

**ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE
SELECTION OF A JUNIOR RESEARCHER UNDER DECREE-LAW 57/2016**

Reference: IBMC_IJ_P123_0505_2026

IBMC – Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, is opening a call to one, PhD holder, for a Junior Researcher position, in an unfixed term work contract, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Structural Biology

2. Project Summary and Workplan: *Candida albicans* is part of the commensal microbiota of most individuals, but can switch to a pathogenic state, causing serious infections in immunocompromised patients. Major limitations in available therapies are underscored by the fact that *C. albicans* remains the most common opportunistic fungal pathogen in humans, being associated with high mortality rates. The transition of *C. albicans* from commensal to a virulent state is associated with the morphological switch from yeast-to-hyphal growth. The activation of hyphae-specific genes is directly mediated by the cAMP and the MAPK signaling pathways, which are regulated by Ras1 and Cdc25. A virtual screening strategy for large-scale docking of compounds (>500,000) will be used to identify potential molecules able to modulate the Ras1 and Cdc25 interactions.

The successful candidate will analyze results derived from the virtual screening, purify recombinant proteins, and investigate the effect of putative compounds on the Ras1 and Cdc25 interactions using fluorescence-based assays and ITC. The candidate will also study the selectivity of these molecules by evaluating their effect on the activation of human Ras Cdc25 homologues.

3. Admission Requirements:

Mandatory:

1. PhD degree in Biochemistry or a related field;
2. Scientific and professional curriculum whose profile is suited for the activity to be performed;
3. Have at least three publications in an international peer-reviewed journal, preferably in the fields of Biochemistry and/or Structural Biology;
4. Strong hands-on experience in molecular cloning, recombinant protein expression and purification, fluorescence-based assays, and isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC).
5. Ability to communicate proficiently in English (spoken and written);

6. Good team work and interpersonal skills.

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 macromolecular crystallization.

4. Workplace: Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular IBMC /Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde – i3S, under the group Macromolecular Structure and scientific supervision of Pedro J. B. Pereira.

5. Start and Duration of the contract: An uncertain term work contract will be signed, under the regime of exclusivity, according to legal terms (articles n.º. 140º, n.º 1 and n.º.2, h); and article n.º. 148º, n.º. 4 – Labour Code).

The estimated start date of the contract is July, 1st, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 3 months, eventually extendable, and cannot in any case extend beyond the project's end date.

6. Professional category and monthly remuneration: The gross monthly salary corresponds to 2408.11€ (level 33) according to the Consolidated Table of Allowances (TRU), subject to taxes and other mandatory deductions, whose application is intended for PhD holders reduced post-doctoral experience or without a post-doctoral scientific curriculum. Food, holidays and Christmas apart.

7. Legislation and other applicable regulations: Decree-Law no. 57/2016 of August, 29th, which approved Legal Framework for Scientific Employment (RJEC), updated by the Law no. 57/2017 of July 19th. Portuguese Labour Code, approved by Law 7/2009 of February 12, and the respective updates.

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 (80%):

- Research experience relevant for the work plan, as defined in the requirements for admission (50%);
 - scientific and technological production and impact (30%)
- b) Motivation Letter in English indicating interest and motivation for the area in which the application fits (20%);
- c) The evaluation panel may invite the highest ranking 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: Pedro J. B. Pereira

Members: Sandra de Macedo Ribeiro; Pedro M. Martins; Isabel Cardoso

Substitutes: Luís Gales; Rosário Almeida; Zsuzsa Sárkány

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 11 to 22 May 2026. Applications must be submitted electronically at:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/94e8dd0c96b6a1c1c81fa7fe1e213d2>

The required documents for the application are:

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

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 statements.

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.