

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH INITIATION FELLOWSHIP

Título: *Research Initiation Fellowship; 1 vacancy*

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of one BII grant within the scope of the initiative “Verão com a Ciência” (*ref*Verão com a Ciência-CBMA), with the financial support of the National Foundation for Science and Technology, through national funds (PIDDAC), under the Regulation for Special projects, published in “Diário da República – notice n° 11367/2020 of 28 of May and FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, n° 950/2019 of 16-12-2019 in current version, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Biology / Biochemistry

Recipient category:

- Students enrolled in a graduation, integrated master or master

Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- Candidates must present valid proof of enrollment in a study cycle (bachelor, master or integrated master) or non-degree course by 30-08-2021;
- Applicants enrolled in study cycles leading to an academic degree must provide proof of the academic services of the higher education institution in the academic year 2020-2021;
- Students who have already benefited from a BII for a period of 1 year or who exceed this period with this scholarship cannot benefit from the scholarship.

Applicants eligibility: Applicants must comply with the eligibility conditions laid down in article 9 of the Research Grants Regulation of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2019).

Workplan and objectives to be achieved: To evaluate the potential of Portuguese propolis, and in particular of rejected propolis samples, in the biocontrol of the causal agent of apple stone, aiming at the development of sustainable alternative treatments and promoting a circular economy. Specifically, the candidate will follow the final phase of a field trial with apple trees treated with propolis extract and with a conventional product. The treatment campaign started in March 2020 and it is now necessary to assess the damage at the production level, as well as the phytotoxicity of propolis (through the observation of leaf damage and measurement of some parameters, such as photosynthetic activity). With this work it is also intended to contribute to the valorisation and dissemination of propolis as a co-product of the hive, consequently enhancing the national beekeeping sector. For this purpose, a participation in NEI2021 is also planned with dissemination activities for the general public.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellowship Holder Statutes, approved by Law n° 40/2004 of August 18, in its current version published by Decree-Law n° 123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República*, 2nd series, n° 119, through dispatch n° 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration n° 447/2021 of 22-06-2021 and Regulation of Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out at CBMA / Departamento de Biologia da Universidade do Minho, under the scientific supervision of Doutoras Ana Cristina Gomes da Cunha e Cristina Alexandra de Almeida Aguiar.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 1 month, with a provisional starting date on the September of 2021.

Amount of the research grant: The value stipend (Monthly Maintenance Allowance) is 446.12 euros, in accordance with the stipends values published by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT I.P.) in the country (Annex I – Monthly Stipends Values for the maintenance allowances of the [FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships](#)).

The fellowship will be paid until the 23rd of September, through bank transfer to the fellowship holder's NIB indicated in the contracting process.

Other benefits: 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:

Presidente: Doutora Fernanda Maria Fraga Mimoso Gouveia Cássio, Professora Catedrática do Departamento de Biologia, diretora do CBMA, Universidade do Minho;

Vogal efetivo: Doutora Cristina Alexandra de Almeida Aguiar, Professora Auxiliar do Departamento de Biologia, membro do CBMA, Universidade do Minho;

Vogal efetivo: Doutora Ana Cristina Gomes da Cunha, Professora Auxiliar do Departamento de Biologia, membro do CBMA, Universidade do Minho;

Vogal suplente: Doutora Francisca Rodrigues dos Reis, Investigadora Júnior do Departamento de Biologia, membro do CBFP, Universidade do Minho;

Vogal suplente: Mestre Ana Sofia Pereira de Freitas, do Departamento de Biologia, Universidade do Minho.

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate 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:

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- a) Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 50%;
- b) Personal curriculum, in particular regarding the adequacy of the profile to the work plan, taking into account previous experience demonstrated in the subject and/or techniques relevant to the work plan, with a weighting of 40%
- c) Motivation letter, with a weighting of 10%.

The final classification of the applicant's merit with the achieved through the following formula:

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

The academic degrees and diplomas documents, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions are not mandatory in the application phase, being replaced by a declaration of honour of the candidate with the contents of academic results. The documents of academic qualification or respective recognition will be required in the contracting phase and must attest facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be consider. If 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 August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path, which can change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship won't be contracted.

Disclosure of results: The provisional results of applications, based in the selection panel minutes, will be send to the applicants by email, under article 12° of the FCT RBI until 13-08-2021.

If case of unfavourable results, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in a prior hearing to interested parties, pursuant to articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL n° 4 / 2015 of January 7th).

Complaint and appeal procedures: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list (*alphabetically, by final grade obtained*), posted in a visible and public place of the host unit, as well as by email to all applicants, enclosing for that purpose, the minutes of the jury deliberations.

The selected candidate must inform its willingness to accept the grant, in writing. In case of rejection, the fellowship will be awarded to the next candidate in the ordered list of applicants.

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

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open from **4th August** till **10th August**

Applications must be formalized by sending an application letter with the following documents: curriculum vitae with the respective certificates; qualifications certificate with final classification or declaration of the applicant; motivation letter; statement proving that meets the conditions for the grant typology, according to the application requirements; other documents important to the evaluation process).

Applications must be sent by email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the reference of the call for applications in Subject (006/ECUM/CBMA-Verão com a Ciência). Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

Fellowship contractualization: The fellowship will be attributed by signing a fellowship contract between the University of Minho and the fellow, accordingly with the contract minute (annex IV of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, n.º 119*, through dispatch n.º 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration n.º 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, as indicated in 2.4 of the FCT document: "[Rules for Granting and Management of Grants within the scope of R&D projects, including infrastructure projects, the multi-annual financing program for R&D units and other FCT financing instruments \(Version 2021\)](#)".

The fellowship contract can only be signed, once all the documentation has been received from the selected candidate, not later than 30-08-2021, including evidences of the academic degrees or diplomas and proof and enrolment in a degree courses or non-conferring degree course.

After receiving all the documentation from the selected candidate, the contracting entity will proceed with the fellowship contractualization within 2 working days until 01-09-2021.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other causes provided the fellowship regulations (FCT and UMinho) and in the Statute of the Research Fellow, the fellowship ends with the completion of the work plan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed.

At the end of the fellowship, the grantee is obliged to present a Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the scientific advisor, within 30 days after the end of the scholarship.

The **final report** must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the Scientific Research Fellowships Regulation of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd series, n.º 119*, through dispatch n.º 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration n.º 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.