

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why should I choose **Mcib** over other masters?

Mcib is different from traditional masters. It is not a mere succession of theoretical classes attended by passive students and complemented with a few practical sessions. Rather, it aims to provide the student an **integral training** in the Molecular and Cellular Biology realm, involving:

- The theoretical formation in a diversity of scientific disciplines;
- Joint critical discussion of articles;
- Participation in workshops;
- Incorporation into the day-to-day laboratory routine through rotations in various groups;
- Intense training in scientific writing & oral presentation, entrepreneurship and dissemination;
- And, above all, a personalized support by a dedicated, first-rate faculty - the ratio professor:student is one of the highest you may find.

Moreover, although one of the most cost-effective masters in Spain, **Mcib** is organized by very prestigious institutions such as the **Menéndez Pelayo International University (UIMP)** and the **Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)**. This creates a particularly attractive environment that not only ensures the direct contact with worldwide renowned CSIC scientists, but also allows the discovery of a wide set of international interactions through a panoply of networks in which they participate (European projects, international training networks for predoctoral students, etc...).

I have seen the program. There is too much structure (or biomedicine, or biotechnology, or molecular biology) for my taste.

At this point in your career you should not be too restrained. It's better to have a broad vision of the whole field before deciding where to specialize in. Besides, all disciplines are interlinked in a way or another. Having a strong basis in all fields provide you with unvaluable tools to tackle any biological problem with a **wide, multidisciplinary perspective**.

Most masters last for one year and they give me the 60 credits I need to start my doctorate in Spain (I already have 240 credits from my degree). However, **Mcib** will give me 90 credits and lasts for one and a half years. I do not need so many credits and I do not want to wait for so long to begin my Ph.D. Isn't that a disadvantage?

Not at all! **Mcib** is structured in 60 credits (first year) plus 30 credits (second year), the latter representing the Master Research Project ("Trabajo fin de máster" or TFM). This means that, **right after you complete them, you may use the first 60 credits to register in any doctorate program** and begin your doctorate simultaneously with your TFM. This is, **you do not need to finish Mcib completely to begin your Ph.D.** In addition, having a 90 credit masters will qualify you to do a Ph.D. in **other European countries**, such as Germany.

Mcib TFM's are expected to last for about one year. This is longer than other masters. Isn't it a bit excessive?

Mcib does not consider TFM's as a mere formality. On the contrary, it constitutes the most important part of the master. In fact, TFM is seen as a serious introduction to research within a prestigious laboratory, so that the student will become a truly member of the group and will acquire, at the end of the stay, a high level of research independence. On this basis, **the aim of Mcib** is that the **TFM leads to at least one published work in a relevant scientific journal, in which the student displays a prominent role, thus adding a special value to the purely theoretical training.** Based on previous experiences, it is considered that a 1-year period is optimal to tackle this goal.

Most classes are in English. This seems a bit nonsense, especially if most students are Spanish. This adds some unnecessary difficulty.

First of all, to ensure that knowledge transmission is not compromised, only professors with a minimum level of English will lecture in this language. In any case, we cannot overlook the fact that **English is the language of Science.** Scientific articles, congresses, meetings, workshops, courses...English is the tool that allows world scientists to communicate. Therefore, the earlier the student confronts this fact, the better for his/her training will be. **Mcib** considers that the humanistic formation of the student in aspects that surround the purely scientific contents is equally important.

I understand everything above and agree that the objectives of **Mcib** are high-level, but it seems a lot of work, and I know that other masters are easier to attend. After all, I only want to get away with my 60 credits...

Mcib is aimed to students with a scientific ambition. "You reap what you sow" means, in this case, that invested effort will be unvaluable to prepare the **Mcib** student **to succeed** in her/his scientific career. At your age, you should not be afraid to work hard, but instead feel **strongly motivated** to get involved in Molecular Biology at the deepest level. The faculty will be there to help you advance step by step.

Where are the **Mcib** graduates now?

Despite the youth of the Master (only one promotion has finished), our students have more than **fulfilled our expectations.** Most of them (more than 80% of the total) are carrying out their **Ph.D. in highly recognized research centers both in Spain** (CIB-CSIC, CNIC, CNIO, CBPG, Navarrabiomed) **and abroad** (Germany: Max Planck Inst. Biochemistry, Martinsried; Inst. Immunology, Univ. Münster; Universitätsklinikum Würzburg; Austria: TU-Wien; The Netherlands: Univ. Groningen) and having even published in prestigious journals. The fact that another student is currently working at the biotech company Bioncotech demonstrates the **technology transfer potential** of **Mcib.**