

## **RESEARCH GRANT, MSc holder (BI-MSc) (1 vacancy)**

### **Reference: CYANOBESITY/BI-MSc/2018-086**

A competition is open for the attribution of 1 Research Grant in the framework of the European Project “CYANOBESITY - Cyanobacteria as a source of bioactive compounds with effects on obesity and obesity-related co-morbidities”, with reference (Grant agreement no: ERA-MB-0001/2015) within the R&D Institution CIIMAR (Interdisciplinary Centre of Marine and Environmental Research), supported by the FCT (Foundation for Science and Technology, Portugal), according to the following conditions:

#### **1. Scientific area:** Biological Sciences

#### **2. Admission requirements:**

The candidates are required to hold a MSc degree in a discipline related to Biological Sciences (Biology, Biochemistry, Biomedicine, Pharmacology etc). The candidates should be available to proceed for a PhD candidature during the course of the project, and should have an average >14.5 on a scale from 1 - 20 (BSc and MSc; different scales from international candidates will be adapted). Preferred candidates should have experience in natural products chemistry, in bioactivity screening or molecular characterization of compounds. Good knowledge of English, written and spoken, will be appreciated.

#### **3. Work plan:**

The work will be done in the framework of the project CYANOBESITY that intends to evaluate the potential of cyanobacteria for the production of bioactive compounds with effects on obesity and obesity-related co-morbidities (fatty liver disease, diabetes, reduction of appetite, hyperlipidaemia). The foreseen work will include: Culturing of cyanobacteria, chemical fractionation and isolation of compounds; bioactivity screening for beneficial activities towards obesity and obesity-related co-morbidities using cell-based assays and zebrafish-based assays; biochemical and molecular analyses (lipids, mRNA or proteins). The selected candidate will also collaborate in the elaboration of project reports, participation in project meetings, preparation of manuscripts and other forms of results communication.

#### **4. Legislation and official rules:**

Law nº. 40/2004, 18th August (Research Fellowship and Studentship Regulation) amended and republished by [Decreto-Lei n.º 202/2012](#), 27<sup>th</sup> August; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. and CIIMAR Grants Regulation.

#### **5. Work place:**

The work will be carried out at CIIMAR under the scientific supervision of Dr. Ralph Urbatzka.

#### **6. Duration of the grant:**

The position has the duration of six (6) month under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewable according to legal terms, up to the legal maximum (16 month, until end of project in April 2020). The position is anticipated to start in January 2019.

#### **7. Monthly maintenance stipend:**

The monthly maintenance allowance is €980 (nine hundred and eighty Euros), in agreement with the monthly maintenance stipend table of the grants directly attributed by FCT, I.P. within the country (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf>).

#### **8. Selection methods:**

The ranking of candidates will be performed by a global evaluation of their scientific and curricular achievements (1 - 10 values):

- i. Experience in microalgae/cyanobacteria culture - 20 %
- ii. Experience in chemical fractionation and natural product isolation – 20%
- iii. Experience in bioactivity screening (cells or zebrafish) – 20%
- iv. Experience in biochemical and molecular methods (lipids, mRNA, proteins) – 20%
- v. Published papers – 20%

The first three short-listed candidates will be invited for an interview, which will have a weight of 40% in the final classification. International candidates can be interviewed by video conference. The jury reserves the right to not assign the grant depending on the quality of the applications.

#### **9. Composition of the jury selection:**

President of the jury: Doutor Ralph Urbatzka

Vogal: Doutor Isabel Cunha

Vogal: Doutor Mariana Reis

#### **10. Form of Advertising/notification of results:**

The final results of the evaluation will be published through a list sorting the candidates according to their attributed mark, on the CIIMAR website and by e-mail; in case of disagreement, the candidates have a 10-working day term in which to contest the decision, if he/she so wishes, as provided for in the Código do

Procedimento Administrativo in a preliminary hearing setting. The jury reserves the right to not assign the research grant if none of the candidates meets all requirements and match the desired profile.

**11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications:**

The competition is open from **23 November until 6 December 2018**. The applications must be formalized by sending the following documents:

- i. Curriculum vitae, mentioning clearly academic grades and relevant research experience
- ii. Copy of the eligibility certificates
- iii. Motivation letter
- iv. Reference contact information of current and past supervisors
- v. Contact e-mail address and phone number.

The applications must be sent by email to Dr. Ralph Urbatzka ([rurbatzka@ciimar.up.pt](mailto:rurbatzka@ciimar.up.pt)) with CC to [secretariado@ciimar.up.pt](mailto:secretariado@ciimar.up.pt), and with **CYANOBIOSITY/BI-MSc/2018-086** in the headline. Applications that **do not include all** the elements previously indicated **will not be considered**.