

## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; 1 vacancy

### Reference: BI2/ STrengthS4WineChain - CBMA/2026

A call for tenders is now open for the attribution of one Research Scholarship within the scope of the R&D project “STrengthS4WineChain - Scientific and Technological Synergies for sustainable development of the Wine Chain in the North region” reference NORTE2030-FEDER-0178610, co-financed by the Northern Regional Programme 2021-2027 [NORTE2030], under the following conditions:

**Scientific Area:** Soil Ecology

1. **Recipient category:** Candidates with a Master degree in Ecology, Plant Biology and related areas, and

- Enrolled in Doctoral Programmes

OR

- Enrolled or available to enroll in courses that do not confer an academic degree.

#### Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to enroll in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be verified on the date of contracting the fellowship;
- Only fellowships whose selected applicants present a valid proof of enrollment in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be contracted, according to the type of the fellowship, issued by a Higher Education Institution, indicating, respectively, the academic year or its duration (start and term).

**Applicants' eligibility:** Candidates who meet the conditions set out in Article 9 of the Research Grant Regulations, No. 950/2019, of 16-12-2019, of FCT I.P. are eligible.

Nationals or citizens of other European Union member states, third-country nationals, stateless persons, and citizens with political refugee status are eligible to apply for this competition.

#### Candidate eligibility requirements:

a) mandatory requirements: Master degree in Ecology/Plant Biology and related areas.

b) preferential factors: preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate knowledge and/or experience in soil ecology, particularly in the analysis of datasets from soil organisms. Excellent English skills, both spoken and written, are essential, along with initiative, the ability to work in a methodical and rigorous manner, and strong teamwork skills. In addition, candidates must be available to travel for fieldwork activities.

**Workplan and objectives to be achieved:**

The selected candidate will carry out R&D activities within the scope of the project STrengthS4WineChain, specifically in **Activity 2 – Climate-resilient viticulture and environmental sustainability**, with the aim of strengthening their scientific training and contributing to the advancement of the project's objectives.

The planned work will involve collecting soil health data from experimental sites to be established in the Douro and/or Vinho Verde wine regions, under different management practices, to assess changes in relevant soil health indicators, such as nematode and microbial communities.

During the contract period, the selected candidate will be involved in laboratory and fieldwork, data analysis, and dissemination activities. Specific tasks include:

Task 1: Soil sampling at project-selected sites.

Task 2: Integration and comparative analysis of results from different biological communities, across sampling sites and corresponding management practices.

In addition to these technical tasks, the selected candidate is expected to:

- Participate in regular project meetings;
- Contribute to scientific publications and outreach activities;
- Collaborate with project team members and partners;
- Participate in fieldwork activities.

The work plan is designed to provide advanced scientific training in soil ecology and its application to sustainability and resilience in viticultural systems, whilst promoting the development of soft skills relevant to academic and professional careers.

**Applicable legislation and regulations:** Research Fellow Statute (EBI), approved by Law n°. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording and FCT Research Fellowship Regulation, approved by Regulation n° 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, of December 16, 2019, in its current wording, and Scientific Research Fellowship Regulation (RBIC) of the University of Minho, approved by order n° 4998/2025, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, n° 81, of April 28, 2025 Amended and republished through amendment statement no. 634/2025/2, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, no. 132, of July 11.

**Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision:** The work will be developed at the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, Campus de Gualtar-Braga, and will be supervised by Professor *Sofia dos Santos da Rocha Costa*, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho and Professor *Maria Teresa Correia Guedes Lino Neto*, Associate Professor with Habilitation Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

**Fellowship duration:** The grant will take place for a period of 12 months, with a provisional starting date in March 2026, non-renewable.

**Amount of the research grant:** The amount of the grant corresponds to 1309,64€/month, according to the table of values of the Research scholarship of the University of Minho, updated annually, as decided by the Management Board.

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

**Other benefits:** Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Insurance, if the candidate chooses to receive it, 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:**

President: Sofia dos Santos da Rocha Costa, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Effective members:

Maria Teresa Correia Guedes Lino Neto, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Maria Manuela Ribeiro Costa, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Substitute members:

Ana Cristina Gomes Cunha, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho

Hernâni Varanda Gerós, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, 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.

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.

**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 0 to 5 values:

## A. Scientific and Academic Curriculum Evaluation (APCC) (90%)

**A.1:** (45%) Academic background of the candidate, assessing their performance in degrees and courses relevant to the field of the call and the work to be developed, as well as previous experience in research projects.

**A.2:** (45%) Experience and interest in the specified areas, highlighting experimental skills and providing access to a representative document (such as an article, thesis, or conference presentation) aligned with the field of the call and the proposed work.

**A.3:** (10%) Motivation letter, which will be evaluated in terms of clarity, relevance, and alignment of the candidate's goals with the project topic.

The classification of the Scientific and Academic Curriculum Evaluation (APCC) score will be calculated using the following formula::

$$MC = (A.1 \cdot 0.45) + (A.2 \cdot 0.45) + (A.3 \cdot 0.10)$$

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 selection panel will assign with minimum in the grade of the master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

## B. Interview (E) (10%)

Following the APCC assessment, up to three candidates may be selected for an interview, if their classification in the APCC is not lower than 4.0 points. The final decision shall rest with the Jury.

The Interview (E) aims to objectively and systematically assess the candidate's experience and relevant behavioral aspects, namely communication skills, attitude and critical thinking, as well as motivation and suitability for the project.

B.1: Interpersonal skills (25 %)

B.2: Demonstrated knowledge in the field of the call (25 %)

B.3: Motivation (25 %)

B.4: Language skills (25%)

The classification of the Interview (E) score will be calculated using the following formula:

$$E = (B.1 \cdot 0,25) + (B.2 \cdot 0,25) + (B.3 \cdot 0,25) + (B.4 \cdot 0,25)$$

### C. Final Classification (CF)

The Final Classification (CF) will be calculated as the weighted arithmetic mean of the selection methods, expressed on a 0 to 5 scale, according to the following formula:

$$CF = (APCC \cdot 0,9) + (E \cdot 0,1)$$

Where:

CF- Final Classification of the candidate

APCC - Classification obtained in the Scientific and Academic Curriculum Evaluation

E - Interview classification

**The jury may also decide not to assign the Scholarship if none of candidates meets the minimum required conditions (final grade above 4).**

**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 submitted by email to [bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt](mailto:bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt), indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line - **BI2/ STrengthS4WineChaiN - CBMA/2026**. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents will be accepted:

- a) Candidate's updated curriculum vitae (pdf form), including the telephone and email contacts of the candidate;
- b) 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, a declaration of honor from the candidate.

This declaration must 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 purposes of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is found that the documents proving the academic degree and diploma, or their recognition under the terms of Decree-Law n. ° 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the assessment of the academic career and may consequently alter the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will not be contracted;

- c) detailed list of grades (pdf format);
- d) a representative document (such as an article, thesis, or conference presentation) aligned with the field of the call and the proposed work;
- e) motivation letter explaining the interest in the position (pdf format).
- f) other mandatory documents to be attached at the time of application.

**Form of publication/notification of results:** The results of the evaluation are published in a single list (in alphabetical order or by final score obtained), posted in a visible and public place in the host unit, as well as by

email to all candidates, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes of the jury's deliberations, within a maximum period of 90 working days from the deadline for submission of applications.

Candidates are informed, at a preliminary hearing, in accordance with Articles 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code, of the likely outcome of the final decision, and may comment within 10 working days of this notification.

An appeal may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal may be lodged with the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 days, both after the respective notification (Article 12(n°6) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations).

Within 10 working days of notification of the grant award, the applicant must declare their acceptance in writing. In case of non-acceptance, the next highest ranked applicant will be notified immediately.

**Constitution of a selection reserve list:** The applicants ranked in the next positions on the ordered list will be included in a selection reserve list, which can be used until 31/05/2026.

**Fellowship contractualization:** The scholarship is awarded through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship recipient, in accordance with point 2.4 of the Rules for the Award and Management of Scholarships

[https://www.fct.pt/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Normas\\_de\\_Atribuicao\\_de\\_Bolsas\\_2021.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Normas_de_Atribuicao_de_Bolsas_2021.pdf) and the draft contract in Annex II of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulations.

The contract can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required for the type of scholarship, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months, including proof of academic degrees or diplomas, as well as enrollment in non-degree study cycles or courses, as applicable.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the scholarship contract. Once received by the scholarship holder, the contract must be returned, duly signed, within 15 working days.

**Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts:** Without prejudice to the other grounds laid down in the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulation and in the Research Fellow Statute, the scholarship will cease on completion of the contracted work plan, as well as on expiry of the period for which it was granted or renewed.

The **final report** must be submitted to the scientific advisor, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, no later than 60 working days after the end of the scholarship and must be drawn up in accordance with Annex I of the Regulations of the University of Minho.

**Non-discrimination and equal access policy:** Universidade do Minho actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

## 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 moment 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.

University	Financing Entity	Project	Type of Grant	Duration	Start	Term

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

(Place), (date).

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(full name)