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CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR A RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP

Ref^a: Sinfonia -02708800– BI -2

[Portuguese Version](#)

A call for tenders is now open for the attribution of one Research Scholarship within the scope of the Project “SINFONIA - Sustainable Agroecosystems, Food Innovation, and Artistic Practices for Climate Adaptation” project co-financed by the European Union (FEDER), through the Northern Regional Programme (Norte 2030), under the following conditions, set out below.

Scientific area: Agricultural sciences and Agronomics

Admission requirements:

General requirements:

Candidates for the Research grant must, at the date of application, be enrolled, or present a commitment to enrol in a study cycle conferring an (Doctorate) degree in Biotechnology or related areas. Candidates selected for the Research Fellowship must, to initiate the grant contract, enrol in the Doctoral Programme in Biotechnology at the Escola Superior de Biotecnologia, in accordance with the topic and work plan defined for the fellowship to be carried out under the above-mentioned project. This doctoral programme must be undertaken at the Escola Superior de Biotecnologia of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa and supervised by the team identified for the execution of the work plan.

Candidates must have a master’s degree in agriculture, Agronomic Engineering, Functional Biology and Biotechnology of Plants, Environmental Sciences, or a related field.

Specific requirements:

Candidates must also have knowledge/research experience in the following areas:

- Strong background in crop science and agronomy, including crop management under stress conditions, preferably in at least one of the following crops: grain legumes, tomato, or cereals.
- Capacity to work directly with farmers and other stakeholders in participatory settings, including good communication skills, ability to explain protocols, and ability to provide technical training.
- Willingness to travel for on-farm monitoring across different agroclimatic regions.



- Ability to collect and analyse agronomic performance indicators in the field, including yield, drought response, biomass production, and water-use efficiency.
- Familiarity with soil analysis, including a basic understanding of soil fertility, nutrient cycling, and soil health assessment.
- Strong ability to manage, analyse, and report agronomic and soil data, and to produce technical documentation and progress reports in Portuguese and English.

Preferred Factors:

Will be considered preferred factors:

- Previous involvement in multi-site or multi-actor projects with farmers, extension services, cooperatives, participatory research approaches, or living labs.
- Proficiency in implementing controlled and field trials, namely planning, executing, and monitoring crop trials under greenhouse and real farming conditions.
- Capacity to optimise and implement laboratorial techniques in soil chemistry, including nutritional and functional characterisation, and plant biochemistry, including primary and secondary metabolites and gene expression analysis.
- Experience in microbiology and plant–soil–microbe interactions, especially soil microbiome or rhizosphere analysis, including DNA extraction, amplicon sequencing workflows, and bioinformatics.
- Good spoken and written English.

Work Plan:

The workplan aims to co-develop, validate, and scale climate-smart cropping systems using elite stress-resilient genotypes of lupin, tomato, and barley under real farming conditions in Portugal. By integrating agronomic, soil chemical, and microbiome data, the research scholar will determine whether elite genotypes enhance productivity, resilience to drought, nutrient-use efficiency, and soil health. First, the research scholar will expand an existing multi-actor farmer network through a structured participatory call. On-farm trials will be established across contrasting pedoclimatic regions using harmonised experimental layouts. Crop performance will be assessed through yield, biomass, phenology, drought resilience traits, and water-use efficiency, and supported by technical field visits for data validation and sample collection. In parallel, the research scholar will monitor how the cultivation of these elite genotypes affects soil quality to quantify fertility and nutrient availability, organic matter, pH, electrical



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA

PORTO

conductivity, nitrogen, and phosphorus dynamics. The research scholar will also evaluate how these crops influence the soil and rhizosphere microbiome. This includes culture-based monitoring of relevant foodborne pathogens and indicator organisms, and DNA-based profiling of microbial communities using amplicon sequencing (16S rRNA, ITS) and metagenomics.

Applicable legislation and regulations:

- Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow: <https://dre.pt/web/guest/legislacao-consolidada/-/lc/58216179/view?w=2019-08-28>;
- Regulation of Research Scholarships of the Science and Technology Foundation, I.P.: <https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/127238533>;
- Regulation of Research Scholarships of the Portuguese Catholic University: http://www.porto.ucp.pt/sites/default/files/files/DRH/RegBolsasInvestigacao_Cientifica_UCP2020.pdf

Workplace:

The work will be developed at the CBQF - Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina. of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Portugal, in Porto, under the scientific supervision of Doctor Marta Nunes da Silva, Prof. Doctor Marta W. Vasconcelos and Prof. Doctor António Rangel.

Duration of the scholarship:

The scholarship, which is expected to begin on January 15, 2026, will have an initial duration of 12 month on an exclusive basis. The present scholarship may be renewed for an additional period of 17,5 months but may not extend beyond the end of the project, scheduled for June 30, 2028.

Monthly maintenance allowance amount:

The amount of the scholarship corresponds to 1 309,64€. according to the research scholarship values awarded directly by FCT, I.P. in the Country (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf) and will be paid by bank transfer.

Selection methods:

The selection methods to be used will be the following: i) curriculum evaluation (70 %); ii) previous experience (30 %). If necessary, the 3 best positioned candidates may be interviewed, and in this



UNIVERSIDADE
CATOLICA
PORTUGUESA

PORTO

situation, the weighting will be curricular evaluation (60 %).; ii) previous experience (30 %) and selection interview (10%).

Only candidates with a final classification equal to or greater than 60 points, on a scale of 0 to 100, will be selected for this position.

Applications that do not meet the admission requirements, delivered on time and incomplete applications will be considered ineligible.

Composition of the Selection Jury: President of the Jury: Prof. Doctor Marta Vasconcelos, Effective Members: Doctor Marta Nunes da Silva and Doctor Carla Santos. Substitute Jury: Prof. Doctor António Rangel.

Form of advertising/notification of results: The jury deliberates in accordance with the selection criteria adopted and disclosed. The jury meetings minutes will contain a summary of the meeting content. After completing the application of the selection criteria, the jury proceeds with the elaboration of the ordered list, with the ranking of the approved candidates. The ranking list of eligible candidates will be published on the premises of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Porto, located at Rua de Diogo Botelho, 1327, 4169-005 Porto - Portugal, with each candidate being notified of his/her position on the list ranking of candidates via email. Ineligible applicants will be notified by email, with details of the missing eligibility elements.

Complaint and appeal procedures: Candidates have a period of ten working days, after the disclosure referred to in the previous number, to give their opinion at a prior hearing.

Deadline for acceptance of the scholarship: Within ten working days following notification of the grant award, the selected candidate must confirm in writing his/her availability to start the scholarship on the proposed date. Failing to do so or not having availability, the candidate placed in the next position will be called.



UNIVERSIDADE
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PORTUGUESA

PORTO

Application deadline and form of submission:

Candidates submit their application from November 20, 2025. until December 8, 2025. (until 5 pm, Lisbon time).

Applications are formalized by completing the **Application Form** <https://hr-ucpporto.inqueritos.porto.ucp.pt/911221?lang=en>

It will be necessary to submit the following documents:

- 1) Cover letter, identifying the title and reference of the project, describe the motivation and professional objectives of the candidate.
- 2) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (should contain all the elements to assess the admission requirements, including language knowledge and research experience).
- 3) Copy of the certificate(s) of qualifications conferring academic degree in the terms requested in the notice, which contain the final classifications.
- 4) Registration of recognition of the academic degree awarded by a foreign higher education institution, preferably with the registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale to guarantee eligibility in this call for application¹.
- 5) Proof of registration or letter with the commitment to register/enroll in a degree-awarding study cycle under the terms already described in this notice ².

Only applications received during the opening period of the above-mentioned call shall be considered. Candidates who incorrectly formalize their application or who do not prove the requirements of this call are excluded. False statements made by applicants will be punished under the law.

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.

¹ If the required academic degree has been conferred by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the Portuguese legislation on the recognition of foreign degrees, regulated by DL no. 66/2018 of 16 August.

Applicants are advised to consult the website of the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES) for additional information on this matter: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento>

² The contracting of the research scholarship requires the candidate to provide enrollment in the degree-awarding course required in this notice. If the document is not presented within a maximum period of 30 days (in a row), counting from the date of communication of the selection to the candidate, the Jury Panel will have the power to disqualify the application due to failure to present the registration within the aforementioned period.



UNIVERSIDADE
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The personal data processed in the scope of this tender procedure is processed within the framework of said tender procedure only and will be processed by Universidade Católica Portuguesa with the purpose of verifying the fulfilment, 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 analyse and evaluate it.

The personal data of the Data Subject, if it be indispensable for the fulfilment 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).

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 union membership.

If you have any questions about this position, please contact:

Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Centro Regional do Porto



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