



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

Internal code: Researcher/COMPETE2030/i3S/1106/2026

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 “Regulation of neurogenesis by the nutrient sensor O-GlcNAc: a focus on ASCL1”, with the reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00690900, Operation No. 15800, funded by COMPETE2030 under Call for Applications No. MPr-2023-12.

Scientific Area: Developmental Neurosciences

1. Project summary and work plan

Protein O-GlcNAcylation (or O-GlcNAc) is a post-translational modification (PTM) that functions as a nutrient sensor, and works to large extent by counteracting phosphorylation in overlapping residues. O-GlcNAc is highly enriched in the brain, where its function has been mostly studied in post-mitotic neurons. By contrast, the role of the PTM in neural development, remains poorly characterized. A major focus of research at the host lab are proneural transcription factors of the bHLH family (such as ASCL1) that function as master regulators of neuronal differentiation, and are thus often deployed in neuronal reprogramming protocols (e.g., Raposo *et al*, 2015, Cell Reports; Vasconcelos *et al*, 2016, Cell Reports; Soares *et al*, 2021, Genes and Development; Soares *et al*, 2022, Open Biology). We are seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral researcher to study how O-GlcNAc regulates the activity of proneural factors, thereby linking an important nutrient sensor with pivotal regulators of both embryonic and adult neurogenesis. The project will recur to functional studies, applied to both cellular and in vivo models of neurogenesis. Work will be conducted at i3S, one of Portugal’s top science institutions, at the Stem Cells & Neurogenesis laboratory led by Diogo S. Castro.

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: Diogo S. Castro; Other Members: Teresa Summavielle, Florence Janody; Substitutes: Eurico Morais de Sá, Ana Xavier Carvalho, Rosalina Fonseca.

4. Workplace

i3S - Rua de Alfredo Allen, 208 Porto, research group research group *Stem Cells and Neurogenesis*.



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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.

6. Obligatory requirements for admission

Mandatory:

- a) PhD in Biological Sciences or related areas;
- b) Solid *Curriculum vitae* (in English), including first author publications, oral and poster presentations at conferences, etc.;
- c) Motivation Letter in English;
- d) Solid background in at least one of the following scientific subjects: cellular or molecular neurosciences; developmental or stem cell biology; transcription/gene expression regulation;
- e) Solid hands-on expertise in cell culture;
- f) Basic skills in molecular biology techniques;
- g) Contact information for two references – to be contacted only if applicable to the interview phase;
- h) Fluency in written and spoken English;
- i) Ability to work independently, but also capable of collaborative work.

Preferential:

- a) Experience in animal experimentation, specifically using mouse;
- b) Expertise in histology and microscopy;
- c) Experience in protein biochemistry work.

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) Research experience relevant for the work plan, as defined in the requirements for admission (40%);
- b) Curricular assessment, including publications (35%);
- c) Motivation letter in English (15%);
- d) Interview – *facultative* (10%).

If needed, the evaluation panel may invite the most highly ranked candidates (up to 3) for an interview. The final classification system for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100. Candidates who are not interviewed will receive a maximum score 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.

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 (in English), highlighting previous experience as defined in the requirements for admission;
- c) Motivation Letter in English;
- d) Other documentation relevant for the evaluation of qualifications in a related scientific area;
- e) Contacts of two references. These will only be contacted during the interview stage.

The submission of applications is digital, in pdf format, from June 11th to July 2nd, 2026, in the following link:

<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/b3d7232d53231fbffe6becbf658c6a5>

9. Start and duration of the contract

The anticipated start date of the contract is August 1st, 2026 and is subject to budget availability. The expected duration of the contract will be 12 months, eventually extendable, but in no case may it be extended beyond the project end date, currently scheduled for September 30th, 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.

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.