

Reference: BIPD/CESAM/DETECTLINE/2025

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

A tender is hereby opened for the award of one (1) **Postdoctoral Fellowship(s)** (PDF) in the scope of R&D projects *Early detection of bivalve disease outbreaks towards mitigation of stocks decline*/Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies, 2024.06307.RESTART, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Biological Sciences, subarea Molecular Biology or related fields

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

3. Admission Requirements: Doctorate in Biology, Marine Biology, Ecology, Molecular Genetics or related fields, with proven experience in bivalve sampling, parasite identification (macro and micro), and histological and genetic techniques (DNA extraction, PCR, metabarcoding). Strong skills in bioinformatics and ecological data analysis (preferably using R) are essential. Knowledge of eDNA, primer design, and predictive modelling is valued. High autonomy, analytical skills, and availability for fieldwork in estuarine environments are expected. A good level of English and a valid driving license are preferred.

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 b) of nos.1 and 2 of article 2, of the Research Fellow Statute as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of August 28th, as well as in article 7 of the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology. PDF can only be granted provided the following requirements are met **cumulatively**:

- a) The doctorate has been obtained within the three years prior to the date of submission of the application for the grant;
- b) The postdoctoral research is carried out in a host entity different from the entity where the research work leading to the doctoral degree was carried out;
- c) the research activities do not require postdoctoral experience;
- d) the research activities have a time frame for development and implementation of three years or less;
- e) The fellow does not exceed, with the conclusion of the grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of three years in that type of grant, consecutive or interpolated.

5. Work plan: The fellow will carry out sampling campaigns in estuarine areas to collect bivalves, water and sediment samples, aiming at the identification of parasites and diseases. Samples will be processed in the laboratory for histological, morphological, and genetic analyses (barcoding and metabarcoding). eDNA analyses will also be performed on water and sediment samples, including extraction, amplification, and sequencing of environmental DNA. The resulting data will be integrated into a matrix for statistical and multivariate analysis, with the goal of identifying patterns in pathogen distribution and developing predictive molecular markers. The fellow will also contribute to the writing of scientific reports and articles, as well as science outreach activities.

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 facilities of CEPAM/ECOMARE of the Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies (CESAM)/Department of Biology of the University of Aveiro, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Luísa Magalhães.

8. Duration of the grant: The grant duration will be twelve (12) months, starting in September of 2025, possibly renewable for additional periods of 6 months, up to the maximum funding approved, and may under no circumstances exceed the limits defined in the Regulations for the type of grant in question, in accordance with Article 7 of Regulation No. 950/2019, of November 29th, published in the Diário da República, No. 241, Series II, of December 16th (FCT, I.P. Research Grants Regulation)

9. Amount of monthly maintenance allowance: The amount of the grant corresponds to **€1,851.00**, 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 are: a) Curriculum Evaluation (CE) and b) Interview (IN), with respective weightings of 70% and 30%. The first evaluation phase (CE) will be based on the analysis of academic qualifications (up to 8 points), the evaluation of the motivation letter (up to 4 points), professional and other relevant experience within the scope of the work plan described above (up to 6 points), and activities related to science dissemination and outreach (up to 2 points), as stated in the curriculum vitae. The second phase (IN) will take place only if the jury considers it necessary to reach a final decision based on the first method. **If conducted, the five top-ranked candidates will be invited to the interview.**

11. Composition of the Selection Jury: President: Dr. Luísa Virgínia de Sousa Magalhães, Junior Researcher at the University of Aveiro; Permanent Members: Dr. Ricardo Jorge Guerra Calado, Principal Researcher with Habilitation, and Dr. Clara Lúcia Ferreira Rodrigues, Assistant Researcher, both from the University of Aveiro; Alternate Members: Dr. Sónia Marisa Gonçalves da Cruz, Principal Researcher, and Dr. Cátia Isabel Assis Fidalgo, Junior Researcher, both from the University of Aveiro.

12. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications: The call is open from 1 to 25 July 2025, 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: *Curriculum Vitae*, motivation letter, certificate(s) of qualifications, declaration of honor and other supporting documents deemed relevant. 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 luisa.magalhaes@ua.pt

13. Form of publication/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list by final mark obtained 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 December 2025 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 \(ua.pt\)](#).



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