

## PhD candidate position on directed evolution of smart protein therapeutics

### The ChemSynBio Group

At ChemSynBio ([www.chemsynbio.iqs.edu](http://www.chemsynbio.iqs.edu)), we harness chemical and synthetic biology to create biomedical tools, especially to treat brain diseases and to understand brain transport.

### The Project

Recent advances have positioned **extracellular targeted protein degradation** as a powerful new therapeutic approach, with several candidates already progressing through clinical trials and substantial potential for further innovation. In this project, **supported by the MICIU and “la Caixa” Foundation**, we aim to establish a novel platform for the development of **smart protein degraders** that exhibit enhanced selectivity and improved degradation efficiency, with a particular focus on the treatment of brain tumors. The work is highly **interdisciplinary, integrating directed evolution, bioconjugation, and proteomics with cell-based assays and in vivo efficacy studies in mouse models**. The selected candidate will contribute to all phases of the project, with an emphasis on protein development and cellular experimentation.

### Expected Tasks

- Contribution to **research excellence** at all stages: literature review, experimental design, experimentation, data analysis, and proposal of new research directions.
- **Collaboration** with other researchers and contribution to an **inspiring atmosphere**.
- **Presentation** of results and contribution to preparing reports and scientific **publications**.
- Engagement in **laboratory management** and **team activities**.
- **Training** in technical and horizontal skills. **Student supervision** and training.

### Your Profile

- Requirement: **master’s degree**. Background in biotechnology, chemistry, or related.
- Optional experience: phage display, protein engineering, bioconjugation, cell culture.
- **Strong motivation and proactivity**. Excellent academic record.
- Excellent **team-working capacity**, communication skills, and fluency in **English**.

### Contract Conditions

- Three years of funding guaranteed. **Gross salary: 23,871.70€**
- **Training** opportunities, close supervision, and space for creativity.
- Expenses derived from research stays, PhD tuition fees.
- Proposed starting date (flexible): **September 2026**.

### Applications are welcome until the candidate is selected

- Applications should be addressed to Dr. Benjamí Oller-Salvia ([benjami.oller@iqs.url.edu](mailto:benjami.oller@iqs.url.edu)) and Dr. Cristina Díaz-Perlas ([cristina.diaz@iqs.url.edu](mailto:cristina.diaz@iqs.url.edu)).
- Please include “**DESPT PhD – Your Name**” in the subject of your email.
- The following documents should be combined as a **single pdf** with your name:
  - **Motivation letter** explaining why you would be a good fit for the position and our team.
  - **Curriculum Vitae**.
  - Master’s and Bachelor’s **academic records**.
  - Contact details of two **referees**. Reference letters are valued but not compulsory.