

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship for Master degree holder - Vinny; 1 vacancy

Reference: 101130039_VINNY_BI_02/2026-CMEMS (1)

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of one (1) Research Fellowship for Master degree holder, within the scope of the R&D project **“Vinny – Advanced nano encapsulation of bio-based pesticides and fertilisers for a circular and sustainable viticulture”**, reference **101130039 – VINNY**, from Center for Microelectromechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), financed by **European Commission** through **Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)**, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Chemical and Biological Engineering, Plant Biology, Molecular Biology, Biophysics, Microbiology, Materials Engineering.

Recipient category: Students enrolled in a doctoral's programme or graduates enrolled in a non-degree course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.

Identify the type(s) of scholarship to be awarded:

- a) **Degree courses:** Research grants (BI) are intended for I&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated doctoral's degree.
- b) **Non-conferring degrees courses:** They may also be intended for I&D activities by graduates or masters enrolled in non-academic degree courses.

Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to enroll in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be verified on the date of contracting the fellowship;
- Only fellowships whose selected applicants present a valid proof of enrollment in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be contracted, according to the type of the fellowship, issued by a Higher Education Institution, indicating, respectively, the academic year or its duration (star and term).

Applicants' eligibility:

Candidates who meet the conditions set out in Article 8 of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Grant Regulations 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) Applicants must hold, at the time of application, a Master's degree in Biology, Agricultural Engineering, Biotechnology, Plant Physiology, Microbiology, Biophysics, Physics, Materials Engineering, Biological Engineering, or related fields .

b) Applicants enrolled in a non-degree course: Candidates who, with the signing of the fellowship contract in question (including the renewals provided for in the call), exceed a total accumulated period of two years in this type of fellowship—whether consecutive or intermittent—are not eligible.

c) Candidates must submit, at the contracting stage, proof of academic qualifications completed by the application deadline, including those resulting from academic degree recognition processes.

Preferential factors:

Experience in antifungal assays, including the evaluation of the biological activity of compounds or materials against phytopathogenic fungi under in vitro and/or in planta conditions;

Experience in plant assays, preferably under controlled conditions (e.g., growth chambers such as Fitoclima and greenhouses), including the assessment of physiological, morphological, and/or biochemical parameters;

Experience in the isolation, identification, and characterization of plant-associated microbial strains (fungi and/or bacteria) using classical microbiological techniques and, preferably, molecular methods.

Workplan and objectives to be achieved: The work plan focuses on evaluating the antifungal potential of novel compounds, materials, and formulations against agriculturally relevant phytopathogenic fungi through both in vitro and in planta assays. In parallel, it aims to investigate the effects of these approaches on plants grown under controlled conditions by assessing physiological, morphological, biochemical, and cellular parameters. The work will also involve the isolation, identification, and characterization of plant-associated microorganisms, as well as the study of plant cellular responses to different stimuli.

Note: The work plan should aim at consolidating the scientific training of the research fellow in the framework of the course conferring a degree or academic diploma.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI), approved by Law n°. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and the University of Minho Scientific Research Grant Regulations (hereinafter referred to as the Regulations (RBIC), approved by Order n°. 4998/2025, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, n°. 81, of April 28, rectified and republished through Rectification Statement n°. 634/2025/2, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, n°. 132, of July 11.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the Centre for MicroEletroMechanical Systems of University of Minho, located in the Campus Azurém, Guimarães, under the scientific supervision of the Margarida Maria Macedo Francesko Fernandes, and coordinated by Professor Luís Miguel Valente Gonçalves, 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 12 months, with a provisional starting date on the September 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 1 359,64 €/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 scholarship components, as provided for in Article 21° of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulations.

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.

Composition of the Selection Committee: The jury is composed of:

- a) **Chair of the Jury:** Dr. Margarida Maria Macedo Francesko Fernandes, Assistant Researcher at the Centre for MicroElectroMechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), University of Minho;
- b) **Permanent Member:** Dr. Sara Cristina Soares Madeira, Entry-level PhD researcher at the Centre for MicroElectroMechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), University of Minho;
- c) **Permanent Member:** Professor Filipe Samuel Correia Pereira Silva, Full Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, University of Minho;
- d) **Substitute Member:** Dr. Vanessa Fernandes Cardoso, Assistant Researcher at the Centre for MicroElectroMechanical Systems (CMEMS-UMinho), University of Minho;
- e) **Substitute Member:** Doctor Nuno Miguel Magalhães Dourado, Associate Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, 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 0 to 5 values (or another scale)¹:

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- a) Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 45%;
- b) Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of 45%;
- c) Motivation letter, with a weighting of 10%.

Note: Other assessment criteria may be applied as deemed relevant.

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: Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the selection panel will assign "0" in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications will be accepted for a minimum period of 10 working days after the publication of the notice on the European Scientific Mobility Portal Euraxess.

Applications must be submitted by email to margaridafernandes@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:

¹ If a second evaluation method is fixed – Interview, it may not have a weighting higher than 40%, according to n° 4 of article 11° of UMinho regulation; The jury shall define whether all candidates are interviewed or identify the criterion to be applied to a set of candidates to be interview and its valuation (for instance, selection of candidates ranked between the 1s and 4th position in the evaluation list of 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).

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) Letter of motivation.

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 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.

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

A complaint may be filed against the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal may be made to the Rector within 30 working days, both after the respective notification.

Within 10 working days of being notified of the scholarship award, the candidate must declare, in writing, their acceptance. If they do not accept, the next highest-ranked candidate will be notified.

Constitution of a selection reserve list: The applicants ranked in the next positions on the ordered list will be included in a selection reserve list, which can be used until 31/10/2026.

Fellowship contractualization: The scholarship is awarded through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship recipient, in accordance with the draft contract in Annex II of the University of Minho Regulations (RBIC).

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, in accordance with n.º 3 of the Article 14º the University of Minho Regulations (RBIC).

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: 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	Financing Entity	Project	Type of Grant	Duration	Start	Term

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

(Place), (date)

(full name)