



**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\_MiDISC/i3S/0307/2025**

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 “**MiDISC: Macrophage individualized therapy for lumbar disc herniation**”, with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00691600, Operation n°. 15806, funded by COMPETE2030 under Call for Applications No. MPr-2023-12.

**Scientific Area:** Bioengineering

**1. Project summary and work plan**

Lumbar disc herniation (LDH) affects 266 million patients, causing global disability and reduced quality of life. Current treatments include conservative measures and invasive surgery, lacking efficient therapies. MiDISC will develop a minimally invasive, physiological and individualized therapy, aiming to revolutionize LDH management and improve patient outcomes. The workplan will involve i) Identification of a macrophage phenotype that is pro-phagocytic of LDH tissue; ii) Development of an injectable biomimetic hydrogel for in situ macrophage delivery; iii) Demonstration of preclinical therapy efficacy and safety.

**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: Joana Caldeira; Other members: Diana Nascimento, Maria Inês Almeida; Substitute: Susana Gomes Santos.

**4. Workplace**

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group Molecular Biomaterials.

**5. Professional category and monthly remuneration**

Assistant Researcher

€ 3.501,28, corresponding to index 195 of the Tabela Remuneratória Única, whose application is intended for PhD holders with post-doctoral experience.

**6. Obligatory requirements for admission**

- a) PhD degree in Biology;
- b) Certified by DGAV for functions A+B+D in animal experimentation, previously FELASA C;
- c) Solid expertise of over 15 years of post-doctoral experience in i) animal models for musculoskeletal research, ii) isolation and culture of mammalian primary cells; iii)

- use and development of biomaterials for tissue regeneration; and iv) osteochondral tissue engineering;
- d) Corresponding author in over 10 international scientific peer-reviewed publications;
- e) Experience in raising competitive research funding and project leadership;
- f) Availability to start the contract on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025

## **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 CV (90%):
  - i) Previous experience on research areas related to the project (60%);
  - ii) Peer-reviewed publications on research areas related to the project (20%);
  - iii) Experiência na liderança de projetos de investigação e capacidade para obter financiamento competitivo (10%);
- b) Interview - *facultative* (10%)

If the jury decides to obtain further clarifications and additional information about the curricular elements presented, the 2 (two) best candidates classified on the basis of the curriculum may be called for an interview.

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) PhD certificate in Biology;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) DGAV Certificate to perform animal experimentation (functions A+B+D);

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/5443b960e054f7e36216b1529662ad5>

#### **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 36 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.