

Association of the Faculty of Pharmacy for Research and Development Call for the award of 1 (one) Research Grant for Students Enrolled in a Master's or Integrated Master's Program

Notice No. BI/10/FARM-ID/2025

It is made known that a call for the award of 1 (one) Research Grant for students enrolled in a Master's or Integrated Master's programme, within the scope of the project PD21-00023 PharmaStar, entitled: "Sustainable valorisation of endemic plants of the Serra da Estrela Natural Park for applications in the pharmaceutical industry", funded by Fundação La Caixa and Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., is open under the following conditions:

I. Scientific Area: Pharmaceutical Sciences.

II. Admission Requirements:

- BSc in Pharmaceutical Sciences or related areas¹;
- Be enrolled in a Master's or Integrated Master's program in Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pharmaceutical Engineering, Biological Engineering, or related areas².

¹All 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](#).

²During 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 honor. 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.

Requirements:

- Proven experience in the field of pharmaceutical development, particularly in oral solid dosage forms;
- Proven experience in programming using Matlab and Python.

III. Research Grant Duration: The research will have a duration of 6 non-renewable months, expected to begin in September 2025, on an exclusivity regime.

IV. Work plan: The Serra da Estrela Natural Park (PNSE) is one of Portugal's main reservoirs of phytodiversity. Its native plants have significant potential for value creation, particularly in developing natural, high-value products for the pharmaceutical industry. The PharmaStar project aims to valorise PNSE plants through innovative pharmaceutical formulations for diabetes prevention and treatment, using advanced drug delivery systems based on biopolymers extracted from acorn and propolis, and leveraging advanced nanotechnology

(microparticles, nanoparticles, and liposomes). This plan includes all activities related to the pharmaceutical development of oral dosage forms containing extracts from PNSE plants (already available). The fellow will contribute to studies evaluating the incorporation potential of acorn flour (*Quercus ilex*) in oral solids, especially as a release-modifying excipient. Expertise in pharmaceutical technology and multivariate data analysis will be required for the development of *silico* models describing the impact of acorn flour in such formulations.

- V. Workplace and Scientific Guidance:** The work will be conducted at the Laboratory of Manufacturing and Pharmaceutical Engineering (PhEMLab) of iMed.Ulisboa, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon, under the supervision of Prof. Dr. João Almeida Lopes, Associate Professor, at the Faculty of Pharmacy of University of Lisbon.
- VI. Monthly maintenance stipend:** The monthly maintenance stipend (grant) corresponds to € 1040,98, according to the table of values directly attributed by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf). Payment will be made via bank transfer.

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 address concursos@farm-id.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 **August 1st to 14th, 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, training and professional experience, with a maximum weighting of 100%.

- **Adequacy of the Scientific Training Area (AACF):** Candidates will be ranked based on the relevance of their academic background to the area described in the "Admission Requirements," with a maximum weighting of 25%.
 - Bachelor's in Pharmaceutical Sciences or related areas: 0–20 points.
- **Training and Experience (FE):** Candidates will be ranked based on scientific productivity indicators, with a maximum weighting of 25%.
 - Experience in pharmaceutical development, particularly in oral solid dosage forms (12.5%) – 0 to 20 points;
 - Programming experience in Matlab and/or Python (12.5%) – 0 to 20 points.

- **Specific competencies for the proposed work plan (CEPTP):** Candidates will be ranked based on demonstrated experience in areas considered relevant to the project, with a maximum weighting of 50%.
- If necessary, an individual interview will be conducted with the top two candidates, with a weighting of 40% and a maximum duration of 30 minutes, in order to objectively and systematically assess the following criteria:
 - Knowledge of the Field (KF);
 - Verbal Expression and Fluency (VEF);
 - Motivation (M);
 - Critical Thinking (CT).

The interview score will be obtained through the simple arithmetic mean of the scores assigned to each evaluation criterion, which will be assessed according to the following parameters: Excellent (20 points), Good (16 points), Satisfactory (12 points), Limited (8 points), and Insufficient (4 points), based on the completion of an individual evaluation form for each candidate.

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

The final classification score results from the sum of the points obtained in the Candidate's Merit, and an individual evaluation form will be completed for each candidate.

If an individual interview is conducted, the weightings will be as follows: AACF – 20%, FE – 20%, CEPTP – 20%, and Interview – 40%.

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 ownership of a Bachelor's degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences or related fields (if awarded by a Portuguese Higher Education Institution), or a copy of the recognition of a Bachelor's degree (if awarded by a Foreign Higher Education Institution);
- d) Document proving the enrolment in Master's degree, or declaration of honour (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 indicating your experience and suitability for the proposed work plan, particularly the preferred factors and the relevance of the fellowship for your future prospects, as well as the immediate possibility of joining the project;
- g) Contact of two references (optional);
- h) Other relevant supporting documents.

All the documents necessary for the correct application are available on the institutional website through the link: <https://www.ff.ulisboa.pt/faculdade/recursos-humanos/recrutamento/anuncio-para-atribuicao-de-1-uma-bolsa-de-investigacao-para-estudantes-inscritos-em-mestrado-ou-mestrado-integrado/>

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 will be constituted by:
- President** – João Pedro Martins de Almeida Lopes, Associate Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon;
 - 1st Member of the Jury** – Luís Manuel Lopes Rodrigues da Silva, Coordinator Researcher, Polytechnic Institute of Guarda;
 - 2nd Member of the Jury** – Marcela Alves Segundo, Associate Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto;
 - 1st Alternate Member of the Jury** – Ana Catarina Beco Pinto Reis, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon;
 - 2nd Alternate Member of the Jury** – Helena Isabel Fialho Florindo Roque Ferreira, Full Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon.

- 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 say something, in accordance with the terms of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

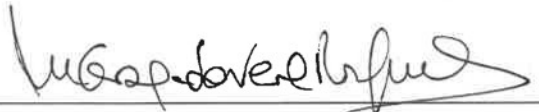
After this notification, and in case there are no claims, the results will become final. In case of claims, and after the allegation is analysed and accepted or rejected, the results will become final after 10 business days.

After the final decision is made, a complaint/appeal can be filed to the Director of the FARM-ID – Faculty of Pharmacy Research and Development Association, Maria da Graça Tavares Rebelo de Soveral Rodrigues, PhD, Full Professor, within 10 working days from the date of notification.

- XIII. Applicable legislation and regulations:** Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT, IP), Regulation no. 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd Series, no. 241, of December 16, 2019, of the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Lisbon, Order no. 6238/2020, of 12 June, published in the Diário da República, 2nd Series, no. 113, of 12 June 2020, and of the Research Fellowship Statute (EBI), Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August, published in Diário da República, 1st Series, no. 164, of 28 August 2019.

Faculty of Pharmacy Research and Development Association, July 31st 2025.

The President of FARM-ID,



(Maria da Graça Tavares Rebelo de Soveral Rodrigues, PhD, Full Professor)