

## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; 1 vacancy

**Reference:** BI1/ Aqua-Impact - CBMA/2026

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 01 PhD grant (master enrolled in a degree-granting course) within the scope of the I&D project **“Evaluating non-native species impacts on trophic webs within freshwater ecosystems under global change (Aqua-Impact)”**, COMPETE2030-FEDER-00730200, financed by national funds and co-financed by FEDER through COMPETE2030 and FCT, under the following conditions:

**Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences, Ecology

**Recipient category:** Masters enrolled in a PhD programme

### **Requirement for granting the fellowship:**

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. Enrollment in a PhD programme must be proven at the time of contracting the fellowship.
- Only fellowships whose selected applicants submit valid proof of enrollment in a PhD programme will be contracted.

**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) Mandatory requirements:**

- MSc degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences, Ecology, or related areas;
- Experience in at least one of the following: freshwater ecology, trophic ecology, ecotoxicology, GIS, R programming, or laboratory analytical techniques;

#### **b) Preferential factors:**

- Experience with field sampling in freshwater ecosystems;
- Experience in stable isotope ecology, pollutant analysis, or macroinvertebrate identification;
- Strong motivation to pursue a PhD in freshwater ecology under global change.

**Workplan and objectives to be achieved:**

The fellow will integrate the Aqua-Impact project, contributing to field and laboratory tasks across the four project components:

1. Pollutant profiling (microplastics, macroplastics, organic and inorganic pollutants) across invaded and non-invaded trophic webs in Montesinho Natural Park freshwater ecosystems;
2. Trophic ecology of freshwater food webs under the influence of non-native signal crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*);
3. Effects of temperature and climate change gradients on trophic interactions and pollutant transfer;
4. Predictive modelling, stakeholder engagement, and science-based management recommendations.

**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 work plan will be carried out at the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology (CBMA), University of Minho, at Campus de Gualtar, Braga, under the scientific supervision of Janeide de Assis Guilherme Padilha, Junior Researcher, Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho, and co-supervision of Ronaldo Gomes Sousa, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

**Fellowship duration:** The grant will take place for a period of 12 months, with a provisional starting date in January 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 1309,64 €/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:

President:

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

Effective members:

Ronaldo Gomes Sousa, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho

Amílcar António Teixeira, Coordinator Professor, School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (ESA-IPB), Portugal

Substitute member:

Sara Cristina Cunha, Principal Investigator at the Associate Laboratory LAQV-REQUIMTE, University of Porto.

**Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection:** The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 0 to 5 values:

A - Applicant Merit - AM (80%):

A1 - Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 35%;

A2 - Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of 50%;

A3 - Motivation letter, with a weighting of 15%;

The final classification of the applicant's merit will be obtained through the following formula:

$$AM=(A1*0,35) + (A2*0,50) + (A3*0,15)$$

Candidates ranked in the top three positions who obtain a minimum score of 3.5 in Applicant Merit will be admitted to the Interview, applying the following evaluation criteria:

B. Interview – INT - 20%.

B1 – Interpersonal skills (20%)

B2 – Demonstrated knowledge in the field of the competition (35%)

B3 – Motivation (45%)

The final classification of the Interview will be obtained through the following formula:

$$INT = (B1*0,20) + (B2*0,35) + (B3*0,45)$$

The final classification (FC) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$FC = (AM \times 0,80) + (INT \times 0,20)$$

**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](mailto:bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt), indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line - **BI1/ Aqua-Impact - 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) Letter of motivation;

**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.

**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](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 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).

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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.

University	Financing Entity	Project	Type of Grant	Duration	Start	Term

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

(Place), (date).

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(full name)