

RESEARCH GRANT (BI) (2 vacancy)**Reference:** 2026_077_BI_EPIZEBRA

A competition is open for the attribution of 2 research grant in the framework of the Project “EPIZEBRA - Developing Zebrafish epigenome editing to improve hazard assessment of Contaminants of Emerging Concern”, financed by *FCT* within the R&D Institution CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research), according to the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Biology and related areas

2. Admission requirements:

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

- Demonstrated experience conducting CRISPR-Cas9/ CRISPR-dCas9 and ecotoxicological assays with zebrafish, particularly dealing with Statins
- Demonstrated experience on loss of function experiments with the Mevalonate pathway in Zebrafish animal model

- Able to be enrolled in a master program at the time of application, with the aim of consolidating his/her scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the respective MSc degree or in a non-degree course integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or several R&D units. If the applicant is not yet enrolled, she/he must meet the requirements to register; enrolment will be mandatory and proof necessary only at the moment of scholarship contracting.

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:

- Demonstrated experience conducting CRISPR-Cas9/ CRISPR-dCas9 and ecotoxicological assays with zebrafish, particularly dealing with Statins
- Demonstrated experience on loss of function experiments with the Mevalonate pathway in Zebrafish animal model.
- Experience in team work, writing reports and presenting scientific results at scientific and non-scientific events.
- High motivation to enroll with the project's work plan and within the work and goals of the CIIMAR team where the work will be developed, clearly justified in a motivation letter.

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 work being carried by the candidates aims at developing assays with zebrafish to perform knockouts and knockdowns using CRISPR-Cas9/ CRISPR-dCas9 with a particular focus on the Mevalonate pathway. The selected candidate will also participate in manuscript and technical reports writing, as well as on project results dissemination for scientific and non-scientific audiences.

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 selected candidate will work in the research team *EDEC* from CIIMAR. The work place will be at the Terminal Cruise of the Port of Leixões, in Matosinhos, in the metropolitan area of Porto, under the supervision of Dr. Miguel Santos.

6. Duration of the contract: Duration of (6) months, under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewable up to the end of the project.

7. Monthly stipend: The monthly maintenance allowance is 1090,98 € 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.

8. Selection methods: An overall assessment (valued from 1 to 10) of the candidates' merit will be made through the evaluation of their scientific and curricular track record, based on 3 strands and relevance for the planned project. The evaluation of the curriculum vitae will count 35% (CV), the motivation letter 15% (ML) and the scientific activity 50% (SA).

CV: For the global evaluation of the CV, the academic qualifications and the global scientific path will be evaluated

ML: Evaluation of the candidate's motivation to join the work plan and the team, based on the motivation letter describing the relevance of the scientific path to the position and personal career goals.

SA: The scientific activity is evaluated, based on:

- Demonstrated experience conducting CRISPR-Cas9/ CRISPR-dCas9 and ecotoxicological assays with zebrafish, particularly dealing with Statins
- Demonstrated experience on loss of function experiments with the Mevalonate pathway in Zebrafish animal model
- Number of scientific publications and participations in scientific events
- Enrollment in outreach activities to the public
- Enrollment in career and personal development courses or activities
- Autonomy level and degree of proactivity

An interview may also be carried out, in which case all of the three first selected candidates will be summoned to

the interview. The jury will select candidates to the positions, only if at least one of the candidates meets the required profile.

If an interview to the three best ranked candidates takes place, its objective is to clarify specific aspects related to their application, namely regarding their professional and/or curricular achievements, with a weight of 25%.

9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Miguel Santos

Vogal: Teresa Neuparth

Vogal: Raquel Ruivo

10. Form of Advertising/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation step will be published on CIIMAR's website as a list of candidates ranked according to the assigned valuation. These results will also be emailed to candidates. In case of disagreement, candidates have a period of 10 working days to respond, if they so wish, in a prior hearing and in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure. After the interviews, the final results related to the pre-selected candidates will be published on CIIMAR's website and communicated to them via e-mail.

11. The jury reserves the right not to assign the position if none of the candidates meet all the requirements and match the desired profile.

12. Period for receiving applications: The application should be sent by email, between **28/8 until 10/9/2026**, to rh@ciimar.up.pt with the reference of the Call (2026_077_BI_EPIZEBRA) in the "Subject" field of the email. The application must be formalized by sending the following documents:

- a) Curriculum vitae, including contact data;
- b) Copy of eligibility certificates;
- c) Motivation letter (max 2 pages) stating the aspects previously mentioned;
- d) Any other documents considered relevant.

Applications that do not include all of the above elements will not be considered. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

13. Policy of non-discrimination and equal access: CIIMAR actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty on the grounds, namely, of ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, illness chronicle, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership. Under the terms of Decree-Law nº 29/2001, of February 3rd, the disabled candidate has a preference in equal classification, which prevails over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare in the application form, under a commitment to honour, the respective degree of incapacity, the type of disability and the means of communication/expressions to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned diploma.