

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Post-Doctoral research fellowship; 1 vacancy

Reference: BIPD/AREBESTNBS-CBMA/2026

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 1 grant of Post-Doctoral research fellowship within the scope of the I&D project *ARE BEST NbS - Aquatic and Riparian Ecosystems: Biodiversity and Economic Service Transformations from NbS*, from the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology (CBMA), BiodivNBS/0011/2023, financed by national funds through the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT, IP), under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Environment, Environmental Economics, Ecology and related areas;

Recipient category: The BIPD are intended for doctorates in Environmental Sciences, Environmental Economics, Ecology and related areas.

Admission Requirements:

- Hold a doctoral degree obtained within three years prior to the date of submission of the scholarship application;
- To have carried out the research leading to the award of the doctoral degree in an organization other than the one hosting the scholarship; *
- Not exceed, with the conclusion of the contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of three years in this type of scholarship, consecutive or interpolated;
- Not to have previously held a post-doctoral scholarship contract with the same I&D Unit. Once the BIPD contract has ended, no new scholarship contract can be signed between the same host organization and the same scholarship holder;
- Be proficient in the Portuguese Language.

Candidates who do not cumulatively meet the requirements described will be excluded.

* This includes different I&D Units, even if they are based in the same Organic Unit (UOEI) of UMinho (according to n° 4 and 5 of the Article 7° of the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulations in force).

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:

It is mandatory, under penalty of non-admission to the competition, to attach the following documents to the application:

- The candidate's curriculum vitae;
- Certificates proving the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's sworn statement declaring that they have completed the degrees required in the notice by the end of the application deadline;
- For degrees obtained abroad, the recognition record of the academic degrees and the record of conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, or, alternatively, a sworn statement by the candidate;
- A motivation letter.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

The BIPD are restricted in time in order to stimulate scientific employment and the use of researcher contracts as a rule for hiring them - according to n° 2, article 7° of the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulation (2019).

The postdoctoral researcher will work directly on Task 3 – Biodiversity values and preferences to improve the cost-effectiveness (CEA) and cost-benefit analysis (CBA) of riparian and aquatic Nature-based Solutions (NbS). Their specific tasks will be: (i) to compile an inventory of the monetary costs and benefits of NbS in the Ave River basin; (ii) to develop CEA and CBA for NbS in the Ave River basin; (iii) to inventory local stakeholders' perceptions and values regarding riparian NbS; and (iv) to write one scientific article contributing to Deliverable 12. In addition, the postdoctoral researcher will support the Utrecht University team in applying the "Mental Model" in Portugal, under Work Package 3, scheduled for September 2026 on the "Ecovia das Taipas".

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 workplan will be carried out at the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology (CBMA), School of Sciences, University of Minho located in the Campus de

Gualtar-Braga, Portugal, under the scientific supervision of Cláudia Maria Carvalho dos Santos, Assistant Professor, and coordination of Maria Cláudia Gonçalves da Cunha Pascoal (CBMA director).

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 12 months, with a provisional starting date on July 2026. The fellowship grant may, eventually, be renewed up to the maximum limit allowed by the project and/or applicable legislation.

Amount of the research grant: The amount of the grant corresponds to 1901,00 €/month, according to the table of FCT grants in the country (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>) and the table of values of the Scientific Research Scholarships of the University of Minho, updated annually by decision of 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 step of the contribution base (for scholarships of 6 months or more) 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: Cláudia Maria Carvalho dos Santos, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Effective members:

Sofia Alexandra Ferreira Duarte, Assistant Researcher, Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Janeide Guilherme Padilha, Junior Researcher, Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Substitute members:

Giorgio Pace, Assistant Researcher, Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Sara Raquel Boaventura Rodrigues, Assistant Researcher, Centre of Molecular and Environmental 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.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The evaluation of the applications will focus on the Merit of the Candidate (MC) and the Interview (ENT), both scored on a scale from 0 to 5, according to the following assessment criteria:

I) Merit of the Candidate – MC (70%):

- a) Academic track record, including the publication of scientific articles and the participation in research projects, weighted at 30%;
- b) Suitability of the candidate's profile for the position, including knowledge and experience in cost-effectiveness and cost-benefit analysis; administration of face-to-face surveys, weighted at 40%;
- c) Motivation letter, with a weighting of 30%.

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

$$MC = (a \cdot 0.3) + (b \cdot 0.4) + (c \cdot 0.3)$$

Candidates who do not achieve the minimum score of 4.0 in the Merit of the Candidate (MC) will be excluded from the call. The remaining candidates will be admitted to the Interview (ENT) stage, with the Selection Panel assessing the sub-criteria listed below (d–f).

II) Interview – ENT (30%):

- d) Interpersonal and language skills (30%);
- e) Knowledge demonstrated in the subject area of the call (40%);
- f) Motivation (30%).

The classification of the Interview (ENT) will be obtained by applying the formula:

$$ENT = (d \cdot 0.3) + (e \cdot 0.4) + (f \cdot 0.3)$$

The final classification (CF) of the candidates admitted to the call will be obtained by applying the formula:

$$CF = (MC \cdot 0.7) + (ENT \cdot 0.3)$$

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, indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line: **BIPD/AREBESTNBS-CBMA/2026**. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents will be accepted:

- a) Candidate's updated curriculum vitae;
- b) Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honor (academic degree) 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 (academic degree) 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) Motivation letter.

Form of publication/notification of results: The results of the evaluation are published in a single list 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 31/01/2027.

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 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 Regulations for Scientific Research Scholarships 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).

(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.