

NOTICE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR 1 (ONE) RESEARCH GRANT (BI), WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT 'SPINALS: INTERROGATING SPINAL INTERNEURONS TO UNDERSTAND THE VULNERABILITY OF MOTOR NEURONS IN ALS' (REF. 2024.16934.PEX), CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AT UCIBIO – UNIT OF APPLIED BIOMOLECULAR SCIENCES, FACULTY OF PHARMACY, UNIVERSITY OF PORTO - BOLS-FFUP-26-7

This call is open for the award of one (1) Research Grant (BI) to a graduate student enrolled in a master's programme or enrolled in a non-degree course, to carry out R&D activities within the scope of the project "SPINALS: Interrogating spinal interneurons to understand the vulnerability of motor neurons in ALS" (Ref. 2024.16934.PEX) funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology, currently underway at UCIBIO - Applied Biomolecular Sciences Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto, under the following conditions:

1. Research area/s: Neuroscience, Pharmacology, Bioengineering, Molecular Biology

2. Admission requirements:

All individuals of legal age who meet the following requirements, as proven by documentation, are eligible to apply for this scholarship:

- a) Bachelor's degree in Bioengineering, Biology, Biochemistry, Pharmaceutical Sciences or related areas¹;
- b) Be a student enrolled in a master's programme or a bachelor's degree holder enrolled in a non-degree course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units - requirement to be duly proven at the time of hiring²

3. Preferred requirements:

- a) Demonstrated by an Academic Certificate attached to the application:
 - i. Final classification of the Bachelor's degree equal to or higher than 16, corresponding to at least a B on the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS; top 25% percentile);
- b) Demonstrated by a Letter of Recommendation and/or Publications and/or Theses/Reports/Communications attached to the application:
 - i. Previous experience in laboratory research with model cells or organisms, preferably zebrafish;

¹ If the academic degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must be recognised by a Portuguese higher education institution, in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August, which approves the legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and Article 4(2)(e) of Decree-Law No. 60/2018 of 3 August. Any formalities established therein must be completed by the date of hiring.

² Proof of enrolment must be submitted by the date of hiring, and candidates may attach a sworn statement certifying that they meet the enrolment conditions for the purposes of their application.

- ii. Previous experience in image and/or numerical data analysis;
- iii. Ability to maintain organised laboratory records;
- iv. Scientific writing skills;
- v. Ability to work in a team and communicate in English.

4. Work Plan:

4.1. The purpose of this contract is to perform the following tasks:

- a) Experimental evaluation of neurodegeneration mechanisms in zebrafish models of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis;
- b) Evaluation of the effects of experimental therapies, applying microscopy, molecular biology, and behavioural analysis techniques;
- c) Analysis of microscopy images, numerical data, and graphical representations;
- d) Maintenance of organised laboratory records and writing reports in English.
- e) Contribute to regular laboratory tasks such as model maintenance and solution preparation.

4.2. When the academic degree or diploma is awarded during the term of the studentship contracts, the studentship may continue as long as the activities provided for in the work plan have not been completed and under the terms specifically provided for in the call for applications and in the contract, in accordance with Article 10(6) of the University of Porto's Research Studentship Regulation.

5. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

The call for applications and the respective award of the studentship are governed by the provisions of the University of Porto's Research Studentship Regulation - approved by Regulation no. 184/2021, published in *Diário da República*, 2.^a Série, n. 43, 03rd March, hereinafter referred to as the Regulations no. 43, of 03rd March; the legal framework for the recognition of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions; the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA), approved by Decree-Law no. 4/2015, of 7th January; the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI), approved by Law no. 40/2004, of 18th August, in the current wording published by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28th August and Research Studentship Regulation n.º 950/2019, de 16-12-2019, of Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P., and other applicable rules.

6. Workplace:

The work plan will be developed at UCIBIO - Applied Biomolecular Sciences Unit, Department of Medicines Sciences, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto (FFUP) and/or other locations necessary for its execution, under the scientific guidance of Professor Jorge Ascensão Oliveira.

7. Duration:

The BI will last for six months, on a full-time basis, and may be renewable, following a positive evaluation, up to the end of the work plan or funding period, but in no case may it exceed one year when the grant has been awarded to graduates or masters who are enrolled in study cycles that do not confer an academic degree,

or two years when the grant has been awarded to students enrolled in a master's degree, in accordance with Article 10(3) of the Regulations.

8. Monthly maintenance allowance amount:

8.1. The monthly maintenance grant amounts to €1,040.98 for graduates enrolled in a master's degree programme, or enrolled in a non-degree programme, in accordance with Annex I of the Regulations.

8.2. Payment will be made by FFUP by bank transfer. In addition to this allowance, the studentship holder will be covered by personal accident insurance.

8.3. The studentship holder can join the Voluntary Social Insurance Scheme (valid for a studentship contract of six months or more), which is optional (not compulsory) and the reimbursement corresponds to the 1st step of the contribution base.

9. Evaluation methods:

9.1. The selection methods are as follows: curricular assessment (AC – abbreviation in Portuguese) with a weighting of 50% and, optionally, complemented by an interview (ENT – abbreviation in Portuguese) with a weighting of 50%, which will only take place when the Jury considers that the AC does not allow it to clarify, in the intended manner, the real competences of the candidates or to distinguish which candidate is best suited to the position and functions to be performed. If this is the case, the interview will be carried out with the 3 (three) candidates best classified in the AC.

9.2. Each member of the Jury will assess the selection methods on a scale of 0 to 20 points.

9.3. The criteria and weighting factors for the curricular assessment (AC) are:

a) Final average grade for bachelor's degree (0 to 10 points). If the candidate submits a foreign degree that is not recognised or recognised without the respective final grade converted to the Portuguese grading scale by the application deadline, they will be awarded a grade of 5 points;

Bachelor's degree (pre- or post-Bologna)	
Classification	Score
≥ 18	10
17	9
16	8
15	6
<15	5

b) Experience in laboratory research activities, documented by (co-)authorship in scientific communication/publication, or by letter of recommendation (0 to 2 points);

c) Experience in image and numerical data analysis, documented by (co-)authorship in scientific communication/publication, or by letter of recommendation (0 to 2 points);

d) Experience in scientific writing, documented by (co-)authorship in a scientific publication or authorship of an academic document (report, monograph, dissertation, thesis) (0 to 2 points).

e) A cover letter written in English specifically for this competition, demonstrating that you meet the

admission/preference criteria (0–4 points).

9.4. Candidates who have received a score equal to or less than 9 points will be excluded in the AC phase.

9.5. These are the criteria and weighting factors for the interview (ENT), should it be conducted:

- a) Theoretical scientific knowledge in life and health sciences (0 to 5 points);
- b) Knowledge of experimental procedures, disease models, and data analysis (0 to 5 points);
- c) Scientific communication and English language skills (0 to 5 points);
- d) Motivation, autonomy, proactivity, creativity, and critical thinking (0 to 5 points).

9.6 Applicants may ask the Chair of the Jury for permission for their interview to be conducted by a video conference, stating the reasons for this.

9.7. Failure to attend the interview stage of the selection process will result in disqualification from the selection process.

9.8. The Final Classification (CF - abbreviation in Portuguese) will be obtained by applying the following formula: $CF = (0,5*AC) + (0,5*ENT)$.

If there is no interview, the final classification will be obtained by the following formula: $FC = AC$.

9.9. Candidates who have received a score of 14 points or less in the CF will be excluded from the competition.

9.10. This application is intended exclusively to fill the vacancy indicated. In the event that no candidate demonstrates that they have the profile required to fulfil the work plan described above within the scope of this project, the Jury reserves the right not to award the position.

10. Selection panel:

President - Doctor Jorge Miguel de Ascensão Oliveira, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto:

1st member - Doctor Georgina Correia da Silva, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Porto

2nd member – Doctor Maria Clara Ferreira de Oliveira Quintas, Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto

Substitute member - Doctor Patrícia Carla Ribeiro Valentão, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto;

Substitute member – Doctor Maria Helena dos Anjos Rodrigues Amaral, Associate Professor at the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Porto

11. Submission of applications:

11.1. Applications must be submitted by 6 april 2026, 23:59(local time – Lisbon).

11.2. Applications must be formalized in the online application submission system, available on the APPLY webpage: <https://app.apply.up.pt>, Ref. BOLS-FFUP-26-7

11.3. The application must be accompanied by documents proving the conditions set out in this Notice, namely:

- a) Curriculum vitae, with full name;

b) Documents supporting the CV, proving laboratory/scientific experience (Examples: thesis, monograph, report, article, communication, letter of recommendation).

c) Letter of motivation, written in English specifically for this competition, demonstrating suitability for the admission/preference criteria and indicating availability to start the work plan;

d) Copy of the certificate(s) of the required qualifications and recognition of the degree if it was obtained at a foreign higher education institution (this recognition can be submitted up to the time of hiring);

e) Proof of enrollment in a study cycle or non-degree course or a declaration of honor commitment certifying that they meet the enrollment conditions and that they will present the proof of enrollment by the time of hiring;

f) Statement of eligibility (in accordance with the draft attached – Annex I – to this notice).

11.4. The candidates may also attach any other documents they feel are relevant to assessing their merit.

11.5. The failure to comply with the application submission deadline, failure to submit or late submission of the documents referred to in points a) to f) of paragraph 11.3. will result in the application being excluded.

11.6. For the purposes of evaluating applications, any documents whose access is provided through links will not be considered, with the exception of those that refer to publications with a DOI.

11.7. The documents mentioned in point 11.3. must be submitted, preferably, in a non-editable format.

11.8. The Jury may, whenever it deems necessary, request candidates to submit additional documents relating to the facts referred to in the CV presented, setting a deadline for this purpose, as follows:

a) the documentation referred to is not intended to present elements not referenced in the curriculum vitae, nor to join missing documents required in this Notice;

b) all candidates are informed that additional documentation has been requested.

12. False declarations:

False statements made by candidates will be penalized in accordance with the law.

13. Notification of results:

13.1. Notifications are made by publication on the Apply UP electronic platform, under the terms of subparagraph c) of paragraph 1 of Article 112 of the CPA, producing their effects under the terms of Article 113 of the CPA.

13.2. Under the provisions of Article 121 et seq. of the CPA, once notified, candidates have 10 working days to express themselves in writing.

14. Booking list:

A booking list will be drawn up on the basis of the final ranking list, which may be used in the event of the first-placed candidate withdrawing. The Faculty's highest authority reserves the right to call the next candidate, and so on, until the vacancy is filled. This reserve list may be used for a maximum period of 12 (twelve) months from the date of publication of this Notice.

15. Policy of non-discrimination and equal access:

The University of Porto actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no applicant may be privileged, benefited, disadvantaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on

the grounds of ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

ELIGIBILITY STATEMENT

For the purposes of complying with the provisions of Article 10 of the University of Porto Research Studentship Regulation, I hereby declare that:

- I haven't signed any research studentship/s contract/s to date under the EBI;
- To date, I have signed the following research studentship/s contract/s under the EBI:

Type of studentship	Start Date	End Date	Contracting Authority

I also declare that I meet the eligibility conditions for this studentship, as required under the terms of the aforementioned regulation.

I hereby declare and sign this statement.

Date ____/____/____

Signature _____