

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/R&D institution “MATRIHEALTH - Extracellular matrix in health and disease”, 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 oncobiology and skeletal muscle biology and associated diseases. b) Experience in the following groups of laboratory techniques: I. animal cell culture, 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 with the animal model *Mus musculus* (colony maintenance, manipulation of animals). c) Good level of English, good organization skills and team work ability.
Participation in national and international scientific conferences 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. Whether mutations in these components can impact other diseases, particularly, cancer, requires further studies. This project aims at tackling this question, by testing the hypothesis that deletion of LAMA2, codifying the $\alpha 2$ chain of laminins 211/221, a structural component of basement membranes, leads to impaired cell differentiation not only in the context of skeletal muscle disorders, but also cancer.
- 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 Ana Rita Carlos and Sólveig Thorsteinsdóttir.
- 8. Fellowship duration:** This position is initially opened for 6 months due to start in December 2022. The fellowship contract may be potentially renewed for a maximum of 12 months, in accordance with the provisions of

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Regulation of Research Fellowships from the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P and FCIências.ID Fellowship Regulation.

9. **Monthly allowance:** The fellowship amounts to € 1144,64, 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, Ana Rita Carlos; Alternate member: 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 21/11/2022 to 05/12/2022 .

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

- a. Curriculum vitae - **CV may be provided in PDF or through the [CIÊNCIAVITAE](#) system;**
- b. Certificate of completion of previous degree;
- c. Motivation letter, with reference on knowledge in oncobiology and skeletal muscle biology and associated diseases, as well as experience in the following techniques: I. animal cell culture, 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. **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, or the proof of registration in the academic degree or diploma requested on the call, can be dismissed during the application period and replaced by a declaration on their honour from the applicant. 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>.