

PUBLIC NOTICE/0082/2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR THE POST OF POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER**

PURSUANT TO DECREE-LAW NO. 57/ 2016 OF 29 AUGUST

Internal Reference: GABAPAID- Investigador Júnior

[Portuguese version](#)

1. Framework

The Rector of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Prof. Dr. Isabel Capelo Gil, hereby announces the opening of an international call for applications for one vacancy of junior doctoral researcher to perform duties of scientific research (with an exclusivity clause), in the scientific field of Agricultural Biotechnology. The research activities will be carried out at the Centre for Biotechnology and Fine Chemistry (CBQF), integrated at the Faculty of Biotechnology of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Porto, within the framework of the GABAPAID- Functional food enriched in gamma-aminobutyric acid and probiotics as an innovative therapeutic solution for anxiety disorders, financed by FEDER, within scope of Programa Inovação e Transição Digital (COMPETE2030-FEDER-00870800).

Within the scope of the GABAPAID project, scheduled for completion on 31/08/2028, the researcher to be hired will develop and validate an innovative biotherapeutic solution based on a functional food enriched with gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) produced by GABA-producing microorganisms and probiotics, aiming at the modulation of neurotransmitters and the gut-brain axis for the relief of anxiety and the promotion of mental health. The researcher will be involved in identifying fermentation conditions for high GABA yield by probiotic cultures, as well as in the development and characterisation of delivery systems for GABA and probiotics. The work will also include evaluating these formulations using in vitro models (including cell lines and a faecal model) and supporting in animal assays. Furthermore, the researcher is expected to contribute to the dissemination and communication of the project results to a variety of audiences.

2. Applicable Legislation

Decree-Law no. 57/2016 of 29 August, amended by Law no. 57/2017 of 19 July, in its current wording, which sets out the framework for the hiring of post-doctoral academics, aimed at fostering scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC), without prejudice to the specific regulations applicable to the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

3. Workplace

The workplace is located at the Porto facilities of Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

4. Remuneration



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Reitoria

Palma de Cima, 1649-023 Lisboa – Portugal

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Gross monthly pay is €2.408,11, plus meal allowance, to which will be added annual leave and Christmas allowances.

5. Admission requirements

Any national, foreign, or stateless candidates who hold a doctoral degree in Agricultural Biotechnology or related scientific fields, and who furthermore hold a scientific and professional curriculum vitae whose profile is suited to the activities to be performed, can submit their application. If the doctoral degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, said degree must comply with the provisions of Portuguese legislation regarding the recognition of foreign degrees. For those purposes, the requirements described in **point no. 11** of this public notice must be considered.

5.1. General Requirements

- PhD in Agricultural Biotechnology or related fields.

5.2. Specific Requirements

- Experience in the cultivation and handling of probiotic and anaerobic commensal bacteria, encapsulation techniques, analytical monitorization, cell culture, and/or in the development and characterisation of biotherapeutics/functional foods.
- A relevant scientific production demonstrating expertise in the aforementioned areas.
- Participation in R&D projects.
- Experience in scientific dissemination and outreach activities.
- Proficiency in English, both spoken and written.

6. Selection Process

The selection process must comply with article 5 of the RJEC.

7. Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria are the following: scientific output and its relevance, participation in scientific projects and conferences, student supervision, scientific dissemination activities, knowledge transfer, and other relevant activities and experience.

The final candidate classification shall be given on a scale of 0 to 100. The value shall be invariably calculated taking into account that, for each item, only those activities relevant to the field of the present call for applications are to be considered, with the following weighting:

1. Scientific and curricular background (SCB)

- a) Scientific and technological output: 60%;
- b) Applied or practice-based research activities: 30%;
- c) Knowledge extension and dissemination activities: 10%;
- d) Interview (I).

If needed, the candidates ranked in the first three positions will be interviewed (I), in order to clarify aspects related to the results of their research.

Applicants who are interviewed will be awarded a new classification – in addition to the initial one –, based on the following formula:

$$\text{Final classification} = 90\% \text{ SCB} + 10\% \text{ I}$$

Only candidates with a final score of 75 or higher, on a scale of 0 to 100, will be selected for the position.

8. Tender Selection Panel

Pursuant to article 13 of the RJE, the tender selection panel shall be formed by:

President of the Jury: Prof. Dr. Manuela Pintado;

Other members: Prof. Dr. Ana Maria Gomes; Dr. Daniela Machado and Dr. Joana Cristina Barbosa.

9. Deliberation and publication

The panel shall deliberate by means of roll-call voting based on the adopted and disclosed selection criteria, with no abstentions allowed. Minutes of panel meetings shall be taken. These shall contain a summary of events, as well as details of the votes cast by each of the members and their respective reasoning. After all selection criteria have been applied, the panel shall prepare a ranked list of approved candidates and their respective classification. The panel's final decision shall be approved by the Rector, who shall also approve the hiring of the selected candidate.

The ranked list of approved candidates will be posted at the Porto facilities of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, located at Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Centro Regional do Porto, Rua de Diogo Botelho, 1327, 4169-005 Porto, Portugal and will be published on the website <https://esb.ucp.pt/>. Candidates will be notified by email once this list has been made available.

10. Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline

After notification of the results, candidates have ten working days to respond. In the following five working days (counting from the end of the candidates' response period), the panel's final decision is issued.

11. Formal application procedure

Applications are formalized by completing the application form available at <https://hr-ucpporto.inqueritos.porto.ucp.pt/517212?lang=en>.

Applications must be submitted in English.

Applications shall include the following documents:

- Curriculum vitae, highlighting the scientific and curricular course considered most relevant by the candidate.
- Doctoral Certificate with date of admission to the degree.
- Letter of motivation, demonstrating candidate's motivations.



d) If the PhD is issued by foreign higher education institutions, the candidate must submit the PhD Recognition Certificate in accordance with Portuguese law.

If the Doctoral Degree has been awarded by a non-Portuguese higher education institution, said degree must comply with the provisions of the Portuguese legislation on the recognition of foreign degrees, as set out in Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of August 16th. Entering into a contract with the selected candidate is conditional on the submission of the formal document.

For additional information on this matter candidates are advised to check the website of the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES): <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>.

12. Application deadline

Candidates may submit their application, pursuant to the terms mentioned in the previous point, from July 1, 2026 until July 14, 2026 (until 5pm, Continental Portugal time).

Candidates who do not comply with the application's prerequisites or who fail to submit proof of meeting the requirements stated in the present public notice shall be excluded from consideration. In case of doubt, the panel is entitled to request that candidates present further documentation attesting to their written statements. Failure to submit the requested clarification, information, or documents, within five working days of being requested to do so, determines the dismissal of the application.

Any false statements made or provided by the candidates are punishable by law.

13. Privacy Policy

Universidade Católica Portuguesa is the controller responsible for the processing of Personal Data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 – General Regulation on Data Protection.

The personal data submitted within the scope of this tender procedure is processed within the framework of said tender procedure only, and will be treated by Universidade Católica Portuguesa with the purpose of verifying the fulfillment, by the candidates, of the assumptions established in the applicable legislation for their contracting. Opposition to the processing of data by the candidates will make it impossible to accept the application and, therefore, to analyze and evaluate it.

The personal data of the Data Subject, if it be indispensable for the fulfillment of the obligations of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, may be conveyed to third parties, namely to the Financing Entities identified in this announcement.

The data retention period shall correspond to the legally defined period of five years.

The Data Subject is entitled to oppose to the collection and processing of data, has the right to verification, the right to rectification, the right to deletion, and the right to restriction of processing of the data collected. However, the exercise of such rights may be excluded when the personal data is used to protect public interest, namely in the detection and prevention of crimes or when subject to professional rules of confidentiality.

The Data Subject has the right of access and portability of the data.

Rights of Personal Data Subjects: <https://www.ucp.pt/rights-data-subjects>.

For purposes of exercising the respective rights, contact the University through the e-mail address compliance.rgpd@ucp.pt or by using the address found at the end of this announcement, through the means set out in "Contacts for clarification".

The Data Subject is always entitled to contact and file a complaint with the Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (Portuguese Supervisory Authority for Personal Data).

14. Non-discrimination and equal access policy

Universidade Católica Portuguesa actively promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, family and economic conditions, instruction, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, and/or union membership.

15. Final remarks

The present call for applications is exclusively destined to fill this specific vacancy and can be terminated at any time up to the approval of the final candidate list. The call for applications expires once the vacancy has been filled.

The present call for applications and the contract signed as a result thereof shall only take effect if financing conditions are met.

The present call for applications may be canceled when it is vacant, when any case of force majeure occurs, or when other reasons of a budgetary nature, occurring after the opening of the competition, determine it.

The selected candidate shall be hired by Universidade Católica Portuguesa as a junior researcher under an uncertain term contract (contrato a termo incerto), predicted to start on September 1, 2026 with the estimate duration of 24 months (duration of the activities) which will never, under any circumstances, be superior to 72 months.

16. Contacts for further information:

Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Centro Regional do Porto, Rua de Diogo Botelho, 1327, 4169-005 Porto, Portugal

Human Resources Department

Human Resources Department, drh.recrutamento.porto@ucp.pt