

EDITAL

Announcement for
the attribution of 2
Research
Scholarships

UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO

Centro de Biologia Molecular e Ambiental (CBMA)

Announcement for the attribution of two Research Scholarships

A call for tenders is now open for the attribution of two Research Scholarships within the scope of the R&D project "FatVal: Systematic Metabolic Engineering of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* for High Value Fatty Acids and Derivative Products" reference PTDC/EAM-AMB/32506/2017 with financial support by the budget of the Competitiveness and Internationalization Operational Program, its ERDF component, and by the budget of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT, IP) in its OE component, under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences
2. **Recipients:**
 - Degree in Biochemistry or related fields
 - Students enrolled in MSc, preferably at the University of Minho.
3. **-Eligibility of applicants:** applicants must meet the eligibility conditions established in article 9 of the FCT I.P Research Grant Regulation (2019).
4. **Work plan:**

The candidates will carry out R&D activities under the context of the project, aiming at the consolidation of their scientific training.

Particularly the candidates will perform the following tasks:

 - i) Carrying out adaptation cultures of strains containing the FAS II system;
 - ii) Carrying out cultures to screen for the effects of large disturbances by measuring the genes of the FAS II system;
 - iii) Measurement of lipid levels in vivo by semi quantitative methods by flow cytometry and microscopy;
 - iv) Carrying out cultures for quantitative evaluation of recombinant yeast strains that express heterologous fatty acid synthase;
 - v) Measurement of lipid levels in vivo by semi quantitative methods and by GC and GC/MS;
 - vi) Construction of new robust yeast strains expressing the FAS II system;
5. **Applicable legislation and regulations:** Law No. 40/2004, of 18 August (Statute of Scientific Research Fellows); amended by Decree-Law 202/2012 of 27 August, by Law no. 12/2013 of 29 January 2013, by Decree-Law no. 89/2013, of 9 July, and by Decree-Law no.123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Research Scholarships of the University of Minho and the Foundation for Science and Technology I.P, in force. <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamentos.phtml.pt>.
6. **Host institution and scientific supervision:** The work will be developed at the Centre for Molecular and Environmental Biology, Campus de Gualtar-Braga, under the scientific guidance of Doctor Bjorn Johansson
7. **Duration of the Research Scholarship:** The research scholarships will last for 3 months, starting on November 2021.

8. **Monthly Maintenance Allowance:** The monthly maintenance allowance corresponds to the basic value of 835,98 euros, according to the table of scholarships of FCT, I.P. in the country (Appendix I - Table of monthly maintenance allowances for the FCT I.P. Research Scholarship Regulation): <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>. **Other benefits:** Reimbursement of the Voluntary Social Insurance, corresponding to the 1st tier of the contribution base (for scholarships of 6 months or more) and Personal Accident Insurance. Payments are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the scholarship holder.
9. **Jury:** President: Bjorn Johansson; Effective members: Rui Pedro Soares Oliveira and Ana Paula Fernandes Monteiro Sampaio Carvalho; Substitute members: Sandra Cristina Almeida Paiva and Fernanda Maria Fraga Mimoso Gouveia Cássio

If the President of the Jury is unavailable, he/she shall be replaced by the first effective member. The first substitute member will replace the effective member.

The Jury, including the President, undertake the commitment to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, of stating any potential situations of conflict of interest and confidentiality.

10. **Evaluation and Selection Process:** The evaluation of the applications will focus on the merit of the applicant (**CM**), by applying the following criteria on a scale of 1 to 5:

A. Candidates Merit (CM)

A.1: Academic path: final classification obtained in the Degree (**30%**)

A.2: Curriculum vitae, which reflects the personal, scientific and professional path, namely: (**70%**):

A2.a – Knowledge in Biochemistry (**35%**);

A2.b - Knowledge in Metabolic Engineering (**35%**);

A2.c – Knowledge in Molecular Biology (**30%**)

The candidate's Merit (CM) classification will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\mathbf{CM=(A1*0,3) + (A2*0,7)}$$

Candidates classified in the first 4 positions, who obtain a minimum classification of 3,8 in the MC, will be admitted to the Interview stage, with the Jury proceeding to evaluate the following sub-criteria:

B. Interview – INT:

B.1: Relevance of candidate's skills and motivation to carry out the project tasks (40%)

B.2: Demonstrated knowledge in Biochemistry, Molecular Biology and Metabolic Engineering (30%)

B.3: Linguistic competences: Spoken and written fluency in Portuguese and English (30%)

$$\mathbf{INT=(B1*0,4) + (B2*0,3) + (B3*0,3)}$$

The final classification (FC) of the Candidate Merit (CM) and Interview (INT) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\mathbf{FC = (CM*0,6) + (INT*0,4)}$$

Documents proving the ownership of academic degrees and diplomas, or their respective recognition when foreign higher education institutions have awarded them may be dispensed with at the application stage, being replaced by a declaration of honour by the candidate, with the verification of this condition occurring only in 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 a 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, changing the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will not be contracted.

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 jury will assign the minimum grade in the grade of the degree and/or master's course, according to the defined scale of values. of a higher education institution, in the area or area related to that requested in notice.

- 11. Communication of results:** The project evaluation results, based on the minutes, will be sent to candidates by email, within 90 working days after the deadline for submission of applications. If the result is unfavourable to the granting of the requested scholarship, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in the context of 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).
- 12. Complaint and appeal procedures:** The final results of the evaluation will be publicized through an ordered list (alphabetically, by final grade obtained), by email to all candidates, attaching, for that purpose, the minutes with the deliberations of the jury. The selected candidate must state in writing their intention to accept the scholarship. In case of non-acceptance, the scholarship will be awarded to the candidate in order of final ranking. A complaint may be filed against the final decision, within 15 working days, addressed to the President of the Jury. Interested parties may also present an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, Professor Dr. Filipe Vaz.
- 13. Deadline for application and form of submission of applications:**

The competition is open from 11/10/2021 a 22/10/2021. Applications must be formalized, obligatorily, through the following documents: i) curriculum vitae; and ii) certificate of qualifications or declaration of the candidate.

Applications must be sent to the e-mail bjorn_johansson@bio.uminho.pt indicating the reference BI2/FATVAL-CBMA/2021 in the subject.
- 14. Conditions for formalizing the contract:**

On the contract signing date, the selected candidates must prove enrolment in course that confer an academic degree integrated in the educational project of the institution (UMinho).