

NOTICE NO. 031/2026

COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE

Title: **One Research Grant BI-M**

A competition is open for the award of one Research Grant BI-M within the scope of the R&D project/institution 10UI00053 - LA/P/0069/2020 - ARNET funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences.

2. **Admission Requirements:** Candidates must hold a Master's degree in Biological Engineering or related fields, preferably with experience in the establishment and monitoring of anaerobic digestion trials for the production of volatile fatty acids, growth kinetics of co-cultures, downstream processing, and the use of the SuperPro Designer software.

Taking into account paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 (Research Grants) of the Research Grants Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology:

"1. Research grants, hereinafter referred to as BI, are intended for R&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated master's degree, a master's degree or a doctorate, with a view to consolidating their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the respective academic degree, whether or not integrated into R&D projects.

2. The scholarships referred to in this article may also be intended for the performance of R&D activities by graduates or masters enrolled in non-degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units."

3. **Project Objectives:** During the implementation period of the fellowship, the work should be aligned with Objective 3 (Value) of CIMA and with the ARNET domain, oriented toward the promotion and valorization of biological resources, material recovery through biotechnological processes, and increased efficiency in waste reduction, thereby strengthening the link between science, innovation, and sustainability. The main objective of the work to be developed will be the characterization and valorization of microalgal biomass through the extraction of high value-added biocompounds, as well as the valorization of residual biomass for the production of bioplastics, namely polyhydroxyalkanoates (PHA). The entire biorefinery process will be modeled and simulated using the SuperPro Designer software, considering all input and output streams, with the aim of carrying out a techno-economic analysis and a sustainability assessment, including the identification of key economic and environmental indicators.

4. **Applicable Legislation and Regulations:** Research Fellow Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, as amended by Decree-Law No. 65/2024 of October 1, and the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>).

5. **Workplace:** The work will be carried out at Laboratório de Engenharia e Biotecnologia Ambiental of the Centro de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental (CIMA) of the Universidade do Algarve, Campus de Gambelas, under the scientific supervision of PhD Sara Raposo.



UAlg

UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

6. Duration of grant(s): The grant will last 6 months, with the start date scheduled for June 2026. The grant contract may be renewed up to the end of the project, taking into account the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>).

7. Monthly maintenance allowance amount: The monthly maintenance allowance is €1.359,64. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>).

8. Candidate evaluation: In accordance with the provisions of Article 11.2 of the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations, the evaluation of candidates will be based solely on the following criteria: merit of the candidate's curriculum (70%), and motivation letter (30%). In assessing the candidate's merit, for the purpose of determining suitability for the activities to be carried out, the following criteria will be considered: scientific merit (30%); experience in the establishment and monitoring of anaerobic digestion trials for the production of volatile fatty acids (20%); knowledge of growth kinetics and physiological behavior of co-cultures (20%); knowledge of downstream processing (15%); experience in the use of the SuperPro Designer software (15%).

9. The evaluation process may include an interview with the candidates if the ranking process results in a tie (i.e., if more than one candidate is ranked first), which will have a maximum weight of 20%.

10. Composition of the Application Evaluation Board: The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):

- Nélia Cristina da Costa Mestre (President) (Researcher at CIMA);
- Cláudia Dias Sequeira (Full Member) (Researcher at CIMA)
- Filomena Maria Coelho Guerra da Fonseca (Full Member) (Professor at the University of Algarve);
- Susana Otero Costas (Alternate Member) (Researcher at CIMA).

11. Publication/Notification of Results: The final evaluation results will be published on the Ualg website, in a list ordered by the final grade obtained, and the successful candidate will be notified via email.

12. Application Deadline and Submission Method: The competition is open from **24/04/2026 to 08/05/2026**.

13. Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Official identification document (simple copy or legal equivalent). Applicants of non-Portuguese nationality must present a residence permit, permanent residence certificate, or long-term resident status, valid on the scholarship start date. Any of these may be replaced, in its absence, by a declaration of honor by the candidate. However, this must be submitted during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b) Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation letter (maximum 500 words)
- d) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;

- e) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.
- f) The Application for Application to the Competition, dated and signed, must be addressed to the President of the Competition Evaluation Panel, <https://www.ualg.pt/sites/default/files/documentos/2022-12/anexo-iii-requerimento-para-candidatura-bolsa-pt.pdf>, it can be sent by post to the address: A/c Universidade do Algarve / Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro or by email to bolsascima@ualg.pt, Ref 033/2026. In the aforementioned application, **you must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding process being sent to the indicated email address.**

14. Documents to be submitted for the scholarship agreement:

- a. Individual Taxpayer Registry (INV) information, if the applicant is a nationality other than Portuguese, must be submitted during the scholarship agreement process, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b. Documents proving that the applicant meets the requirements for the respective type of scholarship, namely, proof of enrollment and registration and the study cycle or course that does not confer an academic degree;
- c. Declaration of the advisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Scholarship Statute, as well as guaranteeing the necessary conditions for the successful development of the work and compliance with the duties set forth in Article 13 of the Research Scholarship Statute;
- d. Declaration of Commitment to the Exclusive Dedication Regime.

15. Deadlines and Procedures for Complaints and Appeals:

Candidates may, if they so wish, comment on the draft decision to award the requested scholarship, at a hearing for interested parties within 10 business days, under the terms and for the purposes set forth in Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Candidates have the right to complain to the evaluation panel within 10 business days regarding the commission or omission of any act.

An appeal may be filed against the final decision of the application evaluation panel to the Rector within 10 business days of notification.

16. Scholarship Contract:

After receiving all required documentation, a scholarship contract will be signed with the selected candidate(s) in accordance with the attached template.

17. Evaluation of Fellow(s):

At the end of each fellowship contract period, the advisor will evaluate the fellow(s)' work by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached template:

- a) Achievement of objectives – assessment of the level of completion of the results by the fellow (75%);
- b) Behavioral competencies – assessment of the personal characteristics demonstrated during the evaluation period, namely those related to professionalism and rigor in all activities carried out (15%);
- c) Personal attitude – assessment of the level of personal commitment and availability shown during the

evaluation period, taking into account factors such as effort, interest, motivation, and responsiveness to the recommendations of the supervisory team (10%).

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the scholarship award procedure, within the scope of the aforementioned Project, whenever funding does not materialize or the scholarship duration exceeds the project completion date.

University of Algarve, 15th of April of 2026.

The Principal Investigator

Doutor André Miguel Duarte Pacheco