

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; 2 vacancy

Reference: BI1.2.1/ATLÂNTIDA II-CBMA/2026 (Work plan1) e BI1.2.2/ATLÂNTIDA II-CBMA/2026 (Work plan2).

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 2 Research Fellowships, within the scope of the I&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 degree in Biology (Workplan 1) or in Biology or Biochemistry (Workplan 2) and enrolled:

Identify the type(s) of scholarship to be awarded:

- a) in master's programmes
- OR
- b) enrolled or available to enrolled in courses that do not confer an academic degree

Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- Applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is available. The requirement to enrol in a degree or non-academic course will be verified on the day of signing the fellowship agreement.
- Only fellowships for which the selected applicants submit valid proof of enrolment in a degree or non-academic degree course will be awarded, depending on the type of fellowship. This proof must be issued by a Higher Education Institution and must specify the academic year or its duration (star 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:

It is essential, under penalty of disqualification from the competition, to attach the following documents to the application.

- The candidate's curriculum vitae;
- Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honour that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice by the application deadline;
- For degrees obtained abroad, the recognition record of the academic degrees and the conversion record of the final classification into the Portuguese classification scale must be presented, or alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

Candidates will undertake R&D activities within the scope of the project, Activity 1 - Oceanic and coastal monitoring, to consolidate their scientific training.

In particular, candidates will perform the following tasks:

Work plan 1:

- Participation in onboard sampling campaigns of benthic organisms
- Processing (sorting and identification) of collected samples
- Preparation of scientific reports and documents
- Organising and analysing data

Work plan 2:

- Participation in onboard zooplankton sampling campaigns;
- Processing (sorting and identification) of collected samples
- Molecular characterisation through metagenomics of zooplankton and associated microbial communities.
- Preparation of scientific reports and documents
- Organising and analysing data

EACH CANDIDATE MAY ONLY APPLY FOR ONE OF THE WORK PLANS LISTED ABOVE. FAILURE TO COMPLY WILL RESULT IN THE CANDIDATE'S EXCLUSION FROM THE COMPETITION.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellow Statute (EBI), approved by Law n°. 40/2004 of 18 August, 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 plan will be conducted at the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology of the School of Sciences at the University of Minho (CBMA), located in Braga, under the scientific supervision of Professor Pedro Alexandre Faria Fernandes Teixeira Gomes.

Fellowship duration: The grant will last for a period of 6 months, with a provisional starting date in January 2026. The fellowship grant is non-renewable.

Amount of the research grant: The grant amount is 1040,98 €/month, in accordance with the University of Minho's annually updated Research scholarship value table, as determined by the Management Board.

Payment is made on the 23rd of each month via bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the individual involved in the contractual process.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of voluntary social insurance, if the candidate opts for it, corresponding to the first level of discounts (for research grants lasting six months or more) and personal accident insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The grantee shall carry out the activities under exclusivity, as outlined in article 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and relevant regulations.

Selection panel:

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

Effective Members:

Marcos Rubal Garcia, Assistant Professor of the Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

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

Substitute Members:

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

Filipe José Oliveira Costa, Associate Professor of the Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

The first effective member will replace the President of the selection panel if impeded, with the first substitute member nominated in place of the first effective member.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's merit, following evaluation criteria, rated on a scale of 1 to 5.

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).

A.2: (50%) Knowledge and experience in:

WorkPlan 1:

- Onboard sampling campaigns;
- Identification and processing of benthic macrofauna.

WorkPlan 2:

- Onboard sampling campaigns;

- Molecular characterisation, by metabarcoding, of marine communities.

A.3: (20%) Motivation Letter.

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

$$CM = (A.1 \cdot 0,30) + (A.2 \cdot 0,50) + (A.3 \cdot 0,20)$$

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:

$$INT = (B1 \cdot 0,30) + (B2 \cdot 0,50) + (B3 \cdot 0,20)$$

The final classification (FC) corresponds:

$$FC = (CM \cdot 0,70) + (INT \cdot 0,30)$$

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 sent via email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, with the competition reference number in the subject line: **BI1.2.1/ATLÂNTIDA II-CBMA/2026 (Work plan 1) e BI1.2.2/ATLÂNTIDA II-CBMA/2026 (Work plan 2)**. Only applications submitted before the deadline and accompanied by the specified documents will be accepted.

- Candidate's updated curriculum vitae (PDF format), including the candidate's telephone and email contacts.
- Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honour that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice by the application deadline.

For degrees obtained abroad, the record of recognition of the academic degrees and the record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale must be presented, or, alternatively, a declaration of honour from the candidate.

This declaration must attest to facts that occurred before the application. In case of a discrepancy between the information in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the scholarship, only the documentation will be considered. If it is found that the documents proving the academic degree and diploma, or their recognition under Decree-Law n. ° 66/2018 of 16 August, do not match the classifications awarded in the academic assessment and may therefore affect the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will not be awarded.

- c) Detailed list of grades (PDF format).
- d) Motivation letter outlining interest in the vacancy (PDF format).

Form of publication/notification of results: The evaluation results are published in a single list, either in alphabetical order or by final score obtained, and are displayed in a visible and public location within the host unit. They are also sent to all candidates via email, with the minutes of the jury's deliberations attached. This is to be done within a maximum 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 can be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal can be lodged with the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 days, both following the respective notification (Article 12(n°6) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations).

Within 10 working days of being notified of the grant award, the applicant must confirm their acceptance in writing. If they do not accept, the next highest ranked applicant will be informed immediately.

Fellowship contractualisation: 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 receiving all the necessary documentation for the specific scholarship, which must be provided within a maximum period of six months. This includes proof of academic degrees or diplomas, as well as confirmation of enrolment in non-degree study cycles or courses, where applicable.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the scholarship contract. After receipt 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 set out in the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulation and in the Research Fellow Statute, the scholarship will cease upon 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 within 60 working days of the end of the scholarship, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, and must be prepared in line 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, nor exempt from any duty due to factors such as 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 beliefs, or 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 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)