

Research Grant (BI) (2 vacancies)

Reference: 2024-029-BD-iCulture

A competition is open for the attribution of 2 Research Grants in the context of the project “iCulture - A digital bio-platform and co-culture bioprocess to prospect and utilize macroalgae responsibly and sustainably”, with the reference HE-101082010, within the R & D Institutions CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research), supported by Horizon Europe, according to the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Biological Sciences / Bioinformatics / Computational Biology.

2. Admission requirements: The candidate must hold a BSc and MSc degree in line with advanced genomics, bioinformatics analyses and related biological interpretations. 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 the applicant is not yet enrolled, she/he must meet the requirements to register; enrolment will be mandatory and proof necessary **only at the moment of scholarship contracting**. 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 within the research field of genomics and bioinformatics.

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

- Experience in genomics and other omics analyses at both small and large evolutionary scales;
- Experience in the computation of high volumes of omics data;
- Experience in bioinformatics and programming;
- Experience in machine learning;
- Experience in biological inferences from genomic and other omics (transcriptomic, proteomic, etc), including microbiomes assessments (metabarcoding, metagenomics).

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



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Note: In the case of enrolment in courses that do not confer academic degree, the research grant can only be awarded to those who do not exceed, with the signing of the research grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in this type of grant, consecutive or interpolated.

Academic degrees awarded by a foreign higher education institution must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August, which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, attributed by foreign higher education institutions, being any formalities established therein fulfilled **only by the date of the contracting act**.

3. Work plan: The selected candidates will develop innovative research supporting the goals of the iCulture project, namely by assisting in state-of-the-art genomic and other omics analyses, from automated data gathering, genome annotation, gene mining and association with phylogenetics, functional pathways, phenotypic (host/microbiome) and environmental/ecological variables, using cutting edge bioinformatics, machine learning and artificial intelligence to foster research and industrial potential applications in macroalgae survey and sustainable use.

4. Legislation and official rules: Law n.º. 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: The work will be carried out at CIIMAR, Edifício do Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Av. General Norton de Matos, s/n, 4450-208 Matosinhos, integrated in the Evolutionary Genomics and Bioinformatics team, under the coordination of Prof. Agostinho Antunes.

6. Duration of the contract: Duration of one year, eventually renewable according to legal terms and successful performance, up to three years, with a provisional start on May 2024, under the regime of exclusive dedication.

7. Monthly salary: The monthly maintenance allowance is 1 259,64 € (one thousand, two hundred and fifty 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/2024/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_atualizacao-2024.pdf . Payment will be



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made by bank transfer. In addition to this allowance, the grantee will be covered by a personal accident insurance.

8. Selection methods: The ranking of candidates will be performed by a global evaluation based on:

- Evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae - merit of the academic curriculum and performance: global appreciation considering the BSc and MSc degrees, further enrolled studies, and its appropriateness to the position as well as the performance of the candidate in such degrees - 50%;

- Relevant experience and qualification for the proposed research area, motivation and research interest alignment with the goals of the project - 50%.

The jury reserves the right to not assign the research grant if none of the candidates meets all requirements and matches the desired quality profile.

9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Prof. Agostinho Antunes

Vogal: Prof. Miguel Santos

Vogal: Dr. Guillermin Agüero-Chapin

10. Form of advertising/notification of results: The final results 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; After the announcement of the results, candidates are considered automatically notified to, if they wish to do so, comment on the results on a preliminary hearing period within 10 working days after that date, as provided for in the *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. The jury reserves the right to not assign the grant depending on the quality of the applications.

In case of resignation or withdrawal of the selected candidate, the next candidate with the highest evaluation score will be notified immediately.

11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications: The competition is open from **19/4/2024 until 6/5/2024**. The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:



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- 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);
- a short (max two-page) description of past achievements, research interests and motivation to undertake this position in English;
- certificates (copy) of the previous academic degrees, specifying mandatorily the final classification. Only candidates who have completed the Master degree by the end of the application period will be admitted. If they do not yet have the official degree certificate, a declaration of honour from the candidate stating that he/she has completed the qualifications required by the end of the application period, will be accepted. At the time of the respective hiring the candidate must present the official degree certificate;
- For degrees obtained abroad, proof of recognition of academic degrees assigned by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the conversion of the final classification (GPA) to the Portuguese classification scale. Alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour attesting to the request for recognition of degrees may be included;
- evidence of enrolment in a doctoral program or non-academic degree course, if applicable. Alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour attesting the commitment to enrol in a Doctoral Program or a non-academic degree Course integrated in the educational project of a Higher Education Institution, if selected for the scholarship and accepted the award. Proof of enrolment in a doctorate or a non-academic degree Course integrated in the educational project of a Higher Education Institution is mandatory at the moment of scholarship contracting.

The applications must be sent by e-mail to rh@ciimar.up.pt and Prof. Agostinho Antunes (aantunes@ciimar.up.pt), with the reference **2024-029-BD-iCulture** in the subject line. The applications that **do not include all** the elements previously indicated will **not be considered**. The whole application should be no bigger than **3 MB** and comprehend a **single pdf file**.

12. 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.



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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.



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