

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (m/f)

The IBMC-i3S is opening a call to award a grant for the development of R&D activities by Master's or Integrated Master's student, or Bachelor's enrolled in non-academic degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution. This scholarship is specially destined to fund young scientists that are currently refugees from war in Ukraine or other zones of conflict, and that have seen their graduate studies – or the beginning of their research career – curtailed by war.

Scientific area: Life Sciences – Laboratory Animal Science

Host Institution: Laboratory Animal Science group, IBMC – Instituto de Biologia Molecular e Celular, of the i3S - Instituto de Investigação e Inovação em Saúde, University of Porto, Portugal

Project Title: New insights into animal behaviour, welfare, and ethics

Work plan:

Animal research in the life sciences raises relevant scientific and ethical challenges, addressed by both regulators and the scientific community through the 3Rs principle of Replacement, Reduction, and Refinement of animal use. The IBMC-i3S laboratory animal science (LAS) group fosters several research lines in the 3Rs field. These include evaluating and improving the welfare of laboratory and companion animals, assessing the impact of education & training on how animals are perceived and used, behavioural biology of laboratory rodents and fish, as well as evaluating and improving the quality and predictive value of animal studies, alongside animal ethics and science integrity issues. This interdisciplinary research relies on a multidisciplinary team of researchers and students at several career levels. The current crisis of refugees from Ukraine and other war conflicts, has led the LAS group to open a one-year position for a Master's student or a researcher with a Bachelor's degree enrolled in non-academic degree courses to carry out research work, which could be for a study report or thesis. Aware that people under these circumstances may have had their studies indefinitely interrupted or cancelled, the LAS group will also assist the person in finding and registering in a suitable Master's degree or a non-academic degree course in Portugal, and in covering or waiving tuition or course registration fees. Travel expenses to Portugal will be covered. The person will be encouraged to apply for a PhD studentship during the course of their year at our laboratory, to help stabilize and further their early research career.

Admission Requirements:

- Being a verified citizen and resident in Ukraine – or another country currently at war – at the time of the start of the conflict. The person can be currently in Ukraine or any other country as a war refugee.
- Being enrolled in a Master's degree or Integrated Master's, or holding a Bachelor's degree and being enrolled in non-academic degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution – or willing to do so – at the time of the start of the scholarship (enrolment is not a requisite for applying, but it is for receiving the scholarship).
- Having a first degree in veterinary medicine, biology, animal science or other biological sciences. Degrees in other areas may be eligible if the applicant has research experience on any of the research lines of the LAS group, or if the Master's degree or non-academic degree course where the applicant is (or will be) registered is of relevance to the project's work plan.
- Proficiency in the English language, at least at the CEFR B2 level (speaking, reading, and writing)

Preferential:

- Having research experience, especially in animal behaviour, welfare or ethics
- Having training and/or experience with research with laboratory animals
- Willingness to apply to a PhD studentship

Legislation and other applicable regulations:

- Research Fellowship Holder Statute enacted by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18th, as amended; IBMC Research Grants Regulation.
- Council of Ministers Resolution no. 29-A/2022 of 1 March, establishing the specific criteria for granting temporary protection to people displaced from Ukraine as a result of the recent armed conflicts in that country.

Useful information (in English and/or Ukrainian):

- General information (PT | EN | UA)
- 'Portugal for Ukraine' - Social Security (PT | EN)
- Ukraine: Information and support available in Portugal (PT | EN)
- SEF - Request for temporary protection (PT | EN | UA)

Place: The research activities will be hosted at the IBMC-i3S, under the scientific coordination of Drs Anna Olsson and Nuno Henrique Franco. A remote work option is not available.

Length time: The duration of the fellowship is of 6 months, renewable up to a year. The expected starting date is September 2022, which may be anticipated if duly justified.

Monthly maintenance stipend: € 875,98, according to 2022 FCT table, in Portugal, (https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/Tabela_de_Valores_SMM_2022.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: The selection will be made by curricular evaluation (40%), focused on the admission requirements, motivation letter (30%) and interview (30%). The evaluation will be made on a scale from 1 to 100, and candidates will be ordered by score achieved on the predefined criteria.

Evaluation Panel:

President – Anna Olsson;

Member – Nuno Henrique Franco;

Member – Ana Maria Valentim

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@ibmc.up.pt. Applications: The call will be open between May 3rd to June 30th.

The required documents composing the applications are: Certificate of Qualifications, Curriculum Vitae, letter of motivation, proof of enrolment in Master's or Integrated Master's study cycle or non-academic degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution or an honour statement of willingness to enrol in the aforementioned courses until the grant is contracted, and other documents that proof the first admission requirement (for example statute of war refugee).

Documents to be provided at the time of contracting: in addition to those mentioned in the previous point, it is necessary to present proof of enrolment in Master's or Integrated Master's study cycle or non-academic degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution or an honour statement of capacity to enrol in the aforementioned courses until the

grant is contracted. The scholarship recipient will be assisted in applying and registering to a suitable course, if necessary.

The applications must be submitted electronically at:
<https://dozer.i3s.up.pt/applicationmanagement/#/addapplications/FellowrefugeesfromwarIBMC02052022>