

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

Internal code: Researcher/COMPETE2030/i3S/2007/2026

A call is opened for the position of a PhD holder, for an unfixed term work to carry out research duties within the project **PanEthnOrganoids “Bank of pan-ethnicity iPSC-derived organoids for advanced modelling of infectious diseases”**, with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00690400, Operation No. 15796, funded by COMPETE2030 under Call No. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Life and Health Sciences

1. Project summary and work plan

PanEthnOrganoids bridges the fields of Human Population Genetics and Advanced 3D Cell Modelling to demonstrate the scientific, clinical and societal potential of a bank of pan-ethnicity iPSC-derived organoids for advanced modelling of infectious diseases. This will be demonstrated by proof-of-concept testing the bank with infection by *Helicobacter pylori* and dengue virus, to which human populations acquired distinctive adaptative resistance. The PhD will characterize the ancestry of the established iPSCs and organoids (Task 1) using DNA microarray analysis. The hired researcher will also be responsible for conducting bulk transcriptomics and single-cell transcriptomics, as well as performing the bioinformatic analysis of the raw data (Task 3).

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: Luísa Pereira; Other Members: Raquel Almeida, Patrícia Mesquita; Substitute: Valdemar Máximo.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, Genetic Diversity research group.

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. Requirements for admission

- a) PhD degree in Life and Health Sciences or related areas;
- b) Proven experience in mastering various advanced molecular genotyping techniques;

- c) Proven experience in the bioinformatic analysis of omics data, with computational programming skills;
- d) Articles in indexed, peer-reviewed international journals in the field of human population genetics;
- e) Availability to start the contract by 1 October 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 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) Curriculum vitae (72%):
 - a. Proven experience in mastering various advanced molecular genotyping techniques (18%);
 - b. Proven experience in the bioinformatic analysis of omics data, with computational programming skills (18%);
 - c. Scientific experience in the field of human population genetics, including articles in indexed international journals and oral communications (18%);
 - d. International professional experience and participation in research projects in areas relevant to the project (18%);
- b) Motivation letter (18%): Level of interest and motivation for the research area, and suitability for the position;
- c) Interview - *facultative* (10%).

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the three best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview. The final classification system of the candidates is expressed on a scale of 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will have their maximum score limited to 90% of the evaluation.

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) Other documents relevant to the assessment of qualification in a related scientific area.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from July 20th to July 31st, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/89aceff7f62aeb2131f7a1bd62e6c9e>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is October 1st 2026, and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 12 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.