

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A RESEARCH TECHNICIAN

Reference: IBMC_TI_NCBio_2104_2026

IBMC – Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, is opening a call to one Research technician in an unfixed term work contract, to carry out technical duties within the project “Capacitação do programa de investigação em Neurobiologia e Doenças Neurológicas - apoio à ERA Chair NCBio: Unlocking Excellence in Research and Innovation in Neurobiology and Neurological Disorders at IBMC/i3S (WIDESPREAD-06-2020 project: 951923), reference NORTE2030-FEDER-01711200, financed by Norte Portugal Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2030), under the PORTUGAL 2030 Partnership Agreement, through the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER), at the IBMC Institute, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Biophysics/Structural Biology

2. Project Summary and Workplan: Discovery of novel modulators of ataxin-3 aggregation. Spinocerebellar ataxia type 3 (SCA3), also known as Machado–Joseph disease (MJD), is a hereditary neurodegenerative disorder caused by an abnormal expansion of CAG repeats in the ATXN3 gene, resulting in a polyglutamine (PolyQ) expansion in the ataxin-3 protein. Misfolding and aberrant self-assembly of ataxin-3 are critical disease hallmarks. The successful candidate will be involved in producing recombinant protein and analyzing the effects of different molecules on ataxin-3 aggregation using biochemical and biophysical assays, including Cryo-EM. These studies will be complemented by validation of the effects of selected interactors on ataxin-3 aggregation in human cell models.

3. Admission Requirements:

Mandatory:

1. Master's degree in Biochemistry or related areas, average grade of BSc. and MSc. of 15/20 or higher;
2. Experience in molecular biology, protein expression and purification, protein crystallization, ubiquitin hydrolase activity assays, and protein interaction assays.
3. Ability to work independently and as part of a team; excellent communication skills
4. Ability to communicate proficiently in English (spoken and written);

If the degree has been awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the provisions of the Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16th, and must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, which approves the regime legal recognition of academic degrees and diplomas in Higher Education, arising from foreign higher education institutions, and paragraph e) of paragraph 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law No. 60/2018, of August 3, all of which the formalities must be fulfilled there until the time of signing the contract.

Preferential: Preference will be given to candidates with solid experience and knowledge in:

- Ataxin-3 aggregation assays in vitro and in cell models;
- Protein structure analysis, X-ray crystallography data collection; development of time-resolved crystallography and Cryo-EM workflows.

4. Legislation and other applicable regulations: Portuguese Labour Code, approved by Law 7/2009 of February 12, and the respective updates.

5. Workplace: Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular IBMC /Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde – i3S, under the group Biomolecular Structure and Function and scientific supervision of Sandra de Macedo Ribeiro.

6. Start and Duration of the contract: The estimated start date of the contract is June 1st, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 4 months, eventually extendable.

7. Professional category and monthly remuneration: The gross monthly salary, for the Research Technician career, corresponds to 1621.96€ (Level 15A), according to the Table of Allowances of IBMC, subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions. Includes food, holidays and Christmas apart.

8. Evaluation Criteria: The evaluation of the CV of the candidates will focus on the adequacy of previous work experience within the scope of the call (point 3). The Selection will be based on:

- a) Curricular evaluation (70%):
 - research experience relevant for the work plan, as defined in the requirements for admission (50%);
 - scientific and technological production and impact (20%);
- b) Motivation Letter in English indicating interest and motivation for the area in which the application fits (30%);
- c) The evaluation panel may invite the most highly ranked candidates (up to 3) for an interview. In this case the final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. In this case, the curricular evaluation will weight 90% for all candidates and the interview will weight 10%.

The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will receive a maximum score of 90%.

The jury deliberates by means of a reasoned vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed.

Minutes of the jury meetings will be drawn up, which should contain a summary of what took place, as well as the votes cast by each member and their respective reasons, and will be made available to candidates upon request.

Once the selection criteria have been applied, the jury will draw up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ranked by the respective classification after the curricular evaluation.

9. Jury Composition:

President: Sandra de Macedo Ribeiro

Members: Pedro J. B. Pereira; Pedro M. Martins; M. Rosário Almeida

Substitutes: Zsuzsa Sárkány; Isabel Cardoso; Joana Santos

10. Publication/Notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be publicized through an ordered list by final mark obtained, published on the IBMC website, and notified by e-mail. After notification, as provided in the Administrative Procedure Code, by the preliminary hearing, candidates have 10 working days to comment and, within that period, a complaint may be submitted by email to: rh@ibmc.up.pt.

This call is intended exclusively to fill the indicated position on offer and may be cancelled before the final ranking list of candidates is ratified by the Director. Accordingly, the position will no longer be available.

11. Application deadline and form of presentation of applications: The competition is open from April 24th to May 11th, 2026. Applications must be submitted electronically at:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/323e9d4313d2251276a2a77e6f5e4>

The required documents for the application are:

- Certificate of Qualifications;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Motivation letter in English, outlining past research activities and their relevance to the position;
- Other documents, considered as relevant by the candidate.

Candidates who incorrectly formalize their application or who fail to meet the requirements of this competition will be excluded from admission to the competition.

The selection board has the right to ask any candidate, in case of doubt, to produce documentary evidence of their declarations.

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

12. Non-discrimination and equal access policy: IBMC actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. No applicant shall be privileged, benefited, prejudiced, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the basis of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership. Within the framework of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, IBMC adopts the Open, Transparent and Merit-based (OTM-R) principles for the recruitment of researchers, with the aim of conducting fair and transparent recruitment processes, bringing equal opportunities to all candidates.

Under the terms of Decree-Law 29/2001, of February 3, the candidate with a disability is given preference in equal ranking, which takes precedence over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare under oath their degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication/expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned decree.