

Announcement of a call for Post-Doctoral research grant

Reference: 2026_062_BIPD_ApexChange

A competition is open for the attribution of one Post-Doctoral Research Grant within the framework of the project "ApexChange- Reproductive potential of blue sharks in a changing climate ", with the reference 2024.06874.RESTART, funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT), under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Biological Sciences

2. Admission requirements:

Any national, foreign or stateless candidate(s) holding a PhD degree in Biological Sciences, or in a closely related field, are eligible to apply.

Degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August. Any recognition or other formal requirements established under this legislation must be completed before the contract is signed.

Candidates must demonstrate experience in:

- analysis of ecological and environmental datasets using R;
- processing and analysis of high-resolution biologging datasets, preferably acceleration data collected from electronic tags;
- statistical analysis and visualization of complex datasets;
- interpretation of behavioral and physiological data derived from animal-borne sensors.

Preference will be given to candidates demonstrating:

- experience with bioenergetic modelling, particularly Dynamic Energy Budget (DEB) models;
- experience integrating biologging and environmental datasets;
- experience estimating metabolic or oxygen consumption proxies from acceleration data;
- scientific publications relevant to marine ecology, physiological ecology or quantitative ecology;
- ability to work independently;
- excellent written and spoken English.

*BIPD grants may only be awarded provided that the following requirements are cumulatively met:

- a) The doctoral degree was obtained within the three years prior to the date of submission of the grant application;
- b) The post-doctoral research is conducted at a host institution other than the institution where the research leading to the doctoral degree was carried out;

- c) The research activities do not require post-doctoral experience;
- d) The research activities have a development and execution period of three years or less;
- e) The grant holder does not exceed—through the grant contract in question, including any possible renewals—a cumulative period of three years under this type of grant, whether consecutive or non-consecutive.

3. Work plan:

The selected candidate is expected to process and analyze high-resolution acceleration datasets already available; derive behavioral metrics from electronic tag data, including estimates of the time spent under different temperature and oxygen conditions; calculate Overall Dynamic Body Acceleration (ODBA) and other biologically relevant metrics associated with shark activity and energy expenditure; integrate biologging-derived information DEB models to estimate and refine model parameters under current environmental conditions; conduct statistical analyses and data visualization using R; prepare scientific publications and technical reports; and disseminate project results to scientific and non-scientific audiences.

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.

4. Work place:

The selected candidate will work in the Rivers and Coastal Ecology research team at CIIMAR headquarters, located in the Terminal Cruise of the Port of Leixões, in Matosinhos, under the supervision of Dr. Ester Dias.

5. Duration of the grant:

Duration of 6 months starting in August, under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewal up to legal terms.

- 6. Monthly maintenance stipend:** The monthly maintenance allowance is 1 901,00€ 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/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>, by bank transfer payment.

7. Selection methods:

An overall assessment (valued from 1 to 10) of the candidates' merit will be made through the evaluation of their curriculum vitae (30%; CV), the motivation letter (10%; ML), and the scientific experience relevant for this position (60%; SA).

CV: The Curriculum Vitae will be evaluated considering the candidate's academic qualifications, scientific productivity, publication record, participation in research projects, and overall scientific career.

ML: The motivation letter will be evaluated based on the candidate's motivation for the position, understanding of the project objectives, suitability of their previous experience to the proposed work, and career goals.

SA: Scientific experience will be evaluated based on: i) demonstrated experience in the processing and analysis of high-resolution biologging datasets, particularly acceleration data; ii) experience in quantitative data analysis, statistical modelling and data visualization using R; iii) experience in bioenergetic modelling, including DEB models or related mechanistic approaches; iv) scientific autonomy, problem-solving skills and ability to work independently; v) scientific dissemination activities, including peer-reviewed publications, conference presentations and technical reports.

The evaluation process may include an interview with the first three graders in case of tied vote. In this case the interview weighs 30% and the previous evaluation weighs 70%.

8. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Ester Dias
Vogal: Carlos Antunes
Vogal: Vânia Freitas

9. 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 they so wish, 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.

10. Deadline for application and presentation of applications:

The competition is open from 07/07/2026 **until** 20/07/2026. The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- a) Curriculum vitae (in English);
- b) Copy of eligibility certificates;
- c) Motivation letter (max 2 pages) stating the aspects previously mentioned in points 2 and 7 (in English);
- d) Any other documents considered relevant for the application.

Applications that do not include the elements a, b, and c, will not be considered. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law. At the time of the respective hiring the candidate must present the official degree certificate.

The applications cannot exceed 20 MB and must be sent by e-mail to: rh@ciimar.up.pt, with the reference **2026_062_BIPD_ApexChange** in the subject line. The applications that do not include all the elements previously indicated will not be considered.

11. 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.