

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR A RESEARCH FELLOW POSITION

Reference PRBI/17/2026/1

IPC-IIA/HY4Bone/BL

IPC/ i2A is now accepting applications for a Graduate degree holder Research Grant within the scope of the project entitled “HY4Bone: Hydrogels loaded with graphene and cells for bone recovery”, with operation code COMPETE2030-FEDER-00695800, funded under the Call MPr-2023-12 – Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects (R&D) – 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 grant is intended for the implementation and development of the following activities:

- 1) Functionalization of natural polymers with thiol groups and maleimide groups;
- 2) Formulation of hydrogels crosslinked through thiol–maleimide chemistry;
- 3) Physicochemical characterization of the developed materials;
- 4) Dissemination and valorization of activities related to the project results.

Generic Scientific Area: Chemical Engineering

Specific Scientific Area: Chemical Engineering, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Biotechnology

Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Biomedical Sciences, or related fields, who are enrolled in an integrated master’s program, a master’s degree, or a non-degree course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution.

- With experience in:

- a) Synthesis of polymeric materials;
- b) Physicochemical characterization of polymers.

Work Plan:

The planned work includes the functionalization of natural polymers with thiol and maleimide groups, followed by the formulation of hydrogels crosslinked through thiol–maleimide reactions. The materials obtained will subsequently undergo physicochemical characterization to evaluate their properties. The work also includes the dissemination and valorization of the results generated within the scope of the project.

Scholarship Length:

The grant has a duration of 11 months, non-renewable, on an exclusive dedication basis, in accordance with the Regulation of the Research Scholarships from Coimbra Polytechnic Order nº 5963/2020, with the expected start date in June 2026.

Monthly Maintenance Allowance:

€1,090.98, in accordance with the table of values for Research Grants awarded in Portugal by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT, I.P.) (www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores). Payment will be made on a monthly basis by bank transfer.

In addition to this amount, voluntary social security contributions corresponding to the first contribution bracket may be added, should the candidate opt for enrollment. Personal accident insurance will also be provided.

Workplace:

The work will be carried out at i2A – Institute of Applied Research of IPC, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Paula Ferreira.

Selection Criteria:

The CVs of eligible candidates will be evaluated and awarded a score from 0 to 20, based on:

- A. Final grades obtained in the Bachelor's degree (weighting of 20%) and Master's degree (weighting of 30%);
- B. Assessment of the academic, scientific, technical, and professional curriculum, and its suitability to the proposed work plan (weighting of 50%). Experience and competence in the production, modification, and characterization of polymers will be valued.

Part II – CF2:

This consists of an interview (in person or conducted via videoconference), during which aspects related to candidates' motivation, availability, commitment, and autonomy in conducting scientific studies will be assessed. The interview will emphasize aspects related to the implementation of the work plan, which includes the synthesis, modification, and characterization of polymers. The Selection Committee will assign each candidate a score between 0 and 20 (CF2).

Final Classification:

The final score will be calculated using the following formula, on a scale from 0 to 20 and rounded to one decimal place:

$$CF = (0.6 \times CF1) + (0.4 \times CF2)$$

The hiring of the selected candidate will be conditional upon obtaining a final score equal to or higher than 10.0 (ten point zero).

Jury of Selection:

The committee responsible for the selection process will be composed of:

Full Members:

Dr. Paula Cristina Nunes Ferreira, Assistant Researcher at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra

Dr. Ilídio Joaquim Sobreira Correia, Full Professor at the University of Beira Interior

Dr. Patrícia de Jesus Pinto Alves, Assistant Researcher at the University of Coimbra

Alternate Member:

Dr. Duarte Miguel de Melo Diogo, Invited Assistant Professor at the University of Beira Interior

Dr. Carla Sofia Monteiro de Moura, Assistant Researcher at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra

Mandatory Documents:

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
- Motivation letter addressed to the Chair of the Selection Committee;
- Curriculum vitae, dated and signed;
- Copy(ies) of academic degree certificate(s);
- Other supporting documents considered relevant.

Deadline of Applications Submission:

The application period will be 10 working days, **from 22/05/2026 to 05/06/2026**

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.

Legislation and applicable Regulation:

The award of this scholarship is based in the Law 40/2004, of the 18th of August (Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação Científica), changed and republished by the Decree-Law 202/2012, of the 27th of August, updated by: Decree-Law 233/2012, Law 12/2013, Decree-Law 89/2013 and Decree-Law 123/2019; the Regulation of the Research Scholarships from Coimbra Polytechnic Order nº 5963/2020, and the Regulation of the research scholarships from the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I. P.

Method of Publication/Notification of Results:

The final evaluation results will be published through a list ordered alphabetically and by final score obtained. All candidates will be notified by email for the purposes of the prior hearing of interested parties.

For further information please contact:

Dr. Paula Ferreira (paula.ferreira@ipc.pt), indicating the reference of fellowship (mandatory): **IPC-IIA/HY4Bone/BL**.

Coimbra, Mai 2026