

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; one vacancy

Reference: BI3/ STrengthS4WineChain - CBMA/2026

A call for tenders is now open for the attribution of one Research Scholarship within the scope of the R&D project “STrengthS4WineChain - Scientific and technological synergies for the development of the vineyard and wine chain in the North Region”, reference NORTE2030-FEDER-0178610, with support of the Programa Regional do Norte 2021-2027 [NORTE2030], under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Molecular Microbiology

Recipient category: Candidates with a Master degree in Molecular Genetics, Applied Biochemistry 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:

- a) mandatory requirements: Master degree in Molecular Genetics, Applied Biochemistry and related areas;
- b) preferential factors: Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate strong knowledge and/or experience in the culture, functional characterization, biochemistry, and molecular biology of yeasts, particularly in the latter case, plasmid constructions and gene interruption/deletion. Additionally, the candidate must have knowledge/experience in the use of HPLC and flow cytometry, as well as in statistical analysis and bioinformatics. Candidates should also demonstrate initiative, the ability to work methodically and rigorously, critical spirit, and aptitude for teamwork.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

The candidates will carry out R&D activities under the context of the project STrengthS4WineChain, namely in Activity 3 - Innovative products in the winemaking chain

The work plan aims to explore new methodologies to reduce the alcohol concentration of wine. The methodologies to be developed intend to explore the use of different yeasts and microbial consortia, both for reducing the alcohol content of the wines and for replacing chemical additives with biological strategies, exploring the antimicrobial activity and production of natural compounds by yeasts.

The activities to be carried out include: 1- Construction of reporter strains expressing specific proteins; 2- Establishment of microbial cultures and co-cultures and analysis of substrate consumption and metabolite production; 3- Characterization of the interaction between wine yeast species; 4- Study of the correlation of different phenotypes with genomic information, and establishment of predictions.

In addition to these technical tasks, the successful candidate will be expected to:

- Participate in regular project monitoring meetings;
- Contribute to scientific publications and dissemination activities;
- Collaborate with team members and project partners.

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 workplan will be carried out in the Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho, located in the Campus de Gualtar-Braga, under the scientific supervision of the Maria João Marques Ferreira de Sousa Moreira, Associate Professor

with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho; and coordination of Maria Cláudia Gonçalves Cunha Pascoal, Full Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 6 months, with a provisional starting date on the january of 2026. The fellowship grant may, eventually, be renewed up to the maximum limit of 12 months.

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 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel:

President: Maria João Marques Ferreira de Sousa Moreira, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Effective members:

Ricardo Filipe Azevedo Franco Duarte, Assistant Investigator, Centre of Molecular and Environmental Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Susana Alexandra Rodrigues Chaves, Assistant Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Substitute members:

Hernâni Varanda Gerós, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

Ana Paula Fernandes Monteiro Sampaio Carvalho, Associate Professor, Department of Biology, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominated the first substitute member in the 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, valued on a scale of 1 to 5 values:

A. Merit of the applicant (MC)

A.1: (30%) Academic background of the candidate where their performance in relevant degrees and courses in the area of the competition and work to be developed will be assessed, with particular emphasis on the master's degree, as well as previous experience in research projects.

A.2: (40%) Knowledge, experience and interest in the areas indicated, referring to their experimental capacities and giving access to a representative document (article, master's thesis) that is aligned with the area of the competition, the preferred conditions related to the knowledge/experience and the work plan both indicated above. The alignment of the contents of the master's thesis with the work to be carried out will be particularly valued.

A.3: (30%) Motivation letter, where the clarity, relevance and alignment of the candidate's objectives with the project's theme will be analyzed.

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

$$MC = (A.1 \cdot 0,3) + (A.2 \cdot 0,4) + (A.3 \cdot 0,3)$$

The jury may also decide not to assign the Scholarship if none of candidates meets the minimum required conditions (final grade above 4).

Note: Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the selection panel will assign with minimum in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

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, indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line - **BI3/STrengthS4WineChain - CBMA/2026**. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents (pdf format) will be accepted:

- a) The candidate's curriculum vitae; and proof of the information indicated on it, such as for training, skills, publications, etc.
- 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.
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 grade list;
- d) Representative document (paper, thesis) showing that it is aligned with the area of the candidacy, preferential conditions relating to the knowledge/experience indicated above and the work to be carried out;
- e) Letter of motivation.

Form of publication/notification of results: The results of the evaluation are published in a single list (in alphabetical order by final grade 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 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).

(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)

