

Reference: BI/CESAM/EPIBOOST/2023

### CALL FOR THE AWARD OF ONE RESEARCH GRANT

A call is open for the award of one Research Grant (RG) under the project EPIBOOST - BOOSTing excellence in environmental EPIgenetics (GA 101078991 HORIZON-WIDERA-2021-ACCESS-03-01), from CESAM-Center for Environmental and Marine Studies, under the following conditions:

**1. Scientific field:** Biology

**2. Financing source:** European Union, under the scope of the programme Horizon Europe.

**3. Admission requirements:**

1) Students holding a 1<sup>st</sup> degree in Biology or related area, enrolled (or holding the necessary conditions to enroll) in the master of Applied Biology, Applied Ecology, Ecotoxicology and Risk Analysis or Biotechnology.

2) Proven experience in aquatic ecotoxicology, including experience with toxicity assays using zebrafish (*Danio rerio*).

The proof of enrolment as mentioned in item 1) must be made available until the contract is awarded, and the candidate may attach a declaration of honour to confirm that they meet the requirements for enrolment in a PhD program or in a comparable course that does not confer an academic degree. If the qualification has been awarded by a foreign higher education institution it must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, under the terms of the provisions of article 25 of Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16<sup>th</sup>, which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and of paragraph e) of no. 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018, of August 3<sup>rd</sup>, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the date of the hiring act.

**4. Eligibility:** Applicants are eligible if they comply with paragraph a) of no.1 of article 2, of the Research Fellow Statute in the wording given by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28<sup>th</sup>, and also the provisions of article 9 of the Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro.

**5. Work plan:** This grant will aim to carry out research activities planned within the scope of the project EPIBOOST, in particular: (i) carrying out exposures of aquatic organisms to different environmental contaminants; (ii) evaluation of phenotypic effects of exposures, based on several parameters, which may range from gene expression to behavioural and population changes; (iv) bioinformatic and statistical analysis of epigenetic and gene expression data; (v) writing of scientific papers and/or reports concerning the data generated by the project.

**6. Applicable legislation and regulation:** Research Fellow Statute, as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28<sup>th</sup>; Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro, Regulation No. 292/2020, published in Diário da República no. 61, Series II, of March 26<sup>th</sup>; Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16<sup>th</sup> (Legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of higher education awarded by foreign higher education institutions).

**7. Workplace:** The work will be carried out at the Department of Biology and CESAM – Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies, under the scientific supervision of Doctor Paula Inês Borralho Domingues.

**8. Duration of the grant(s):** The scholarship will last for 4 months, starting in September 2023, possibly renewable for additional periods of 4 months, up to the maximum approved funding limit. Under no circumstances shall it exceed the limits defined in nos. 5 and 6 of article 9, of Regulation no. 292/2020, of February 28<sup>th</sup>, published in Diário da República, no. 61, Series II, of March 26<sup>th</sup> (Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro).

**9. Amount of monthly maintenance allowance:** The monthly amount of the scholarship corresponds to a €930.98, according to the table of values of monthly maintenance allowances, set out in Appendix III of the Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro, subject to any updates that may occur and are applicable. The fellow may also be reimbursed for the amount corresponding to the Voluntary Social Security contributions, in case of adherence to this plan. This fellowship agreement includes the payment of doctoral tuition fees, up to the limit foreseen in the dedicated table exposed in Appendix III of Regulation No. 292/2020.



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the European Union

**10. Selection methods:** The selection method to be used will be curricular evaluation (100%), which will be assessed under the following criteria (each classified with 0-20 points) and corresponding weighting.

V1) Degrees hold and corresponding marks (35%);

V2) Extension of the experience in aquatic ecotoxicology with *Danio rerio*, being valorized the experience in analyses of biochemical markers, behavioral analysis in early life stages of zebrafish and epigenetics (50%);

V3) Extension of the experience in science dissemination and communication (15%).

In case of doubt, the jury reserves the right to conduct an interview session with the three best-ranked candidates. The interview session will have a maximum duration of 30 minutes, the evaluation will be expressed on a numerical scale from 0 to 20 and should consider the scientific knowledge and communication skills demonstrated by the candidate, as well as the answers to the questions posed by the jury.

The final score of each candidate will be in this case obtained through the average, being assigned a weighting factor of 70% to the curricular evaluation grade and 30% to the interview grade.

The selection Jury reserves the right of excluding the applicants that do not reach the minimum mark of 10 points in the curricular evaluation, as well as not awarding the grant if none of the applicants corresponds to the expected profile.

#### **11. Composition of the selection Jury:**

Chair: Doctor Paula Inês Borralho Domingues, Assistant Researcher.

Full members: Doctor Joana Luísa Lourenço Estevinho Pereira, Assistant Researcher and Doctor Patrícia Alexandra Oliveira Pereira Kowalski, Assistant Researcher.

Alternate members: Professor Fernando José Mendes Gonçalves, Full Professor and Doctor Inês Adriana Patrulho Efe Macário, Researcher.

**12. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications:** The call is open from 31 May to 09 June 2023, and only applications submitted within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be formalized, mandatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents: Curriculum Vitae, certificate of qualifications, declaration of commitment of honour or declaration of enrolment in the PhD Programme in Biology, and other supporting documents deemed relevant in accordance with the requirements of the selection method. You must also indicate the email address to which, by this indication, you agree to be notified for all purposes within the scope of this procedure.

Applications must be sent by email via the address [inesd@ua.pt](mailto:inesd@ua.pt), clearly adding to the subject this purpose and the Call reference.

**13. Form of publication/notification of results:** The results of the evaluation shall be made public no later than 60 working days after the closing date for submission of applications and shall be notified to the applicants. The applicants are informed, in a prior hearing, under the terms established in the Code of Administrative Procedure, of the probable meaning of the final decision, and may, within 10 working days of this notification, express their opinion on this decision. The final results may be appealed to the Rector, to be submitted within 10 working days from the respective notification.

**14. Tender duration:** The final ranking list of candidates will be valid until 31/12/2023 for the purpose of constituting a reserve list for selection.

University of Aveiro, 25/05/2023

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Joana Luísa Lourenço Estevinho Pereira, Investigadora Responsável



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