

## **Announcement of a call for research grant**

**Reference:** 2025\_07\_BII\_REDCOR

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 Research Grant in the framework of the project RED-COR\_Conservation genomics of the Mediterranean red coral, *Corallium rubrum*: a habitat-forming octocoral threatened by overharvesting and anthropogenic climate change, with the reference BIOPOLIS/2023/008\_CPRV\_ECCONSERVATION-AO1, supported by CIIMAR, according to the following conditions:

**1. Scientific area:** Marine Sciences and Population genomics

### **2. Admission requirements:**

The candidate should intend to carry out initial R&D activities and be enrolled in a professional higher technical course, in a degree, an integrated master's degree or a master's degree, aiming to begin their scientific training through integration into R&D projects to be developed in national institutions, in the field of biology, ecology or evolution and meet the requirements of at least three of the paragraphs below:

- a) Experience with molecular biology (e.g. DNA/RNA extractions, PCR);
- b) Experience on handling and processing genomic dataset coming from whole genome re-sequencing (from raw reads filtering to SNP calling);
- c) Experience with statistical methods in population genetics (e.g. population diversity and structure and hybridation/introgression) and related softwares (e.g. Admixture);
- d) Experience with bioinformatics and programming language (R, Python, unix);
- e) Ability to write scientific publication and reports;
- f) Applicants should have a good knowledge in English (written and spoken). No knowledge of Portuguese is required. All nationalities are welcome to apply (subject to visa restrictions).

This scholarship may also be intended for carrying out initial R&D activities by graduates who are enrolled in non-awarding courses academic degree integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.

BII can only be attributed to those who do not exceed, with the conclusion of the contract scholarship in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of one year in that bag typology, followed or interpolated. BIIs cannot be awarded to anyone who has already benefited from research grants directly or indirectly financed by FCT, awarded under the terms of the Scholarship Holder Statute Investigation.

The jury reserves the right to close the application in case none of the candidates meets the desired profile.

In cases where the degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, the said degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August until the signature of the contract.

### **3. Work plan:**

The selected candidate will join our team under the REDCOR project. REDCOR aims to provide population genomics-based guidance for the conservation of the red coral, *Corallium rubrum*. For this contract, the candidate will participate actively in the bioinformatics and population genetic analyses targeting the red coral.

It will be in charge of the storage, quality check and filtering of raw reads obtained from a whole genome resquencing of >200 red coral colonies. The candidate will conduct the read mapping and SNP callings.

It will analyse the dataset using population genetic methods in order to characterize the patterns of genetic structure and diversity in the species and to infer the underlying processes (e.g. local adaptation, demographic history etc). Complementarily the candidate will participate in the implementation of the Communication Plan.

### **4. Legislation and official rules:**

Law n.º. 40/2004, 18th August (Research Fellowship and Studentship Regulation) in its current version; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. and CIIMAR Grants Regulation approved by FCT.

### **5. Work place:**

The work will be carried out at CIIMAR, Edifício do Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Av. General Norton de Matos, s/n, Matosinhos, integrated in the research team Evolutionary Genomics and Bioinformatics Team, under the scientific supervision of Dr Jean-Baptiste Ledoux.

### **6. Duration of the grant:**

Duration of three (3) months, eventually renewable according to the legal terms, starting in April 2025.

## 7. Monthly maintenance stipend:

The monthly maintenance allowance is

R&D Initiation activities (BII) - 651,12€
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## 8. Selection methods:

The contract will be awarded based on the candidates' academic curriculum and technical skills. The ranking of candidates will be performed by a global evaluation of their scientific and curricular achievements (1 - 10 values):

The candidates' score will be the sum of the evaluation of:

1. Merit of the academic curriculum in the scientific area and relevance to the project work plan.  
Weight: 40%.

2. Experience relevant for the scientific area and the project work plan: Weight: 60%. The candidates will be ranked according to the following criteria:

- a) Experience with molecular biology, 10 %;
- b) Experience on handling raw sequencing data 30% ;
- c) Experience in analysing population genetic data, 40%;
- d) Publications, reports and relevant conferences, 10%;
- e) Motivation letter and additional information, 10%;

The evaluation process may include an interview by video conference to the top two candidates, with the only propose of clarifying aspects related to the research results, and motivation towards the project, in case of insufficient curricular information for a decision making. In such case, the interview will have a weight of 30% and the previous assessment a weight of 70%.

## 9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Jean-Baptiste Ledoux

Vogal: Marina Dolbeth

Vogal: Joana Xavier

## **10. Form of Advertising/notification of results:**

The final results of the evaluation will be published through a list sorting the candidates according to their attributed mark by e-mail; in case of disagreement, the candidates have a 10-working day term in which to contest the decision, if it so wishes, as provided for in the Administrative Procedure Code in a preliminary hearing setting. The jury reserves the right to not assign the grant depending on the quality of the applications.

In case of resignation or withdrawal of the selected candidate, the next candidate with the highest evaluation score will be notified immediately.

## **11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications:**

The competition is open from **06/02/2025** until **19/02/2025** . The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- Detailed Curriculum vitae, in Portuguese or in English;
- Past research activities and its relevance to the current project explained in a motivation letter written in Portuguese or English;
- Certificates (copy) of the previous academic degrees, specifying mandatorily the final classification.
- Evidence of enrolment in a degree or non-academic degree course, if applicable.
- Contact e-mail address and phone number.

The applications cannot exceed 20 MB and must be sent by e-mail to: [rh@ciimar.up.pt](mailto:rh@ciimar.up.pt), with the reference **2025\_07\_BII\_REDCOR** in the subject line. The applications that do not include all the elements previously indicated will not be considered.

## **12. Non-discrimination and equal access policy:**

CIIMAR actively promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

Pursuant to Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences.

Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication/expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.