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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 – BI3/ATLÂNTIDA II - CBMA/2025

A call for tenders is now open for the attribution of two Research Scholarships within the scope of the R&D project “ATLÂNTIDA II - Observatório costeiro do Atlântico Norte de Portugal”, reference NORTE2030-FEDER-01799200, cofunded by Programa Regional do Norte 2021-2027 [NORTE2030], under the foll:

1. **Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences
2. **Recipients:** Candidates with a degree in Biology, Biochemistry and related areas, and
Enrolled in Master's Programmes
OR
Enrolled or available to enrolled in courses that do not confer an academic degree.

3. Requirement for granting the fellowship:

The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to be enrolled 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, indicating, respectively, the academic year or its duration (start and term).

4. **Candidate Eligibility:** Applicants who meet the conditions set out in Article 9 of the Research Grant Regulations, No. 950/2019, of 16-12-2019, of the FCT I.P., are eligible. Nationals or citizens of other Member States of the European Union, citizens of third countries, stateless persons, and citizens granted political refugee status may apply to this call.

5. Admissibility requirements

- a) Degree in Biology, Biochemistry, or related fields;
- b) Preferred factors: proven experience in: 1-Microbiology; 2-Management of microbial collections; 3-Microbial molecular biology; 4-Analysis of sequencing results.

6. Working plan and objectives:

Candidates will carry out R&D activities within the scope of the project, **Activity 3 – Biobanks as tools for marine conservation, aiming to consolidate their scientific training.** In particular, candidates will undertake the following tasks:

WORK PLAN 1:

- Isolation of microorganisms from marine sediments and plankton;
- DNA barcoding and phylogenetic analysis;
- Genome sequencing and genotypic characterization;
- Registration and cryopreservation of marine isolates in a biobank.

WORK PLAN 2:

- Isolation of marine microorganisms from coastal environments;
- Phenotypic characterization of marine microorganisms;
- Registration and cryopreservation of marine isolates in a biobank.

Each candidate may only apply for one of the work plans above.

7. Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI), approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and the FCT Research Grants Regulation, approved by Regulation no. 950/2019, published in the *Diário da República* (Official Gazette), 2nd series, of December 16, 2019, in the wording currently in force, and the University of Minho Scientific Research Grants Regulation (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation (RBIC)), approved by Dispatch no. 4998/2025, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, no. 81, of April 28, rectified and republished by correction declaration no. 634/2025/2, published in the *Diário da República*, 2nd series, no. 132, of July 11.

8. Host/Contracting Entity and Scientific Guidance: The work will be developed at the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho (CBMA); Work Plan 1 will be under the scientific guidance of Professor Pedro Miguel Amadeu Costa Santos, and Work Plan 2 will be under the joint scientific guidance of Professor Margarida Paula Pedra Amorim Casal and Doctor Raúl Miguel Ribeiro Machado.

9. Duration of the Grant(s): The grants will have a duration of 12 months, with the start scheduled for November 2025. The grants to be awarded are non-renewable.

10. Monthly Maintenance Allowance Value: The amount of the grant is €1040.98/month, in accordance with the FCT grant value table, for the Country (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>) and the University of Minho Scientific Research Grants value table, updated annually by a decision of the Management Council.

Payment is made by the 23rd of each month, via transfer to the grant holder's bank account (NIB) indicated in the contracting process.

11. Other Benefits: Reimbursement of the Voluntary Social Security (Seguro Social Voluntário), should the candidate opt for its attribution, corresponding to the 1st level of the contribution base (for grants with a duration equal to or greater than 6 months), and Personal Accident Insurance.

12. Exclusivity Regime: The performance of duties as a grant holder is carried out under an exclusivity regime, as provided for in article 5 of the Research Grant Holder Statute.

13. Composition of the Selection Jury:

Chair: Andreia Ferreira Castro Gomes, Associate Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Effective Members:

Ana Paula Fernandes Monteiro Sampaio Carvalho, Associate Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Ricardo Filipe Azevedo Franco Duarte, Auxiliary Researcher of the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Here is the English translation of the final part of the text:

Substitute Members:

Maria Cláudia Gonçalves da Cunha Pascoal, Full Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Bjorn Fredrik Johansson, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

In case of impediment of the Jury President, they shall be substituted by the first effective member, and the alternate member will be appointed to substitute the effective member.

The Jury, including the President, undertakes to comply with a set of essential responsibilities for the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, declaring potential conflicts of interest, and confidentiality.

14. Evaluation and Selection Criteria and Procedures: The evaluation of applications will focus on the candidate's merit, applying the following criteria on a scale of 1 (Insufficient) to 5 (Excellent).

A. Candidate Merit (CM)

A.1: (30%) Candidate's academic background (including academic performance, complementary training, and previous experience in research projects in the area of the work plan).

The academic performance will account for 60% of the A.1 score. The other A.1 evaluation elements include additional training (20%) and previous experience in projects related to the work plan area (20%).

A.2: (40%) Knowledge and experience in:

WORK PLAN 1:

- Isolation and identification of microorganisms
- DNA amplification (PCR) and sequencing techniques
- Bacterial physiology

- Basic microbiology techniques

WORK PLAN 2:

- Isolation of microorganisms
- Microbial physiology
- Phenotypic analysis of microorganisms

A.3: (30%) Motivation letter.

The Candidate Merit (CM) score will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$MC=(A.1*0,3) + (A.2*0,4) +(A.3*0,3)$$

The final classification (FC) corresponds to the Candidate's Merit (CM), as follows:

$$FC = CM$$

The Jury may decide not to award the Grant if none of the candidates obtains a final classification higher than 4.

Note: Candidates with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained therein to the Portuguese grading scale or a declaration in the terms indicated below. For candidates who do not comply with any of these provisions, the jury will assign the minimum grade for the Bachelor's and/or Master's degree score, according to the defined grading scale.

15. Application Deadline and Method of Submission:

The call for applications is open for a period of 10 working days, counted from the date of publication of the announcement on the Euraxess portal.

Applications must be formalized, obligatorily, by email to (bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt), indicating the competition reference in the subject line: BI3.1/ATLÂNTIDA II - CBMA/2025 (WORK PLAN 1), BI3.2/ATLÂNTIDA II - CBMA/2025 (WORK PLAN 2), and only applications submitted within the established deadline and with the following documents will be accepted:

- Detailed candidate Curriculum Vitae (pdf format), including the candidate's telephone and email contacts;
- Qualification certificates for the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's sworn statement that they have completed the degrees required in the notice by the end of the application deadline (not applicable to Initiation Research Grants).

For degrees obtained abroad, the registration of recognition of academic degrees and the registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese grading scale must be presented, or, alternatively, a candidate's sworn statement.

This declaration must certify facts that occurred prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purpose of contracting the 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 their respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications attributed in the evaluation of the academic background and may, consequently, change the candidate's ranking, the grant contracting will not be executed;

- c) Detailed list of grades (pdf format);
- d) Motivation letter explaining the interest in the vacancy (pdf format).

Applications sent by other means will not be accepted.

16. Method of Publication/Notification of Results: The evaluation results are publicized through a unified ranked list (alphabetically or by final score obtained), posted in a visible and public place at the Host Unit, as well as through email to all candidates, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes with the jury's deliberations, within a maximum period of 90 working days from the end of the submission of applications.

Candidates are informed, within the scope of a preliminary hearing, under the terms of articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, of the likely outcome of the final decision, and may comment within a period of 10 working days from this notification.

The final decision may be subject to a complaint, within a period of 15 working days, or an appeal to the maximum executive body of the funding entity within a period of 30 days, both after the respective notification (no. 6 of article 12 of the FCT Research Grants Regulation).

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

Constitution of a Selection Reserve List: Candidates ranked in subsequent positions on the final ranking list for the competition are included in a selection reserve list, which may be used until 31/12/2026.

17. Grant Contractualization: The award of the grant is formalized through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the grant holder, in accordance with point 2.4 of the Norms for Grant Allocation and Management () and with the contract template in Annex II of the University of Minho Scientific Research Grants Regulation.

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

After all documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to sign the grant contract. Once received by the grant holder, they must return the duly signed contract within 15 working days.

18. Term and Cancellation of Grant Contracts: Without prejudice to the other causes provided for in the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulation and the Research Grant Holder Statute, the grant ceases upon the conclusion of the contracted work plan, as well as the end of the term for which it was awarded or renewed.

The **final report** must be submitted to the scientific supervisor, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, up to 60 working days after the end of the grant and must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the University of Minho Regulation (RBIC).

19. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy: The University of Minho actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be privileged, favored, harmed, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty based on, namely, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, or 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 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).

(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).

(full name)