

## **Announcement for the opening of one research grant (BI) – 1 Vacancy**

**Reference: 2025\_118\_BI\_SponBIODIV**

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 research grant in the framework of the project “SponBIODIV - Marine sponge biodiversity from genes to ecosystems: delivering knowledge and tools for sustainable management and conservation”, funded in scope of the European Biodiversity Partnership (Biodiversa+) with reference **DivProtect/011/2021** within the R&D Institution CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research), supported FCT, according to the following conditions:

**1. Scientific area:** Biological Sciences/Marine Sciences.

**2. Admission requirements:** Any national, foreign or stateless candidate(s) who holds a Master degree in the field of Biological or Ecological Sciences with experience in bioinformatics.

The applicants must have demonstrated experience in:

- biodiversity data mining from public portals (e.g. GBIF, OBIS) and historical literature
- biogeographical multivariate data analysis (e.g. Generalized Additive Models (GAMs), hierarchical clustering, multivariate regression trees, and /or network analysis) in R or Python
- written and oral proficiency in English

These grants are intended for the performance of R&D activities by students enrolled in a doctoral program, aiming at the consolidation of their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the attainment of the respective academic degree, integrated into R&D projects. The grant may also be intended for the performance of R&D activities by graduates or masters who are enrolled in non-degree-granting courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.

Bachelor's degrees awarded to graduates or masters who are enrolled in non-degree-granting courses may only be awarded to those who do not exceed, with the signing of the grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in that type of grant, whether consecutive or intermittent.

**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 there in fulfilled only by the date of the contracting act.

**3. Work plan:** The candidate will be responsible for supporting the work to be developed under “WP1 – Biodiversity and biogeographic patterns”, namely investigating the large-scale patterns and trends of species and habitats diversity (richness and taxonomic distinctness) in relation to

latitude, longitude and depth to identify hotspots of sponge diversity and scales of endemism across the Atlantic Ocean. The candidate will also be supporting the analysis of the results and the writing of deliverable reports, as well as writing scientific papers.

**4. Legislation and official rules:** Law nº.40/2004, 18th August (Research Fellowship Holder Statute) in its current version; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. and CIIMAR Grants Regulation.

**5. Work place:** The work will be carried out in CIIMAR – Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research, Edifício do Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Av. General Norton de Matos, s/n, 4450-208 Matosinhos, in the Deep-Sea Biodiversity and Conservation Research Team, Portugal, under the supervision of the researcher Dr. Joana Xavier.

**6. Duration of the contract:** Duration of 6 months, starting in **January 2026**, under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewable up legal terms.

**7. Monthly stipend:** The monthly maintenance allowance is € 1.309,64 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/2025/02/Tabela\\_valores\\_SMM\\_2025.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf), by bank transfer payment. In addition to this allowance, the grantee(s) will be covered by a personal accident insurance.

**8. Selection methods:** The ranking of candidates will be performed by a global evaluation (GE) of the *Curriculum vitae* and supporting documents performed according to the following criteria:

$$GE = [30\%AQ + 50\%PE + 20\%MO]$$

- AQ: Academic qualification relevant for the scientific area, taking into account the University-level degrees, their appropriateness to the position as well as the performance of the candidate in each of such degrees), ranked from 0 to 10.
- PE: Professional experience in the field of study, ranked from 0 to 10.
- MO: Motivation of the candidate and interest in the field of research taking into account the motivation statement, ranked from 0 to 10.

The evaluation process may include an interview with the graders scored higher than 7 out of 10, which is intended to clarify aspects related to the results of their research, in which case the interview weighs 30% and the previous evaluation weighs 70%.

The selection will be based on the vote of each member of the jury regarding the most adequate candidate for the position, and, in the case of a tie in the vote, the vote of the president of the jury will prevail.

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

**9. Composition of the jury selection:**

President of the jury: Dr. Joana Xavier

Vogal: Dr. Andreu Santín Muriel

Vogal: Dr. José Queirós

**10. Form of advertising/notification of results:** The final results of the evaluation will be sent through a list sorting the candidates according to their attributed mark, by e-mail and available in CIIMAR website; 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. The jury reserves the right to not assign the contract depending on the quality of the applications.

**11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications:** The competition is open from **5/12/2025 until 19/12/2025**. The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- detailed *Curriculum vitae*;
- copy of the eligibility certificates;
- motivation letter;
- contact information of two researchers familiar with the candidate's skills and competences;
- any other documents that the candidates may recognize as relevant.

Applications must be sent to [rh@ciimar.up.pt](mailto:rh@ciimar.up.pt) with reference on the subject 2025\_118\_BI\_SponBIODIV. Attachments should be limited to 5 MB total size. **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 honor, 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.