

EDITAL

CALL FOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Referência 'Biological control of pine trees'.

CONTEST CODE – PRBI/18/2024

A call is open for applications for a Master's Research Grant under the cooperation protocol '**Collaboration in the *Pinus pinaster* biological control program**', signed between the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra and Rhodes University, under the conditions set out below.

The purpose of the grant is to implement and develop the following activities:

1. Feasibility studies for the biological control of *Pinus pinaster*.
2. Feasibility studies for the biological control of *Acacia dealbata* and *Acacia melanoxylon*.
3. Collaboration in other activities of the research team.

Generic scientific area: Environmental Sciences

Specific scientific area: Natural Resource Management - Invasive species and biological control

Requirements:

- Master's degree in Biology, Ecology, Environment, Natural Resources and/or Forestry or related areas, enrolled in a PhD or non-degree course.
- Preferably with experience in:
 - a) Biological or natural control of invasive plants, including the entomological component;
 - b) Work with invasive plant species (technical and scientific);
 - c) Analyzing data and writing scientific articles in English.

The work plan will specifically comprise:

1. feasibility studies for the biological control of *Pinus pinaster*, including:
 - Investigation of the insect community associated with *P. pinaster*;
 - Research into the population dynamics of seed predator weevils of the genus *Pissodes* in Portugal;
 - Developing cultures of *Pissodes* spp. and/or locating sites where they can be collected;
 - Investigating the impact of *Pissodes* spp. associated with *P. pinaster* and other *Pinus* species.
2. Feasibility studies for the biological control of *Acacia dealbata* and *A. melanoxylon*, including:
 - Carrying out specificity tests on *Melanterius acaciae* and *M. maculatus* in quarantine;
 - Exploring other potential agents to be tested.
3. Preparation of technical-scientific reports on the activities carried out, including evaluation and analysis of the results obtained with a view to publishing scientific articles in scientific journals.

Scholarship period:

The scholarship is for 12 months, with the possibility of renewal, on an exclusive basis, according to the Research Grant Regulation of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra in force, and is scheduled to start in September 2024.

Financial conditions:

1,259.64 euros, in accordance with the table of values for Research Scholarships in Portugal awarded by FCT, I.P. (<https://www.fct.pt/financiamento/programas-de-financiamento/bolsas/>), with payment made monthly by bank transfer.

To this amount is added the voluntary social insurance corresponding to the first bracket, if the candidate chooses to enroll, and personal accident insurance will also be taken out.

Location:

The work will be carried out at the Escola Superior Agrária of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, under the scientific supervision of Professor Dr Hélia Marchante, and will include travelling as necessary to carry out the planned activities, including outside national territory if necessary.

Selection criteria:

The criteria for assessing applications are as follows: Curriculum evaluation (70%) and Interview (30%). The following will be considered in the Curriculum Vitae Assessment: absolute merit of the Curriculum Vitae (30%); experience in the areas of biological control (20%) and biological invasions (20%).

The interview will consider: Knowledge and profile appropriate to the duties to be carried out (15%); Motivation and interest (15%).

Jury responsible for selection:

The jury responsible for the selection process will be made up of:

Effective members: Professor (PhD) Hélia Marchante, Researcher (PhD) Elizabete Marchante and Professor (PhD) Cristina Galhano.

Alternate members: Researcher (PhD) Olímpia Sobral, Professor (PhD) Manuela Abelho.

Documents to be submitted:

Applications must include the following information:

-- Application form available on the internet page for this competition at https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros

- Identification, identification document number, and tax identification number;

- Documents proving that the candidate meets the conditions defined in the admission requirements, namely, 1) certificate of qualifications of the Master's degree 2) certificate of Doctoral Enrollment, or registration or enrolment in courses not conferring an academic degree of initiation to scientific research;

- Applicants with foreign qualifications must provide proof of their foreign degree and diploma in accordance with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August;
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate;
- Motivation letter;

Submission of applications:

Submissions must occur in 10 (ten) working days, between 12/08/2024 and 26/08/2024.

Candidates must access and register on the website https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros to submit the application, selecting the procedure for which they intend to apply.

Applications must be delivered exclusively in digital format, in portable document format (pdf), except for documents whose delivery is scheduled in other digital formats.

Application instructions are completed by filling in the sections available at the aforementioned email address.

When formalizing the application, if it contains a classified document that reveals commercial or industrial secrets, or secrets relating to literary, artistic or scientific property, the candidate must expressly indicate such reservation, under penalty of the work in question being freely accessed by any one of the other candidates, in consultation with the process.

When submitting the application, the candidate must provide only the necessary data, according to this notice, and must hide personal data present in the documentation, as these data may be freely accessed by other candidates during the process consultation.

How the results will be publicized/notified:

The results of the assessment will be publicized within 90 working days of the deadline for submitting applications, by sending a communication to the candidates via email. After the results have been announced, candidates will be notified so that, if they wish, they can give their opinion at a prior hearing within a maximum of 10 working days after that date. At the end of this period, the selected candidates will have to declare their acceptance in writing and communicate the effective start date of the scholarship. Unless there is a justifiable reason, failure to make the declaration by the deadline will be tantamount to renouncing the

scholarship. In the event of the resignation or withdrawal of the selected candidate, the next highest ranked candidate will be notified.

For more information contact: Hélia Marchante by e-mail: hmarchante@gmail.com

Coimbra, August 2024