

Announcement of a call for research grant

Reference: 2025_049_BI_InsectAqua

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 Research Grant in the framework of the project InsectAqua - Transformation of insect by-products to improve the sustainability of aquafeeds, with the reference 2023.12923.PEX, supported by Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), according to the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Biological Sciences / Marine Sciences

2. Admission requirements:

Any national, foreign and stateless candidates who are enrolled in a Master's degree, an Integrated Master's degree, or are graduates and Master's degree holders enrolled in non-degree-granting courses in the field of Biological Sciences (including Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Marine Sciences, or related areas), with a final average equal or greater than 13 points (out of 20).

Candidates must provide clear evidence of the capacity to:

- Perform biotechnological treatments of macroalgae and feedstuffs, particularly using solid-state (high load) fermentation technology;
- Prepare, maintain, and conduct *ex vivo* (explant) assays;
- Analyze digestive enzyme activities, oxidative stress markers, and intermediary metabolism;
- Analyze immune parameters, including ACH50;
- Perform gene expression analyses, including quantitative PCR (qPCR);
- Conduct growth, digestibility, and bacterial or thermal challenge trials in fish;
- Process data using Microsoft Excel and perform statistical analyses;
- Demonstrate fluency in both spoken and written English.

Research grants are intended for students enrolled in an integrated master's degree or a master's degree to carry out R&D activities, aiming to consolidate their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the achievement of the respective academic degree. These grants may also be used to carry out R&D activities by graduates or masters who are enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree and are part of the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units, in which case they can only be awarded to those who do not exceed, with the conclusion of the grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in that type of grant, consecutive or interpolated

3. Work plan:

The selected candidate will carry out laboratory analyses of the products and samples generated during the experimental tests. The fellow will be involved in the preparation of all tasks and in the monitoring of ex vivo assays and zootechnical trials. The fellow will also participate in the interpretation and discussion of the results obtained in this project. The selected candidate will also be encouraged to write scientific articles and participate in the dissemination of the project results.

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:

Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research – CIIMAR; Edifício do Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Av. General Norton de Matos, s/n, 4450-208 Matosinhos

6. Duration of the grant:

6 months, eventually renewal for equal periods

7. Monthly maintenance stipend:

The	monthly	maintenance	allowance	is
Master Students,integrated master students or bachelor's and master's students (BI) PT -1 040,98€				

8. Selection methods:

Candidates will first be ranked according to:

- Evaluation of curriculum vitae (CV) - 30%
- Motivation letter (ML) - 10%
- Experience in the proposed research area - 60%.

CV: The overall evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae will consider academic qualifications and the global scientific trajectory.

ML: The candidate's motivation and ability to innovate will be assessed based on the motivation letter, which should describe the relevance of the scientific path to the position and the candidate's personal career goals.

SA: Scientific activity will be evaluated based on:

- Publications in peer-reviewed international journals, as well as oral and poster presentations at international and national conferences relevant to the project;
- Demonstrated experience corresponding to the admission requirements outlined in point 2;
- Level of autonomy and degree of proactivity.

The evaluation process may include an interview, for the first 3 positions, with the only purpose of clarifying aspects related to the research results, with a relative weight of 30%, and the previous evaluation, with a relative weight of 70%.

9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Helena Fernandes

Vogal: Helena Peres

Vogal: Rui Magalhães

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 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 Administrative Procedure Code in a preliminary hearing setting. 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 2/6/2025 **until** 16/6/2025 . The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- Detailed Curriculum vitae, in Portuguese or in English;
- Past research activities and its relevance to the current project explained in a motivation letter written in Portuguese or English;
- Certificates (copy) of the previous academic degrees, specifying mandatorily the final classification.

- Proof of enrollment in a Master's programme or a non-degree-granting course that is integrated into the educational project of a Higher Education Institution and developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units, at the time of application. Alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour attesting the commitment to enrol in a Master 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.
- A valid contact e-mail address and telephone number.

The applications cannot exceed 20 MB and must be sent by e-mail to: rh@ciimar.up.pt, with the reference 2025_049_BI_InsectAqua in the subject line. The applications that do not include all the elements previously indicated will not be considered.

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.

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.