

**Announcement**  
**Research fellowship**

**Reference: Fellow\_BIPD/FCT\_Proj2020/i3S/26040705/2021**

i3S – Institute for Research and Innovation in Health (hereinafter i3S) is opening a call to award a grant for the development of R&D activities by PhD's with less than 3 years of postdoctorate, within the project, ref<sup>a</sup> PTDC/CED-EDG/0187/2020, financed by national funds through FCT – Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia.

**Post-Doctoral Research Grants award is subject to the cumulative verification of the following conditions:**

- a) Doctoral degree obtained in the three years prior to the date of submission of the application;
- b) Post-doctoral research developed in a host institution other than the institution where the research work that led to the award of the doctoral degree was developed;
- c) Research activities not requiring post-doctoral experience;
- d) Research activities have a development and execution period of three years or less;
- e) The fellowship holder does not exceed, with the conclusion of the contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of three years in this type of fellowship, consecutive or interpolated.

**Host Institution:** i3S - Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, Porto, Portugal.

**Scientific Area:** Biomedical and Veterinary Sciences.

**Project Title:** “Promoting education and training for evidence-based veterinary medicine”.

**Workplan:**

The work plan for this scholarship will determine the prevalence of non-conventional therapies (NCT) in veterinary practice and research, and is divided into two sub-tasks.

TASK 2.A. - NCT trend analysis from literature search results

For Task 2A, lasting 6 months, a comprehensive bibliographic search of the available literature in English on NCT in Veterinary Medicine will be carried out and the results will be analysed to: evaluate trends in the literature on NCT in Veterinary Medicine; determine the most prevalent NCT and for which species; gather available evidence about NCT from systematic reviews and meta-analyses; and find scientific literature that may or may not support the use of NCT in Veterinary Medicine

Task 2.B. - Systematic review of the quality of research in the published literature on TNCs for veterinary use

Task 2B, to be carried out in 12 months, will consist of a systematic review of all original research articles reporting studies on the therapeutic effect of NCT in a clinical context, gathered from the previous work in Task 2A. Adherence to avoidance of bias measures and methodological quality will be assessed, along with other information such as stating funding sources or possible conflicts of interest.

The drafts of the contract fellowship and the evaluation report are available at the i3S Research Fellowships Regulation, published at <https://www.i3s.up.pt/job-opportunities.php>

**Required skills / qualifications:** A PhD in Veterinary, Biomedical or Biological Sciences (or equivalent) and proficiency in English are mandatory. Other desirable skills include the following:

1. Proven experience in conducting systematic reviews

2. Proficiency in at least two of the following areas:

- Experimental design
- Data analysis or biostatistics
- Bibliometrics
- Animal experimentation
- Companion animal clinical practice

The candidate must show interest in the topics of reproducibility in science, methodological quality, experimental design, open science, and be able to work in a team and respect deadlines.

**Degree issued by a foreign higher education institution:** must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 341/2007, of 12 October. Any formalities established there must be completed by the date of signature of the fellowship contract.

**Legislation and other applicable regulations:** Research Fellowship Holder Statute enacted by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18th, as amended; FCT Research Grants Regulation, approved by way of Regulation nr. 950/2019, published in the II Series of DR of December 16th, 2019; i3S Research Grants Regulation.

**Place:** The research activities will be hosted at i3S, under the scientific coordination of Dr. Nuno Franco.

**Length time:** The duration of the fellowship is of 6 months, eventually renewable up to 18 months. The expected starting date is July 1<sup>st</sup> 2021. A postponement of the start date requested by the selected applicant may be considered, under exceptional and well-justified circumstances.

**Monthly maintenance stipend:** €1.646,00, according to the values table of FCT, at Portugal ([https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/Tabela\\_Valores\\_SMM\\_LOE\\_2021.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/Tabela_Valores_SMM_LOE_2021.pdf))

The payments will be made by bank transference.

Research grants may also include other components, as the voluntary social insurance, under the terms of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, article 10.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Selection will take place through a three-step procedure. In an initial curricular screening, candidates will be evaluated according to their qualifications in the required skills, using a scale ranging from 1-20. Candidates who score 12 or higher will be subject to a complete analysis and ranked according to their CV and letter of motivation using a scale ranging from 1 to 20. This evaluation will take into account scholarly publications (25%), relevant research experience (50%) and letter of motivation (25%). The top ranked candidates (two or more) will be invited for an interview by the Selection Committee, evaluated using a scale ranging from 1 to 20. Final candidate ranking will include curricular/letters evaluation (weight of 90%) and outcome of interview (weight of 10%).

**Evaluation Panel:** Nuno Franco (President); Pannel members: Manuel Sant'Ana and Anna Olsson.

**Information and Publicity of Funding Granted:** The evaluation results will be published on the i3S website. The candidates will be notified by email. Candidates have a period of ten working days to, if they wish, to express their opinion at the prior hearing of the interested parties, by email [rh@i3s.up.pt](mailto:rh@i3s.up.pt).

**Applications:** The call will be open between 26th april and 7th may. The applications must be submitted electronically at

[https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/Fellow\\_BIPDFCT\\_Proj2020i3S260407052021](https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/Fellow_BIPDFCT_Proj2020i3S260407052021)

The required documents composing the applications are: PhD certificate, b) Complete CV; c) Letter of Motivation, including contacts for 2 references.