

## **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**

**Research grant for Master's degree holders enrolled in non-degree course - 1 vacancy**

**Reference: 07/ECUM/CFUM/2025 – AuraProject**

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of one (1) grant of Masters enrolled in non-degree courses research fellowship within the scope of the I&D “UM/8357- Auraproject-Visual function, retinal activity and choroidal changes with different myopia control ophthalmic lenses in young adults”, ref<sup>a</sup> 07/ECUM/CFUM/2025 – AuraProject, or co-financed by Zhuhai Fitlens Medical Technology Co, under the following conditions:

**Scientific Area:** Optometry and Vision Sciences

**Recipient category:** Masters enrolled in a non-degree course.

**Requirement for granting the fellowship:**

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to enrol in a non-academic degree course will be verified on the date of contracting the fellowship;
- Only fellowships whose selected applicants present a valid proof of enrolment in a non-academic degree course will be contracted, indicating, respectively, the academic year or its duration (star and term).

**Profile:**

The following are eligible to apply for this competition:

- Nationals or citizens of other member states of the European Union;
- Citizens of third countries;
- Stateless persons;
- Citizens with political refugee status

**Candidate admissibility requirements:**

- a) Candidates must hold a Master's degree in Advanced Optometry or related areas at the time of application;
- b) be enrolled in a non-degree course;
- c) not be in receipt of a non-degree research grant for a cumulative period of 2 consecutive or interpolated years;
- d) proof of academic qualifications completed by the closing date for applications, including those resulting from academic degree recognition processes;
- e) Preference is given to candidates with some experience in research using visual electrophysiology techniques.

**Admissibility requirements:**

It is essential, under penalty of not being admitted to the competition, to attach the following documents to the application:

- The candidate's curriculum vitae;
- Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honor that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice by the application deadline (not applicable to research initiation grants);
- For degrees obtained abroad, the record of recognition of the academic degrees and record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale must be presented, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor (not applicable to research initiation grants);

**Applicants eligibility:** Applicants must comply with the eligibility conditions laid down in article 9 of the Research Grants Regulation of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2019).

**Workplan and objectives to be achieved:**

The aim of this research project is for the grant holder to work on the evaluation of ophthalmic lenses with different optical designs used to control the progression of myopia. Specifically, the grant holder will work on: reviewing scientific literature in the area; measuring visual function parameters such as visual acuity, visual sensitivity to contrast and light distortion; measuring and analyzing ocular biometric parameters; and evaluating the electrical activity of the retina using visual electrophysiology techniques. The ultimate goal will be to analyze and correlate changes in visual parameters and retinal electrical activity as a function of lens design. The candidate will be expected to prepare reports and collaborate in scientific dissemination activities, including any communication and/or publication of results

**Applicable legislation and regulations:** Research Fellowship Holder Statutes, approved by Law nº 40/2004 of August 18, in its current version published by Decree-Law nº 123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd serie, nº 119, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021 and Regulation of Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force.

**Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision:** The workplan will be carried out in the Physics Center of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho, under the scientific supervision of Professor José Manuel González Méijome and Professor Paulo Rodrigues Botelho Fernandes.

**Fellowship duration:** The grant will take place for a period of 9 months, with a provisional starting date on the March of 2025. The grant may be renewed depending on the implementation of the project and the applicable legislation.

**Amount of the research grant:** The value stipend (Monthly Maintenance Allowance) is 1259,64€/per month, in accordance with the stipends values published by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT I.P.) in the country (Annex I – Monthly Stipends Values for the maintenance

allowances of the [FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships](#)) and Annex II of the Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd serie, nº 119, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, according to the applicable regulation.

Payment is made on the 23st of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contractualization process.

**Other components of the research grant:** (define the other components of the research grants, in accordance with the nº 5 of the article 18º of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, nº 950/2019 of 16-12-2019 or article 21º of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), accordingly with the regulations applicable).

**Other benefits:** Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security (Social Security contributions), corresponding to the 1st level of discounts (*for research grants with a total duration 6 months or higher*) and personal accident insurance.

**Exclusivity regime:** The grantee will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

**Selection panel:** (identify the selection panel President and the effective and substitute members)

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.

President: Dr. Paulo Rodrigues Botelho Fernandes, Associate Professor in the Physics Department of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho

Effective Members: Dr. José Manuel González Méijome, Full Professor in the Physics Department of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho and Dr. António Manuel Marques Queirós Pereira, Associate Professor with Aggregation in the Physics Department of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho.

Substitute members: Dr. Jorge Manuel Martins Jorge, Associate Professor in the Physics Department of the University of Minho and Dr. Miguel António Faria Ribeiro, Assistant Professor in the Physics Department of the University of Minho;

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.

**Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection:** The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 1 to 5

**A. Curricular Assessment - CA (50%):**

A.1: Academic record (reflecting the classifications of academic degrees, according to the reference table), with a weighting of 50%;

A.2: Personal curriculum (reflecting the scientific and professional career), weighted at 50%;

**B. Research experience in the field of study - EI (40%):**

Research experience in the field of study will be assessed on the basis of the training and work carried out, in comparison with the planned work plan, namely the subject of the master's thesis, the techniques used to assess parameters of the visual system, including ocular biometry, corneal topography, refractive assessment, optical coherence tomography and especially experience with visual electrophysiology techniques, and the results of any presentations of work in monographs, conferences or scientific articles.

**C. Motivation letter and/or letter of recommendation - CM (10%).**

The **Curricular Assessment (CA)** score will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$AC=(A1\times0,5) + (A2\times0,5)$$

The candidate's **final classification (CF)** will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$CF= AC\times0,5 + EI\times0,4 + CM\times0,1$$

The academic degrees and diplomas documents, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions are not mandatory in the application phase, being replaced by a declaration of honor of the candidate with the contents of academic results. The documents of academic qualification or respective recognition will be required in the contracting phase and must attest facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If 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 August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path, which can change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship won't be contracted.

**Notes:** Applicants 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 selection panel will assign "0" in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

**Disclosure of results:** The evaluation results project, based in the selection panel minutes, will be sent to the applicants by email, in accordance with article 13 of UMinho's RBIC.

If case of unfavourable results, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in a prior hearing to interested parties, pursuant to articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL nº 4 / 2015 of January 7th).

**Complaint and appeal procedures:** The final 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 host unit, as well as by email to all applicants, enclosing for that purpose, the minutes of the jury deliberations.

The selected candidate must inform its willingness to accept the grant, in writing. In case of rejection, the fellowship will be awarded to the next candidate in the ordered list of applicants.

The final decision can be contested within 15 working days, by sending to the President of the jury the corresponding claim. Interested parties may also submit an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector with delegated competences in this area.

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

Applications must be formalized by sending an application letter with the following documents: curriculum vitae; qualifications certificate or declaration of the applicant; motivation letter; statement proving that meets the conditions for the grant typology, according to the application requirements; other documents important to the evaluation process).

Applications must be sent by email [bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt](mailto:bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt), indicating the reference of the call **07/ECUM/CFUM/2025 - AuraProject** for applications in Subject. Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

**Fellowship contractualization:** The fellowship will be attributed by signing a fellowship contract between the University of Minho and the fellow, accordingly with the contract minute (annex IV of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, nº 119*, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, as indicated in 2.4 of the FCT document: "[Rules for Granting and Management of Grants within the scope of R&D projects, including infrastructure projects, the multi-annual financing program for R&D units and other FCT financing instruments \(Version 2021\)](#)".

The contract may only be concluded after all the documentation required is collected, which must take place within a maximum period of 6 months including evidences of enrolment in non-conferring degree courses.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the scholarship contract. Once received, the fellow must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days.

The activities under the fellowship contract can only began after proper authorization by the contracting entity.

**Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts:** Without prejudice to the other causes provided the fellowship regulations (FCT and UMinho) and in the Statute of the Research Fellow, the fellowship ends with the completion of the work plan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed.

At the end of the fellowship, the grantee is obliged to present a 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 scholarship.

The **final report** must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the Scientific Research Fellowships Regulation of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, nº 119*, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.

**Note:** The information above required should be submitted in the Euraxess Portal, in the fields reserved for those purposes.

### **Declaration of Honor**

#### **Academic qualifications**

I, (full name), candidate for the vacancy for the award of a (type of scholarship), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. notice), declare on my honor that I have completed the academic degree of (academic degree), qualifying for the type of scholarship in the competition, namely the course (designation), by the (University conferring the degree), on the date XX/XX/XXXX, with a final average of XXXXX values on the YY scale.

As it is not possible for me to present proof of qualifications until the end of the competition, I declare that I undertake to present the aforementioned certificate at the conclusion of the scholarship contract, in the event that I am selected for the vacancy in the competition.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

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(full name)

NOTE: The declaration may only attest to facts that occurred prior to the application.

In the event of a discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purpose of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be taken into account.

### Declaration of Honor

I, (full name), bearer of identification document number (XXXX), candidate for a research grant (type of grant), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. call for proposals), declare on my honor that (I have not received any research grants to date / I have received the following research grants) under the Research Grant Holder Statute.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

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(full name)