



NOTICE OF OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD HOLDER RESEARCHER UNDER DECREE-LAW NO. 57/2016

Internal code: Researcher/COMPETE2030_SweetChild/i3S/1507/2025

A call is opened for the position of a PhD holder, for an unfixed term work contract to carry out research duties within the project **"SweetChild: Deciphering the Sugar Code of Pediatric Sarcomas: When Sweet turns Sour"**, with the reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00689300, Operation No. 15786, financed by COMPETE2030 under the terms of Notice no. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Glycobiology in cancer

1. Project summary and work plan

The SweetChild project aims at moving forward research in pediatric sarcomas (PS), specifically the most prevalent subtypes Rhabdomyosarcoma, Osteosarcoma, and Ewing sarcoma, by deciphering the role of glycans and the underlying molecular mechanisms in sarcoma development and progression.

To accomplish this main goal, the project will focus on two main approaches: i) an *in vitro* characterization using glycoengineering cell line models, and ii) an *ex vivo* characterization resorting to a PS tissue cohort. Specifically, the project aims to characterize the glycoprofile of the most prevalent PS subtypes and decipher the biological impact and molecular pathways associated with the identified.

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Decree No. 57/2016, of August 29 – Legal Framework for Scientific Employment (RJEC) – in its current version.

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

3. Jury

Chairman: Catarina Gomes; Other Members: Celso A. Reis, Henrique Duarte; Substitute: Filipe Pinto, Rafaela Abrantes.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group research group Glycobiology in Cancer.

5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher

€ 2.351,53, corresponding to index 33 of the Tabela Remuneratória Única, whose application is intended for PhD holders with reduced post-doctoral experience or without a post-doctoral scientific curriculum.



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6. Requirements for admission

Mandatory

- a) PhD degree in Molecular and Cellular Biology;
- b) Experience in glycobiology in cancer;
- c) Proven experience in molecular biology techniques such as:
 - i. Genomic editing by CRISPR/Cas9;
 - ii. Flow cytometry analysis;
 - iii. Immunodetection techniques such as western blot, immunofluorescence, and immunohistochemistry;
 - iv. Extraction, purification, and analysis of DNA and RNA;
 - v. Cell culture techniques;
- d) Motivation Letter in English, indicating availability to start duties on 01/09/2025.

Preferential (not mandatory, but valued)

- a) License for working with laboratory rodents certified by Portuguese DGAV or equivalent entities (functions A+B+D, former FELASA C);
- b) Experience in advanced models of disease, such as patient-derived organoids;
- c) Awards and distinctions in scientific areas relevant to the project.

7. Evaluation of the applications and publication of the results

The evaluation of the scientific and curricular background of the candidates should focus on the activity of the last five years that the candidate considers most relevant. The five-year period may be extended by the jury, at the candidate's request, when justified by suspension of scientific activity for socially protected reasons, namely for reasons of parental leave, prolonged serious illness, and other situations of unavailability for work that are legally protected.

Weight of the different curricular valuation criteria:

- a) Detailed Curricula (90 %):
 - i. Previous experience in scientific research and practical knowledge of experimental techniques mentioned in the admission requirements (80 %);
 - ii. Authorship of original scientific work published in peer-reviewed journals with relevance for the project work plan (10 %);
- b) Motivation Letter in English (10 %);
 - Stating availability to start duties on 01/09/2025;
- c) Interview - *facultative* (10 %).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the 3 (three) best candidates classified based on the curriculum may be called for an interview.

Candidates who submit their application incorrectly or fail to meet the required qualifications for this competition will be excluded from admission.

The jury reserves the right to request any candidate, in case of doubt, to provide supporting documents for 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 through 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) Copy of certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter in English;
- d) Other documentation relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area.

The submission of applications is digital, in PDF format, from 15/07/2025 to 28/07/2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/b16d6c9de1286504c5480ab15788db>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is 01/09/2025 and is subject to budget availability. The expected 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 based on 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.



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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.