awarded.

## **Selection process**

A committee of Severo Ochoa researchers from CREAM that will be gender balanced will evaluate all the proposals and select those that will be funded. The selection committee and criteria will be made public in the CREAM website. The applications will be selected based on the merits of the candidate, the relevance of the project and the program of activities that he/she wants to develop during his/her stay and the expected results of the collaboration with the destination center.

## **EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

The evaluation committee will be created once all the proposals from each call have been received (thus avoiding possible conflicts of interest).

It will be composed of Principal Investigators (PIs) from the four CREAM research areas plus one member of the center's scientific coordination and one of the center's technical coordination.

The selection of the IPs will be made by lottery and once the IP has participated, it will not be included in the draw for the following call.

The Committee will consider the gender balance and half of the people will be women. Now, the scientific coordinator (and not IP) is already part of this balance sheet and the other woman will be selected by lottery from among CREAM women IPs.

The draw will take place in two phases: 1) first the draw will be made among the center's female researchers and 2) a second draw will be made among the researchers from the 3 areas of knowledge to which the selected researcher does not belong.

## **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

To avoid conflicts of interest, the recipient of an applicant will not be able to participate in their assessment within the Mobility Program.

In addition, if the selected IP has a direct personal or professional relationship with the applicant that may affect his/her ability to undertake the assessment in an objective and unbiased way, he/she should decline participating in the Committee.

## **VISITORS AND SABBATICALS**

If the number of accepted applicant visitors exceeds the available budget, the option of reducing the months of stay can be considered so that they can all enter the Program.

## **WELCOME PROTOCOL**

The CREAM will give visitors a welcome protocol with the information required for their installation in the country.

Bellaterra,  
October 21, 2024



Joaquim Escobar, Manager

## Annex 1

### SEVERO OCHOA MOBILITY PROGRAM FOR EXTERNAL OUTSTANDING RESEARCHERS

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#### APPLICATION FORM

Applications should be sent to [mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat](mailto:mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat) together with a **CV** of the candidate.

**Name:**

**Position:**

**Contact details:**

**Hosting researcher at CREAM:**

**Duration of the stay (tentative)**

Start date:

End date:

**Short CV and merits (5 pages maximum):**

**Research proposal for the stay at CREAM (1 page maximum):**

**SEVERO OCHOA MOBILITY PROGRAM  
FOR EXTERNAL RESEARCHERS ON SABBATICAL**

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APPLICATION FORM

Applications should be sent to [mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat](mailto:mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat) together with a **CV** of the candidate.

**Name:**

**Position:**

**Contact details:**

**Hosting researcher at CREAM:**

**Duration of the stay (tentative)**

Start date:

End date:

**Short CV and merits (5 pages maximum):**

**Research proposal for the stay at CREAM (1 page maximum):**



**SEVERO OCHOA MOBILITY PROGRAM  
FOR EARLY-CAREER CREAM RESEARCH STAFF**

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APPLICATION FORM

Applications should be sent to [mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat](mailto:mj.broncano@creaf.uab.cat) together with a **CV** of the candidate.

**Name:**

**Position:**

**Contact details:**

**Hosting researcher at the destination institution:**

**Duration of the stay (tentative)**

Start date:

End date:

**Short CV and merits (5 pages maximum):**

**Hosting institution and research proposal for the visit (1 page maximum):**