

DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH INITIATION FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Initiation Fellowship; 1 vacancy

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of one grant *of research initiation fellowship (BII)* within the scope of the project "Support for Education", with financial support from ALCON Portugal, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Optometry and Vision Sciences

Recipient category: Students enrolled in the 1st cycle program- degree in Optometry and Vision Science

Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- Candidates must provide valid proof of enrollment in the 2021-2022 academic year in the above mentioned study cycle.
- Scholarships will only be contracted if the selected candidates provide valid proof of enrollment in the course, issued by the academic services of the Higher Education Institution, respectively indicating the academic year in progress or its duration (start and end).

Preference will be given to candidates enrolled in the third year of the Bachelor's degree.

Applicants eligibility: Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements set out in Article 9 of the Regulations for Scientific Research Grants of the University of Minho (Despacho n° 6524/2020), published in Diário da república n° 119 de 22-06-2020.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

The fellow will be expected to carry out research in the area of contact lens fitting and ocular surface analysis. Specifically, it is intended that the fellow will focus on the impact of the use of artificial tear on the quality of the tear film prior to the use of a contact lens. The work includes reviewing scientific literature in the area, monitoring and designing an experimental protocol, measuring and analysing relevant parameters in contact lens fitting and ocular surface preservation. The candidate must prepare a report and collaborate in scientific dissemination activities, including possible communication and/or publication of results.

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, published in "Diário da República", 2nd serie, no. 119 of July 22, dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the Center of Physics of the Physics Department of the School of Sciences of the University of Minho, under the scientific supervision of Doctor Rute Juliana Ferreira Macedo de Araújo and Professor José Manuel González Meijome.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 3 months, with a provisional starting date on the february of 2022.

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](#) and Annex II og UMinho's Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd serie, 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 rules.

Payment is made until the 23rd of each month, through bank transfer to the fellowship holder's NIB indicated in the contracting process.

Other components of the research grant: 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: (identify the selection panel President and the effective and substitute members)

- Chair: Doctor. Paulo Rodrigues Botelho Fernandes, Assistant Professor of the Physics Department, CFUM member, Director of the OCV Degree Course, University of Minho;
- Effective member: Doctor. Maria Madalena Cunha Faria Lira, Assistant Professor of the Physics Department, Coordinator of the OCV Research Line, CFUM, University of Minho;
- Effective member: Doctor João Manuel Linhares, Physics Department Assistant Professor, member of CFUM, University of Minho;
- Substitute Member: Doctor António Manuel Marques Queirós Pereira, Assistant Professor of the Physics Department, CFUM member, Director of the Degree in OCV, University of Minho;
- Substitute Member: Doctor Jorge Manuel Martins Jorge, Associate Professor of the Physics Department, CFUM member, 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 (or another scale):

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- a) Academic path - Best classification in the curricular unit Basic Contactology of the 2nd year of the Optometry and Vision Sciences degree, with a weighting of 60%;
- b) Motivation letter, with a weighting of 20%
- c) Interview, with a weighting of 20%.

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

$$MC=(a*0,6)+(b*0,2)+(c*0,2)$$

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 honor 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 (*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.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open from January 25 till February 5.

Applications must be formalized by sending an application letter with the following documents: *proof of grades obtained in the Curricular Units of the bachelor's degree program in which the student is enrolled; letter of motivation.*

Applications must be sent by email to bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the reference of the call for applications in Subject. 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, 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 can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required according to the type of grant, which must be received by February 5, 2022, including proof of enrolment in the Optometry and Vision Science degree program.

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