



ANNOUNCEMENT OF AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF A PhD HOLDER RESEARCHER

Internal code: Researcher/FCT_Proj2022/i3S/0503

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 "Dopaminergic circuits underlying habit formation and addiction in animal models of chronic pain", with reference 2022.05193.PTDC, funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia IP.

Scientific Area: Health Sciences

1. Project summary and work plan

The scientific objective of the project is to obtain information about the functional alterations that the onset of a prolonged aversive condition (chronic pain) causes in the neuronal activity and in the codification of stimuli of the midbrain dopaminergic system during decision-making, and in several of its direct and indirect targets (prefrontal cortex, cingulate and striate cortex). The project's work plan is based on optical neurophysiology and electrophysiology methods, because we want to take advantage of the population selectivity that optical methods allow: we will use viral vectors with gene promoters that target a specific neuronal population, to activate/inhibit or visualize only the subset of neurons of interest. For optogenetic modulation of midbrain dopaminergic areas activity, we will transfect rodent dopaminergic neurons with excitatory opsins and implant fiber optic arrays to selectively activate only the dopaminergic populations of each subarea; To assess neuronal activity using intracranial calcium imaging, we will implant GRIN relay lenses in the area of interest and use miniscopes to observe calcium spikes from excitatory neurons in prefrontal cortical populations transfected with rapid calcium indicators.

2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Decree-Law 57/2016, de 29 de agosto – Regime Jurídico de Emprego Científico RJEC – na sua redação atual
Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording

3. Jury

Chairman: Vasco Miguel Clara Lopes Galhardo; Other Members – Isaura Ferreira Tavares, Carlos Manuel Gomes Reguenga; Substitute Member - Filipe Almeida Monteiro

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Pain Neurobiology

5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher

**INSTITUTO
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€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. Obligatory requirements for admission

1. PhD degree in Life and Health Sciences
2. Officially issued personal licence for experimentation in laboratory animals (rodents).

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 candidates 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) Assessment of curricular path and scientific expertise (90%)
 1. Scientific publications – number and impact factor (20%)
 2. Experience of participation in neuroscience research (10%)
 3. Experience in participation in research in Systems Neuroscience, particularly in the neural mechanisms of pain (10%)
 4. Experience in conducting experiments using neurophysiological techniques, assessment of emotional or cognitive behaviour, and data analysis of neurophysiological signals (40%)
 5. Motivation letter (10%)
- b) Interview (10%)

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

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) Copy of certificate or diploma;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter.
- d) Personal licence for handling laboratory animals (rodents).

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 5 to 18 March 2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/4668f394283b65e0285dc94a1280b779>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The planned start date for the contract is 16/4/2025 and is subject to budget availability. The planned end date of the contract will correspond to the end of the research project, scheduled for 14/01/2026. The contract will be extended in the event of an extension of the project period, subject to budgetary availability.

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.

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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.