Announcement for the attribution of 1 Research Scholarship

UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO
Centro de Biologia Molecular e Ambiental (CBMA)

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE ATTRIBUTION OF ONE RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP– BI4/ CBMA – DADOS /2026

A call for tenders is now open for the attribution of one Research Scholarship within the scope of the Multiannual Funding of R&D Units (2025-2029) - Center for Molecular and Environmental Biology CBMA - UIDB/4050 with financial support from FCT, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Biological Sciences
Recipients: Candidates with a Master degree in Molecular Genetics Ecology, 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:

Hold a Master's degree in Molecular Genetics, Ecology, or a related field.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:
The candidates will carry out R&D activities within the scope of Open Science activities at the Center for Molecular and Environmental Biology, aiming to strengthen their scientific training. In particular, the candidates will carry out the following tasks:

- Collection, compilation, and organization of in-house research data of various types (molecular, environmental, digital imaging, satellite) and nature (experimental, field, or in silico), with a view to ensuring their compliance with the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable).
- Mapping, collection, and characterization of the different data flows produced at CBMA, including identifying formats, metadata, and relevant standards to promote interoperability and data reuse.
- Comparative evaluation of institutional and open-source pipelines and tools for recording, documenting, validating, managing, and sharing research data, considering their compliance with FAIR principles and good practices.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellow Statute (EBI), approved by Law nº. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording and FCT Research Fellowship Regulation, approved by Regulation nº 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 nº 4998/2025, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, nº 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 institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the Center for Molecular and Environmental Biology of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho (CBMA), under the scientific guidance of Pedro Miguel Amadeu Costa Santos, Assistant Professor at the Department of Biology, School of Science, University of Minho.

Duration of the Research Scholarship: The scholarship will last 12 months, potentially renewable up, starting in December 2026.

Amount of the research grant: The monthly maintenance allowance corresponds to the basic value of 1 359,64 euros 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 contratualization 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.

Composition of the selection jury:

President: Maria Cláudia Gonçalves Cunha Pascoal, Full Professor, Department of Biology | Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Effective members:

Pedro Miguel Amadeu Costa Santos, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology | Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho

Bruno Branco Castro, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology | Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho

Substitute members:

Andreia Ferreira Castro Gomes, Associate Professor, Department of Biology | Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho

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

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.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The evaluation of the applications will focus on the merit of the applicant (MC), by applying the following criteria on a scale of 1 (insufficient) to 5 (excellent):

A. Merit of the applicant (MC)

A.1: Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 30%,

A.2: Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of 50%
Previous experience will be valued in:
• Collecting, organizing, and managing research data, particularly big data (molecular or environmental data), following good practices for data organization and reuse;
• Managing metadata, using research data repositories, and understanding FAIR principles and Open Science;
• Computational skills that can help support the harmonization, validation, and interoperability of research data.

A.3: Motivation letter, with a weighting of 20%

The classification of the Candidate's Merit (MC) will be determined using the following formula:

MC = (A.1*0.3) + (A.2*0.5) +(A.3*02)

The jury may also decide not to assign the Scholarship if none of candidates meets the minimum required conditions (final grade above 3.8).

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is for a period of 10 working days from the date of publication on the Euraxess portal.

Applications must be sent by email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the reference of the competition BI4/CBMA-DADOS/2026 in the subject line. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents will be accepted:

a) Detailed 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) Motivation letter explaining the interest in the position (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.

The waiver of the hearing for interested parties, if applicable, will be justified in accordance with Article 124 of the CPA.

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.

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).

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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.

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

(Place), (date).

_____

(full name)