

CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS UNDER R&D PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONS

1. Number and type of scholarship to be awarded:

A call is open for the award of **two Research Grant(s)** (BI) within the scope of the R&D project LIGHT2H2O project, reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-00778800, funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under the Innovation and Digital Transition Thematic Programme (COMPETE 2030) – Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)

Research Grant reference A (beginning October 2026):

2. Scientific Area: Environmental Biology and Ecotoxicology

Research Grant reference B (beginning November 2026):

2. Scientific Area: Forensic Sciences and Environmental Toxicology

3. Funding Source:

Foundation for Science and Technology/Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (FCT/MCTES, I.P.), through national funds (PIDDAC), co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union, through COMPETE2030-FEDER-00778800, under the Innovation and Digital Transition Thematic Programme (COMPETE 2030);

4. Admission requirements:

Research Grant reference A (beginning October 2026):

- 1) Be enrolled in a PhD programme in the field of Chemical and Biological Sciences, a requirement that must be documented at the time of hiring.
- 2) Hold a Master's degree in Biological Sciences or a related field.

Research Grant reference B (beginning November 2026):

- 1) Be enrolled in a PhD programme in the field of Toxicology, a requirement that must be documented at the time of hiring.
- 2) Hold a Master's degree in fields related to Forensic Sciences and Environmental Toxicology (Ecotoxicology), or a related field.

The proof of registration/enrolment must be carried out until the contract, and the candidate may attach a declaration of honour stating that he/she meets the requirements for enrolment in an integrated master's degree, master's or doctorate or in a non-academic degree course.

If the qualification has been conferred by a foreign higher education institution, **it will have to be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution**, pursuant to the provisions of article 25 of Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August, which approves the legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and paragraph e) of paragraph 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018, of 3 August, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the date of the act of contracting.

5. Eligibility: Candidates who comply with the provisions of paragraph a) of paragraph 1 of article 2 of the Research Fellow Statute, as amended by Decree-Law no. 65/2024, of 1 October, and also nos. ^{Article} 6(1) and (2) of the Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology. The BI(s) awarded to graduates or masters who are enrolled in non-degree courses can only be assigned to those who do not exceed, with the conclusion of the grant contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of two years in this type of grant, consecutive or interpolated, under the terms of paragraph 5 of article 6 of the aforementioned Regulation.

6. Work plan and objectives to be achieved: The work plan includes conducting ecotoxicity assays using aquatic organisms to assess the toxicity of effluents from reactors. It also includes the characterisation, monitoring, and chemical analysis of effluent samples from the reactors.

7. Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellow Statute, as amended by Decree-Law No. 65/2024, of 1 October; Regulation no. 950/2019, of 29 November, published in the Official Gazette, no. 241, 2nd Series, of 16 December (Regulation of Research Grants of FCT, I.P.); Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of 16 August (Legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions).

8. Workplace: The work will be developed in the UCIBIO-CESPU, University Institute of Health Sciences of CESPU, under the scientific supervision of Professor Cláudia Maria Rosa Ribeiro

9. Contracting entity: CESPU, Cooperativa de Ensino Superior Politécnico e Universitário, avenida central de Gandra, 1317, 4585-116 Gandra – Paredes, Portugal.

10. Duration of the scholarship(s): The fellowship will last for 6 months, scheduled to start in:

Research Grant reference A (beginning October 2026): October 2026

Research Grant reference B (beginning November 2026): November 2026

possibly renewable for additional periods of 2 months, up to the maximum limit of the approved funding, and may not in any case exceed the limits defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of article 6 of Regulation no. 950/2019, of 29 November, published in Diário da República, no. 241, 2nd Series, of 16 December (Regulation of Research Grants of FCT, I.P.).

11. Amount of the monthly maintenance allowance: The amount of the scholarship corresponds to € 1359,64, according to the table of values of monthly maintenance allowances, set out in Annex I of Regulation No. 950/2019, an amount subject to the updates applicable to it, under the terms of paragraph 2, of article 18, of Regulation No. 950/2019, of 29 November, published in Diário da República, No. 241, 2nd Series, of 16 December (Regulation of Research Grants of FCT, I.P.). The scholarship holder may also be reimbursed the amount corresponding to the Voluntary Social Security, in case of joining this scheme.

12. Selection methods: The selection methods to be used will be as follows: a curriculum evaluation (50%), which will focus on the candidate's merit, taking into consideration the following criteria:

Research Grant reference A (beginning October 2026):

- a) Academic background (Master's degree in Biological Sciences – 5 points; other Master's degrees – 2 points);
- b) Publications in the field of ecotoxicology – 10 points; publications in other fields – 2 points;
- c) Research experience in the field of the project – 5 points; in areas related to the project – 3 points; outside the project field – 1 point.

Research Grant reference B (beginning November 2026):

- a) Academic background (Master's degree in Forensic Sciences and Environmental Toxicology – 5 points; other Master's degrees – 2 points);
- b) Publications in the field of analytical chemistry and environmental (eco)toxicology – 10 points; publications in other fields – 2 points;
- c) Research experience in the field of the project – 5 points; in areas related to the project – 3 points; outside the project field – 1 point.

Candidates will be evaluated on a scale of 1 to 20 points. Candidates who obtain fewer than 15 points in the curriculum evaluation will not be admitted to the interview (50%). During the interview, topics related to the work plan, as well as the candidate's experience and CV, will be discussed.

If none of the candidates achieves a minimum final score of 16 points, the fellowship will not be awarded.

13. Composition of the Selection Jury:

Chair — Professor Cláudia Maria Rosa Ribeiro

1st Full Member — Dr Maria José Sampaio

2nd Full Member — Dr Ana Rita Ribeiro

1st Alternate Member — Professor Cristina Couto

14. Application deadline and form of submission of applications: The competition is open from 01/08/2026 to 04/09/2026, and applications are only admitted within the established deadline.

Applications must be formalized, mandatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents: Motivation letter, *Curriculum Vitae*, *certificate of qualifications*, *declaration of honour and other supporting documents considered relevant*. The candidate must also indicate the e-mail address to which, by this indication, he agrees to be notified for all purposes within the scope of this procedure.

Applications should be sent by email to claudia.ribeiro@iucs.cespu.pt.

15. Form of publicity/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list by **final grade obtained** posted on the CESPU website, within a maximum period of 90 working days after the final date of submission of the application, and the approved candidate notified by e-mail, being set for the purpose of a prior hearing of interested parties, a period of 10 working days, provided for by the Code of Administrative Procedure. At the end of the deadline set for the hearing of the interested parties and, in the absence of any response from them, the ranking list of candidates will become definitive. Candidates may lodge a complaint against the final decision within 15 working days, or appeal to the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days after notification of the final decision, in accordance with the provisions of article 12 of the Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology.

16. Mention of support and dissemination of results: The mention of FCT's financial support and the respective funding program must be expressed in all R&D activities directly or indirectly funded by FCT, as well as in all communications, publications and scientific creations, under the terms of article 30 of the FCT, I.P. Research Grants Regulation.

17. Documentation to be provided for contracting: Selected candidates must express in writing their intention to accept the scholarship. In case of non-acceptance, the jury may award the scholarship to the candidate in order of final ranking. In addition to the documents mentioned above, the selected candidate(s) will be contacted by the Human Resources Department of CESPU to complete the delivery of the necessary documents for the purpose of contracting the scholarship.

The models of the grant contract and the final report to be prepared by the grant holder and the supervisor can be consulted at <https://1htoxrun.iucs.cespu.pt/?q=job-opportunities>.