

**DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCH
FELLOWSHIP**

Title: Post-Doctoral research Fellowship- NeuroTech4Med; 1 vacancy

Reference: COMPETE2030-FEDER-00712000_BIPD_01/2026-CMEMS

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 1 (one) research grant within the scope of the I&D project NeuroTech4Med - Blood-brain-barrier-on-a-chip: neuromimetic sensing-platform for studying the nanotechnology-biology interface to treat Alzheimer's disease of Center for Microelectromechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00712000, co-financed by European Regional Development Fund (FEDER) through Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT), through the Innovation and Digital Transition Programme | Compete2030, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Mechanical Engineering and related fields.

Recipient category: The BIPD are intended for doctorates in the area of Mechanical Engineering and related fields.

Admission Requirements:

- Hold a doctoral degree obtained within three years prior to the date of submission of the scholarship application;
- To have carried out the research leading to the award of the doctoral degree in an organization other than the one hosting the scholarship; *
- Not exceed, with the conclusion of the contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of three years in this type of scholarship, consecutive or interpolated;
- Not to have previously held a post-doctoral scholarship contract with the same I&D Unit. Once the BIPD contract has ended, no new scholarship contract can be signed between the same host organization and the same scholarship holder.

Candidates who do not cumulatively meet the requirements described will be excluded.

* This includes different I&D Units, even if they are based in the same Organic Unit (UOEI) of UMinho (according to nº 4 and 5 of the Article 7º of the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulations in force).

Other requirements:

Preferred requirements: Experience in numerical simulation of dilute-phase transport phenomena, such as the diffusion of oxygen, drugs, and/or biomarkers. Fluency in spoken and written Portuguese and English. Ability to design experiments and work as part of a team.

Applicants' eligibility:

Candidates who meet the conditions set out in Article 9 of the Research Grant Regulations, No. 950/2019, of 16-12-2019, of FCT I.P. are eligible.

Nationals or citizens of other European Union member states, third-country nationals, stateless persons, and citizens with political refugee status are eligible to apply for this competition.

Candidate eligibility requirements:

- a) The candidate must demonstrate in their CV strong skills in the numerical simulation of advanced organ-on-a-chip microfluidic models, preferably using ANSYS;
- b) The candidate must demonstrate in their CV experience in animal cell culture, preferably in the development of brain organoid models.
- c) The candidate must have at least 3 articles published or accepted in scientific journals indexed in the first quartile of the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR).

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

The work plan aims to develop a neuromimetic microfluidic platform designed based on numerical simulation models using software such as ANSYS. To this end, the following tasks will be carried out, most of which are included in Activity 2 of the scientific project NeuroTech4Med:

- (1) Numerical studies to design and optimize an advanced microfluidic platform that simulates the blood-brain barrier (BBB) and neuronal components;
- (2) Develop the optimized BBB/neuronal-on-a-chip models using bioprinting;
- (3) Test the cellular viability of the models under perfusion conditions;
- (4) Writing scientific articles for Q1 journals.

The BIPD are restricted in time in order to stimulate scientific employment and the use of researcher contracts as a rule for hiring them - according to nº 2, article 7º of the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulation (2019).

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellow Statute (EBI), approved by Law n.º 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording and FCT Research Fellowship Regulation, approved by Regulation n.º 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, of December 16, 2019, in its current wording, and Scientific Research Fellowship Regulation (RBIC) of the University of Minho, approved by order n.º 4998/2025, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, n.º 81, of April 28, 2025 Amended and republished through amendment statement no. 634/2025/2, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, no. 132, of July 11.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the Center for Microelectromechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), located in the Campus de Azurém - Guimarães, under the scientific supervision of the Researcher Raquel Oliveira Rodrigues and Professor Graça Maria Henriques Minas and coordination by Professor Luís Miguel Valente Gonçalves.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 6 months, with a provisional starting date on the July of 2026. The fellowship grant may, eventually, be renewed up to the maximum limit allowed by the project and/or applicable legislation.

Amount of the research grant: The amount of the grant corresponds to 1851 €/month, according to the table of FCT grants in the country (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>) and the table of values of the Scientific Research Scholarships of the University of Minho, updated annually by decision of the Management Board.

Payment is made on the 23rd of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contractualization process.

Other components of the research grant: Define other components of the grants, as provided for in Article 18º of the FCT Research Grant Regulations (RBI).

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Insurance, if the candidate chooses to receive it, corresponding to the 1st step of the contribution base (for scholarships of 6 months or more) and Personal Accident Insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The grantee will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel:

- Panel President: Professora Graça Maria Henriques Minas, Professora Associada com Agregação do Departamento de Eletrónica Industrial da Universidade do Minho.

- Effective member: Professora Susana Oliveira Catarino, Professora Auxiliar do Departamento de Eletrónica Industrial da Universidade do Minho.
- Effective member: Professora Cristina Manuela Peixoto dos Santos, Professora Auxiliar com Agregação do Departamento de Eletrónica Industrial da Universidade do Minho.
- Substitute member: Professor Luís Miguel Valente Gonçalves, Professor Associado do Departamento de Eletrónica Industrial da Universidade do Minho.
- Substitute member: Doutora Raquel Oliveira Rodrigues, Investigadora Auxiliar da Escola de Engenharia, na Universidade do Minho

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 0 to 5 values (or another scale)¹:

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- a) Academic background (reflecting the relevance of the academic degrees to the work plan and the corresponding grades), with a weighting of 35%;
- b) Professional experience, with a weighting of 30% - The relevance of the professional experience and the number of years of experience in the areas covered by the work plan will be evaluated;
- c) Scientific publications and patens in the areas of the work plan (numerical simulation, microfluidics, organ-on-a-chip and tissue engineering), with a weighting of 20%;
- d) Participation in funded research projects in the areas covered by the work plan (numerical simulation, microfluidics, organ-on-a-chip and tissue engineering), with a weighting of 15%.

The final classification of the applicant's merit with the achieved through the following formula:

$$MC=(a*0.35) +(b*0.30) +(c*0.20) +(d*0.15)$$

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open for a period of 10 working days from the date of publication on the Euraxess portal.

¹ If a second assessment method - Interview - is set, the jury must decide whether all candidates will be interviewed or, alternatively, identify the criteria to be applied to the group of candidates to be interviewed and how they will be valued (for example, selecting the first 4 candidates on the MC (candidate merit)). The jury may adjust the weightings (the assessment must be substantiated in as much detail as possible, in a clear and consistent manner).

Applications must be submitted by email to secretaria@cmems.uminho.pt, indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents will be accepted:

- a) Candidate's updated curriculum vitae;
- b) Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honor that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice by the application deadline (not applicable to research initiation grants).

For degrees obtained abroad, the record of recognition of the academic degrees and record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale must be presented, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor from the candidate.

This declaration must attest to facts that occurred prior to the application. In the event of a discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purposes of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is found that the documents proving the academic degree and diploma, or their recognition under the terms of Decree-Law n.º 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the assessment of the academic career and may consequently alter the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will not be contracted;

- c) Other documents that the candidate considers relevant to the evaluation process.

Form of publication/notification of results: The results of the evaluation are published in a single list in alphabetical order, posted in a visible and public place in the host unit, as well as by email to all candidates, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes of the jury's deliberations, within a maximum period of 90 working days from the deadline for submission of applications.

Candidates are informed, at a preliminary hearing, in accordance with Articles 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code, of the likely outcome of the final decision, and may comment within 10 working days of this notification.

An appeal may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal may be lodged with the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 days, both after the respective notification (Article 12(nº6) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations).

Within 10 working days of notification of the grant award, the applicant must declare their acceptance in writing. In case of non-acceptance, the next highest ranked applicant will be notified immediately.

Fellowship contractualization: The scholarship is awarded through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship recipient, in accordance with point 2.4 of the Rules for the Award and Management of Scholarships

https://www.fct.pt/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Normas_de_Atribuicao_de_Bolsas_2021.pdf

and the draft contract in Annex II of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulations.

The contract can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required for the type of scholarship, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months, including proof of academic degrees or diplomas, as well as enrollment in non-degree study cycles or courses, as applicable.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the scholarship contract. Once received by the scholarship holder, the contract must be returned, duly signed, within 15 working days.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other grounds laid down in the University of Minho's Regulations for Scientific Research Scholarships and in the Research Fellow Statute, the scholarship will cease on completion of the contracted work plan, as well as on expiry of the period for which it was granted or renewed.

The **final report** must be submitted to the scientific advisor, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, no later than 60 working days after the end of the scholarship and must be drawn up in accordance with Annex I of the Regulations of the University of Minho.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: Universidade do Minho actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

Declaration of Honor

Academic qualifications

I, (full name), candidate for the vacancy for the award of a (type of scholarship), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. notice), declare on my honor that I have completed the academic degree of (academic degree), qualifying for the type of scholarship in the competition, namely the course (designation), by the (University conferring the degree), on the date XX/XX/XXXX, with a final average of XXXXX values on the YY scale.

As it is not possible for me to present proof of qualifications until the end of the competition, I declare that I undertake to present the aforementioned certificate at the conclusion of the scholarship contract, in the event that I am selected for the vacancy in the competition.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

(full name)

NOTE: The declaration may only attest to facts that occurred prior to the application.

In the event of a discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purpose of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be taken into account.

Declaration of Honor

I, (full name), bearer of identification document number (XXXX), candidate for a research grant (type of grant), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. call for proposals), declare on my honor that (I have not received any research grants to date / I have received the following research grants) under the Research Grant Holder Statute.

University	Funding Entity	Project	Type of Grant	Duration	Start	Term

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

(full name)

