

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

### 1 (one) Research fellowship (BI) for PhD student

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”, financed by Private international funds, 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 holding a Master's degree in Evolutionary and Developmental Biology, and have an average of at least 18 points (out of 20) in the Master's Degree, can apply for this research fellowship.
- 3. Additional optional skills and qualifications:** 1) having at least one year of post-master laboratory experience; 2) have demonstrated knowledge in the area of oncobiology, in particular melanoma and the role of the extracellular matrix; 3) have experience in three-dimensional models using tumor cells (spheroids or others); 4) have experience in the following groups of laboratory techniques: I. animal cell cultures, II. processing of cells and tissues for immunohistochemistry and Western blot, III. microscopy and/or bioimaging techniques, and IV. basic molecular biology techniques (e.g. DNA cloning, PCR, RT-qPCR).  
The candidate must also have knowledge of English, good organizational skills and know how to work in a team. Participation in national and international scientific conferences will also be valued.
- 4. Contracting requirements:** Presentation of the academic qualifications and/or diplomas. Enrolment in PhD program in Biology, at Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa
- 5. Work plan:** The extracellular matrix (ECM) is a network of non-cellular components that serves as a support for cells and tissues, providing structure and stability. Alterations in the components of the ECM have an important impact on processes such as proliferation, migration and adhesion, thus promoting tumorigenesis. However, one main question remains unanswered: can mutations in the genes encoding components of the ECM by themselves be key events for cancer onset and progression? Using the laboratory's extensive knowledge on the role of mutations in LAMA2, the gene encoding for the alpha chain of laminins 211 and 221, in the context of disease, this project aims to dissect whether and how LAMA2 deficiency can modulate tumorigenesis. To this end, it will make use of in vitro 2D and 3D models using melanoma cells as well as primary melanocytes carrying LAMA2 mutations.
- 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> May 2020 (available at <Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação Científica da FCIências.ID>).
- 7. Place of work:** The work will be developed at the Developmental and Evolutionary Morphogenesis (DEM) Laboratory of the Centre for Ecology, Evolution and Environmental Changes (cE3c) under the scientific supervision of Professor Ana Rita Carlos.
- 8. Fellowship duration:** This position is initially opened for 12 months due to start in January 2024. The fellowship contract may be potentially renewed for 12 months.

## 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.

Additionally, it may be paid a tuition fees support grant (SAP) to support the costs with the annual tuition fees.

10. **Evaluation and selection process:** Candidates will be assessed by CV (80%), motivation letter (20%). If necessary, an interview will be carried out with the 2 (two) best candidates. If there is an interview, the evaluation will be as follows: 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, Ana Rita Carlos; Alternate members: Gabriela Rodrigues, 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 21/11/2023 to 04/12/2023 .

14. **Application:** Applications should be sent via e-mail to [arcarlos@fc.ul.pt](mailto:arcarlos@fc.ul.pt), by attaching the following documents:

- a. Curriculum vitae;
- b. Certificate of completion of previous degree <sup>Note 1, 2</sup>;
- c. Motivation letter.

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](mailto: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/>.

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

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

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](mailto: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>.