



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

Internal code: Researcher/LACAIXA_FCT/i3S/0512/2025

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 “**MIND - Tuning neurons by controlling brain cell metabolism using Microenvironment sensitive Nanosystems**”, reference HR25-00880, co-funded by “La Caixa Foundation” and by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, IP.

Scientific Area: Drug delivery systems / Nanomedicine

1. Project summary and work plan

The aim of the MIND project is to explore and validate new molecular targets through the population of astrocytes, with the goal of modulating glutamate levels after a stroke. i3S aims to develop new dendrimer-based nanosystems using degradable dendrimers for the safe and effective delivery of messenger RNA (mRNA) – with the overarching vision of realizing a highly sought-after neuroprotective therapy for the brain. In the context of the present position the candidate will undertake research involving the synthesis of biodegradable dendrimers for mRNA complexation.

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: Ana Paula Pêgo; Other Members: Victoria Leiro, Isabel Amaral; Substitute: Cristina Barrias.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group research group *nanoBiomaterials for Targeted Therapies*.

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.

6. Requirements for admission

Mandatory:

- Candidates with a PhD in Organic Chemistry or related fields;
- Proven experience in organic synthesis;
- Proven experience in Nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR);



- d) Fluency in English (oral and written);
- e) Motivation letter (written in English);
- f) Contact details of two references - only be contacted in the event of an interview.

Preferential:

- a) Relevant publications in the field of dendrimer synthesis and their application in the biomedical field;
- b) Proven experience in drug delivery systems;
- c) Immediate availability to start the contract;
- d) Good teamwork skills and interpersonal relationships.

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 Curriculum (70 %);
- b) Motivation Letter in English (20 %);
- c) Interview - *facultative* (10 %).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, up to the 4 best candidates classified on the basis of 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 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) Copy of certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed curriculum vitae;
- c) Cover letter in English;
- d) Other documents relevant to the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific field;
- e) Contact details of two references. These references will only be contacted in the event of an interview.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 05/12/2025 to 05/01/2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/90ea4efde421ff9f81b984ee7b205877>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The contract is scheduled to begin on February 1, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 6 months, eventually extendable, and cannot, under any circumstances, extend beyond the project's end date, currently scheduled for December 30, 2028.

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.