



NOTICE OF OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD HOLDER RESEARCHER

Internal code: Researcher/HORIZON_FLAVIVACCINE/i3S/2206/2026

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 “FLAVIVACCINE - Development and characterization of a pan-flavivirus vaccine candidate”, Grant Agreement 101137006, co-funded by European Commission, through the measure Hop-on facility (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06).

Scientific Area: Immunology and Infection.

1. Project summary and work plan

Several mosquito-borne flaviviruses with pandemic potential lack effective vaccines, and where vaccines do exist, they often have limitations in terms of safety, efficacy, or accessibility. The ambitious FLAVIVACCINE proposal aims at improving EU pandemic preparedness by developing an innovative broad-spectrum vaccine candidate against multiple mosquito-borne flaviviruses with epidemic potential. i3S will fulfill several scientific requirements for the success of the project: (i) the development of an mRNA vaccine platform; (ii) a complementary approach to the identification of antigens; and (iii) world-level expertise in arthropod-transmitted pathogens, in host/pathogen interactions in the skin, and in arthropod saliva-targeted immunization.

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

3. Jury

Chairman: Joana Tavares; Other Members: Alexandra Moreira, Liliana Oliveira; Substitute: Inês Loureiro.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Host-Parasite Interactions.

5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher.

€ 2.408,11, 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. Obligatory requirements for admission

- PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences or a related area;
- Previous experience in scientific research focused on vaccine and/or-infection induced immune response in humans and mice;
- License for working with rodents certified by Portuguese DGAV according to Decree Law 113/2013 (functions A+D, former FELASA B);

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Co-funded by
the European Union

- d) Solid hands-on expertise in animal experimentation using live imaging in mice;
- e) Solid hands-on experience in recombinant protein purification;
- f) Experience in handling and maintenance of mosquitoes;
- g) Previous experience in integrating interdisciplinary research teams;
- h) Ability to work independently, but also capable of collaborative work;
- i) Contacts of two references - these will only be contacted during the interview stage;
- j) Motivation Letter in English indicating availability to start on August 1, 2026.

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) Research experience relevant for the work plan, as defined in the requirements for admission (40%);
- b) Curricular assessment, including scientific productivity and dissemination (30%);
- c) Motivation letter in English (10%);
- d) Interview – *facultative* (20%).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, an interview may be conducted with up to three of the highest-ranked candidates. Candidates who do not have an interview will have a maximum classification limit of 80.

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 PhD 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;
- e) License for working with rodents certified by Portuguese DGAV according to Decree Law 113/2013 (functions A+D, former FELASA B);
- f) Contacts of two references. These will only be contacted during the interview stage.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from June-22 to July-6, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/3a3015bf452a726a594e9d1f516f175>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is August 1st, 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of contract is 4 months, eventually extendable.

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.