

Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon
Call for the award of 1 (one) Research Scholarship for Doctoral students

Notice no. BID/12/FF/2024

It is made known that a call for the award of **1 (one) Research Scholarship for Doctoral students** within the scope of the project *Strengthening Translational Research for Improved Metabolic Health (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-02)*, funded by the European Commission through the Horizon Europe Programme under the Grant Agreement no. 101159400, is open under the following conditions:

I. Scientific Area: Pharmaceutical Sciences

II. Admission Requirements:

- Hold a Master's degree or Integrated Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, or related areas¹;
- Be enrolled in a doctoral programme at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon².

¹ All higher education degrees and diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions need to be recognised by a Portuguese Institution in accordance with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August. The presentation of the recognition is mandatory for signing the contact. For further information, please visit [Degree and Diploma Recognition | DGES](#).

² During the application stage, if the candidates do not have in their possession the documents proving their enrolment in the doctoral program, those documents may be replaced by a declaration of honour. Proof of registration through the presentation of the certificates must be carried out until the hiring, under penalty of annulment of the candidate's assessment due to error on the assumptions of fact, and consequent exclusion from this competition.

Requirements:

- Research into the discovery of biomarkers, targets and therapeutics strategies in experimental models of disease and translation to patients;
- Experience in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology techniques, and mammalian cell culture;
- Proficiency in English language;
- Willingness to undertake periods of international mobility in partner institutions;
- Motivation for interdisciplinary scientific research;
- Immediate availability to join the project.

III. Research Grant Duration: The scholarship will have a duration of **12 months, eventually renewable until the end of the project or up to the maximum duration permitted for this type of scholarship (whichever occurs first)**, with an expected start date in December 2024, on an exclusivity regime in accordance with the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Lisbon.

IV. Work Plan: The project aims to investigate the role of metabolites from the intestinal microbiota or other intestinal metabolites in the regulation of lipid metabolism and the modulation of the gut-liver axis, exploring them as potential therapies for metabolic liver diseases. In vitro studies will be conducted using hepatic and intestinal cells to assess mitochondrial function and protein modification, along with in vivo studies in mouse models to analyze the efficacy of these metabolites in preventing fat accumulation in the liver and changes in the intestinal microbiome.

V. Workplace and Scientific Guidance: The work will be carried out in the laboratories of the Carlos da Silveira Building at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, under the supervision of Dr. Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues, PhD, Full Professor, and co-supervision of Dr. André Fernando Anastácio dos Santos, Junior Researcher, both from the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, alongside Dr. Natasa Velickovic, Principal Research Fellow, from the Institute for Biological Research, Belgrade, Serbia.

VI. Monthly maintenance stipend: The monthly maintenance allowance (scholarship) corresponds to **1.259,64€** and will be paid by bank transfer. The amounts set out in the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Lisbon are allocated and altered in accordance with the annual alteration of maintenance grants made by the FCT, I.P.

In addition to the monthly maintenance stipend the grant holder will also be awarded with the value correspondent to the payment of the first step of *Seguro Social Voluntário* (voluntary payment of Social Security), in case he/she chooses to be included in this regime.

VII. Formalization of applications: Applications must be sent in non-editable format (PDF), to the email concursos@ff.ulisboa.pt, containing the identification of the above-mentioned notice. Applications in paper format will not be accepted.

VIII. Application deadline: The deadline for applications is from **04th to 15th November 2024 (10 working days)**.

IX. Evaluation and rating criteria:

Candidate's Merit: Aims to assess compliance with the formal requirements requested in the opening notice, but also to consider the suitability of the scientific area of training and/or specialization, education and professional experience.

- **Adequacy of the Scientific Training Area (AACF):** With a maximum weighting of 50%.
 - Master's degree or Integrated Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, or related areas (**MsC**) – 0 to 20 values.
- **Training and Experience (FE):** With a maximum weighting of 25%.
 - Research into the discovery of biomarkers, targets and therapeutic strategies in experimental disease models and their translation to patients (**INVDBIO**) – 0 to 20 values.

- **Specific competencies for the proposed work plan (CEPTP):** With a maximum weighting of 25%.
 - Expertise in biochemistry, molecular and cellular biology techniques, and mammalian cell culture (**EXPTBMC**) – 0 to 20 values.

Final classification: The score obtained in the final classification results from the sum of the points obtained in the Candidate's Merit, with an individual form filled out for each candidate for this purpose.

X. Instruction of Application:

- a. Application form containing the candidate's identification (*available on the institutional website*);
- b. Certificate verifying the holder's Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences, or related areas;
- c. *Curriculum Vitae* containing the information necessary for the evaluation of the application;
- d. Document proving enrolment in a doctoral programme at the Faculty of Pharmacy of ULisboa, or a declaration of honour as a substitute (*available on the institutional website*);
- e. Work plan to be developed;
- f. Declaration of honour stating that there is no professional activity that violates the exclusivity regime (*available on the institutional website*);
- g. Motivation Letter;
- h. Contact of two references (optional);
- i. Other supporting documents considered relevant.

All the documents necessary for the submission of the application are available on the institutional website, through the *link*: <https://www.ff.ulisboa.pt/faculdade/recursos-humanos/bolsa-de-investigacao-para-estudantes-de-doutoramento-aviso-n-o-bid-12-ff-2024>.

The documents that instruct the application must be submitted in Portuguese or English language.

No document that should have been submitted in the application phase can be submitted after the deadline set in the opening notice. Failure to comply with the deadline set for the submission of the application, as well as the lack or late submission of documents referred to in this point will determine the exclusion from the competition.

XI. Composition of the Jury: The Jury responsible for the selection of the candidates will be constituted by:

President – Cecília Maria Pereira Rodrigues, PhD, Full Professor, FFUL;

1st Member of the Jury – Marta Bento Afonso, PhD, Assistant Professor, FFUL;

2nd Member of the Jury – André Fernando Anastácio dos Santos, PhD, Junior Researcher, FFUL;

1st Substitute Member of the Jury – Joana São José Dias Amaral, PhD, Assistant Professor, FFUL;

2nd Substitute Member of the Jury – Vanda Isabel da Silva Matos Serras Marques, PhD, Postdoctoral Fellow, Associação da Faculdade de Farmácia para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento (Farm-ID).

XII. Form of notification of results: All candidates will be notified of the final results of the evaluation by email and will have 10 working days after the aforementioned notification to make a statement, in accordance with the Code of Administrative Procedure.

After this notification, and in case there are no claims, the results will become final. In case of claims, and after the allegation is analyzed and accepted or rejected, the results will become final after 10 working days.

After the final decision is made, a complaint/appeal can be filed to the Director of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, Maria Beatriz da Silva Lima, PhD, Full Professor, within 10 working days from the date of notification.

XIII. Applicable legislation and regulations: Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Lisbon, Order no. 6238/2020, published in *Diário da República*, 2nd Series, no. 113, of 12 June, republished by Order no. 8061/2022, published in *Diário da República*, 2nd Series, no. 126, of 1 July, and Research Fellowship Statute (EBI), Decree-Law no. 123/2019, published in *Diário da República*, 1st Series, no. 164, of 28 August.

Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, October 31st, 2024.

The Director,

Maria Beatriz da Silva Lima, PhD, Full Professor