

(BL81/2026-IST-ID)

Research Studentships (for PhD students)

Applications are open for 1 Research Studentship, within the framework of the R&D project “*ChiTiNaMAR – From chitin degradation to natural products: leveraging the marine microbiome for a circular blue bioeconomy*”, to be carried out at the *Association of the Instituto Superior Técnico for Research and Development (IST-ID)*, under the reference “IC&DT Projects – Project no. 16053 – LISBOA2030-FEDER-007200000, financed by national funds through FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC) and co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (FEDER), through the Lisbon Regional Programme (Lisboa 2030), and by COMPETE – ‘Operational Programme for Competitiveness Factors (POFC)’ under the PT2030 Partnership Agreement,” under the following conditions, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Biological Sciences

Admission Requirements: *To be enrolled in a PhD program (at the time of contract signing).*

Workplan:

1. Characterize the biosynthetic potential to produce secondary metabolites and/or chitinolytic enzymes in marine bacterial genomes.
2. Assess the co-regulation of chitin degradation and secondary metabolism *Aquimarina* strains using comparative transcriptomics.
3. Apply metabolomics and antimicrobial/antibiofouling assays to test whether growth in chitin-rich media increases the production of bioactive compounds in *Aquimarina*.
4. Contribute to the writing of scientific articles, dissemination of results, and strengthening of outreach and knowledge transfer activities.

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 Biosciences (iBB) of Instituto Superior Técnico, under the scientific supervision of Tina Keller Costa

Duration: The research fellowship(s) will have the duration of 12 months. It’s expected to begin in June 2026, and may be eventually renewed up to the maximum of 24 months, including the duration of the initial 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-2026/>), the amount of the monthly maintenance allowance is € 1 359,64, being the payment method an option of the Fellow by Wire Transfer/Check.

Selection methods: The selection methods will be the following:

1. Bachelor’s and Master’s grades (20 points).
2. Scientific publications and conference presentations (posters/oral communications) in Marine Microbiology and microbial secondary metabolism (20 points).
3. Experience and familiarity with Omics’ analyses (e.g., genomics, metagenomics, transcriptomics) applied to marine bacteria (20 points).
4. Familiarity and experience in metabolomics, extraction of secondary metabolites, and performing antimicrobial assays (20 points).
5. Familiarity with the maintenance and cultivation of marine microorganisms; experience working with the genus *Aquimarina* is an asset (20 points).

Composition of the selection Jury:

Dr Tina Keller-Costa (Departamento de Bioengenharia, Instituto Superior Técnico)



Dr Rodrigo da Silva Costa (Departamento de Bioengenharia, Instituto Superior Técnico)

Dr Maria Ângela Cabral Garcia Taipa Meneses de Oliveira (Departamento de Bioengenharia, 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 May 22 until June 5, 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;
- iv) proof of enrollment at an academic degree course (PhD);
- v) motivation letter

Applications must be submitted to the email: Dr Tina Keller Costa (tinakellercosta@tecnico.ulisboa.pt) and Mafalda Firmino (mafalda.firmino@tecnico.ulisboa.pt).