

(BL78/2025-IST-ID)

### Research Studentships (for PhD students)

Applications are open for one Research Studentship(s), within the framework of project/R&D institution, I&D LA i4HB, 1801P.01140 (thematic line: TL2 – Advanced Diagnostics and Therapies), by national funds through FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC):

**Scientific Area:** Stem Cell Biology / Stem Cell Bioengineering

**Admission Requirements:** *To be enrolled at a PhD*

**Workplan:** Investigating Epigenetic Dysregulation in Human Pluripotent Stem Cells. The work will be conducted within the activities of the Stem Cell Engineering Research Group (SCERG) (Focal Area: Biology and Bioengineering of Pluripotent Stem Cells) at the Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences (iBB) and the “Computational Multi-omics” Laboratory of the Applied Biomolecular Sciences Unit (UCIBIO), both part of the Associate Laboratory Institute for Health and Bioeconomy (i4HB). The iBB and UCIBIO groups combine expertise in molecular and computational biology, respectively, with the goal of investigating the molecular mechanisms underlying epigenetic dysregulation in human pluripotent stem cells. In this context, the project aims to support and strengthen the interaction between the groups, offering the fellow interdisciplinary training that integrates molecular biology, bioinformatics, and big data analysis to study molecular mechanisms of phenomena such as genomic imprinting and X chromosome inactivation in human pluripotent stem cells. By developing skills in these areas, the fellow will be equipped to address complex biological questions with significant impact on biomedicine

**Legislation and Regulations:** Statute of Scientific Research Fellow, approved by Law nr. 40/2004, of August 18, as worded by Decree-Law nr. 123/2019, of August 28; FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, available on <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2019.pdf> and <https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>.

**Workplace:** The work will be developed at iBB, Association of Instituto Superior Técnico for Research and Development (IST-ID), and UCIBIO, Association for Innovation and Development of the Faculty of Science and Technology at NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA.ID.FCT), under the scientific supervision of Professor Simão José Teixeira da Rocha (iBB/IST-ID) and Professor Ana Rita Grosso (UCIBIO/NOVA.ID.FCT)

**Duration:** The research fellowship(s) will have the duration of 6 months. It's expected to begin in April 2025, and may be eventually renewed up to the maximum of 12 months, including the duration of the initial contract. If the academic degree or diploma is awarded during the scholarship contract period, it may be concluded under the established contractual terms.

**Monthly maintenance allowance:** According to the values for Research Fellowships awarded by FCT in Portugal ([https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM\\_atualizacao-2025.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_atualizacao-2025.pdf)), the amount of the monthly maintenance allowance is €1,309.64, being the payment method an option of the Fellow by Wire Transfer/Check.

**Selection methods:** The selection methods will be the following: curriculum evaluation (30%), experience in the project's research area (50%), and a motivation letter (20%).

For the curriculum evaluation, candidates must hold a Master's degree in Biological or Biomedical Sciences, Biological, Biomedical, or Biotechnological Engineering, or similar fields. A Master's thesis in epigenetics and stem cell biology will be considered an advantage.

Regarding experience in the project's research area (50%), previous experience in human stem cell culture is mandatory, as well as extensive knowledge of molecular and cellular biology techniques, including DNA methylation analysis and RNA FISH.



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For the motivation letter (20%), the aim is to assess the candidates' motivation and understanding of stem cell biology and epigenetics.

Pre-selected candidates may be interviewed to clarify aspects of their CV or previous experience. In this case, professional and behavioral competencies demonstrated during the interview will serve as the basis for selection.

**Composition of the selection Jury:** Prof. Mário Nuno Berberan e Santos, Prof. Cláudia Lobato da Silva e Prof. Simão Teixeira da Rocha.

**Announcement/ notification of the results:** The final evaluation results will be communicated to all applicants by email.

**Deadlines and procedures of complaint and appeal.** A complaint may be lodged from the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal to the Executive Board of IST-ID within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification

**Application deadline and formalization:** The call is open from March 24 until April 4, 2025.

It is mandatory to formalize applications with the submission of the following documents: i) B1 Form – Fellowship application (<https://ist-id.pt/concursos/bolsas/>); ii) *Curriculum Vitae*; iii) academic degree certificate, where applicable; iv) proof of enrollment at an academic degree course (PhD); v) motivation letter;

Applications must be submitted to the email: [mafalda.firmino@tecnico.ulisboa.pt](mailto:mafalda.firmino@tecnico.ulisboa.pt); [simao.rocha@tecnico.ulisboa.pt](mailto:simao.rocha@tecnico.ulisboa.pt).



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