

PhD scholarship (1 vacancy)

Reference: 2023-135-BD-GRE

A competition is open for the attribution of Doctoral Scholarship in the framework of the project **ERC Consolidator grant “GREASEDLIGHTNING - Cyanobacterial Natural Products”** (Grant agreement no: 101088806), according to the following conditions:

1. **Scientific area:** Biological Sciences / Biochemistry
2. **Admission requirements:** The candidates are required to hold a MSc degree in a subject related to natural products chemistry and/or natural products biosynthesis. All nationalities are welcome to apply (subject to visa restrictions), and able to be enrolled in a doctoral program at the time of application, with the aim of consolidating his/her scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the respective PhD degree, or in non-degree course integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or several R&D units, if already graduate. Applicants should be proficient in English. No knowledge of Portuguese is required. In addition, candidates should have excellent academic credentials, have willingness for team work and be highly motivated and committed to work with microbial natural products.

It is a plus if the candidates have proven experience in one or more of the following expertise:

- Experience in culture techniques of cyanobacteria or microalgae at both small and large scales;
- Experience in natural products isolation;
- Experience in lipids research;
- Experience in molecular biology and proteomics, including expertise in cloning, PCR, protein expression, protein purification, and protein activity assays (SDS-PAGE, Urea-PAGE, Agarose gel electrophoresis).

Due to the multidisciplinary character of this project, candidates should be willing and motivated to expand their expertise beyond their background discipline(s).

Any national, foreign and stateless candidate(s) who hold a degree in one of the aforementioned areas and a scientific and professional curriculum whose profile is suited for the activity to be performed is encouraged to apply to this position. In cases where the degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, the said degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August until the signature of the contract.

3. **Work plan:** The ultimate goal of this project is to discover new natural products and new enzymatic activity in cyanobacteria. The project integrates natural products chemistry, metabolomics, biosynthesis and enzymology. The selected candidate will provide support to the ERC project, namely by assisting in the cloning, expression and purification of cyanobacterial enzymes related with novel natural products, and in the preparation and maintenance of cyanobacterial cultures.
4. **Legislation and official rules:** Law nº. 40/2004, 18th August (Research Fellowship and Studentship Regulation) in its current version; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. and CIIMAR Grants Regulation approved by FCT.
5. **Work place:** Cyanobacterial Natural Products located at CIIMAR – Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research, Novo Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Av. General Norton de Matos s/n, 4450-208 Matosinhos, Portugal, under the supervision of Pedro Leão. The candidate will work in a multidisciplinary environment strongly connected to the Sea and you will have access to state-of-the-art analytical instrumentation and modern laboratory facilities.
6. **Duration of the grant:** The position has the duration of one year, under the regime of exclusive dedication. The position is anticipated to start in January 2024.
7. **Monthly maintenance stipend:** The monthly maintenance allowance is 1 199,64 € (one thousand, one hundred and ninety-nine euros and sixty four cents), in agreement with the monthly maintenance stipend table of the grants directly attributed by FCT, I.P. within the country (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_2023.pdf)

8. **Selection methods:** The ranking of candidates will be performed by an initial evaluation based on a global appreciation of the candidates' merit and motivation (valued from 1 to 10) will be made on the basis of the evaluation of their scientific and curricular track-record, in particular the quality of their research outputs related to the subject area of the present call. This will result in a pre-selection of the three best-scoring candidates, scored higher than 7, which will be communicated to the candidates.

One or both of the referees indicated by each of the pre-selected candidates can be contacted at this stage to provide reference letters. An interview may also be carried out, in which case all of the pre-selected candidates will be summoned to the interview. If an interview to the three pre-selected candidates takes place, its objective is solely to clarify issues related to their application, namely regarding their curricular and professional achievements. In this case, the interview will have a relative weight of 0.2 and the previously communicated score will have a relative weight of 0.8. The position may not be awarded if the expected candidate quality is not met.

9. **Composition of the jury:**

President of the jury: Pedro Leão, PhD

Vogal: Mariana Reis, PhD

Vogal: Joana Almeida, PhD

10. **Form of Advertising/notification of the results:** The final results of the first step of the evaluation will be published through a list sorting the candidates according to their attributed mark, on the CIIMAR website and by e-mail; in case of disagreement, the candidates have a 10-working day term in which to contest the decision, if he/she so wishes, as provided for in the Código do Procedimento Administrativo in a preliminary hearing setting. After the interviews, the final results of the shortlisted applicants will be published on the CIIMAR website and by e-mail. The jury reserves the right to not assign the grant depending on the quality of the applications.

11. **Deadline for application and presentation of applications:**

The competition is open from **22/12/2023 until 8/1/2024**.

If you are interested in this position, you are encouraged to apply, by sending:

- i) **Detailed Curriculum Vitae in English** including the e-mail address and phone number of the candidate as well as two reference contacts (name, e-mail and current position);
- ii) **academic transcripts;**
- iii) **a short (max two-page) description of your past achievements, research interests and motivation** to undertake this position.

The application documents and any specific informal inquiries (encouraged) should be addressed to Dr. Maria Lígia Sousa (msousa@ciimar.up.pt) and rh@ciimar.up.pt with 2023-135-BD-GRE in the subject line.

The whole application should be no bigger than 5 MB. Applications that do not include all the previously indicated elements will not be considered. All candidates who formalise their applications in an improper way or fail to prove the requirements imposed by this tender are excluded from admission. In case of doubt, the panel is entitled to request any candidate to present further documentation supporting their statements.

False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: CIIMAR actively promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership. Pursuant to Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication/expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.