

NOTICE NO. 023/2026

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

Title: One master's research grant (BI-L)

A competition is open for the award of one Grant (BI-L) with the project 101165303 – OLAF – ERC – 2024 – STG funded by the European Research Council - ERC, under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Archaeology, Anthropology.

2. **Admission Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in Archaeology, Anthropology, or related field
- Proficiency in English, speaking, and writing
- Fieldwork experience in East Africa, preferably in Kenya or the Afar region of Ethiopia.
- Experience in working with and/or studying stone tool materials in archaeological and/or experimental contexts.
- An interest in or experience assisting with methods used for paleo-environmental reconstruction (i.e. paleobotany, paleogeography, etc)
- Experience in working with 3D models is not necessary but preferred.

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:** OLAF investigates the adaptive relevance of Oldowan cutting tools to Plio-Pleistocene hominin evolution. This fellow will contribute to this research focus by investigating the range of environments that are associated with the Earliest Oldowan tools and their influence on stone tool variation. Specifically, this research fellow will be involved in the following activities. (1) Analyzing stone tool materials from the Ledi Geraru research area in Ethiopia. (2) Comparing variation in lithic materials to their documented environmental context. In addition to these research activities, the research fellow will be expected to assist with field and museum work associated with the broader OLAF project. Through the completion of these activities, the



research fellow will contribute to a richer understanding of the role of stone tools in shaping the forging activities of Plio-Pleistocene hominin tool makers.

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 University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>).

5. Workplace: The work will be carried out at the Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behavior (ICArEHB) of the Universidade do Algarve, under the scientific supervision of PhD Jonathan Reeves. This will also involve trips to Ethiopia to conduct field and museum work.

6. Duration of grant(s): The grant will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled for October of 2026. The grant contract may be renewed until the end of the project, taking into account the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations. (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>).

7. Monthly maintenance allowance amount: The monthly maintenance allowance is €1,090.98. 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 OR the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations In the Science and Technology field, the evaluation of candidates will be based solely on the following criteria: merit of the candidate, merit of the work plan (if applicable), merit of the proposed training plan (e.g., academic qualifications, curricular path, required research experience, other admission requirements), with the respective weighting of:

- a) Mérito do candidato (65%)
- b) Carta de motivação (35%)

The Evaluation Panel reserves the right not to recommend the awarding of the scholarship to candidates with a final score of 16 points or lower.

9. The final ranking of candidates is expressed on a scale of 0 to 20, with a score that can be calculated to the nearest tenth of a position.

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

- Jonathan Reeves (President) (Principal Investigator, Universidade do Algarve);
- Elisa Bandini (Full Member) (Principal Investigator, Universidade do Algarve)
- João Cascalheira (Full Member) (Principal Investigator, Universidade do Algarve);
- Vera Aldeias (Alternate Member) (Principal Investigator, Universidade do Algarve).

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 **04/May/2026 to 15/May/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) Letter of motivation, in English, maximum 2 pages;
- 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: University of Algarve, Campus of Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro, Ref. (OLAF or 023/2026) or by email to jsreeves@ualg.pt

. 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) a) Fulfillment of objectives - evaluating the level of results' achievement by the grantee, taking into consideration of the work plan (75%);
- b) Behavioral skills - assessing the personal characteristics highlighted during the assessment period, namely those related to professionalism, thoroughness in all activities carried out, and capacity to work in a team environment (15%);
- (c) Personal attitude - rating the personal commitment and availability shown during the evaluation period, taking into account factors such as the effort made, the interest and motivation shown, and the receptivity of the guidance team's recommendations (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, 22nd of April of 2026

The Principal Investigator

Doctor Jonathan Reeves

