

Research Studentships (for Master or Integrated Master students)

Applications are open for 1 Research Studentship, within the project titled “Non-toxic phenolic compounds as potential microviscosity sensors”, PhenVisc (2024.15253.PEX), for which research will be carried out at the Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience (iBB) at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST). This project is financed by national funds through the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT), under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Exact Sciences, Chemistry, Physical Chemistry

Admission Requirements: A candidates will need to be enrolled at an integrated master or a master degree.

Workplan: The candidate will carry out work in the field of spectroscopy, with a strong component in experimental techniques for the spectroscopic characterization of the phenolic compounds under study. This work will include collecting absorption and emission spectra for these phenolic compounds, evaluation of emission lifetimes, and calculation of fluorescence quantum yields. This project will also involve occasional experimental work in ultrafast spectroscopy, at the Warwick Centre for Ultrafast Spectroscopy, in the United Kingdom. The most promising phenolic compounds may also be studied in cellular media employing microscopy (imaging) techniques. In addition to experimental work and data analysis, the candidate will be expected to participate in writing and reviewing scientific papers for publication in high-impact scientific journals. This project evaluates the potential of phenolic compounds, whose synthetic pathway has been patented, for use as intracellular microviscosity sensors, and as such it is a project of relevant impact that is perfectly suited to a master’s project.

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://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>.

Workplace: The work will be developed at the Institute for Bioengineering and Bioscience (iBB) at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), under the scientific supervision of Dr Natércia Rodrigues Lopes.

Duration: The research fellowship will have the duration of 18 months. It is expected to begin in April 2026, and it may not be renewed. If the academic degree is awarded during the period of the fellowship, the candidate may conclude it in accordance with the terms in this contract.

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 1040,98€. This amount will be transferred to the Fellow in their preferred way (wire transfer or check).

Selection methods: The selection methods will be the following:



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- (i) curriculum evaluation (50%);
- (ii) individual interview of approximately 30-60 minutes with the selection Jury (50%) for the 5 candidates with the best curricula, if there are more than 5 candidates; candidates who do not proceed to interview will be excluded from the selection process.

Composition of the selection Jury:

- Mário Nuno Sequeira Berberan e Santos, ist12219 (Presidente)
- Sandra Cristina Nunes Trigo Fernandes Pinto, ist32860 (Vogal Efetivo)
- Vasco Daniel Bigas Bonifácio, ist90152 (Vogal Efetivo)

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 17 until March 23, 2026.

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, where applicable;
- (iv) proof of enrollment at an academic degree course (Master or Integrated Master);
- (v) motivation letter.

Applications must be submitted via email, to: natercia.rodriques@tecnico.ulisboa.pt and mafalda.firmino@tecnico.ulisboa.pt



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