

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE OPENING OF A SELECTION OF A RESEARCH GRANT– (BI) 1 VACANCY

Reference: 2025_018_BI_Microant

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 research Grant in the framework of the project **MICROANT** - *Microphysical and microbiological signatures of precipitation in Antarctica: role of atmospheric rivers and local sources in a warmer climate*, reference **2023.15890.PEX**, supported by Portuguese Foundation for the Science and Technology (FCT), according to the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Environmental Microbiology and Biodiversity

2. Admission requirements: Any national, foreign or stateless candidate(s) who hold a Master degree in Biological Sciences including Environmental Microbiology/Biodiversity/Evolutionary Biology or related fields, and be enrolled in a doctoral program at the time of application, with the aim of consolidating its scientific training through the development of research work contributing to the respective PhD degree or in a non-degree course integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or several R&D units. If the applicant is not yet enrolled, it must meet the requirements to register; enrolment will be mandatory and proof necessary only at the moment of scholarship contracting.

The candidate must have:

- i) Knowledge of culturable and nonculturable methodologies and experience in analysis of microbial communities in environmental samples;
- ii) Experience in interdisciplinary approach relating biological and physical environmental factors;
- iii) Knowledge of programming languages for data analysis and visualization (R, Python or other);
- iv) Proficiency in English;

Additional preferred conditions: Fieldwork experience in polar regions including air/precipitation/surface sample collection and analysis, including understanding specifics of meteorological and environmental conditions in the Antarctic region, will be an important asset.

Note: In the case of enrolment in courses that do not confer academic degree, the research grant can only be awarded to those who do not exceed, with the signing of the research grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in this type of grant, consecutive or interpolated.

Academic degrees awarded by a foreign higher education institution must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16th August, which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, attributed by foreign higher education institutions, being any formalities established therein fulfilled only by the date of the contracting act.

The jury reserves the right to close the contest if none of the candidates match the desired profile.

3. Work plan: The candidate will be applying culturable and nonculturable methodologies to deliver comprehensive information about the microbial communities involved in cloud ice nuclei and cloud condensation processes in the precipitation samples collected over the Antarctic Peninsula. The information about the microbial diversity and phylogenetics will be analysed for understanding changing climate over the Antarctic Peninsula and Southern Ocean. Microorganisms and water cycle are interconnected in the atmosphere through processes of transport, cloud and precipitation formation, deposition and scavenging by precipitation. The fellow will analyze data from different sampling sites to discover the differences between microbial diversity in various localities and associate them with local precipitation properties, as well as moisture sources, pathways and weather patterns. Data collected during the expeditions will be processed and published as a stand-alone data set in the dedicated repositories. The fellow is expected to contribute to research results dissemination at national and international meetings, preparing a peer-reviewed publication, and participate in outreach activities. The fellowship includes working two months abroad (UK) for gaining experience in aerosol and cloud ice nuclei analysis and knowledge exchange.

4. Legislation and official rules: Law nº.40/2004, 18th August (Research Fellowship Holder Statute) in its current version; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. and CIIMAR Grants Regulation.

5. Work place: The work will be carried out within the project at CIIMAR: Land-Ocean-Atmosphere Interactions and Microbiome Ecology and Biogeochemistry research teams, Edifício do Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, Av. General Norton de Matos, s/n, 4450-208 Matosinhos, under the scientific supervision of Dra Irina Gorodetskaya and Dra Catarina Magalhaes.

6. Duration of the contract: Duration of eight (8) months, starting in April 2025, including 6 months in Portugal and 2 months abroad (UK), under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewable up to legal terms.

7. Monthly salary: The monthly maintenance allowance is 1309,64 € (in Portugal) and 2118,65 € (abroad) , in agreement with the monthly maintenance stipend table of the grants directly attributed by FCT, I.P. within the country (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf), by bank transfer payment.

8. Selection methods: The ranking of candidates will be performed by an initial evaluation based on:

- A- Academic performance (Suitability of the degree and candidate's performance) – 40%;
- B- Experience and qualifications relevant to the proposed research area (Curricular units related to the topic of the proposal as well as experience in microbiological analysis of environmental samples; demonstrated interdisciplinary approach in analysis combining biological and physical factors; fieldwork experience) – 40%;
- C- Motivation letter – 20%.

The assessment process may include an interview for the top three candidates if they are separated by less than 10% according to the jury criteria. The interview will have a weight of 20% and the evaluation carried out previously will have a weight of 80%.

9. Composition of the jury selection:

President of the jury: Dr. Irina Gorodetskaya

Vogal: Prof. Dr. Catarina Magalhaes

Vogal: Dr. Luis Vieira

10. Form of advertising/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be send through a list sorting the candidates according to their attributed mark, by e-mail and available in CIIMAR website; in case of disagreement, the candidates have a 10-working day term in which to contest the decision, if he/she so wishes, as provided for in the *Código do Procedimento Administrativo* in a preliminary hearing setting. The jury reserves the right to not assign the contract depending on the quality of the applications.

11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications: The competition is open from **18/03/2025 until 31/03/2025**. The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- detailed Curriculum vitae;
- copy of the Master degree certificates (including curricular information and grades);
- copy of the eligibility certificates, if applicable;
- evidence of enrollment in a doctoral program or non academic degree course, if applicable;
- motivation letter;
- contact e-mail address and phone number.

Applications cannot exceed 20 MB and must be sent by email to rh@ciimar.up.pt with a copy to irinag@ciimar.up.pt (MICROANT project PI), with the offer reference in the subject: **2025_018_BI_Microant**. 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 policy of non-discrimination and equal access, by which no candidate can be privileged, can benefit or be put in disadvantage, or can be deprived of any rights or duties based on their social or cultural background, ethnic group or race, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, social condition, genetic assets, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and unionization.

As set forth by the Decree Law 29/2001, the candidate with disability has preference if equally classified, which prevails over any other legal preference. The candidates with disability must declare in their application, on their word of honor, their degree and type of disability, and the means of communication/expression that are to be used in the selection process, as provided by the above mentioned legal diploma.