



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

**Internal code:** Researcher/FCT\_Proj2023/i3S/3007/2025

A call is opened for the position of a PhD holder, for a fixed term work contract to carry out research duties within the project “**Molecular glues as new fungicides against *Candida albicans***”, with reference 2023.13395.PEX, funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, IP.

**Scientific Area:** Life and Health Sciences

### 1. Project summary and work plan

*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.

### 2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Decree no. 57/2016, of August 29 - Legal Regime of Scientific Employment RJEC - in its current version.

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording.

### 3. Jury

Chairman: Dr. Pedro J.B. Pereira; Other Members: Dr. Sandra de Macedo Ribeiro, Dr. José Antonio Manso; Substitutes: Dr. Joana Santos, Doutor Pedro Martins.

### 4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Macromolecular Structure.

### 5. Professional category and monthly remuneration

Junior Researcher Level 1.

€ 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

- a) PhD degree in Biochemistry, Biophysics, or a related scientific field;
- b) Proven experience in Biochemistry and Biophysics;
- c) Strong hands-on experience in molecular cloning, recombinant protein expression and purification, fluorescence-based assays, and isothermal titration calorimetry (ITC) are highly desirable. Experience with computational docking, command-line tools, and Linux-based systems is a plus;
- d) Relevant publication track record (including first authorship of at least one peer-reviewed scientific publications) in international peer-reviewed journals, preferably in the field mentioned above;
- e) Fluency in spoken and written English;
- f) Ability to work independently but also to be a proactive member within a multidisciplinary team.

## 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 activities 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 (67,5%):
  - Relevant laboratorial experience in the research area of the application (45%);
  - Scientific and technological production, including oral/poster communications, publications and impact factors (13,5%);
  - Participation in research projects (9%);
- b) Letter of motivation (18%):
  - Interest and motivation for the research area of the project (13,5%);
  - Proficiency in English and written communication (4,5%);
- c) Two Recommendation letters (4,5%).
- d) 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 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 roll-call 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 and made public. 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) PhD degree in / Copy of certificate or diploma (in PT or EN);
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Other documentation relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area;
- d) Letter of motivation (in English – mandatory);
- e) Two recommendation letters.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 30/06/2025 to 21/07/2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/68fb74c7739c53718a1faf1faaaddf4e>

#### **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 maximum duration of the contract will be 10 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 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.