

Job: RESEARCH GRANT (1)

Main research field: Chemistry

Job summary:

A call is open to award **one** research grant to develop research activities within the R&D project “SELF-i: Self-reporting immunostimulating formulation for on-demand cancer therapy with realtime treatment response monitoring”, at the Chemistry Centre of University of Minho, funded by the Operational Regional Program Norte 2014-2020 | NORTE 2020 (NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-028052), through FCT - Fundação para Ciência e Tecnologia.

Job description:

A call is open to award research grant to develop research activities within the R&D project “SELF-i: Self-reporting immunostimulating formulation for on-demand cancer therapy with realtime treatment response monitoring”, at the Chemistry Centre of University of Minho, funded by the Operational Regional Program Norte 2014-2020 | NORTE 2020 (NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-028052), through FCT - Fundação para Ciência e Tecnologia, to conduct research at the Chemistry Centre of University of Minho and International Nanotechnology Laboratory – INL, in the following conditions:

Research Field: Chemistry, Chemical Analysis or related field.

Recipients: Applicants must have at the date of application a bachelor’s degree. At the time of their hiring, candidates must prove their registration in one of the following courses:

- Non-academic degree courses, integrated in the educational project of University of Minho, in the area or area related to the requested in notice (e.g., postgraduate courses, advanced studies, specialized training);
- Master/Master's Degree (in the area or area related to the requested in notice).

If the qualification has been granted by a foreign higher education institution, it must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, in accordance with article 25 of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, which approves the legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and point (e) of Article 4(2) of Decree-Law No. 60/2018, of August 3rd, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the date of the act of contracting. The degree recognition shall also include the conversion of the final classification obtained in the foreign qualification to the Portuguese classification scale. To candidates who do not comply with these provisions, the jury will assign the minimum classification (10 values) in the selection method related to the curriculum evaluation component, according to the defined scale of values.

Eligibility criteria: The applicants must meet the eligibility conditions indicated in the article 9th of Regulation of the research grants of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology I.P (2019).

Work plan: The work plan will address the synthesis, purification and spectroscopic characterization of π -conjugated systems based on N, O and S heterocycles and their use as cellular bioimaging probes in fluorescence confocal microscopy, aiming at the preparation, characterization and *in vitro* validation of an immunostimulant drug transport system based on nanoparticles.

Applicable legislation and regulations: “Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação”, approved by Law nº 40/2004 of 18th of August, in its current form published by Decree-Law nº 123/2019 of 28th of August; Regulation of the research grants of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>); “Regulamento de Bolsas da Universidade do Minho”, published at “Diário da República n.º 119/2020, Série II de 2020-06-22”.

Work place: The research work will be developed at the Chemistry Centre, School of Sciences of University of Minho, under the scientific supervision of Professor Maria Manuela Raposo and Professor Susana Costa.

Duration of the grant: The grant will have the duration of 3 months, possibly renewable until the end of the project, starting in September 2021. Under no circumstances may the scholarships exceed the maximum limit of the duration of the project and/or the applicable legislation.

Monthly value of the grant: The value of the grant corresponds to 835.98 €, according to the pay scale for the grants funded directly by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (Appendix I - Table of monthly maintenance allowances of the FCT I.P. Research Scholarship Regulation. Other benefits: Voluntary Social Security reimbursement, corresponding to the 1st level of the contributory tax base (for scholarships lasting 6 months or more) and Personal Accident Insurance.

Composition of the selection Jury:

- Professor Maria Manuela Raposo, Associate Professor with Habilitation at UMinho (President)
- Professor Susana Costa, Assistant Professor at UMinho (Effective member)
- Professor Ana Paula Bettencourt Estevão, Assistant Professor at UMinho (Effective member)
- Doctor Juan Gallo, Researcher at International Nanotechnology Laboratory - INL (Substitute member)
- Doctor Milene Silva, Researcher at International Nanotechnology Laboratory - INL (Substitute member)

If the President is unavailable, he /she shall be replaced by the first effective member, being the first substitute member replacing the effective member.

Criteria and procedures for the evaluation and selection: The evaluation of applications will focus on the candidate's merit, applying the following evaluation criteria, expressed in a scale from 0 and 5.

Candidate's Merit - MC (100%):

a) Academic background - 40%;

b) Personal curriculum - 50%;

c) Motivation letter- 10%

The candidate's final classification of merit will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$MC = (a*0,4)+(b*0,5)+(c*0,1)$$

Documents proving the ownership of academic degrees and diplomas, or the respective recognition when they have been awarded by foreign higher education institutions, can be dispensed in the application phase, being replaced by the candidate's declaration of honour, occurring the verification of this condition only in contracting phase of the scholarship. This declaration must attest facts occurred in date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation delivered for the purpose of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is found that the documents proving the ownership of the academic degree and diploma, or the respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of 16 August, do not correspond to the classifications attributed in the evaluation of the academic path and may, consequently, changing the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will be not contracted.

Note: Candidates with foreign academic degrees must submit a recognition of their academic degree in Portugal with a convergence of the final grade to the Portuguese scale, or a declaration of honour (described in the previous point). To the candidates that do not provide these documents, the selection committee will assign a minimum grade of 10 out of 20 to their bachelor grade.

Dissemination of results: The evaluation results, based on minutes, will be sent to candidates by e-mail, within 90 working days after the deadline for submission of applications. If the result is unfavourable for the applicant, he/she has a period of 10 working days to comment, if he/she wish, in the context of a prior hearing with interested parties, under the terms of article 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code (DL nº 4 / 2015 of January 7).

Complaint and appeal procedures: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list (alphabetically, according to the final grade obtained), posted in a visible and public place of the hosting institution, as well as by e-mail to all applicants, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes with the deliberations of the jury. The selected applicant must indicate, in writing, the intention to accept the grant. In case of non-acceptance, the grant will be awarded to the candidate in order of final ranking.

The final decision can be contested, having 15 working days for this purpose, by sending to the President of the jury the corresponding claim. Interested parties may also submit an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to Mr. Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, Professor Doctor Filipe Vaz.

Application deadline and form of submission of applications: The call is open from the 5th to the 19th August 2021.

Applications must be made through an application letter together with the following documents: Curriculum Vitae, certificates of graduation degrees with grades (or additional transcript of grades) or a Declaration of Honour; document proving enrolment in non-academic degree courses or Master degree course at UMinho at the date of application; motivation letter.

All applications must be submitted by email to the following addresses, bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt and mfox@quimica.uminho.pt, with the following subject “Bolsa de Investigação – 008/ECUM/CQ-SELF-i/2021”.

Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.