

Reference: BI/CESAM/MIRACLE/2024

NOTICE FOR THE AWARD OF GRANTS IN THE SCOPE OF R&D PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONS

A tender is hereby opened for the award of 1 **Research Grant** (RG) in the scope of the R&D project MIRACLE “Microencapsulation of Rhizobacteria and VOCs to increase plant growth and tolerance to drought: a biological approach to meet an agronomic need”, (2022.03612.PTDC), hosted by Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM) of the University of Aveiro and funded by FCT/MCTES, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Biological Sciences or similar/related

2. Funding Source: Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P./MCTES, through national funds (PIDDAC).

3. Admission Requirements:

1) Master's degree in Biology, Ecology or related scientific areas, who are enrolled* (or meet the necessary conditions to enrol) in a doctoral programme or in a non-degree course integrated in the educational project of the University of Aveiro.

2) Availability to start work in March 2024.

Preferred selection factors are:

- Experience in isolating rhizobacteria and in plant inoculation trials.

*(View Courses at: [Courses - University of Aveiro \(ua.pt\)](https://www.ua.pt) and [Training at UA - Universidade de Aveiro](https://www.ua.pt))

The proof of enrolment must be made available until the contract is awarded, and the candidate may attach a [declaration of honor](#) to confirm that they meet the requirements for enrolment in a master's degree or doctoral program or in a course that does not confer an academic degree.

If the qualification has been conferred 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 16th, which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, attributed by foreign higher education institutions, and of paragraph e) of no. 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018, of August 3rd, 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 as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28th, as well as nos. 1 and 2 of article 6 of the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology. The RG awarded to students enrolled in courses that do not confer academic degree may only be granted to those who do not exceed, upon conclusion of the grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in that type of grant, consecutive or interpolated, under the terms of no.5 of article 6 of the aforementioned Regulations.

5. Work plan: The aim of the grant will be to carry out work on the following tasks: i) isolation and selection of plant growth-promoting rhizobacteria (PGPR) tolerant to abiotic factors; ii) determination of their ability to promote plant growth under abiotic stresses; iii) *in vitro* and *in planta* tests to assess the effect of bacteria on the plant tolerance to abiotic stresses; iv) determination of the biochemical and physiological status (chlorophylls, metabolism, oxidative stress, energy reserves and lipid profile and damage) in plants inoculated and non-inoculated with PGPR; v) compilation, management, statistical analysis and communication/reporting of experimental data.

6. Applicable legislation and regulations: Statute of Scientific Research Grant Holder, as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28th; Regulation no. 950/2019, of November 29th, published in Diário da República, no. 241, Series II, of December 16th (FCT, I.P. Research Grants Regulation); Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16th (Legal regime for 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 the Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM) of the University of Aveiro, under the scientific supervision of Professor Etelvina Maria de Almeida Paula Figueira.

8. Duration of the grant: The grant duration will be 6 months, starting in March of 2024.

9. Amount of monthly maintenance allowance: The amount of the grant corresponds to €1,199.64, according to the table of monthly maintenance allowance amounts set out in Annex I of Regulation no. 950/2019, subject to any updates that may be applicable, under the terms of no. 2 of article 18 of Regulation no. 950/2019, of November 29th, published in Diário da República, no. 241, Series II, of December 16th (Research Grants Regulation of FCT, I.P.). The fellow may also be reimbursed for the amount corresponding to the Voluntary Social Security, in case of adherence to this plan

10. Selection methods: The selection methods to be used will be as follows: assessment of the Curriculum Vitae (ACV; 30%); research experience relevant to the work plan (EXP; 40%), letter of motivation (CM; 10%), and individual interview (ENT; 20%), all valued on a scale of 0-20.

The selection interview will only be held for the candidates ranked in the top 3 positions in the ACV, EXP and CM, and will take place by videoconference via ZOOM; the call for the interview, indicating the date, time and link, will be sent to the candidates at the email address indicated at the time of application. In this case, the final assessment results from the following formula: Final Evaluation = (0.3*ACV) + (0.4*EXP) + (0.1*CM) + (0.2*ENT).

If there is no interview, the final classification will be equal to the classification obtained in the documentary curricular assessment.

The Jury reserves the right to exclude candidates who do not achieve a final classification of at least 14 on a scale of 0-20, or not to select any of the candidates if it considers that none of them fulfils the required profile.

11. Composition of the Selection Jury: President of the Jury: Professor Doctor Etelvina Maria De Almeida Paula Figueira (Associate Professor); Effective Juri members: Professor Doctor Paulo Jorge da Rocha Cardoso (Invited Assistant Professor) and Doctor Adília da Conceição Marques de Oliveira Pires (Assistant Researcher); Substitute Juri members: Professor Doctor Sónia Alexandra Morais Rodrigues (Assistant Professor) and Doctor Paula Alexandrina de Aguiar Pereira Marques (Principal Researcher) all from the University of Aveiro.

12. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications: The call is open from 26 of January to 9 of February, and only applications submitted within the deadline will be admitted.

Applications must be formalized by sending a letter of application accompanied by the following documents: Application form for research grants, available at <https://www.ua.pt/pt/sgrh/bolseiros>, Curriculum Vitae dated and signed, certificate of qualifications, proof of enrolment in a PhD/non-degree course or declaration of honor that the candidate meet the enrolment requirements, letter of motivation. Applicants shall also indicate the e-mail address to which by such indication they accept to be notified for all purposes within this procedure.

Applications should be sent by email to: efigueira@ua.pt (Professor Etelvina Figueira – Principal Researcher of the project), with a Cc to adilia@ua.pt (Doctor Adília Pires - Researcher of the project), mentioning the reference of this Notice in the Subject.

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 candidates 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 June 2024 for the purpose of constituting a reserve list for selection.

The models of the grant contract and of the final report to be prepared by the grant holder and the supervisor are available at [Research fellows - sgrh - Universidade de Aveiro \(ua.pt\)](https://ua.pt).

University of Aveiro 22 of January of 2024



(Professor Etelvina Figueira)