

RESEARCH GRANT (BI) (2 vacancies)

Reference: ERA-MBT-0001/2015-BI-2017-016

A competition is open for the attribution of 2 Research Grants 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 must

- i) hold a MSc in a discipline related to Biological Sciences (Biology, Biochemistry, Biomedicine, Pharmacology etc);
- ii) 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);
- iii) have experience in either natural products chemistry or in the bioactivity screening and molecular characterization;
- iv) be fluent in English, written and spoken, and demonstrate capacity to perform independent research proposing new approaches for this project.

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 the Project reports and participation in the 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](#), 27th August; Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. — 2015 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:

Duration of six (6) month, starting in July, 2017, under the regime of exclusive dedication, eventually renewable according to legal terms, up to the legal maximum (end of project in April 2020).

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 based on:

- Evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae - 60%;
- Interview – 40% .

The Evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae will be performed according to the following criteria:

- i. Experience in cyanobacterial 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%

In the second phase and after the sequencing of the candidates following CV evaluation, there will be an interview to a maximum of five candidates. 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. Based on the final list, a reserve list will be established, which will be used for the eventual attribution of new research grants under this project.

11. Deadline for application and presentation of applications:

The competition is open from **14th until 28th of June 2017**. The applications must be formalized, compulsorily, by sending the following documents:

- detailed Curriculum vitae, mentioning clearly the academic grades and the relevant research experience
- copy of the eligibility certificates
- motivation letter
- reference contact information of current and past supervisors
- contact e-mail address and phone number
- indication of the reference of the competition (as indicated in this announcement).

The applications must be sent by postal mail to Emília Afonso, CIIMAR – Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental, Terminal de Cruzeiros do Porto de Leixões, and simultaneously by e-mail to: secretariado@ciimar.up.pt. The applications that **do not include all** the elements previously indicated will **not be considered**.