



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

Internal code: Researcher/COMPETE2030_MabExpress/i3S/2407/2025

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 "MabExpress - A fast route to new solutions against *Mycobacterium abscessus*", with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-000682600, Operation No. 15722, financed by COMPETE2030, under Notice no. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Medical and Health Sciences

1. Project summary and work plan

Patients infected with *Mycobacterium abscessus* (Mab) suffer from high treatment failure rates. The MabExpress project aims to overcome this problem by creating an innovative and complete anti-Mab drug development workflow. Using reporter-based assays and new animal models in high-throughput settings, this transdisciplinary project aims for socio-economic impact while generating important new knowledge in the field of drug discovery. The MabExpress project will implement an innovative and complete pipeline for Mab pre-clinical drug discovery. Starting with high-throughput screening assays, not only against planktonic bacteria but also biofilms and intracellular assays, moving to complex infection models, such as invertebrates, and culminating in mouse infection. The compounds that succeed in this route will have a high chance of being clinically applied.

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: Maria Salomé Gomes; Other Members: Margarida Saraiva, Joana Tavares, Substitute: Tiago Beites.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208, Porto, research group Host Targets of Infection.

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.

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6. Obligatory requirements for admission

- a) PhD degree in Biomedical Sciences or related scientific area;
- b) Proven experience in Mycobacterial infections and drug screening;
- c) Strong hands-on experience in microbiology, especially *M. abscessus*; high-throughput drug screening; fluorescence and luminescence-based assays; bacterial and cell culture; biofilms; infection models;
- d) Experience in biosafety level 2 and 3 experimental work;
- e) Experience in mouse models of infection;
- f) Accreditation by DGAV as a person responsible for the Design and Conception of procedures and projects with experimental animals;
- g) First and last author of scientific publications in Q1/Q2 journals in the relevant fields mentioned above;
- h) Experience in supervision of undergraduate and Master students;
- i) Participation in research projects, management, and fundraising in competitive calls;
- j) Fluent in spoken and written English.

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 Vitae (100%):
 - a. List of scientific publications (50%);
 - b. Participation in research projects and experience in supervision (25%);
 - c. Relevant research experience in the project area. The previous participation in interdisciplinary projects, particularly those bridging the areas of chemistry, microbiology, and immunology, will be valued (25%).

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) Accreditation by “Direção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária” as person responsible for the “Design and conception of procedures and projects” with laboratory animals

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from 24/07/2025 to 06/08/2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/24c6cee127e2423ef02a77a66a1e633a>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is September 1st, 2025, and is subject to budget availability. The contract is expected to last 36 months. Under no circumstances shall the contract exceed the project's end date, currently set for 31/08/2028.

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.

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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.