

PUBLIC NOTICE/0100/2026

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

Application Reference: THRIVE – Investigador Principal

[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 doctoral principal researcher, with an exclusivity clause, to perform duties of scientific research, in the scientific area of Food Structure Technologies. The research activities will be carried out at the Centro de Biotecnologia e Química Fina (CBQF), integrated at the Escola Superior de Biotecnologia of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Porto within the the scope of the Horizon Europe ERA Chair project THRIVE – Creation of an Excellence Group to Foster the Design of Affordable, Sustainable, and Healthy Foods.

The above-mentioned project aims to promote and develop the field of Food Science and Technology at CBQF, particularly the area of Food Structure Technologies, by increasing the Centre's research, innovation, and advanced training potential in this field. To this end, a new research group will be established at CBQF to create an international and interdisciplinary programme in this area.

The Principal Researcher to be recruited will lead the new Food Structure Technology research group, focusing on the development of affordable foods with improved nutritional value and on environmentally friendly processes for efficient and sustainable food production. This position will be central to THRIVE's research and training activities and will have a transversal impact across all major CBQF research activities, globally enhancing its research capacity and promoting advances in Food Science research.

The following activities are therefore envisaged:

- Recruit, supervise, and mentor the THRIVE project research team.
- Define and implement THRIVE's research strategy in Food Structure Technologies.
- Secure, manage, and coordinate research projects, namely international projects and projects in collaboration with industry.
- Supervise undergraduate, master's, and doctoral students, as well as early-career researchers.
- Design and teach advanced courses in the field of Food Structure Technologies.
- Disseminate research results through publications and oral presentations at scientific meetings, as well as participate in Communication and Exploitation activities.
- Contribute to the internationalisation of CBQF, including through the organisation of scientific meetings such as seminars and international conferences.
- Collaborate in the implementation of THRIVE, including the preparation of deliverables and reports, and participation in project meetings.

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2. Framework and Applicable Legislation

This selection procedure is governed by the terms of the “Estatuto da Carreira Docente e de Investigação of Universidade Católica Portuguesa”, hereinafter referred to as ECDI, by the Portuguese Labour Code, and by the rules of the funding project associated with the advertised position.

3. Workplace

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

4. Remuneration

The gross monthly pay is €5.227,28 plus meal allowance. Holiday and Christmas allowances shall be added to these amounts.

5. Admission requirements

5.1. Framework

5.1.1- Eligibility of the candidates

Only national, foreign, or stateless candidates who hold a doctoral degree can submit their application. If the Doctoral Degree has been awarded by a non-Portuguese higher education institution, said degree, to be eligible, 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 to 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>.

The following will also determine the exclusion of the application:

- i. Failure to comply with the deadline for submission of the application.
- ii. Failure to submit, or submit after the deadline, any of the documents required in the application formalisation process.
- iii. Applications that do not meet the requirement to be presented in English.

5.1.2. System for assessment of the merit of the application

In the first phase of the evaluation process, applications will be assessed based on absolute merit. To this end, the jury deliberates on approval on absolute merit, based on the requirements indicated in this notice. Absolute merit is expressed by the formulas “rejected” or “approved”.

Once the admission phase of the competition has ended, the panel begins to assess the relative merit of the applications approved on absolute merit, considering the selection requirements and criteria set out in the notice.



To this end, each member of the jury must produce a written document, duly substantiated, which will be attached to the minutes of the respective meeting, with the final classification on a numerical scale of 0 to 100 obtained by each candidate, based on the evaluation criteria and parameters, and corresponding weighting factors, as set out in this notice. Each member of the jury orders the candidates in descending order of merit and, based on their ordered list of candidates, participates in the voting for 1st place, then for 2nd place, and so on, until all candidates approved on absolute merit have been ranked. No abstentions will be permitted.

Once the application of the selection methods has been completed, the jury prepares the provisional unitary list for ranking the candidates. All candidates will be notified electronically via the email address provided for the purpose of holding a Hearing of interested parties, as provided for in item 10 of this notice. After this period or after the Hearing of interested parties has taken place, the panel, in a subsequent meeting, will assess, if applicable, the allegations presented and approve the final list.

5.2. Eligibility and selection requirements

5.2.1- Eligibility requirements for Assessment of Absolute Merit

- a. Hold a PhD degree (or equivalent) in Food Science and Technology, or a closely related scientific field, with a minimum of three years of post-doctoral professional experience in the specific field of this call; or
- b. Hold a PhD degree (or equivalent) in Food Science and Technology, or a closely related scientific field, and have successfully passed the public examinations for Habilitation (Habilitação or Agregação); or
- c. Be integrated into the scientific research career in the position of Assistant Researcher (Investigador Auxiliar) — at UCP, at another national institution, or holding an equivalent position at a foreign institution — within the specific scientific field of this call or a related area, with a minimum of 4 years of effective service in this category, or holding the title of Habilitation (Agregação/Habilitação); or
- d. Hold the position of Principal Researcher (Investigador Principal) at another national institution, or an equivalent position at a foreign institution, within the specific scientific field of this call or a related area.

Additional Eligibility Note: Candidates holding foreign academic degrees must submit proof of recognition of their degrees in Portugal, in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018, by the date the employment contract is signed, if applicable.

5.2.2- Specific Requirements for Assessment of Relative Merit

5.2.2.1. Scientific and Technological Output

- a. Outstanding scientific output in the field of Food Structure Technologies, demonstrated through publications in internationally renowned indexed scientific journals (Scopus/WoS); positive consideration will be given to candidates with a consolidated track record of independent and autonomous research (preferably 5 years or more), with a focus on papers in which the candidate is the main or corresponding author.



- b. Proven track record of leadership and autonomy in securing competitive research funding from a diverse range of funding sources (both national and international).
- c. Coordination of and active participation in large-scale international competitive projects within the scientific fields of this call.
- d. Scientific impact and international recognition of the activities developed, measured through indicators such as citation volume, h-index, invited lectures, and the density of collaboration networks.
- e. Consolidated experience in coordinating, organising, and leading scientific teams, as well as in supervising and mentoring post-doctoral researchers and PhD students.

5.2.2.2. Applied or Practice-Based Research Activities

- a. Coordination of and participation in national and international research projects in direct collaboration with non-academic entities, with a particular emphasis on the agrifood industry.
- b. Active participation in and/or coordination of stakeholder platforms, including industrial networks and sector-specific working groups in the field of Food Science.
- c. Economic valuation and knowledge transfer activities for the productive sector (namely through patent registrations, technology licensing, or the creation of spin-offs).
- d. Development and production of validated prototypes in the field of Food Science.

5.2.2.3. Extension, Knowledge Dissemination, and Institutional Management Activities

- a. International and national recognition of scientific leadership, demonstrated through invitations to prestigious conferences, membership on editorial boards of indexed journals, leadership roles in scientific societies, participation in academic juries, or serving as a reviewer for scientific funding agencies.
- b. Participation in university management bodies, institutional committees, or leadership roles in academic and non-academic entities.
- c. Scientific and technical contribution to the definition or underpinning of public policies in the food sector.
- d. Teaching activities and course coordination (regência) in postgraduate and advanced courses, as well as academic supervision and co-supervision of Bachelor's and master's students in the fields of this call.
- e. Participation in structured dissemination, science communication, and cultural extension activities aimed at civil society.

5.2.2.4. Research Proposal

Submission of a Research Project proposal for the next 5 years (written document with a maximum limit of 10 pages), detailing the scientific strategy to be developed, its contextualization and integration into the research lines of THRIVE and CBQF, the expected scientific, economic, and social impact, as well as the motivation and rationale for the methodological choices made.

6. Selection Process

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In case of doubt, the panel is entitled to request that candidates present further documentation attesting to their written statements, or to conduct interviews to obtain clarification on elements contained in the application.

Interviews will not constitute a selection method and as such, are not subject to classification. This interview may be conducted via videoconference and will be held in English.

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.

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, and a career development plan.

The candidate classification shall be given on a scale of 0 to 100. The value shall be calculated considering 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 model:

Scientific and curricular background

- a) Scientific and technological output: 50%;
- b) Applied or practice-based research activities: 20%;
- c) Knowledge extension and dissemination activities: 20%;
- d) Research Project: 10%

8. Tender Selection Panel

The jury shall be formed by:

President of the Jury: Prof. Doctor Maria Manuela Estevez Pintado; Centre for Biotechnology and Fine Chemistry, Universidade Católica Portuguesa; Full Professor.

Other members: Prof. Doctor Jose Aguilera; Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona; Emeritus Full Professor; Prof. Dr. Dolores O'Riordan; Institute of Food and Health, University College Dublin; Full Professor; Prof. Dr. Manuel Coimbra; Department of Chemistry, Universidade de Aveiro; Full Professor; Prof. Dr. Lília Ahrné; Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Centre for Biotechnology and Fine Chemistry, Universidade Católica Portuguesa; Full Professor.

9. Deliberation and publication

The panel shall deliberate 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. 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://cbqf.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. Formalizing applications

Applications are formalized by completing the application form available at <https://hr-ucpporto.inqueritos.porto.ucp.pt/163494?lang=en>

Applications must be submitted in English.

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Curriculum vitae, containing all information relevant to the evaluation of the application and duly structured according to the requirements set out in point 5 of this notice.
- b) Certificate proving ownership and date of award of the doctoral degree required for the competition, and where applicable, recognition of the respective degree, title, or certificate.
- c) Research Project.

12. Application deadline

Candidates may submit their application, pursuant to the terms mentioned in the previous point, from August 7, 2026 until September 7, 2026 (until 5pm, Continental Portugal time).

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 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>.

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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 notes

This notice for applications is exclusively intended 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 cancelled 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 principal researcher under permanent contract, in the framework of Article 66 of the ECDI of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, predicted to start on October 15, 2026.

16. Contacts for further information:

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

Direção de Recursos Humanos

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