

Referência: BI/CESAM/PARC/2024

CALL FOR THE AWARD OF RESEARCH GRANTS

A call is open for the award of **three** Research Grants (RG) under the project **PARC -Partnership for the assessment of risks from chemicals** (Horizon Europe Framework Programme - Partnerships in Health (2021) (HORIZON-HLTH-2021-ENVHLTH-03)), from CESAM-Center for Environmental and Marine Studies, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific field: Biology

2. Financing source: European Union, Grant agreement ID: 101057014, HORIZON-HLTH-2021-ENVHLTH-03-01 - European partnership for the assessment of risks from chemicals (PARC).

3. Admission requirements:

1) Students holding a 1st degree and a master's in biology or related area, enrolled (or holding the necessary conditions to enrol) in a course that does not confer an academic degree integrated in the educative programme of University of Aveiro or in a PhD programme

2) Proven experience in aquatic ecotoxicology, including experience in the maintenance of lab-cultures of freshwater species and in performing toxicity assays using planaria (RG 1), early life stages of amphibians (RG 2) or zebrafish (RG 3), as described in the point 5 of this announcement.

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 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 16th, 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 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 in the wording given by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28th, and also the provisions of article 9 of the Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro.

5. Work plan: The three grants aim at carrying out research activities planned within the scope of the project PARC, with different model organisms:

RG 1: Evaluation of toxicity of bisphenol A (BPA) and its alternatives on planarian survival, head regeneration, biochemical markers and behaviour. The work will include (i) maintenance of planarian cultures in the lab; (ii) planning and running of laboratory ecotoxicity assays according with project tasks; and (iii) statistical analyses and preparation and writing of reports.

RG 2: The work to be carried out aims to evaluate the toxicity of BPA and its alternatives *in vitro* and *in vivo* amphibian models. Therefore, the work will involve: (i) maintaining cultures of amphibian; (ii) planning and development of laboratory work in accordance with project tasks; (iii) carrying out ecotoxicity tests with amphibians' cell lines and early life stages; (iv) data processing and preparation and writing of reports; (v) support in the organization of the amphibian and cell lines laboratory and in the provision and acquisition of material and reagents necessary for the preparation of this work plan.

RG 3: The work to be carried out aims at evaluating the toxicity of BPA and its alternatives using early life stages of zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) and evaluate several parameters from the developmental, biochemical, and behavioural levels.



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The work will involve: (i) participating in the maintenance of zebrafish cultures, (ii) planning and execution of the toxicity assays, (iii) data analysis and writing of reports.

6. Applicable legislation and regulation: Research Fellow Statute, as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28th; Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro, Regulation No. 292/2020, published in Diário da República no. 61, Series II, of March 26th; Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16th (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 CESAM – Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies and the Department of Biology, under the scientific supervision of Dr. João Pestana (RG1), Dr Isabel Lopes (RG2) or Dr Inês Domingues (RG3).

8. Duration of the grant(s): Each scholarship will last for **10 months, starting in May 2024**, not renewal. Under no circumstances shall it exceed the limits defined in nos. 5 and 6 of article 9, of Regulation no. 292/2020, of February 28th, published in Diário da República, no. 61, Series II, of March 26th (Scientific Research Grants Regulation of the University of Aveiro).

9. Amount of monthly maintenance allowance: The monthly amount of the scholarship corresponds to a €1.259,64, 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.

10. Selection methods: The selection methods to be used will be through curricular evaluation (75%), and interview (25%), where experience in ecotoxicology, practice with tests using the model organisms mentioned (invertebrates, amphibians, fish) will be valued, according to the specificities of the respective grant. Only the 3 best candidates for each grant will be selected for interview.

11. Composition of the selection Jury:

Chair: Dr. Susana Loureiro, Associate Professor with Habilitation

Full members: Dr. Isabel Lopes, Principal Researcher and Dr. João Pestana, Assistant Researcher.

Alternate members: Dr. Inês Domingues, Assistant Researcher and Dr. Marta Monteiro, Assistant Researcher.

12. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications: The call is open from 6th March to 19th March 2024, and only applications submitted within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be formalized, mandatorily, by sending an application letter clearly stating which grant the candidate is applying to and accompanied by the following documents: Curriculum Vitae, certificate of qualifications, declaration of commitment of honour or declaration of enrolment in a course not conducting to academic degree, 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, 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.





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14. Tender duration: The final ranking list of candidates will be valid until 31/12/2024 for the purpose of constituting a reserve list for selection.

University of Aveiro, 25/02/2024

Susana Loureiro, responsible researcher



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