



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

**Internal code: Researcher/EU\_CapCell/i3S/2206/2026**

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 **“CapCell - Innovative forensic trace investigation via microfluidics and single-cell genomics”**, Grant Agreement 101225737, funded by European Union - Horizon Europe (HORIZON), under the topic HORIZON-CL3-2024-FCT-01-02 - Open Topic.

**Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences

### 1. Project summary and work plan

The CapCell project is a Horizon Europe-funded consortium that develops innovative approaches for the forensic investigation of biological traces through the integration of microfluidics, single-cell genomics (single-cell sequencing), and advanced computational analysis. The project aims to improve the interpretation of complex biological mixtures by leveraging new sequencing technologies and bioinformatic methods.

CapCell addresses one of the major challenges in forensic genetics: the interpretation of complex DNA mixtures, particularly in sexual assault cases, where biological traces may contain cells from multiple contributors. The project will develop a modular and integrated toolkit capable of capturing, isolating, sequencing, and interpreting individual cells from mixed samples, using innovative microfluidic systems, single-cell sequencing technologies, and machine-learning-supported analytical models.

Within this context, the selected candidate will contribute to the development of computational methods and bioinformatic workflows for the analysis and interpretation of complex genomic datasets generated from forensic and single-cell sequencing experiments. The position offers the opportunity to work at the interface between bioinformatics, genomics, forensic genetics, and data science, as part of a highly interdisciplinary European consortium.

### 2. Applicable Portuguese legislation

Portuguese Labor Code, in its current wording

### 3. Jury

Chairman: Nádía Pinto, PhD; Other Members: Prof. Pedro Ferreira; Prof. Athina Vidaki.  
Substitute: Prof. Walther Parson.

### 4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto.



Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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## 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

### Mandatory:

- a) Applicants must hold a PhD in Life or Health Sciences, or similar;
- b) First and/or last authorship in at least three publications within the field;
- c) Experience in bioinformatics analysis of forensic genetic samples, particularly highly degraded samples;
- d) Fluency in written and spoken English.

### Preferential:

- a) Experience in Linux-based computational environments;
- b) Programming skills in Python, R, and/or Bash;
- c) Experience working within international consortia in the relevant field.

## 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, explicitly including:
  - a. List of scientific publications and their respective impact factors (45%)
  - b. Research experience (conceptual and technical) relevant to the field of the application, namely bioinformatics analysis and development of pipelines for massively parallel sequencing methods applied to forensic genetics. Experience in multicenter collaborative projects (35%)
- b) Motivation Letter in English (10 %);
- c) 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 who do not have an interview will have a maximum classification limit of 90%.

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.

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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 describing the candidate's skills and competencies demonstrating research experience (both conceptual and technical) relevant to the position;
- d) Any other documents deemed relevant by the candidate, such as reference letters, which may support the evaluation under point c).

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from June-22 to July-06, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/8971a6c5d8e218d812966460d558f>

#### **9. Start and duration of the contract**

The anticipated start date of the contract is October 1<sup>st</sup>, 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,

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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.