



Universidade do Minho  
Escola de Engenharia



## **CENTRO DE ENGENHARIA BIOLÓGICA DA UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO**

### ***Fellowship for PhD student, 1 position***

Reference. CEB-BI-15-2020

A call one (1) research grant for a PhD student candidate is currently open in the scope of the research project "*Microbial Interactions between Gardnerella, Prevotella, and Atopobium Prior to Incident Bacterial Vaginosis*", with reference R01AI146065, and funded by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases/NIH/DHHS (USA), under the following conditions:

**Scientific Area:** Microbiology, Bioengineering, Biomedical Engineering.

**Applicable candidates:** Prospective students for the Doctoral program in Biomedical Engineering or Chemical and Biological Engineering.

**Legal requirements:** Eligible candidates need to comply with articles 5<sup>º</sup> and 9<sup>º</sup> of the Minho University Research fellowships regulation.

**Workplan:** The candidate is expected to: (i) compare the in vitro virulence of *Gardnerella species* and *Prevotella bivia*, (ii) to characterize dual-species biofilms formed by these species and to (iii) analyse gene expression during dual-species biofilm formation.

**Applicable regulations:** Minho University Research fellowships regulation, published in Diário da República, 2<sup>a</sup> serie, n<sup>º</sup> 119, 22th June (Despacho n<sup>º</sup> 6524/2020); Research Fellow Statute, approved by Law 40/2004 of 18th August, changed by the Decree-Law 123/2019 of 28th August.

**Workplace and scientific supervision:** The work will be developed at the Centre of Biological Engineering of the University of Minho, under supervision of Doctors Nuno Cerca and Joana Castro (years 1-4), and at the Division of Infectious Diseases, University of Alabama at Birmingham, USA, under the supervision of Doctor Christina Muzny (year 4).

**Fellowship length:** The fellowship is first attributed for 12 months, with predicted beginning on February 2021, and can eventually be renewed for 12 month periods, up to a maximum of 4 years total.

**Monthly remuneration:** The monthly stipend of the fellowship is 1305€, as described in attachment II of the Minho University Research fellowships regulation.

**Other benefits:** Reimbursement of Volunteer Social Security Contributions, correspondent to the 1st level of contributions, as well as a personal accident insurance.

**Members of the jury:** The president of the jury will be Nuno Cerca and the effective members are Joana Castro and Ângela França. Replacement members are Fernando Oliveira and Olívia Pereira. If the president of the jury is not able to attend a meeting, the first effective member should replace him, and a replacement member is called upon.



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**Evaluation criteria:** Candidates will be evaluated both in terms of personal merit and also considering an interview, to be held by video conference. Each criteria will be scored in a scale from 1 to 20:

Personal merit of the candidate - MC (80%):

- A. Academic profile (reflecting the final classifications of Bsc and Msc of the students, adjusted between +2 and -2,5 values, accordingly to the international institutional rankings based on Academic Ranking of World Universities), with an evaluation weight of 45%.
- B. Personal curricula (reflecting the professional and scientific experience of the candidate), with an evaluation weight of 45%.
- C. Motivation letter, with an evaluation weight of 10%.

Interview – E (20%)

- E.1: Personal softskills, with an evaluation weight of 10%.
- E.2: Knowledge demonstrated related to the fellowship research theme, with an evaluation weight of 40%.
- E.3: Motivation, with an evaluation weight of 30%.
- E.4: English skills, with an evaluation weight of 20%.

The final classification (CF) will be obtained according to the following formula:

$$CF = (A*0,45+B*0,45+C*0,1)*0,8 + (E1*0,1+E2*0,4+E3*0,3+E4*0,2)*0,2$$

Legal documentation of academic degrees or the formal recognition by Portuguese universities of foreign academic degrees, can be waived during the application phase and substituted by a declaration of honor by the candidate. The legal documents will be required before signing the contract. The declaration needs to portray to facts occurred before the application. If the legal documents contain different information that the declaration of honor, only the legal documents will be considered. If discrepancies occur that might change the evaluation process and might change the final ranking of candidates, the fellow will not be attributed to the candidate.

**Communication of results and preliminary hearing:** The evaluation results, dully justified, will be sent to all candidates by e-mail, up to 90 days after the deadline of submission of applications. Candidates not selected have 10 days to submit an preliminary hearing request, as defined in articles 121º and 122º of the Portuguese Code of the Administrative Procedure (Decree-Law nº 4/2015, 7th January).

**Final Decision Deadline and Hiring Procedure:** The final results will be published in the Centre of Biological Engineering website ([www.ceb.uminho.pt](http://www.ceb.uminho.pt)), and will also be sent by e-mail to all candidates, with the jury minutes. .

The selected candidate needs to submit a written declaration of acceptance of the fellowship. If the selected candidate does not accepts the fellowship, the fellowship may be attributed to the next ranked candidate, if the candidate has a final score of at least 15 values.



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Candidates have 15 days to submit a formal complaint, addressed to the president of the júri. Candidates can facultatively present a formal hierarchical complain to the Minho University Pro-Rector for Research, Professor Filipe Vaz.

**Application process and deadline:** This call is open between 28th October to 11th November 2020. Candidates need to sent an e-mail to ([bolsas@ceb.uminho.pt](mailto:bolsas@ceb.uminho.pt)), with subject tittle (**CEB-BI-15-2020**). No other forms of application will be considered.

Applications needs to include (i) motivation letter, (ii) academic certificates (with English translation if not in Portuguese), and (iii) personal curriculum, highlight the professional and/or scientific experience in fields related to the project area.