

EDITAL

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR MASTER'S DEGREE

Reference: PRBI/37/2025

A call for applications is now open for a Master's Research Grant under project number 15984, entitled "RESCUE - Integrated strategies for the sustainable management of invasive plants, ecosystem recovery and community involvement", with the operation code COMPETE2030-FEDER-00712100, financed under the terms of Notice MPr-2023-12 - Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects (IC&DT) – Individual and Co-promotion Operations, with financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), through the Innovation and Digital Transition Thematic Programme (COMPETE 2030), Portugal 2030 and the European Union, under the following conditions:

The purpose of the grant will be to collaborate in the implementation and development of the following project activities:

- 1) Activity 1. Assessment of the direct effects of the biological control agent *Trichilogaster acaciaelongifoliae* on the invasive plant *Acacia longifolia* and non-target species
- 2) Activity 4. Improving habitat recovery after invasion by invasive alien species through cooperation with land managers and the creation of a decision-making framework for the management of invasive plant species
- 3) Activity 5: Involve citizens, stakeholders and other target audiences in the management of *Acacia longifolia* and other invasive plant species

General scientific area: Biological and/or Environmental Sciences

Specific scientific area: Natural Resource Management – Invasive Species

Requirements:

- Higher education in the areas of Biology, Ecology, Environment, Natural and/or Forest Resources, Nature Conservation, Science Communication or related areas;
- Students enrolled in a PhD programme (proof of enrolment must be provided before the scholarship is contracted).
- Preferably with experience in:
 - a) Working with invasive species (at a technical, scientific and/or stakeholder interaction level);
 - b) Science communication, citizen science and/or training activities;
 - c) Data analysis and writing scientific and/or dissemination articles in English.

Work plan:

The work plan will include collaboration in the Project activities described above and may include: 1.1 Assessment of the establishment of the biological control agent (BCA) along the Portuguese coast; 1.2-4 Assessment of the direct effects of the BCA on the target species *Acacia longifolia* (seed and growth parameters) and on non-target plants 4. 1 Co-creation workshops 4.2 Case studies characterising the monitoring, control and restoration actions of the IAP ecosystem; 5.1 Updating the INVASORAS.PT citizen science platform; 5.2 Promotion of citizen science actions to promote BCM monitoring; 5.3 Development of an open online course.

Grant period:

The grant has a duration of 12 months, possibly renewable, on an exclusive basis, in accordance with the Research Grant Regulation of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, through Dispatch No. 5963/2020, published in “Diário da República”, 2nd serie of June 1, 2020, and the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. in force, with a planned start date in February 2026.

Monthly Maintenance Grant:

€1,309.64, in accordance with the table of values for Research Grants 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 voluntary social insurance, corresponding to the first level, if the candidate chooses to enroll, and personal accident insurance.

Place of Work:

The work will be carried out at the Coimbra Higher Agricultural School (ESAC), part of the Coimbra Polytechnic Institute (IPC), under the scientific guidance of Professor Hélia Marchante.

Selection Criteria:

The criteria for evaluating applications are as follows:

- Curriculum Assessment (70%), considering: Absolute merit of the curriculum vitae (30%); experience in the areas of science communication, citizen science and/or training (20%) and technical and/or scientific work with invasive plant species (20%).
- Interview (30%), considering: knowledge demonstrated during the interview and profile suited to the duties to be performed (15%); Motivation and interest demonstrated (15%).

Composition of the Jury:

The jury responsible for the selection process will be composed of the following:

Permanent members: Professor (PhD) Hélia Marchante, Professor (PhD) Manuela Abelho, Professor (PhD) Elizabete Marchante.

Substitutes: Professor (PhD) Elisabete Freitas. Researcher (PhD) Francisco Alejandro López Núñez.

Documents to be submitted:

Applications must include the following documents:

- Application form available on the internet page for this competition at https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros
- Elements of the National Identity Card/Citizen Card/Passport/Visa/Title of Residence; Tax Identification Number (NIF).
- Documents proving that the candidate meets the conditions defined in the admission requirements, namely, 1) qualification certificate - Master; 2) certificate of enrolment in PhD in the field of Forestry Sciences or in courses not leading to an academic degree integrated in the educational project from an institution of higher education and 3) identification card for plant protection product applicators.
- Candidate's letter of motivation;
- *Curriculum vitae*;

Proof of enrolment in a PhD programme (proof of enrolment may be provided until the scholarship is contracted).

Application deadline:

10 working days, from **05/12/2025 to 19/12/2025**.

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), with the exception of documents whose delivery is scheduled in other digital formats.

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

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 the data strictly necessary for the purpose, under the terms of this public notice, and must hide personal data that may exist in the documentation submitted, otherwise these data may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates, in the process query. **Applicable legislation and regulations:**

The awarding of scholarships is based on Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August (Statute of Scientific Research Scholarships), amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012 of 27 August, updated by: Decree-Law No. 233/2012, Law No. 12/2013, and Decree-Law No. 89/2013; the Scholarship and Research Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology in force

(www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf), Order No. 12709/2016 published in DR, II series of 21/10/2016, of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, regarding the IPC Scholarship Regulations.

The model scholarship contract and final reports to be prepared by the scholarship holder and the coordinator are those contained in the annexes to the Scientific Research Scholarship Statute mentioned above.

Form of publication/notification of results:

The results of the evaluation will be published in alphabetical order, by final mark obtained, posted in a visible and public place at the Coimbra Higher School of Agriculture (on a notice board reserved for this type of publication, in Block B), with all candidates being notified by email for the purposes of a prior hearing of interested parties.

For further information, please contact:

Hélia Marchante by email: hmarchante@gmail.com