



Universidade do Minho  
Escola de Engenharia



## ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

### Research Fellowship (1 vacancy)

#### Reference. CEB-BI-14-2021

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of one research grant for master students within the scope of the R&D project, BIOECONORTE - Water and nutrients management based on BIOrefinery and circular ECONomy towards a sustainable agri-food system of the NORTE of Portugal, Centro de Engenharia Biológica, financed by national funds by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through NORTE2020 program and European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) - SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH SUPPORT SYSTEM - "STRUCTURED R&D&I PROJECTS", under the following conditions:

**Scientific Area:** Environmental Biotechnology

**Recipient category:** Students enrolled in a master's degree course or an integrated master's degree course on Chemical and Biological Engineering, or related areas

#### Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to enrol in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be verified on the date of contracting the fellowship;
- Only fellowships whose selected applicants present a valid proof of enrollment in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be contracted, according to the type of the fellowship, issued by the academic services of the Higher Education Institution, indicating, respectively, the academic year or its duration (star and term).
- Enrollment in non-certified courses (without curricular units) will not be considered as proof of enrollment.

**Candidates profile:** The candidates must:

- a) have a graduation in the field of Biological Engineering or related areas;
- b) display evidence of interest and curiosity for Environmental Biotechnology and should have a very good to excellent academic record;
- c) indicate master enrollment in the area of Chemical and Biological Engineering (until the date of contract signature), as well as proof of academic qualifications completed at the deadline for applications, including those resulting from academic degree recognition processes;

**Applicants eligibility:** Applicants must comply with the eligibility conditions laid down in article 9 of the Research Grants Regulation of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2019).



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Escola de Engenharia



**Workplan and objectives to be achieved:** The scientific work to be developed will be integrated into research line 2 activities of BIOECONORTE project, namely in tasks 2.1.1 - Screening of methanotrophic bacteria of interest, 2.1.2 - Study the production of methanotrophic biomass in bioreactors using biogas and synthetic media, and Task 2.1.4 - Characterization of the bacterial biomass obtained in the previous Task. The candidate will be responsible for implementation of the experiments related to SCP production.

**Applicable legislation and regulations:** Research Fellowship Holder Statutes, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current version published by Decree-Law no. 123/2019 of August 28; Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd series, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021 and Regulation of Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force.

**Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision:** The workplan will be carried out in the Centre of Biological Engineering of University of Minho, located in the University of Minho, Campus of Gualtar - Braga, under the scientific supervision of Professor Madalena Alves.

**Fellowship duration:** The grant will take place for a period of 6 months, with a provisional starting date on the November 1<sup>st</sup> of 2021. The fellowship grant may eventually be renewed up to the end of the project, in case of any technical constraints to accomplish the expected tasks in the due time, and if the required budget will be available.

**Amount of the research grant:** The value stipend (Monthly Maintenance Allowance) is 835,98 € per month, in accordance with the stipends values published by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT I.P.) in the country (Annex I – Monthly Stipends Values for the maintenance allowances of the [FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships](#)) and Annex II of the Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in “Diário da República”, 2nd serie, no. 119, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, according to the applicable regulation.

Payment is made on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contract.

**Other benefits:** Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security (Social Security contributions), corresponding to the 1st level of discounts (*for research grants with a total duration 6 months or higher*) and personal accident insurance.

**Exclusivity regime:** The grantee will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5<sup>o</sup> of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

**Selection panel:** The selection panel shall consist of three effective members and two substitute members.

President: Madalena Alves (Full Professor)

Effective members: Maria Alcina Pereira (Assistant professor) and Ricardo Pereira (Assistant Researcher)

Substitute members: António Vicente (Associate Professor) and José Teixeira (Full professor).

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.



Universidade do Minho  
Escola de Engenharia



**Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection:** The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 1 to 5 values:

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- a) Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 60%;
- b) Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of 20%
- c) Motivation letter, with a weighting of 20%.

The final classification of the applicant's merit with the achieved through the following formula:

$$AM = (a \times 0,6) + (b \times 0,2) + (c \times 0,2)$$

The academic degrees and diplomas documents, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions are not mandatory in the application phase, being replaced by a declaration of honour of the candidate with the contents of academic results. The documents of academic qualification or respective recognition will be required in the contracting phase and must attest facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If the documents proving the ownership of the academic degree and diploma, or the respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path, which can change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship won't be contracted.

**Notes:** Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the selection panel will assign "0" in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

**Disclosure of results:** The provisional results of applications, based in the selection panel minutes, will be sent to the applicants by email until 90 working days from the applications deadline.

If case of unfavourable results, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in a prior hearing to interested parties, pursuant to articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL no. 4 / 2015 of January 7th).

**Complaint and appeal procedures:** The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list (alphabetically, by final grade obtained), posted in a visible and public place of the host unit, as well as by email to all applicants, enclosing for that purpose, the minutes of the jury deliberations.

The selected candidate must inform its willingness to accept the grant, in writing. In case of rejection, the fellowship will be awarded to the next candidate in the ordered list of applicants.



Universidade do Minho  
Escola de Engenharia



The final decision can be contested within 15 working days, by sending to the President of the jury the corresponding claim. Interested parties may also submit an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector for Research and Projects, Professor Filipe Vaz.

**Constitution of a selection reserve list:** The applicants ranked in the next positions on the ordered list will be included in a selection reserve list, which can be used until 30/06/2022.

**Application deadline and submission** The call for applications is open from September **27<sup>th</sup> until October 11th, 2021.**

Applications must be formalized by sending an application letter with the following documents: *curriculum vitae; qualifications certificate or declaration of the applicant; motivation letter; statement proving that meets the conditions for the grant typology, according to the application requirements; other documents important to the evaluation process.*

Applications must be sent by email to [bolsas@ceb.uminho.pt](mailto:bolsas@ceb.uminho.pt), indicating the **reference of the call (CEB-BI-14-2021)** for applications in Subject. Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

**Fellowship contract:** The fellowship will be attributed by signing a fellowship contract between the University of Minho and the fellow, accordingly with the contract minute (annex IV of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, no. 119*, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, as indicated in 2.4 of the FCT document: "[Rules for Granting and Management of Grants within the scope of R&D projects, including infrastructure projects, the multi-annual financing program for R&D units and other FCT financing instruments \(Version 2021\)](#)".

The contract may only be concluded after all the documentation required is collected (including evidences of the academic degrees or diplomas and enrolment in degree courses), which must take place within a maximum period of 6 months.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the scholarship contract. Once received, the fellow must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days.

The activities under the fellowship contract can only began after proper authorization by the contracting entity.

**Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts:** Without prejudice to the other causes provided the fellowship regulations (FCT and UMinho) and in the Statute of the Research Fellow, the fellowship ends with the completion of the work plan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed.

At the end of the fellowship, the grantee is obliged to present a Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the scientific advisor, within 30 days after the end of the scholarship.

The **final report** must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the Scientific Research Fellowships Regulation of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, no. 119*, through dispatch no. 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration no. 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.