

NOTICE

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Reference PRBI/25/2026

A call for applications is open for the award of a Research Fellowship within the scope of the project “MAP.INVADER: Mapeamento automática de plantas exóticas invasoras a nível nacional recorrendo a uma abordagem de deteção remota de multi-resolução | MAP.INVADER: Invasive alien plants mapping over national extents using an automated and multi-scale remote sensing framework”, with operation code COMPETE2030-FEDER-009222900, at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, funded under Notice MPr-2023-12 (SACCCT – Scientific Research and Technological Development (IC&DT) Projects – Individual and Co-promotion Operations), with financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), through the Thematic Programme for Innovation and Digital Transition (COMPETE 2030), Portugal 2030 and the European Union, under the following conditions:

The fellowship is intended for the implementation and development of the following activities:

- 1) Selection of reference sites with the invasive plant *Acacia dealbata* and similar species for image collection for remote sensing work;
- 2) Collection of training data for validation of the models under development, including fieldwork and/or promotion of citizen participation in citizen science platforms for collecting occurrence data on invasive plant species and other species;
- 3) Collaborate in assessing the use of the collected data to apply the methodology developed to other invasive plant species;
- 4) Dissemination of project results among the scientific community, the general public and Portuguese public institutions;
- 5) Collaboration in other experiments involving *Acacia dealbata*.

General scientific field: Biological and/or Environmental Sciences;

Specific scientific field: Biological Invasions;

Requirements:

- Higher education qualification in Biology, Ecology, Environmental Sciences, Natural and/or Forestry Resources, Nature Conservation, Science Communication or related fields;
- Students enrolled in a PhD programme or or bachelor's or master's degree holders enrolled in a non-degree course (proof of enrolment must be provided by the time the fellowship is contracted).
- Preferably with experience in:
 - a) Work with invasive plant species (at a technical, scientific and/or public-sector stakeholder interaction level);
 - b) Science communication and/or citizen science activities;
 - c) Data analysis and writing of scientific and/or outreach articles in English.

Work plan:

The work plan will include collaboration in the project activities described above.

Fellowship period:

The fellowship will last for 12 months, potentially renewable, on an exclusive basis, in accordance with the UPCoimbra Fellowship Regulations, both currently in force, and the Research Fellowship Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. , with a planned start in November 2026.

Monthly maintenance allowance:

EUR 1,359.64, in accordance with the table of values for Research Fellowships in Portugal awarded by FCT, I.P. (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>), with payment made monthly by bank transfer.

This amount is supplemented by voluntary social insurance corresponding to the first contribution bracket, should the candidate opt to enrol, as well as personal accident insurance.

Place of work:

The work will be carried out at the Escola Superior Agrária de Coimbra (ESAC) of UPCoimbra, under the scientific supervision of Professor Hélia Marchante.

Selection criteria:

The criteria for evaluating applications are as follows:

- Curriculum assessment (70%), taking into consideration: overall merit of the curriculum vitae (30%); and experience in the areas listed in the requirements (40%);
- Interview (30%), taking into consideration: knowledge demonstrated during the interview and suitability of the profile for the functions to be performed (15%); motivation and demonstrated interest (15%).

Composition of the Selection Panel:

The selection panel responsible for the recruitment process will comprise:

Full members:

Professor Hélia Marchante;

Professor Manuela Abelho;

Professor Elizabete Marchante.

Alternate member:

PhD Researcher Francisco Alejandro López Núñez

PhD Researcher Ana Rita Lopes

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

- Candidate's motivation letter;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Proof of enrolment in a PhD programme or non-degree programme (proof of enrolment may be provided by the time the fellowship is contracted).

Application deadline:

10 working days, **from 24/09/2026 to 08/10/2026.**

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), 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.

Applicable legislation and regulations:

The award of the fellowship is based on Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August (Scientific Research Fellowship Statute), as amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012 of 27 August, as subsequently updated by Decree-Law No. 233/2012, Law No. 12/2013 and Decree-Law No. 89/2013; the Dispatch no. 5963/2020, of 1 June, in its current version (Research Fellowship Regulation of the Polytechnic of Coimbra); Research Fellowship Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology currently in force (www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf).

The fellowship agreement template and the final reports to be prepared by the fellow and the coordinator are those contained in the annexes to the Scientific Research Fellowship Statute referred to above.

Publication/notification of results:

The evaluation results will be released within 90 business days of the application submission deadline via email notification to the candidates. Following the release of the results, candidates will be notified of the opportunity to submit comments during a preliminary hearing phase, within a maximum of 10 business days from that date. Upon the expiration of this period, selected candidates must provide a written declaration of acceptance and state the effective start date of the scholarship. Unless a valid justification is provided, failure to submit the declaration within the specified timeframe constitutes a declination of the scholarship. In the event that a selected candidate declines or withdraws, the candidate ranked immediately next in line will be notified.

For further information, please contact:

Hélia Marchante by email: hmarchante@gmail.com

Coimbra, September 2026