

## Announcement of a call for research grant

### Reference: 2025\_045\_BI\_AtlantidaII

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 Research Grant in the framework of the project "ATLANTIDA II Observatório Costeiro do Atlântico Norte de Portugal", with the reference NORTE2030-FEDER-01799200, supported by Programa Regional do Norte 2021-2027 [NORTE2030], according to the following conditions:

**1. Scientific area:** Biological sciences, Aquatic or Environmental Sciences or akin areas

**2. Admission requirements:**

- Any national, foreign and stateless candidates with a bachelor degree in the area of Biological sciences, Aquatic or Environmental Sciences or similar areas, with a final average equal or greater than 14 points (out of 20):
  - Experience in ecological modelling
  - Experience in writing of scientific papers
  - Proficiency in data analysis
  - Scientific experience
- able to develop work within the theme '**Trait-Based Food Web Modelling of the Minho Estuary Over Recent Decades**'
- able to be enrolled in a master program or in a course that do not confer an academic degree

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.

Preference will be given to candidates with:

- Participation in multidisciplinary teams
- Experience in developing ecological models of marine species from the NE Atlantic
- Experience in outreach activities related to ecological modelling
- Fluency in both spoken and written English

If the degree has been awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled until the signing of the contract.

### 3. Work plan:

The selected candidate will work on ATLANTIDA II, within **Activity 4– Climate change and modelling of marine and coastal areas**. The research will focus on ecological modelling and ecosystem analysis in the Minho estuary. The selected candidate will contribute to the parameterization and implementation of a food web model to examine changes in ecosystem structure and functioning over recent decades.

The main goal of the work is to understand long-term changes in the Minho estuarine food web, using a trait-based modelling approach. The work will involve:

- Compiling and refining data on functional traits of key species and trophic groups;
- Identifying and integrating major drivers of change;
- Reparametrizing an existing food web model to reflect both historical and recent conditions;
- Running dynamic simulations, calibrating model outputs, and comparing them with observed data to assess ecological consistency and model performance;
- Exploring how changes in drivers, traits and trophic structure relate to broader patterns of ecosystem functioning and resilience.

### 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:

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, under the supervision of Irene Martins.

### 6. Duration of the grant:

Duration of 6 (six) months, with a provisional start on 1st of December 2025, under the regime of exclusive dedication.

## 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 Method:

The ranking of candidates will be done based on the evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae (EC) performed according to the following criteria:

EC = [60% AQ + 40% PE]

- AQ: Academic Qualification relevant for the scientific area.
- PE: Previous Experience relevant for the scientific area.

Preference will be given to candidates with background in Biology, Aquatic Sciences or Environmental Sciences, and previous experience in one or more of the following topics:

- a) Ecological data analysis;
- b) Ecosystem and food web ecology;
- c) Ecological modelling and simulation tools;

The evaluation process may include an interview of up to the three highest-scoring candidates, as long as their scores are higher than 7 out of 10. The interview is intended to clarify aspects related to their previous research, in which case the interview weighs 20% and the previous evaluation weighs 80%.

## 9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Irene Martins

Vogal: Isabel Iglesias

Vogal: Ester Dias

## 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 October** until **15 October 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.
- Contact e-mail address and phone number.

The applications cannot exceed 20 MB and must be sent by e-mail to: [rh@ciimar.up.pt](mailto:rh@ciimar.up.pt), with the reference 2025\_045\_BI\_AtlantidaII 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.