

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Post-Doctoral research Fellowship; 1 vacancy

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 1 (one) grant of post-doctoral research fellowship within the scope of the R&D project “UnTAM - Unleashing the tumour associated macrophage (TAM) workforce to fight against cancer from the inside”, reference 31/ECUM/CQ/2022 - UnTAM, financed by national funds through Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia I.P., under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Immunology, Biology, Biotechnology, Biological Engineering, Biochemistry and related areas

Recipient category: The BIPD are intended for doctorates in the area of biology, biotechnology, biological engineering, biochemistry, immunology or related areas, who cumulatively meet the following requirements:

- Holders of a PhD degree obtained in the three years prior to the date of submission of the fellowship application***;
- Have carried out the research work that led to the attribution of a PhD degree in an entity other than the host unit (Centre of Chemistry - University of Minho)**;
- Do not exceed, with the conclusion of the contract in question, including possible renewals, a cumulative period of three years in this type of fellowship, consecutive or interpolated.

Candidates who do not cumulatively meet the requirements described will be excluded.

Other requirements:

- *Strong background in cell biology (cell culture, FACS, confocal microscopy...)*
- *Knowledge of molecular biology techniques (RT-PCR, LAMP, DNA/RNA extraction...)*
- *Immunology knowledge/experience will be very positively evaluated*
- *Prior experience with nanomedicine/nanotechnology would be desirable but is not essential*

** Different R&D Units are included, even if located in the same Organic Unit (UOEI) of UMinho (no. 4 and 5 of article 7 of the FCT I.P Research Grant Regulation, in force)

***Documents proving the ownership of academic degrees and diplomas, or their respective recognition when they have been awarded by foreign higher education institutions, when applicable for the type of scholarship in the call for applications, may be waived at the application stage, being replaced by declaration of honor of the candidate, with the verification of this condition occurring only in the phase of contracting the scholarship. This statement 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 the purpose of contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is verified 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 August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path and may, consequently, change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship contracting will not be done.

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: the workplan relates with the proposed project tasks, namely

- Tasks 1, 2 and 3: The BIPD will provide support to the preparation of the molecules and nanoparticles that will be later used for the preparation of the final drug delivery system (DDS), to the preparation of the DDS itself and to its characterization. The BIPD is not expected to have prior knowledge on these areas as he/she will work under close supervision from senior members of the team with vast experience on these processes. These tasks will take place from month 1 to 29 of the project.
- Task 4: This will be the main responsibility of the BIPD. He/she will be required to lead the *in vitro* validation of the DDS. This will include viability tests, internalization tests, targeting tests, functional tests (immune activation, polarization...), etc. These tests will be performed in classic 2D cell cultures, in co-cultures and in 3D cultures, as well as on PBMCs from donors. This task spans from month 13 to month 36 of the project.
- The BIPD will also be involved in the more administrative stages of the project (communication/outreach, sustainability and exploitation) and will liaise between the groups involved in the project (UMinho-INL). During the length of the project, supervision opportunities of Master students and students enrolled in advanced courses will also appear.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellowship Holder Statutes, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current version published by Decree-Law no. 123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd series, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 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 the Centre of Chemistry of University of Minho, located at the Campus de Gualtar, Braga, and at the International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL) at Av. Mestre José Veiga, Braga under the scientific supervision of Professor Susana Costa (Assistant Professor at UMinho) and Doctor Juan Gallo (Senior Staff Researcher at INL).

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place initially for a period of 12 months, with a provisional starting date on July of 2022. The fellowship grant may eventually be renewed up to 30 months. Renewal of the grant will depend on the correct development of the project and on the fellow meeting work and reporting deadlines.

Amount of the research grant: The value stipend (Monthly Maintenance Allowance) is 1686,00 euros, per month, 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](#)) and Annex II of the Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd series, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, according to the applicable regulation.

Payment is made on the 23st of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contract process.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security (Social Security contributions), 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: Maria Manuela Marques Raposo, Associate Professor with Habilitation at the Department of Chemistry of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho

Effective members: Susana Paula Graça da Costa, Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho, and Juan Gallo Páramo, Staff Researcher of the Health Cluster, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory.

Substitute members: Manuel Banobre López, Group Leader of the Nanomedicine group, Staff Researcher of the Health Cluster, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory, and Sílvia Manuela Pereira-Lima, Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry of the School of Sciences of the University of 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.1: Academic background (considering academic degrees), with a weighting of 20%
- A.2: Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of 70%
- A.3: Motivation Letter, with a weighting of 10%

The final classification of the applicant merit will be obtained with the formula:

$$AM=(A1*0,2)+(A2*0,7)+(A3*0,1)$$

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 considered. 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 sent to the applicants by email until 90 working days from the applications deadline.

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 no. 4 / 2015 of January 7th).

Complaint and appeal procedures: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list 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 Sandra Paiva.

Constitution of a selection reserve list: The applicants ranked in the next positions on the ordered list will be included in a selection reserve list, which can be used until 31/12/2022.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open from the date of publication in Euroaxess portal for a period of 10 working days.

Applications must be formalized, mandatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents: curriculum vitae; certificate of qualifications or declaration of the candidate (if applicable); letter of motivation; letters of recommendation (maximum two).

Applications must be sent by email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the reference of the call 31/ECUM/CQ/2022 - UnTAM in Subject. Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

Fellowship contract: 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, no. 119*, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 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 contract may only be concluded after all the documentation required is collected, which must take place within a maximum period of 6 months.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the scholarship contract. Once received, the fellow must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days.

The activities under the fellowship contract can only began after proper authorization by the contracting entity.

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 Série, no. 119*, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.