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Announcement for
the attribution of 2
Research
Scholarships

UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO

Centro de Biologia Molecular e Ambiental (CBMA)

Announcement for the attribution of two Research Scholarships - BI/ATLÂNTIDA-CBMA/2021

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 2 (two) Research Fellowship for Master enrolled in a Non-Academic Degree Course within the scope of the R&D project "ATLANTIDA - platform for the monitoring of the north Atlantic ocean and tools for the sustainable exploitation of the marine resources", operation NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-000040, co-financed by NORTE2020 through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences

2. **Recipients:**

- Students with a Master's degree (preference will be given to candidates with a Master's degree in Biochemistry, Molecular Genetics or related fields (Scholarship 1), and to candidates with a Master's degree in Chemistry, Biophysics and Bionanosystems or related fields (Scholarship 2)
- Students enrolled or available to enrol in courses that do not confer an academic degree integrated in the educational project of the institution (UMinho), preferably.

3. **Eligibility of applicants:** applicants must meet the eligibility conditions established in article 9 of the FCT I.P Research Grant Regulation (2019).

4. **Work plan:**

The candidates will carry out R&D activities under the context of the project, aiming at the consolidation of their scientific training.

Particularly the candidates will perform the following tasks:

Work Plan Scholarship 1:

- The aim is to develop and optimise methods for marine biomass valorisation. Tasks will include the development and optimisation of mechanical pretreatment and enzyme based methods for the extraction of carbohydrates and prebiotics from marine biomass.

Work Plan Scholarship 2:

- The aim is to develop nanostructured materials from marine biomass. Tasks will include the green synthesis of metallic nanoparticles, their characterization by different techniques (e.g. advanced microscopy, spectroscopy techniques including FTIR), and cytotoxicity assessment using cultured mammalian cell lines.

5. **Applicable legislation and regulations:** Law No. 40/2004, of 18 August (Statute of Scientific Research Fellows); amended by Decree-Law 202/2012 of 27 August, by Law no. 12/2013 of 29

January 2013, by Decree-Law no. 89/2013, of 9 July, and by Decree-Law no.123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Research Scholarships of the University of Minho and the Foundation for Science and Technology I.P, in force. <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamentos.phtml.pt>.

6. **Host institution and scientific supervision:** The work will be developed at the Centre for Molecular and Environmental Biology, Campus de Gualtar-Braga, under the scientific guidance of: (Scholarship 1) Doctor James Anthony Collins and Doctor Andreia Gomes (Scholarship 2) Doctor Andreia Gomes and Doctor Raúl Machado.
7. **Duration of the Research Scholarship:** The research scholarships will last for 12 months, starting on January 2022.
8. **Monthly Maintenance Allowance:** The monthly maintenance allowance corresponds to the basic value of 1104.64 euros, according to the table of scholarships of FCT, I.P. in the country (Appendix I - Table of monthly maintenance allowances for the FCT I.P. Research Scholarship Regulation): <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>. **Other benefits:** Reimbursement of the Voluntary Social Insurance, corresponding to the 1st tier of the contribution base (for scholarships of 6 months or more) and Personal Accident Insurance. Payments are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the scholarship holder.
9. **Jury:** President: Andreia Gomes; Effective members: Paula Sampaio and Raúl Machado, Substitute members: James Anthony Collins and Ana Preto

If the President of the Jury is unavailable, she shall be replaced by the first effective member. The first substitute member will replace the effective member.

The Jury, including the President, undertake the commitment to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, of stating any potential situations of conflict of interest and confidentiality.

10. **Evaluation and Selection Process:** The evaluation of the applications will focus on the merit of the applicant (**CM**), by applying the following criteria on a scale of 1 to 5:

A. Candidates Merit (CM)

A.1: Academic path: final classification obtained in the Master's degree (**30%**)

A.2: Curriculum vitae, which reflects the personal, scientific and professional path, namely: (**70%**):

Work Plan Scholarship 1:

A1.a - Proven experience in protein science, namely enzymology, protein production and purification (**70%**);

A1.b - Proven experience in biomass analysis and treatment (**30%**);

Work Plan Scholarship 2:

A2.a - Proven experience in the use of characterization techniques and in the analysis of the results (**40%**);

A2.b - Proven experience in the synthesis of metallic nanoparticles (**30%**);

A2.c - Proven experience in animal cell culture (**30%**);

The candidates Merit (CM) classification will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$CM=(A1*0.3) + (A2*0.7)$$

Candidates classified in the first 4 positions, who obtain a minimum classification of 3.8 in the MC, will be admitted to the Interview stage, with the Jury proceeding to evaluate the following sub-criteria:

B. Interview – INT:

B.1: Relevance of candidate's skills and motivation to carry out the project tasks (40%)

B.2: Demonstrated expertise in the area of the contest (30%)

B.3: Linguistic competences: Spoken and written fluency in Portuguese and English (30%)

$$INT=(B1*0.4) + (B2*0.3) + (B3*0.3)$$

The final classification (FC) of the Candidate Merit (CM) and Interview (INT) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$FC = (CM*0.6) + (INT*0.4)$$

Documents proving the ownership of academic degrees and diplomas, or their respective recognition when foreign higher education institutions have awarded them may be dispensed with at the application stage, being replaced by a declaration of honor by the candidate, with the verification of this condition occurring only in phase of contracting the scholarship. This statement 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 the purpose of contracting a grant, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is verified 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 August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path and may, consequently, changing the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will not be contracted.

Note: 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 jury will assign the minimum grade in the grade of the degree and/or master's course, according to the defined scale of values. of a higher education institution, in the area or area related to that requested in notice.

11. **Communication of results:** The project evaluation results, based on the minutes, will be sent to candidates by email, within 90 working days after the deadline for submission of applications. If the result is unfavourable to the granting of the requested scholarship, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in the context of a prior hearing to interested parties, pursuant to articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL n° 4 /2015 of January 7th).
12. **Complaint and appeal procedures:** The final results of the evaluation will be publicized through an ordered list (alphabetically, by final grade obtained), by email to all candidates, attaching, for that purpose, the minutes with the deliberations of the jury. The selected candidate must state in writing their 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 filed against the final decision, within 15 working days, addressed to the President of the Jury. Interested parties may also present an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, Professor Dr. Filipe Vaz.
13. **Deadline for application and form of submission of applications:**

The competition is open from 14/11/2021 a 28/11/2021. Applications must be formalized, obligatorily, through the following documents: i) curriculum vitae; ii) certificate of qualifications or declaration of the candidate.

Applications must be sent to the e-mail cbma_sec@bio.uminho.pt indicating the reference BI_1/ATLÂNTIDA-CBMA/2021 (for scholarship 1) or BI_2/ATLÂNTIDA-CBMA/2021 (for scholarship 2) in the subject.

14. Conditions for formalizing the contract:

On the contract signing date, the selected candidates must prove enrolment in course that do not confer an academic degree integrated in the educational project of the institution (UMinho).