

CALL FOR RESEARCH GRANTS

29/ECUM/CFUM /2024 - UIDB/04650/2020

Title: Scientific Initiation Scholarship, 7 vacancies

A call is open for the award of 7 (seven) Scientific Initiation Scholarships (BIC), within the scope of ongoing research activities, in Research Line No. 3: "*Functional and smart materials and surfaces for advanced applications*", belonging to the Research Unit Center of Physics of Minho and Porto Universities, with the ref. UIDB/04650/2020, funded by FCT/MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC), under the following conditions.

Scientific Area: Physics, Physics Engineering or Materials Engineering

Category of recipients:

Research grants (BIC) are intended for R&D activities by students enrolled in a master's degree.

Scholarship Requirements:

- Candidates may apply without prior registration in the course for which the scholarship is open. The requirement to enrol in a degree or non-degree course will be verified on the date of contracting the scholarship.
- Only scholarships whose selected candidates present valid proof of enrolment in the degree conferring or non-degree course, according to the type of scholarship in competition, issued by the academic services of the Higher Education Institution, will be contracted, respectively with the indication of the current academic year or its duration (beginning and end).
- Enrolment in non-degree courses that have not been credited will not be considered as proof of enrolment.

Recipients' profile:

- Mandatory requirements: students enrolled in the first year of master's courses in Physics, Materials Science, Materials Engineering, or related areas.
- Requirements in the contracting phase:
Enrolment in a master's degree/Integrated Master's Degree in the area or area related to that requested in the public notice (proof of academic qualifications completed by the deadline for applications, including those resulting from academic degree recognition processes);
- Preferred factors: experience in the synthesis and production of functional materials, as well as in their characterization by advanced techniques.

Eligibility of candidates: Candidates must meet the eligibility conditions provided for in article 9 of the Regulation of Research Grants of FCT I.P. (2019).

Work plan and objectives to be achieved: It is intended that the fellows carry out research in Physics and/or Materials Sciences and Technologies within the scope of the research line "*Functional and smart materials for advanced applications*", preparing and studying materials in the form of ceramic materials, functional coatings, nanostructured materials, in order to obtain the physical and technological characteristics of these materials or participate in the development of devices for the preparation or study of materials. The study of materials may include simulations and computer modeling. Fellows will have the opportunity to become familiar with advanced techniques of synthesis, production and characterization of materials and/or their modeling.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI), approved by Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August, in the current wording published by Decree-Law No. 123/2019 of 28 August; Regulation of Research

Grants of the University of Minho, published in Diário da República, 2nd series, no. 119, order no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, rectified by declaration of rectification no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021 and Regulation of Research Grants, no. 950/2019 of 16-12-2019, of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force.

Host/contracting entity and scientific supervision: The work will be developed at the Center of Physics of the University of Minho, in Gualtar or Azurém, on an exclusive basis, and under the scientific supervision of an experienced PhD researcher, working under strategic line nº3: "*Functional and Smart Materials and Surfaces for Advanced Applications*".

Duration of the fellowship(s): The fellowship will have a maximum duration of 4 months, starting on September 1, 2024. The scholarship is not renewable.

Value of the monthly maintenance allowance: The amount of the SMM corresponds to 601.12 euros, according to the table of values of the FCT, I.P. grants in the country (Annex I – Table of monthly maintenance allowances of the Regulation of Research Grants of FCT I.P) and Annex II of the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Minho, published in Diário da República, 2nd series, no. 119, order no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, rectified by declaration of rectification no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, according to the applicable regulation.

Payment is made by the 23rd of each month, by transfer to the IBAN of the scholarship holder indicated in the contracting process.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security, corresponding to the 1st Bracket of the contribution base (*for scholarships with a duration of 6 months or more*) and Personal Accident Insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The performance of functions as a grant holder is exercised on an exclusive basis, under the terms provided for in article 5 of the Research Grant Holder Statute and applicable research grant regulations.

Composition of the Selection Jury:

- President: Luís Silvino Alves Marques, Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, School of Sciences, University of Minho.
- Effective Members: Luís Manuel Fernandes Rebouta, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Physics, School of Sciences, University of Minho; Pedro Libânio de Abreu Martins, Assistant Researcher, Physics Centre/Department, School of Sciences, University of Minho.
- Alternate Member: Carlos José de Macedo Tavares, Associate Professor with Aggregation, Department of Physics, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

In case of impediment of the President of the Jury, he will be replaced by the first effective member, and the alternate member will be appointed to replace the effective member.

Evaluation and selection criteria and procedures: The evaluation of applications will focus on the candidate's merit, applying the following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 1 to 5 values.

Candidate's merit - **MC** (100%):

- a) Academic path (which reflects the grades of academic degrees), with a weighting of 75%;
- b) Personal curriculum (which reflects the scientific and professional path), with a weighting of 25%;

The classification of the candidate's merit (MC) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\mathbf{MC=(a\times 0.75)+(b\times 0.25)}$$

The final classification (CF) of the Candidate's Merit (MC) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$CF = MC$$

Documents proving the ownership of academic degrees and diplomas, or their recognition when they have been awarded by foreign higher education institutions, may be waived at the application stage, being mandatorily replaced by a declaration of honour by the candidate, with this condition only being verified at the stage of contracting the scholarship. This declaration must attest to facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation delivered for the purpose of contracting a scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is found that the documents proving the ownership of the academic degree and diploma, or the respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of 16 August, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path and may, consequently, change the candidate's ranking, the contracting of the scholarship will not be effective.

Note: *Candidates with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the jury will assign a classification of "0" in the grade of the bachelor's and/or master's course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.*

Dissemination of results: The draft results of the evaluation, based on minutes, will be sent to the candidates by email, under the terms of article 12 of the FCT RBI and article 13 of the UMinho RBIC.

If the result is unfavourable to the granting of the requested grant, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to make their opinion, if they wish, in a prior hearing to the interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL no. 4/2015 of 7 January).

Complaint and appeal procedures: The results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list (*alphabetically, by final grade obtained*), posted in a visible and public place of the Reception Unit, as well as by email to all candidates, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes with the jury's deliberations.

The selected candidate must express in writing the intention to accept the scholarship. In case of non-acceptance, the scholarship will be awarded to the candidate in order of final ranking.

A complaint may be lodged against the final decision, within 15 working days, addressed to the President of the Jury. Interested parties may also submit an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, Professor Sandra Cristina Almeida Paiva.

Constitution of the selection reserve list: Candidates ranked in the following positions on the final ranking list of the competition are included in the selection reserve list, which can be used until 15/09/2024

Application deadline and form of submission of applications: The call is open for a period of 10 working days, counted from the date of publication of the notice on the Euraxess portal

Applications must be formalized, mandatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents: curriculum vitae; certificate of qualifications or declaration of the candidate; motivation letter; declaration proving that you meet the conditions for the type of scholarship, in accordance with the application requirements; other documents that are relevant to the evaluation process.

Applications must be sent by email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the reference **29/ECUM/CFUM/2024 - UIDB/04650/2020** in Subject. Applications sent by other means will not be accepted.

Contracting of the scholarship: The granting of the scholarship takes place through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship holder, in accordance with the draft contract (annex IV of the Regulation of Scientific Research Scholarships of the University of Minho – order no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, rectified through declaration of rectification no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021) in its updated version in accordance with point 2.4 of the "Rules for the Attribution and Management of Grants within the scope of R&D Projects, including infrastructure projects, the multiannual funding program for R&D units and other FCT funding instruments (Version 2021)".

After receiving all the documentation, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the scholarship contract. Once received by the scholarship holder, he must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days.

Grant contracts can only start after due authorization from the contracting entity.

Termination and cancellation of grant contracts: Without prejudice to the other causes provided for in the applicable grant regulations (FCT and UMinho) and in the Research Grant Holder Statute, the grant terminates with the conclusion of the contracted work plan, as well as with the end of the period for which it was awarded or renewed.

At the end of the fellowship, the grant holder is obliged to present the Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the scientific advisor, within 30 days after the end of the fellowship.

The **final report** must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the Regulation of Scientific Research Grants of the University of Minho – order no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, rectified through declaration of rectification no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021