

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ONE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE HOLDER

Reference PRBI/28/2026

Applications are invited for the award of one Research Fellowship for a Master's degree holder (BI) within the project "NUTREC4AGRI | Turning waste into a Resource: Development of green fertilizers through nutrient recovery from agri-food by-products and livestock effluents", operation code COMPETE2030-FEDER-00726000, at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, funded under Call MPr-2023-12 (SACCCT – Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects (IC&DT) – Individual and Collaborative 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 fellowship is intended to support the implementation and development of the following project activities:

- 1) Development and testing of an efficient prototype combining electrodialysis, electro-oxidation and gas-permeable membranes to extract nutrients and organic compounds.
- 2) Development of green fertilizers from solutions enriched in nutrients and organic compounds obtained from agri-food by-products and livestock effluents.
- 3) Integrated assessment of the proposed solutions for the valorization of agri-food by-products and livestock effluents as green fertilizers.
- 4) Dissemination, promotion and valorization of the results.
- 5) Project management and monitoring.

General scientific area: Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering or a related field

Specific scientific area: Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering or a related field

Requirements:

- Hold a Master's degree in Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering or a related field.
- Candidates holding a higher education qualification obtained abroad must have their degree formally recognized, where applicable.



- Be enrolled in a doctoral programme.
- Have oral proficiency in Portuguese.
- Have experience in laboratory work, teamwork or waste valorization processes.

Work plan:

The work plan will be carried out at the Coimbra School of Agriculture of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra and includes the following tasks:

- 1) Laboratory research to develop and optimize a prototype for the extraction of nutrients and organic compounds;
- 2) Laboratory analyses to characterize the solutions produced;
- 3) Life cycle and cost analyses;
- 4) Support in drafting technical activity reports and scientific publications;
- 5) Other development tasks identified as necessary within the scope of the project.

Fellowship duration:

The fellowship will last 6 (six) months and may be renewed for an equal period, on an exclusive dedication basis, in accordance with the Research Fellowship Regulations of UPCoimbra, with an expected start date in January 2027.

Monthly maintenance allowance:

EUR 1,359.64, in accordance with the allowance rates 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>), payable monthly by bank transfer.

In addition to this amount, voluntary social security contributions corresponding to the first contribution bracket will be covered if the candidate chooses to enrol in the scheme. Personal accident insurance will also be provided.

Workplace:

The work will be carried out at the Coimbra School of Agriculture of UPCoimbra, under the scientific supervision of Dr Verónica Oliveira.

Selection criteria:

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- Assessment of the curriculum vitae (40%);
- Oral proficiency in Portuguese (10%);
- Experience in laboratory work (10%);
- Experience in teamwork (5%);
- Experience in waste valorization processes (10%);
- Experience in preparing reports and scientific articles (5%);
- Candidate's motivation to participate in the project (20%);

An interview may be conducted if required to resolve a tie between candidates.

The selection panel reserves the right not to select any candidate if none has a suitable profile to perform the duties.

Composition of the selection panel:

The panel responsible for the selection process will comprise Dr Verónica Oliveira (Chair), Dr Ana Sofia Fajardo and Professor Isabel Dinis (full members), and Professor Carla Rodrigues and Professor João Malça (alternate members).

Documents to be submitted:

Applications must include the following documents:

- Application form available on the webpage dedicated to this selection procedure at <https://www.ipc.pt/ipc/sobre/rh/a-decorrer-pessoal-bolseiro>;
- Documents demonstrating that the candidate meets the admission requirements, namely:
 1. Degree certificate;
 2. B2 or C1 level certificate, with reference to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (not applicable to native speakers from countries where Portuguese is an official language);
 3. Candidate's curriculum vitae;
 4. Motivation letter;

5. Proof of enrolment and registration in a doctoral programme;
6. Any other documents that the candidate considers relevant to the application.

Application period:

The application period will be 10 working days, from 09/10/2026 to 22/10/2026.

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

Applications must be submitted exclusively in digital form. Supporting documents must be in portable document format (PDF), except where submission in other digital formats is specified.

The application is completed by filling in the sections available at the web address indicated above.

When submitting the application, if it includes a classified document disclosing a trade or industrial secret, or a secret relating to literary, artistic or scientific property, the candidate must expressly identify its confidential nature. Otherwise, the work in question may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates when consulting the procedure file.

When submitting the application, candidates must provide only the data strictly necessary for this purpose under this call and must redact any personal data contained in the submitted documentation. Otherwise, such data may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates when consulting the procedure file.

Applicable legislation and regulations:

The fellowship is awarded under the following legal instruments:

Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August, as amended (Statute of Scientific Research Fellows);

Order No. 5963/2020 of 1 June, as amended (Research Fellowship Regulations of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra).

The fellowship agreement template and the templates for the final reports to be prepared by the fellow and the scientific supervisor are those set out in the annexes to the aforementioned Statute of Scientific Research Fellows.

Publication and notification of results:

The assessment results will be communicated to candidates by email within 90 working days of the application deadline. Following publication of the results, candidates will be notified that they may, if they wish, submit

comments under the prior hearing procedure within a maximum of 10 working days after that date. Once this period has elapsed, the selected candidates must declare their acceptance in writing and communicate the actual start date of the fellowship. Unless an acceptable justification is provided, failure to submit the declaration within the stated period will be deemed a waiver of the fellowship. If the selected candidate waives or withdraws from the fellowship, the next highest-ranked candidate will be notified.

Coimbra, October 2026