

Announcement of a call for research grant

Reference: 2025_097_BI_X-IAS

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 Research Grant in the framework of the project X-IAS - Investigating the Cumulative Effects of Multiple Invasive Species on Estuarine Ecosystems, with the reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00798600 (nº 16802), supported by the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER) through the Competitiveness and Internationalization Operational Program (COMPETE 2030), to be developed at CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre for Marine and Environmental Research), according to the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Environmental sciences

2. Admission requirements:

Any national, foreign and stateless candidates with a bachelor degree in the area of Environmental Sciences or similar areas, with a final average equal or greater than 14 points (out of 20):

- a) Proven experience and knowledge in field sampling, including biodiversity assessments in marine/estuarine ecosystems and experience in working with mesocosms.
- b) Experience in processing and identifying zooplankton, macroinvertebrates, and fish samples; expertise in zooplankton identification will be considered an asset.
- c) Experience in laboratory analyses.
- d) Excellent communication skills in English and knowledge of the Portuguese language are required.
- e) Scientific experience.

The research grants (BI) are intended for carrying out R&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated master's degree or a master's degree or in a course that do not confer an academic degree*, aiming to consolidate their scientific training through the development of research work leading to obtaining the respective academic degree, integrated into R&D projects: if the applicant is not yet enrolled, it must meet the requirements to register; enrolment will be mandatory and proof necessary at the moment of scholarship contracting.

In the event the degree was conferred by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August, until the signature of the contract.

* 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.

3. Work plan:

The selected candidate will work in the X-IAS project (COMPETE2030-FEDER-00798600). The X- IAS project aims to assess the ecological impact of systems affected by multiple invasions by assessing and isolating the effects of selected high-impact estuarine invaders to understand their impact. Specifically in this research grant the candidate is expected to participate in the different tasks of the project, including: a) field samplings; b) processing and identification of zooplankton, fishes and macroinvertebrates; c) mesocosm experiences; d) laboratory analyses related to the project tasks; e) participation in actions and activities related to the project dissemination and outreach.

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 selected candidate will work under the supervision of the principal investigator of the project, Dra Martina Ilarri, integrated in the research team Benthic Ecology and Environmental solutions at CIIMAR. The laboratory is located at the headquarters of CIIMAR, in the modern Cruise Ship Terminal of the Port of Leixões, in Matosinhos, Porto's metropolitan area. Field sampling campaigns will take place at the Minho estuary, in Vila Nova de Cerveira.

6. Duration of the grant:

Duration of 6 months, starting in December 2025, under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewal under the conditions of the project and legal terms.

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:

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 previous experience in one or more of the following topics:

- a) Experience in scientific research.
- b) Experience in identifying zooplankton, macroinvertebrates and fishes. Expertise in zooplankton identification will be considered an asset.
- c) Experience in field sampling, preferably in estuarine and coastal systems.
- d) Experience in mesocosm experiences.
- e) Experience in estuarine research.
- f) Experience in multidisciplinary teams.
- g) A good level of written and spoken English;

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%. The jury reserves the right to not assign the position depending on the quality of the applications.

9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Dr. Martina Ilarri

Vogal: Dr. Marina Dolbeth

Vogal: Dr. Francisco Arenas

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 **7/11** until **20/11/2025**. 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, with the reference **2025_097_BI_X-IAS** 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.