



## ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD STUDENT

**Internal code:** PhD\_Student/Marie Curie/i3S/0105/2024

A call is opened for the position of a PhD Student, for a period of 3-years, to carry out research duties within the European Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Network "*BonePainIII - Identifying mechanisms and novel treatments of bone pain – closing the gap to the clinic*". The position is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme, under Grant Agreement No 101120524.

**Scientific Area:** Health Sciences

### 1. Project summary and work plan

BonePainIII is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network (Grant agreement number 101120524). The aim of BonePainIII is to promote frontline research, innovation and education within bone pain. Millions of people suffer from bone pain, which is a debilitating complication of many musculoskeletal disorders such as arthritis and cancer in the bone. In BonePainIII the PhD student will be part of a thriving international research network with a strong collaboration between industry and academia. The tailor-made training program encompasses training through individual research projects, network meetings, PhD courses, workshops, research stays abroad and participation in national and international conferences.

**PhD Student Individual Research Project:** Humanized organ-on chip models for cancer-induced bone pain

**Objective:** Establish and validate 3D *in vitro* model of bone metastases comprising human iPSC derived sensory neurons, human bone cells and cancer cells.

The project will be conducted at the Neuro & Skeletal Circuits group of i3S (<https://www.i3s.up.pt>). A secondment is planned at University Medical Center Utrecht, Netherlands.

The candidate will be enrolled in the Doctoral Programme on Cellular and Molecular Biotechnology Applied to Health Sciences (BiotechHealth) of the Abel Salazar Biomedical Sciences Institute (ICBAS) of the University of Porto (<https://sigarra.up.pt/icbas/>).

The key tasks as a PhD student are to:

- a) Manage and carry through the research project
- b) Participate in the BonePainIII training and network activities
- c) Write scientific articles and PhD thesis
- d) Participate in national and international congresses and scientific meetings
- e) Research stay at an external research laboratory within the BonePainIII network
- f) Disseminate research

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**Supervision:**

The principal supervisor will be Meriem Lamghari, email: lamghari@i3s.up.pt, phone +351 220 408 800

**2. Applicable Portuguese legislation**

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording

**3. Jury**

Chairman: Meriem Lamghari; Other Members: Estrela Neto and Niels Eijkelkamp; Substitutes : Sílvia Bidarra, Catarina Leite Pereira.

**4. Workplace**

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Neuro Skeletal Circuits

**5. Professional category and monthly remuneration**

PhD Student Researcher

Gross salary €1.790,00 and mobility allowance €490,00

A family support allowance of €539,66 may apply depending on personal status.

**6. Obligatory requirements for admission**

1. The successful candidate must hold MSc degree or equivalent in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, biomedicine or bioengineering with specialization in tissue engineering/regenerative medicine or equivalent. At the date of recruitment, the researcher must not be in possession of a doctoral degree.
2. Experience with primary cell culture and cell and molecular biology is required. It is also meritorious if you have a background in neurosciences and/or cancer biology.
3. Previous experience in cell culture in microfluidic devices will also be a distinction.
4. Fluency in English is required.

**Mobility Rule:** researchers must not have resided or carried out their main activity (work, studies, etc.) in the country of the recruiting beneficiary (Portugal) for more than 12 months in the 36 months immediately before their date of recruitment. Compulsory national service, short stays such as holidays, and time spent as part of a procedure for obtaining refugee status under the Geneva Convention are not taken into account. Date of Recruitment means the first day of the employment of the researcher for the purposes of the action (i.e. the starting date indicated in the employment contract).

**Selection procedure:** The recruitment process will follow the principles of the European Charter for Researchers and Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/jobs/charter-code-researchers>

**Terms of employment:** The terms of employment and salary are in accordance with the local and national rules and in accordance to the rules and regulations laid down

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by the European Union's Horizon Europe Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action Doctoral Network. Exact salary will be confirmed upon appointment.

## **7. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results**

Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria:

- a) CV (60%)**
- b) Motivation letter (10%)**
- c) Interview (30%)**

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview. In this case, the curricular evaluation will weight 60% for all candidates and the interview will weight 30%.

Candidates are excluded from admission to this call if they do not fill out their application correctly or do not meet the obligatory admission requirements. If in doubt, the jury may ask any candidate additional documents in support of their statements.

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

The jury will draw up minutes of its meetings, which can be consulted at the candidate's request within 10 working days after the selection results are released.

The jury deliberates by means of a reasoned vote according to the evaluation criteria, with no abstentions allowed, and draws up a list of excluded and admitted candidates, ordered by respective classification.

All candidates are notified of the selection results by email. After notification, candidates have 10 working days to comment.

In the 90 days following the deadline for submission of applications, the jury's final decision is communicated to the candidates. Subsequently the institute Director, who is also responsible for the final decision of hiring, will ratify the decision of the jury.

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

## **8. Submission of applications**

Applications must include all the documents proving that they fulfill the admission requirements, namely:

- a) Detailed Curriculum Vitae.

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- b) Diploma and transcripts of records: Master's degree diploma (including grade transcripts for bachelor's and master's degrees). Applicants with a Master's degree from abroad should also enclose a short description of the grading scale used.
- c) short summary of the MSc thesis (max 1 page)
- d) Motivation letter: Letter stating the interest in and qualifications for the project (max. one page).
- e) 2 letters of recommendation including contact details for references.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 01/05/2024 to 15/06/2024, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/1148e6f0f15b30cc13abf75a4dd98270>

#### **9. Start and duration of the contract**

The anticipated start date of the contract is 01/10/2024 and is subject to budget availability. The maximum duration of the contract will be 36 months.

#### **10. Non-discrimination and equal access policy**

i3S 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, i3S 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.

#### **11. Applicants with disabilities**

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.