

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; 1 vacancy

Reference: BI6/ATLÂNTIDA II - CBMA/2026

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 following conditions:

Scientific Area: Biological Sciences

Recipient category: Candidates with a Master degree in Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, Ecology and related areas, and

- a) enrolled in a Doctoral program
- or
- b) 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 enrolment 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) Master degree Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry, Ecology or related fields;
- b) Preferential factors: proven experience in: 1 – bioresource management, including cryopreservation; 2 – microbial molecular biology; 3 – analysis of sequencing data; 4 – field activities, including marine sampling campaigns; 5 – taxonomic analysis

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

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:

- Microbial isolation from marine sediments and zooplankton;
- Taxonomic analysis;
- Registry and cryopreservation of marine bioresources in biobank;

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 in the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho (CBMA) located in the campus de Gualtar, Braga, under the scientific supervision of the Professor Pedro Miguel Amadeu Costa Santos and Professor Pedro Alexandre Faria Fernandes Teixeira Gomes.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 12 months, with a provisional starting date on the October of 2026. The fellowship grant is Non-renewable.

Amount of the research grant: The amount of the grant corresponds to 1359,64€/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 5° of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel:

Presidente: Pedro Alexandre Faria Fernandes Teixeira Gomes, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Effective members:

Sofia Santos Rocha Costa, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Pedro Miguel Amadeu Costa Santos, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology of the School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Alternate Members:

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

Marcos Rubal Garcia, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology of the 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 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.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The evaluation of applications will focus on the candidate's merit and an interview, applying the following criteria on a scale of 1 (Insufficient) to 5 (Excellent).

A. Candidate Merit - CM (70%):

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).

*Academic performance will account for 60% of the A.1 score. The remaining A.1 evaluation criteria include complementary training (20%) and previous experience in projects related to the proposed work plan (20%).

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

- Onboard sampling campaigns in marine environments
- Isolation and identification of microorganisms and zooplankton
- DNA amplification (PCR) and sequencing techniques
- Cataloging and cryopreservation

A.3: (30%) Motivation Letter.

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

$$CM = (A.1 \cdot 0,30) + (A.2 \cdot 0,40) + (A.3 \cdot 0,30)$$

The candidates ranked in the top 3 positions, who obtain the minimum score of 3.5 in the CM, will be admitted to the Interview phase.

B. Interview - INT (30%):

B.1: Interpersonal skills (30 %)

B.2: Demonstrated knowledge in the field of the call (50 %)

B.3: Motivation (20 %)

The final interview score will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{INT} = (\text{B1} \times 0,30) + (\text{B2} \times 0,50) + (\text{B3} \times 0,20)$$

The final classification (FC) corresponds:

$$\text{FC} = (\text{CM} \times 0,70) + (\text{INT} \times 0,30)$$

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

Note: Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must provide proof of recognition of their qualifications in Portugal and conversion of their final classification to the Portuguese grading scale or a declaration as specified in the eligibility requirements. Candidates who do not comply with these provisions will be assigned the minimum grade for their graduation course by the selection panel.

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: BI6/ATLÂNTIDA II - 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 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) Motivation letter outlining interest in the vacancy (PDF format).

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 31/12/2026.

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 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).

(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)