

Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon
Call for the award of 1 (one) Research Fellowship for PhD students

Notice no. BID/1/FF/2025

It is made known that a call for the award of **1 (one) Research Fellowship for PhD students** within the scope of the Project entitled: *Halt-Ronin: Discovering chronic inflammation biomarkers that define key stages in the Healthy-to-NASH (non-alcoholic steatohepatitis) transition to inform early prevention and treatment strategies (HORIZON-HLTH-2022-STAYHLTH-02)*, funded by the European Union through the Horizon Europe Programme, under the Grant Agreement no. 101095679, is open under the following conditions:

I. Scientific Area: Biology

II. Admission Requirements:

- Master's degree in Biopharmaceutical Sciences or related areas¹;
- Be enrolled in a PhD programme in Pharmacy².

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 a non-degree course, it may be substituted by a declaration of honour. Proof of registration through the presentation of the certificated 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.

Preferred factors for selection include experience and specific skills in:

- i. Tissue engineering;
- ii. Stem cell and liver biology;
- iii. Stem cell differentiation and development of disease models;
- iv. Proficiency in the English language and motivation for interdisciplinary scientific research.

III. Research Grant Duration: The fellowship will have a duration of **12 months**, with an expected start date in March 2025, on an exclusivity regime. The fellowship contract may be renewable for additional periods, as stipulated in paragraph c) of section 4 of article 5 of the University of Lisbon Research Scholarships Regulation (Dispatch No. 6238/2020), or until the end date of the project (whichever occurs first).

IV. Work Plan:



- i. Conduct research related to the progression of liver disease NAFLD-NASH, with the aim of understanding, defining, and quantifying molecular pathways, targets, and relevant biomarkers for the transition from health to disease caused by inflammation in NAFLD-NASH. This will involve independent research work as well as collaboration with other researchers in the Halt-RONIN project;
- ii. Dissemination of results through annual reports, conferences, and publications;
- iii. Connection and support for other Halt-RONIN project partners, possibly including national and international travel;
- iv. Development of personal work plans and contribution to the broader development of the group's strategy, particularly identifying priorities for current and future work; this includes contributing to the preparation of new funding applications;
- v. Mentoring students interested in developing their theses in the field of the Halt-RONIN project.

V. Workplace and Scientific Guidance: The work will be carried out at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, under the supervision of Dr. Joana Paiva Gomes Miranda, Associate Professor With Habilitation, from the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon.

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 **7th to 20th February 2025 (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 30%.
 - Master's degree in Biopharmaceutical Sciences or related areas (**MSc**) – 0 to 20 values.
- **Training and Experience (FE):** With a maximum weighting of 50%.



- Experience in tissue engineering (15%) (**EXPET**), stem cell and liver biology (10%) (**BIOCEF**) stem cell differentiation (10%) (**DCE**), and disease model development (15%) (**DESMD**) – 0 to 20 values.
- **Specific competencies for the proposed work plan (CEPTP):** With a maximum weighting of 30%.
 - Motivation for interdisciplinary scientific research and good work capacity (10%) (**MOTIC**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Excellent command of the English language (spoken and written) (5%) (**DOMING**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Ability to disseminate and communicate results (5%) (**CAPDCR**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Ability to contribute to written work and project report preparation (5%) (**CAPTE**) – 0 to 20 values;
 - Ability to plan trials and work within the scope of the project objectives (5%) (**PET**) – 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. *Curriculum Vitae* containing the information necessary for the evaluation of the application;
- c. Certificate proving the possession of a Master's degree in Biopharmaceutical Sciences or related areas;
- d. Document proving the enrolment in a PhD programme in Pharmacy, or a declaration under honour as a substitute (*available on the institutional website*);
- e. Declaration of honour stating that there is no professional activity that violates the exclusivity regime (*available on the institutional website*);
- f. Motivation Letter;
- g. 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-projeto-halt-ronin-2>.

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 – Joana Paiva Gomes Miranda, PhD, Associate Professor with Habilitation, FFUL;
1st Member of the Jury – Nuno Filipe da Rocha Guerreiro de Oliveira, PhD, Full Professor, FFUL;
2nd Member of the Jury – Sérgio José Póvoas Camões, PhD, Invited Assistant Professor, FFUL.

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, February 6th, 2025.

The Director,

Maria Beatriz da Silva Lima, PhD, Full Professor

