

Reference: BI/CESAM/COAST/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(s)** (RG) in the scope of R&D projects *COAST* - Conservation of marine ecosystems around Santo Antão, Cabo Verde (DivRestore/0005/2020) at the Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM) Associated Laboratory, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area:

Marine biology, marine ecology

2. Funding Source

Foundation for Science and Technology/MCTES, I.P., through national funds (PIDDAC), co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union, through the through the 2020-2021 Biodiversa and Water JPI joint call for research projects, under the BiodivRestore ERA-NET Cofund (GA N°101003777), of Portugal 2020 or other programs that may succeed it.

3. Admission Requirements:

Any national or foreign candidate who holds a master's degree in biology, Marine Biology, Environmental Sciences, or a related scientific area, and is enrolled in a non-degree course as part of the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units. If the candidate is not already enrolled, they must fulfil the requirements for enrolment; enrolment is compulsory, and proof is only required when the scholarship is awarded.

The candidate should have experience in biodiversity, marine ecology, and functional diversity, with a special focus on fish associated with Macronesian coral reefs. Experience in visual censuses, pelagic taxonomic identification and quantification, and computational analysis of biodiversity trends and community composition (experience in data analysis using R is desirable). Experience in compiling and systematising biogeographic data and publishing in international biogeographic databases, such as GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) and OBIS (Ocean Biodiversity Information System). Proficiency in written and spoken English will also be valued.

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

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 an integrated master's degree, master's 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(s) awarded to undergraduate or master 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 successful candidate will join our team as part of the COAST project. The COAST project aims to understand the state and functioning of the ocean system around the island of Santo Antão, in Cabo Verde, and its contribution to the country's blue economy. Specifically for this research grant, the candidate is expected to a) analyze, identify and quantify fish transect videos collected at various locations on the island of Santo Antão, Cabo Verde, b) classify biological data with relevant functional traits; c) contribute to data analysis, including spatial quantification of diversity trends; d) prepare biogeographic data for submission to GBIF/OBIS; e) write a Technical Report and a Scientific Article; f) participate in the project's dissemination actions.

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 Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM) of the University of Aveiro, under the scientific supervision of Dr Teresa Paula Fernandes Amaro.

8. Duration of the grant(s):

The grant duration will be 6. months, starting in February of .2024, and may be renewed for additional periods of .6 months, up to the maximum limit of approved funding. Under no circumstances shall it exceed the limits defined in nos. 3 and 4 of article 6, 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.).

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:

The scholarship will be awarded based on the candidates' academic curriculum and technical competences. Candidates will be ranked based on an overall assessment of their scientific and curricular career (1 - 10 points):

- i. Merit of the curriculum and academic performance (assessment considering the degree, its suitability for the job, as well as the candidate's performance in that degree) - relative weight of 30 %
- ii. Experience relevant to the scientific area and the project's work plan (e.g. experience in taxonomic identification of marine fauna, visual identification and quantification of fauna in censuses, proficiency in computational analysis - e.g. diversity) - relative weight of 30%;
- iii. Published publications and/or number of citations in the scientific field - relative weight of 10%;
- iv. Overall assessment of the candidate's motivation and interest in the research area, taking into account the letter of motivation, letter of recommendation, and any other element of the CV or academic transcript that may help in this regard - relative weight of 30%;

An interview may be requested of the best candidates to obtain additional information and understand the candidate's motivation for the project and the work plan, if the CV assessment is not sufficient for a decision. In this case, the interview will have a relative weight of 10 per cent in the final score. Candidates may be interviewed by videoconference, and the place will be awarded to the candidate with the highest score. The jury reserves the right not to award the scholarship depending on the quality of the applications.

11. Composition of the Selection Jury:

Chair of the selection: Dr Teresa Paula Fernandes Amaro (PhD Researcher) from CESAM and the University of Aveiro;

Members: Professor Maria Marina Pais Ribeiro da Cunha, Associate Professor at the University of Aveiro and Dr Clara Lúcia Ferreira Rodrigues (Auxiliary Researcher in labour regime) from CESAM and University of Aveiro;

Alternate members: Dr Sofia Alexandra Pinto Ramalho (Junior Researcher) and Dr Ascensão Ravara dos Anjos Alves Ravara (Doctoral Researcher, level I)

12. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications:

The call is open from 19th of January to 5th of February, of 2024 and only applications submitted within the deadline will be admitted.

Applications must be formalised by sending a letter of application accompanied by the following documents: Application form for research grants, available at [bolseiros - sgrh - Universidade de Aveiro \(ua.pt\)](#), dated and signed Curriculum Vitae, certificate of qualifications, proof of enrolment in a Master's Degree/Integrated Master's Degree or declaration of honour that you meet the enrolment requirements, letter of motivation, copy of driving licence, and other supporting documents deemed relevant by the candidate. You must also indicate the email address to which you agree to be notified for all purposes under this procedure.

Applications should be sent by email to amaro@ua.pt (Dr Teresa Paula Fernandes Amaro, Researcher in charge of the project).

13. Form of publication/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list alphabetically, by final mark obtained or other posted on the University's website, within 90 working days after the final date of submission of the application, and the successful candidate will be notified by email. For the purposes of prior hearing of interested parties, the deadline of 10 working days is set, as provided for in the Code of Administrative Procedure. At the end of the period for hearing the interested parties, and in the absence of any response from them, the list of candidates will become final. Candidates may lodge a complaint against the final decision within 15 working days, or appeal to the maximum executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days after notification of the final decision, in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the Research Grants Regulation of the Foundation for Science and Technology.

14. Tender duration: The final ranking list of candidates will be valid until April 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 \(ua.pt\)](#).