

Call for 1 Research Fellowship

Ad summary

A call is now open for 1 (one) Research Fellowship (call reference: FishVen/006/BI/2023) in the scope of the research-related activities in Biological Sciences of the project “A first assessment of marine fish venom diversity and their in vivo antimicrobial activity” (ref: 2022.08756.PTDC), funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (*Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia*) – FCT, I.P./MCTES, through national funds (PIDDAC).

1. Scientific field: Biological Sciences / Marine Biology

2. Funding source: Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (*Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia*) – FCT, I.P./MCTES, through national funds (PIDDAC); (project reference: 2022. 08756.PTDC)

3. Applicant’s profile

Mandatory requirements: bachelor’s degree or higher in biology, molecular and cell biology and veterinary or other relevant fields.

Preferred factors:

- . Immediate availability to work in a field team and collect fish samples.
- . Previous experience and knowledge in conventional techniques in bacteriology, management of bacterial collections and microbiological analysis of biological products.
- . Experience on biochemical analysis (e.g., SDS-PAGE electrophoresis or HPLC analysis) will be considered but not required.
- . Experience in outreach activities engaging fishermen or students on ocean literacy projects will be considered but not required.
- . Good scientific writing.
- . Proficiency in the English language, spoken and written.
- . Immediate availability to start working in this project.

4. Requirements for admission to the call

The following documents must be submitted:

- a) Bachelor’s degree certificate/diploma in Biology or another related field.
- b) Detailed *curriculum vitae* (CV);
- c) Motivation letter.

Only applicants who supply proof to have completed the study cycle leading to a bachelor’s degree by the end of the application deadline will be admitted. If applicants do not yet have the certificate of completion, a declaration of honor will be accepted stating that they have completed the qualifications required for the call and that the bachelor’s diploma will be dated within the application period. The fellowship award is always contingent upon the presentation of the mandatory proof of academic qualifications.

If the academic degree has been conferred by a foreign higher education institution, it must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, and the final classification must be

converted into the Portuguese evaluation scale, under the terms of the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16th, which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, attributed by foreign higher education institutions, and of paragraph e) of no. 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018, of August 3rd.

If the candidate has already requested but is waiting on the recognition of the academic degree conferred by a foreign higher education institution to be issued, he/she can submit a declaration of honor clarifying that the recognition was requested and will be dated within the application period.

The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas and the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale may be requested in any Portuguese public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, for automatic recognition only). Please consult the DGES portal for details: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

5. Requirements for signing the fellowship contract

The selected candidate must be enrolled in a Master's degree or enrolled in a course that does not award an academic degree integrated with the educational project of a higher education institution. This registration must be completed until the time of contracting the research fellowship.

In the case of diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions, the recognition of these academic degrees must be presented until the time of contracting the research fellowship and the date of recognition must fall within the application period (as indicated in point 4).

For the purposes of signing the contract, a form with personal information, Ciência ID, a copy of the identification document, and a declaration on exclusive dedication regime might also be requested.

False declarations are reason to cancel the candidacy without prejudice to the application of other sanction measures.

6. Work plan

Immediate availability to be included in a team with fieldwork experience to identify and collect biological material from fish along coastal areas nearby Lisbon, in fishmarkets or during scuba diving surveys (certification not required). The candidate will collect samples of biological material from fish in a laboratory facility and he/she will have to maintain the fish in a fish facility with the support of an inhouse team. Laboratory protocols on biochemistry and microbiology will follow to characterize fish venom composition and properties.

Most importantly, the fellow will be involved in the analysis of the antimicrobial potential of fish associated products regarding relevant clinical isolates, to be performed using *in vitro* conventional techniques and the *Galleria mellonella in vivo* model.

The candidate will be responsible for all data management and for the statistical analysis comparing fish venom samples and their biological effects.

The fellow might also collaborate in other activities as long as these are aligned with the goals of the project/work plan, such as travelling to collect additional samples, promotion and outreach activities in scientific events.

7. Applicable legislation

Law No. 40/2004, of August 18th, as amended by the Decree-Law No. 123/2019, of August 28th, in its current wording (Research Fellowship Holder Statute/Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação - EBI); Regulation No. 950/2019, of November 29th, published in Diário da República, No. 241, Series II, of December 16th (FCT's Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships/Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação da FCT - RBI); Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16th (Legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of higher education awarded by foreign higher education institutions); Regulation for Scientific Research Fellowships of Ispa – Instituto Universitário; and other applicable legislation.

8. Workplace and scientific supervision

The research fellowship agreement will be signed with ISPA, CRL (contracting entity). The place of work is located at the *MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre* (host institution), located at Ispa – Instituto Universitário (Rua Jardim do Tabaco 34, 1149-041 Lisbon, Portugal) and, eventually, other locations (e.g., Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária) necessary for the execution of the planned activities, under the scientific supervision of Doctor Frederico Almada and Doctor Manuela Oliveira.

9. Duration of the fellowship

The fellowship will have a duration of 6 months, eventually renewable for periods not exceeding the eligible period of the project, conditioned by the project's budget, and in accordance with the maximum period for research fellowships as indicated in points 4 and 5 of Article 6 of FCT's Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships.

The fellowship is expected to start in May 2023.

10. Remuneration and other components

The monthly stipend is **€ 930,98**, in accordance to the table of monthly maintenance stipend in Portugal set by FCT for activities in exclusive dedication regime (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_2023.pdf), subject to any updates that may apply, to be paid monthly through bank transfer. The fellow is also entitled to the applicable voluntary social security system (Seguro Social Voluntário, Decree-Law No. 40/89, of February 1st; EBI – art. 10º), and a personal accidents insurance.

11. Submission of applications

The call is open from **April 6th, 2023, to April 21th, 2023**, 11PM (Lisbon time). Only applications received within the specified application period will be considered.

Applications must be formalized via e-mail to candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt, copied falmada@ispa.pt and mare_ispa@ispa.pt, and must clearly state the reference of this call in the "Subject" of the e-mail: **FishVen/006/BI/2023**.

Applications must include the following mandatory documents (as indicated in point 4):

- a) Copy of the bachelor's degree certificate/diploma in Biology or another related field with the final classification.
- b) Detailed curriculum vitae (CV);
- c) Motivation letter.

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

The non-compliance with these requirements may determine the rejection of the application.

12. Evaluation and selection criteria

The evaluation process will consist of two stages: 1) Stage 1 - The evaluation of the submitted documents (70%), and 2) Stage 2 – interview (30%).

Stage 1

In Stage 1 candidates will be evaluated and ranked by their curriculum according to the following (weighted) criteria:

Criterion A: Academic degree (40%), based on the final classification indicated in the bachelor's diploma.

Criterion B: Previous experience in research-related activities in the scientific field of the project/work plan as indicated in the candidate's CV (30%).

Criterion C: Other qualification (master's degree) and/or relevant activities and training (10%)

Criterion D: Motivation and interest in the scientific area, as indicated in the candidate's motivation letter (20%).

Applications will be evaluated, and candidates ranked, on a 0,00 – 20,00 scale. The final classification of Stage 1 will result from the formula:

$$\text{Stage 1} = (\text{Criterion A} \times 40\%) + (\text{Criterion B} \times 30\%) + \text{Criterion C} \times 10\% \\ (\text{Criterion D} \times 20\%)$$

Stage 2

Candidates ranked in the first **3** positions of Stage 1, that is, with the highest score in descending order, will be interviewed. Candidates tied in the first 3 positions will be interviewed.

In the Interview, the Evaluation Panel will assess: The motivation of the candidate; the candidate's knowledge relative to the information indicated in the motivation letter and CV, especially theoretical and methodological knowledge of the topic of the project/work plan; skills of statistical analysis and research design; communication skills, including English proficiency; and other dimensions, such as professional attitude and prosocial behavior. Each criterion will be evaluated on a 0,00 – 20,00 scale.

The final classification of applications admitted to Stage 2 will result from the formula:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (\text{Stage 1} \times 70\%) + (\text{Stage 2} \times 30\%)$$

For tie-breaking purposes, the ranking of the candidates will be based on the classifications assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence: Stage 2 – Interview; Stage 1 – B) Previous experience demonstrated in the candidate’s CV; A) – Academic degree ; and C) – Motivation letter.

If none of the candidates presents the appropriate and/or necessary skills and competences required for the position and respective work plan, despite fulfilling all the requirements for admission, the Evaluation Panel has the right to not attribute the fellowship.

Note for the evaluation of Criterion A – Stage 1:

1 – In the case candidates submit Integrated master’s degrees awarded by institutions that do not issue certificates with discrimination of the final classifications of 1st cycle (Bachelor), the final classification indicated in the Integrated Master’s degree certificate after the completion of the cycle of studies will be considered;

2 – When candidates submit more than one equivalent Bachelor’s, or Integrated Master’s, degree, the Evaluation Panel will decide which academic degree is best suited for the pursuit of the research plan and which should, therefore, be considered for Criterion A. Other course(s) presented by the candidate can eventually be considered for Criterion C.

3– The Evaluation Panel will award the minimum score (10 points on a 0 – 20 scale) required for obtaining a degree in Portugal when the submitted Portuguese certificates do not mention the final classification.

4 – The Evaluation Panel will award the minimum score (10 points on a 0 – 20 scale) required for obtaining a degree in Portugal when candidates submit a declaration of honor indicating they have completed the cycle of studies leading to a Bachelor’s degree by the application deadline but do not present the concomitant certificate (as indicated in point 4 of the call for applications);

5 – The Evaluation Panel will award the minimum score (10 points on a 0 – 20 scale) required for obtaining a degree in Portugal when degree certificates/diplomas issued by foreign institutions are not recognized in Portugal and/or do not have the respective final classifications converted to the Portuguese evaluation scale (as indicated in point 4 of the call for applications).

13. Composition of the Evaluation Panel

Prof. Doctor Frederico Almada (Integrated Researcher at MARE - Marine and Environmental Sciences Centre, Ispa – Instituto Universitário; President)

Prof. Doctor Manuela Oliveira (Associate Professor at Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária; Effective member)

Prof. Doctor Joana Robalo (Associate Professor at Ispa – Instituto Universitário; Effective member)

Prof. Doctor Eva Cunha (Auxiliary Professor at Faculdade de Medicina Veterinária; Alternate member)

Prof. Doctor Ana Pereira (Auxiliary Professor at Ispa – Instituto Universitário; Alternate member)

14. Communication of results

The results will be notified no later than 90 working days after the closing date for submission of applications to the e-mail address provided by the applicants.

15. Deadlines and procedures for preliminary hearing, complaint, and appeal

After communicating the provisional list of the results, applicants who want to dispute the results have a period of 10 working days to request a preliminary hearing, per Articles 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA). The final decision will be communicated after examining the arguments presented at the preliminary hearing. After this communication, the selected candidate has 10 working days to accept, in writing, the awarded fellowship. Otherwise, withdrawal or renouncement of the fellowship will be considered, unless a proper justification is presented.

After the final decision, a complaint may be placed within 15 working days or, alternatively, an appeal within 30 working days, both counting from the notification date. Applicants who wish to submit a complaint or an appeal should address their complaint to the Board of the funding agency.

In case the selected candidate renounces or withdraws from the fellowship, the Evaluation Panel can notify and award the fellowship to the candidate(s) in the subsequent position(s), if applicable, and according to the final ranking list.

16. Templates for the research fellowship contract and for the final reports by the fellow and by the supervisor

The template for the research fellowship contract as well as the template for the final reports to be created by the fellow and by the supervisor, and concomitant evaluation criteria, can be found in the Ispa – Instituto Universitário’s Regulation for Scientific Research Fellowships (Appendices 2, 3, and 4) at:

https://intranet.ispa.pt/sites/default/files/users/531/rg102_bols_invest_cient_v4.0.pdf