

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Post-Doctoral Research Grant - Photofarm (1 vacancy)

Reference: PHOTOFARM – BIPD – 01/2026 (1)

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of one (1) grant of Post-Doctoral research within the scope of the I&D project “**Photofarm - Photonic Systems for Agriculture: towards healthy soils and smart and sustainable agriculture**”, operation code NORTE2030-FEDER-02719000, Notice NORTE2030-2024-84 SACCCT - Support System for the Creation of Scientific and Technological Knowledge - Integrated IC&DT Projects, financed by the Northern Regional Coordination and Development Commission | CCDR-N through the Northern Regional Operational Program 2021-2027 | NORTE2030, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Earth and Environmental Sciences

Recipient category: The Postdoctoral Research Grant (BIPD) is intended for holders of a PhD in Geology, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences, or related fields, with the following admission requirements:

Admission Requirements:

- Hold a doctoral degree obtained within five 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 the research unit other than the one hosting the scholarship; *
- The research activities do not require post-doctoral experience;
- 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 UMinho Organisational Unit (UOEI) (according to nº 4 and 5 of the Article 4º of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulations).

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) Hold a PhD degree in Geology, Earth Sciences, Environmental Sciences, or related fields;
- b) Demonstrated experience in the physicochemical and functional characterization of environmental systems, including studies on water–soil–plant interaction processes and the assessment of environmental quality and mobility processes and elements availability;

- c) Experience in laboratory and fieldwork activities, namely environmental sampling, sample preparation and processing, operation and maintenance of scientific equipment, and implementation of experimental protocols;
- d) Experience in data processing, statistical analysis, and interpretation of environmental datasets using computational tools and specialized software;
- e) Experience in scientific writing, suitable for the preparation of scientific publications, and participation in international research networks.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

The main activities include:

- Conduction of field sampling campaigns and laboratory work including collection, preparation, and physicochemical characterization of environmental samples, from soil, water, and associated materials;
- Assessment of physicochemical and functional soil properties relevant on water–soil–plant interactions;
- Installation, calibration, operation, and monitorization of scientific equipment and sensing systems;
- Procession, integration, and interpretation of environmental and experimental data using statistical and computational tools;
- Participation in the dissemination of project results, including preparation of scientific papers, presentations at conferences, and collaboration in the project's science communication and outreach activities.

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 of MicroElectromechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho) from University of Minho, under the scientific supervision of the Doctor Margarida Maria Macedo Francesko Fernandes, Assistant Researcher from Center of MicroElectromechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), and Doctor Teresa Maria Fernandes Valente, Associated Professor with Habilitation from the Center of Earth Sciences (CCT-UMinho), and Doctor Isabel Margarida Horta Ribeiro Antunes, Associate Professor with Habilitation in the Department of Earth Sciences at the School of Sciences of the University of Minho and Director of the Centre for Earth Sciences of the University of Minho (CCT-UMinho), and coordinated by Doctor Luís Miguel Valente Gonçalves, Associate Professor in the Department of Industrial Electronics, School of Engineering, University of Minho, and Director of the Center for Electromechanical Microsystems at the University of Minho (CMEMS-UMinho).

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 19 months, with a provisional starting date on the 1st September 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 1 901,00 €/month, according to the table of values of the Research scholarship of the University of Minho, updated annually, as decided by 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 scholarships, as provided for in Article 18° of the FCT Research Scholarship Regulations (RBI).

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Insurance, if the candidate chooses to receive it, corresponding to the 1st level of discounts (for research grants with a total duration 6 months or higher) and personal accident insurance.

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

Selection panel: The selection panel is constituted by the following members:

a) President of the selection panel: Doctor Isabel Margarida Horta Ribeiro Antunes, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Earth Sciences, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

b) Effective member: Doctor Teresa Maria Fernandes Valente, Associate Professor with Habilitation, Department of Earth Sciences, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

c) Effective member: Doctor Fátima Patrícia Silva Soares Gomes, Assistant Researcher, Earth Sciences Centre, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

d) Substitute member: Doctor Raphael de Vicq Ferreira da Costa, Visiting Professor (equivalent to Assistant Professor), Department of Earth Sciences, School of Sciences, University of Minho;

e) Substitute member: Doctor Ana Raquel Barroso, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Earth Sciences, School of Sciences, University of 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 1 to 5 values (or another scale):

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- a) Academic background of the candidate, assessing their performance in degrees and courses relevant to the field of the call and the work to be developed, as well as previous experience in research projects, with a weighting of 45%;



- b) Experience and interest in the specified areas, highlighting experimental skills and providing access to a representative document (such as an article, thesis, or conference presentation) aligned with the field of the call and the proposed work, with a weighting of 45%
- c) Motivation letter, which will be evaluated in terms of clarity, relevance, and alignment of the candidate's goals with the project topic, with a weighting of 10%.

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

$$MC = (a*0.45) + (b*0.45) + (c*0.10)$$

A positive evaluation is required for the granting of the scholarship.

Note: Candidates with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of their qualifications in Portugal and conversion of their final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, or a declaration as indicated above. Candidates who fail to comply with either of these requirements will receive a grade of "0" for the course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

Application deadline and submission: The competition is open for a period of 10 working days, counting from the date of publication of the notice on the Euraxess portal.

Applications must be submitted by email to imantunes@dct.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. ° 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) Representative document (such as an article, thesis, or conference presentation) aligned with the field of the call;
- d) Letter of motivation;
- e) Any other documents that the candidate considers relevant for the evaluation process.

Note: The jury may request other documents that it 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 or by final score obtained), 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 60 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.

The waiver of the hearing for interested parties must be justified in accordance with Article 124 of the CPA.

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(n°6) 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 Scientific Research Scholarship Regulation 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: University of 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	Financing Entity	Project	Type of Grant	Duration	Start	Term

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

(Place), (date).

(full name)