

Reference: BI-2/CESAM/NanoBioEscudo/2025

## NOTICE FOR THE AWARD OF RESEARCH GRANTS

A tender is hereby opened for the award of one (1) **Research Grant** (RG) under the project “*NanoBioEscudo – Next-generation of bioinspired technologies for preventing marine biofouling*”, reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-01194000, of the CESAM – Centre for Marine and Environmental Studies R&D Centre, under the following conditions:

**1. Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences.

**2. Financing Source:** FEDER funds through the “Programa Inovação e Transição Digital.”

**3. Admission Requirements:**

Students enrolled in any Master’s course at the University of Aveiro in the scientific area of Biological Sciences.

In addition, applicants must meet the following mandatory requirements:

Proven experience in (1) marine ecotoxicology, (2) assessment of the environmental behaviour of nanomaterials dispersed in seawater and/or incorporated into marine coatings, and (3) scientific communication and/or outreach. Prior experience in ecotoxicological tests involving growth inhibition of phytoplanktonic species and/or acute toxicity tests with marine zooplankton species will be considered an asset and positively evaluated.

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

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

**5. Work plan:** The Grant Holder (GH) will participate in research activities within the scope of the NanoBioEscudo project, primarily in Activity 4, which involves assessing the environmental behaviour of nanostructured forms of bio-inspired molecules dispersed in seawater (Task 4.1) and, subsequently, in model formulations, as well as the holistic evaluation of marine ecotoxicity, environmental hazard (Task 4.2), and anti-fouling efficacy (Task 4.3) of the aforementioned bio-inspired molecules, in both free and nanostructured forms. The GH will also be involved in dissemination, communication, and outreach activities foreseen in Activity 6. The specific objectives proposed for the BI include: i) experimental execution of the tasks in Activity 4, namely the assessment of environmental behaviour, ecotoxicity, environmental hazard, and anti-fouling efficacy of the bio-inspired molecules and technologies developed in the project; ii) statistical data analysis and interpretation, as well as preparation of technical-scientific reports and scientific publications, within the scope of Activity 6; and iii) support in implementing the communication and dissemination activities planned in Activity 6, including the preparation of content for presentations, informational materials, social media engagement, and environmental awareness-raising actions targeting different audiences.

**6. Applicable legislation and regulations:** Research Fellow Statute, as amended by Decree-Law No. 123/2019, of August 28th; Scientific Research Grant 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 and the Department of Biology under the scientific supervision of Dr. Roberto Martins and Prof. Dr. Ângela Cunha.

**8. Duration of the grant(s):** The grant duration will be 12 months, starting in September 2025, and may be renewed for an additional period of up to 10 months, subject 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 28th, published in Diário da República, no. 61, Series II, of March 26th (Scientific Research Grant Regulation of the University of Aveiro).

**9. Amount of monthly maintenance allowance:** The amount of the grant corresponds to € 1,040.98, according to the table of values of monthly maintenance allowances set out in *Appendix III of the Scientific Research Grant 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, in case of adherence to this plan

**10. Selection methods:** The selection methods to be used will be the evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae, with a total weighting of 100%, based on the following criteria: academic qualifications and final Bachelor's degree grade (40%), proven experience in marine ecotoxicology tests (at minimum, microalgae growth inhibition tests and acute tests with macroinvertebrates) (30%), assessment of the environmental behaviour of nanomaterials dispersed in seawater and/or incorporated into marine coatings (20%) and previous participation in communication, dissemination, and/or scientific outreach activities (10%).

**11. Composition of the Selection Jury:** The selection jury will include the *Chair*, Prof. Amadeu M.V.M. Soares (Full Professor, CESAM & Department of Biology, University of Aveiro), the *permanent members*: Dr. Roberto Martins (Assistant Researcher and local coordinator of Project NanoBioEscudo, CESAM & Department of Biology, University of Aveiro), Prof. Ângela Cunha (Associate Professor with Habilitation, CESAM & Department of Biology, University of Aveiro) and Dr. Anthony Moreira (Junior Researcher, CESAM & Department of Biology, University of Aveiro), and the alternate members: Dr. Luísa Magalhães (Junior Researcher, CESAM & Department of Biology, University of Aveiro) and Dr. Maria Pavlaki (Assistant Researcher, CESAM & Department of Biology, University of Aveiro).

**12. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications:** The call is open from July 9 to July 22, 2025. Only applications submitted within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be formalized by sending a letter of application accompanied by the following documents: Curriculum Vitae, certificate of qualifications, and other supporting documents deemed relevant to prove experience on the aspects stressed in item number 10 (e.g., scientific papers, posters or oral communications, certificate or letters attesting eventual participation in communication, dissemination, and/or scientific outreach activities or technical/scientific training in an academic or industrial environment, recommendation letter(s) from former supervisors supporting your application and clearly showing evidence of your experience).

They 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 e-mail to [cesam-bolsas@ua.pt](mailto:cesam-bolsas@ua.pt), with the email subject "Bolsa de Investigação nº 2 | NanoBioEscudo".

**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, who must be notified within 10 working days of the respective notification.

**14. Tender duration:** The final ranking list of candidates will be valid until December 31, 2026, to constitute 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 \(ua.pt\)](#).

University of Aveiro 23<sup>th</sup> of June 2025