ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; 1 vacancy

Competition reference: BI1/Margaritifera margaritifera-CBMA/2026

A call for applications is open for the award of 1 research grant, within the scope of the direct project "Ecological characterization and reintroduction of the species *Margaritifera margaritifera* in the stretch of the Cávado River between the Paradela and Alto Cávado reservoirs", integrated into the project "PNPG - at the service of knowledge" (Norte 2030), funded by the Montalegre Municipal Council, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Biological Sciences, Ecology.

Recipient category: Holders of a Master's degree enrolled in non-degree-granting courses, integrated into the educational programme of a higher education institution.

Requirement for granting the scholarship:

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to enrol in a 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 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.

Application admissibility requirements:

a) Mandatory requirements:

• Master's degree in Biology, Environmental Sciences, Ecology or related fields;

• Experience in at least one of the following areas: freshwater ecology, remote sensing, and laboratory analytical techniques.

b) Desirable factors:

• Experience with field sampling in freshwater ecosystems;

• Experience identifying freshwater macroinvertebrates and fish;

• Knowledge of the ecology of the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*;

• Driving licence;

- Ecological knowledge of the Peneda-Gerês National Park;
- Experience conducting outreach activities in the Peneda-Gerês National Park.

Work plan and objectives:

The researcher will join the project Ecological characterization and reintroduction of the species *Margaritifera margaritifera* in the stretch of the Cávado River between the Paradela and Alto Cávado reservoirs, contributing to field and laboratory activities in the following project components:

1) Thoroughly characterize, at a more detailed spatial scale, the sites most favourable for the reintroduction of *Margaritifera margaritifera* in the stretch of the Cávado River between the Paradela and Alto Cávado reservoirs;
2) Evaluate the *in situ* survival of juveniles of *Margaritifera margaritifera*;
3) Raise awareness among the local population of the importance of freshwater biodiversity, particularly the freshwater pearl mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera.*

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI), approved by Law nº. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and the University of Minho Scientific Research Grant Regulations (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations (RBIC)), approved by Order nº. 4998/2025, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, nº. 81, of April 28, rectified and republished through Rectification 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 will be carried out at the Centre for Molecular and Environmental Biology (CBMA) of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho, located on the *Campus* de Gualtar, Braga, under the scientific supervision of Ronaldo Gomes Sousa, Associate Professor with Habilitation at the Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho, and the coordination of Maria Cláudia Gonçalves Cunha Pascoal, Director of CBMA.

Grant duration: The grant will last 12 months, expected to start in November 2026. The grant may possibly be renewed up to the maximum limit allowed by the project and/or applicable legislation.

Monthly maintenance allowance amount: The grant amount is €1,359.64/month, in accordance with the University of Minho's Research Grants value table, which is updated annually by resolution of the Management Board.

Payment is made by the 23rd of each month, via transfer to the grant holder's bank account (NIB) indicated in the contracting 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.

Composition of the Selection Panel:

Chair:

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

Full members:

Giorgio Pace, Assistant Researcher at the Centre for Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Janeide de Assis Guilherme Padilha, Junior Doctoral Researcher at the Centre for Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Substitute members:

Amílcar António Teiga Teixeira, Coordinating Professor at the School of Agriculture, Polytechnic Institute of Bragança.

Joana Filipa Garrido Nogueira, Junior Doctoral Researcher at BIOPOLIS/CIBIO - Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, University of Porto

In the event of the Chair's incapacity, they will be replaced by the first full member, with the alternate member being appointed to replace that full member.

Evaluation and selection criteria and procedures: The evaluation of applications will focus on the candidate's Merit, applying the following evaluation criteria, scored on a scale of 0 to 5:

A - Candidate Merit - CM (100%):

A1 - Academic background (reflecting the grades of academic degrees), weighted at 40%;

A2 - Personal curriculum (reflecting scientific and professional experience), weighted at 50%;

A3 - Motivation letter, weighted at 10%.

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

$$CM = (A1*0.40) + (A2*0.50) + (A3*0.10)$$

The final score (FS) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$FS=CM$$

Application deadline and submission method: The call is open for a period of 10 working days, counted from the date of publication of the announcement on the Euraxess portal.

Applications must be submitted, mandatorily, by email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the competition reference in the subject line: **BI1/Margaritifera margaritífera-CBMA/2026**, with only applications submitted within the established deadline and including the following documents being accepted:

a) *Curriculum vitae* of the candidate, updated;
b) Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honour stating that they will complete the degrees required by this call by the end of the application deadline.
   For degrees obtained abroad, the record of recognition of the academic degrees and the record of conversion of the corresponding final grade to the Portuguese grading scale must be submitted, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour.
   This declaration may only attest to facts that occurred before the application date. In cases of discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the grant contracting process, only the information in the latter will be considered. Should it be found that the documents proving the holding of the academic degree and diploma, or its recognition under Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August, do not correspond to the grades assigned in the assessment of the academic background and may, consequently, change the candidate's ranking, the grant will not be contracted;
c) Motivation letter.

Form of publication/notification of results: The evaluation results are published through a single ranking list (alphabetically or by final score obtained), posted in a visible and public location at the host unit, as well as sent by email to all candidates, with the minutes containing the panel's decisions attached, within a maximum of 60 working days from the end of the application submission period.

Candidates are informed, during the prior hearing stage, under the terms of Articles 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code, of the likely outcome of the final decision, and may respond within 10 working days from this notification.

The final decision may be challenged by complaint, within 15 working days, or by appeal to the Rector, to be submitted within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification.

Within 10 working days of notification of the grant award, the candidate must declare their acceptance in writing. In case of non-acceptance, the next best-ranked candidate will be notified.

Fellowship contractualization: The grant award is formalized through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the grant holder, in accordance with the draft contract in Annex II of the University of Minho's Regulation (RBIC).

The contract can only be signed after receipt of all documentation required depending on the type of grant, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months, including proof of holding academic degrees or diplomas, as well as enrolment in study cycles or non-degree-granting courses, as applicable.

After receiving all documentation, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the grant contract, under the terms of paragraph 3 of Article 14 of the Regulation (RBIC) of the University of Minho.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other grounds provided for in the University of Minho's Scientific Research Grants Regulation and the Research Grant Holder Statute, the grant ends upon completion of the contracted work plan, as well as upon expiry of the period for which it was granted or renewed.

The **final report** must be submitted to the scientific supervisor, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, within 60 working days after the end of the grant, and must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the University of Minho's Regulation (RBIC).

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: The University of Minho actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be favoured, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right, or exempted from any duty, on grounds including ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, and trade union affiliation.

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.

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)