

CALL FOR AWARDING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS WITHIN PROJECT GRANTS AND R&D INSTITUTIONS

1 (one) Research Fellowship (BI) for a Master enrolled in a non-degree course

1 Research Fellowship(s) (BI) is(are) open at the **FCiências.ID – Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências**, for the project “MATRIHEALTH – Extracellular matrix in health and disease”, 100% financed by private international funding entity, under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** 110000-MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES; Molecular and cellular biology
2. **Requirements for admission:** National, foreign and stateless candidates’ holders of the Master’s degree in Evolutionary and Developmental Biology, and that have an average of at least 18 out of 20 in the Master’s degree may apply for this fellowship.
3. **Additional optional skills and qualifications:** a) Know-how and practical experience in skeletal muscle biology and associated diseases; b) Experience in the following groups of laboratory techniques: I. animal cell culture, including stem cells and cell culture using decellularized matrices, II. Processing of cells and tissues for immunohistochemistry and Western blot, III. microscopy and/or bioimaging techniques, IV. Basic techniques of molecular biology (e.g. PCR, RT-qPCR) and V. experience of working the animal model *Mus musculus* (colony maintenance, handling of animals); c) Good level of English, good organization skills and teamwork ability. Participation in scientific conferences and publication of scientific articles will be highly valued.
4. **Contracting requirements:** Presentation of the academic qualifications and/or diplomas. Enrolment in non-degree course developed in association or cooperation between a High Education Institution and one or multiple research units, namely, the non-degree course in Scientific Research Methods and Techniques
5. **Work plan:** Extracellular matrices (ECMs) play a critical biochemical and structural role for cells and tissues. Their biochemical role is, for example, direct signalling through cell surface receptors or acting as a vehicle and reservoir for multiple factors, and their structural roles, help stabilize cells and tissues providing a solid-phase cell adhesion substrate. Mutations in ECM components can lead to the development of muscular dystrophies, namely LAMA2-CMD, a muscular dystrophy linked to mutations in LAMA2 gene, which encodes the alpha-2 chain of laminins 211 and 221, structural components of basement membranes. This project aims at understanding how the interaction between the ECM and the muscle stem cells is affected by the absence of LAMA2.
6. **Legislation framework:** Research Fellowship Holder Statute, in accordance with Law 40/2004, of 18 August, in its current version and the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, in its current version (Reg. 950/2019 published in DR on 16th December: <https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>, or at the FCT website: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>), and FCIências.ID Fellowship Regulation, as approved on 12th May 2020 (available at [Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação Científica da FCIências.ID](https://www.fciencias.id/regulamento-de-bolsas-de-investigacao-cientifica-da-fciencias.id)).
7. **Place of work:** The work will be developed at the Developmental and Evolutionary Morphogenesis (DEM) group of the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (cE3c) under the scientific supervision of Professor Gabriela Rodrigues and Sólveig Thorsteinsdóttir.
8. **Fellowship duration:** This position is initially opened for 6 months due to start in October 2023. The fellowship contract may be potentially renewed for 6 months, in accordance with the provisions of Regulation of Research Fellowships from the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P and FCIências.ID Fellowship Regulation.

CALL FOR AWARDING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS WITHIN PROJECT GRANTS AND R&D INSTITUTIONS

9. **Monthly allowance:** The fellowship amounts to € 1199,64, according to [table values](#) of the FCIências.ID Fellowship Regulation. The fellowship holder will have a personal accident insurance and can ensure the right to social security through adherence to the voluntary social insurance scheme, if not covered by any other social protection scheme, pursuant to *Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social*. The fellowship will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

10. **Evaluation and selection process:** Candidates will be assessed by CV (60%), motivation letter (10%) and interview (30%). Applicants whose application is scored with a final classification of less than 80 points are not eligible for granting a fellowship.

11. **Selection Committee:** President: Rita Zilhão; Effective members: Solveig Thorsteinsdottir, Gabriela Rodrigues; Alternate member: Ana Rita Carlos, Élio Sucena.

12. **Publication/notification of results:** All the candidates will be notified by e-mail, sent by the call holder, with the selection meeting minutes enclosed.

13. **Deadlines:** This call for applications is open from 06/09/2023 to 20/09/2023 .

14. **Application:** Applications should be sent via e-mail to mgrodrigues@ciencias.ulisboa.pt, by attaching the following documents:

- a. Curriculum vitae;
- b. Certificate of completion of previous degree ^{Note 1, 2};
- c. Motivation letter, with reference on knowledge in skeletal muscle biology and associated diseases, as well as experience in the following techniques: I. animal cell culture, including stem cells and cell culture using decellularized matrices; II. cell and tissue processing for immunohistochemistry and Western blot; III. microscopy and/or bioimaging techniques; IV. basic techniques of molecular biology (e.g. PCR, RT-qPCR) and V. working experience with the animal model *Mus musculus* (maintenance of colonies, handling of animals).

15. **Processing of personal data:** FCIências.ID – Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências, as the controller under the General Data Protection Regulation, collects and processes the personal data requested in the context indicated in paragraph 14., under the legitimate interests in ensuring the award of the research fellowship to candidates with the indicated profile.

The personal data will be kept for the period necessary for the execution of the purposes for which they are intended, being ensured the processing and protection in an appropriate and diligent way, the confidentiality and integrity of these data, through appropriate technical and organizational measures.

Personal data may be transmitted to third parties, namely the entity funding the research project, solely for the purposes specifically established. In this sense, whenever the transfer of personal data to countries outside the European Union and/or international organizations is necessary, compliance with the applicable legal provisions is ensured.

You have the right to request access, rectification, elimination, limitation of processing, the right to object and also data portability (if technically feasible), through the e-mail address: dpo@fciencias-id.pt. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the National Data Protection Commission.

For more information, we recommend consulting the Internal Rules of Data Protection of FCIências.ID - Association for Research and Development of Sciences at <https://fciencias-id.pt/>.

CALL FOR AWARDING RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS WITHIN PROJECT GRANTS AND R&D INSTITUTIONS

16. **Time limits for the appeal procedure:** In case of negative decision, the candidates have 10 business days, after the date of announcement of the results of the candidates evaluation, to pronounce their disagreement in accordance with the *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. Appeals against the final decision may be submitted to the Administration Board of FCIências.ID (fciencias.id@fciencias-id.pt) within 15 business days after the notification date

Note 1: The documents that prove the entitlement of the academic qualifications and diplomas can be dismissed during the application period and replaced by a declaration on their honour from the applicant ([Minuta PT](#), [Minute EN](#)). Their delivery is mandatory for the fellowship contractualization.

Note 2: Please note that - higher education degrees and diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions need to be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, pursuant to the [Decree-Law nr. 66/2018](#) (August 16) and the [Ministerial Order nr. 33/2019](#) (January 25). The presentation of the recognition certificate is mandatory for contract signature. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>.