

Research Studentships (for students of a course that does not award an academic degree)

Applications are open for one (1) Research Studentship, within the framework of project “BccSRNACARE - Deciphering *Burkholderia cepacia* Complex Small RNAs: Insights into Antibiotic Resistance Control and Therapeutic Potential” (reference 2023.14538.PEX), at the Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences (IBB), financed by national funds through FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC), under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Biological Sciences

Admission Requirements: Biological Sciences

- a) *To hold a Master's degree in Biology, Biotechnology or in a closely related scientific area,*
- b) *Be enrolled at a course that does not award an academic degree and it is integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution, performed in association or cooperation with one or several R&D units;*
- c) *Not to exceed with this contract, including the possible renovations, an accumulated period of two years in this type of studentship, continuously or with interruptions.*

Workplan: The studentship holder will carry out research in the field of molecular microbiology, focused on the functional characterization of small non-coding RNAs from *Burkholderia cenocepacia* involved in the regulation of antibiotic resistance. The work plan includes the construction of mutants for sRNA overexpression and silencing, antimicrobial susceptibility assays, transcriptomic analysis, and experimental validation of sRNA–mRNA interactions. These activities aim to identify novel sRNA-mediated resistance mechanisms, while enabling the studentship holder to acquire advanced skills in molecular biology, bioinformatics, and regulatory network analysis.

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 – Institute for Bioengineering and Biosciences of Instituto Superior Técnico, under the scientific supervision of Doctor Joana R. Feliciano.

Duration: The research fellowship(s) will have a duration of 6 months. It's expected to begin in November 2025, and will not be renewed.

Monthly maintenance allowance: According to the values for Research Fellowships awarded by FCT in Portugal (<https://www.fct.pt/fct-atualizou-o-valor-das-bolsas-para-2025/>), the amount of the monthly maintenance allowance is € 1309.64, being the payment method an option of the Fellow by Wire Transfer/Check.

Selection methods: The selection methods will be the following: curriculum evaluation and previous experience (80%), complemented by the analysis of the motivation letter (20%). Whenever the jury considers it necessary to clarify the candidate's background, an individual interview may be conducted, either in person or by videoconference, and its assessment will be considered within the curriculum evaluation parameter. Previous experience in molecular biology techniques, RNA manipulation, regulatory networks and/or antimicrobial resistance will be valued. Skills in bioinformatics and transcriptomic data analysis will also be considered positive differentiating factors.



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Composition of the selection Jury:

Doctor Joana Rita Rodrigues Feliciano (Bioengineering Department, Instituto Superior Técnico)

Professor Jorge Humberto Gomes Leitão (Bioengineering Department, Instituto Superior Técnico)

Professor Leonilde de Fátima Moraes Moreira (Bioengineering Department, Instituto Superior Técnico)

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 October 22 until November 4, 2025.

It is mandatory to formalize applications with the submission of the following documents: i) B1 Form – Fellowship application (<https://ist-id.pt/recursos-humanos/bolseiros/#documentos-relacionados>); ii) *Curriculum Vitae*; iii) academic degree certificate; iv) proof of enrollment at a course that does not award an academic degree (required only for the contract formalization).; v) motivation letter; vi) declaration on honour that the applicant does not exceed with this contract an accumulated period of two years in this type of studentship, continuously or with interruptions.

Applications must be submitted to the email: joana.feliciano@tecnico.ulisboa.pt and mafalda.firmino@tecnico.ulisboa.pt



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