UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

NOTICE NO. 113/2026

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

Title: 1 Bolsa de Iniciação à Investigação

A competition is open for the award of 1 Bolsa de Iniciação à Investigação within the scope of the R&D project/institution (UID/05183/2025 - MED/Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development), UID/05183/2025 - MED, funded Unidades de Gestão), under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area**: Biological Sciences

2. **Admission Requirements**: A degree in Biological Sciences. Candidates must have proven experience in laboratory work in the field of molecular biology and experience in RNA extraction, PCR and RT-PCR used in virus detection. Candidates must be proficient in the R programming language and MEGA software. Candidates must demonstrate proficiency in written and spoken English and be available to start immediately.

   Taking into account paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5 of the Research Grants Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology Or paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 4 of the University of the Algarve's Research Fellowship Regulations:

   1. Research initiation grants, hereinafter referred to as BII, are intended for initial R&D activities by students enrolled in a higher professional technical course, a bachelor's degree, an integrated master's degree, or a master's degree, with a view to beginning their scientific training through integration into R&D projects to be developed in national institutions.
   2. The grants referred to in this article may also be intended for initial R&D activities by graduates 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**: The research to be carried out involves the genetic modification of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* through the introduction of the GFP gene and the production of siRNAs that may protect plants against the circulation of viruses in their phloem. The work involves infecting *Nicotiana benthamiana* plants with the modified strain of *Agrobacterium tumefaciens*, analysing the presence of the siRNAs and their protective effect against infection by the tomato spotted wilt virus.

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 Virology Laboratory of the Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development at the University of the Algarve, under the scientific supervision of Professor Natália Marques.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last 3 months, with the start date scheduled for December of 2026. The grant contract may be renewed until 30/03/2027, 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 €701.12. 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 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, with a maximum score of 20 points: academic background (20 per cent), final average mark for bachelor degree course weighted by ECTS credits (20 per cent), and research and experimental experience relevant to the project's objectives (60 per cent).

9. The evaluation process may include an interview with the candidates or a portion of them, to be selected by the Evaluation Panel, which will have a maximum weighting of 20%.

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

    Natália Tomás Marques (Presidente) (Professor auxiliar; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

    Anabela Maria Lopes Romano (1º Vogal efetivo) (Professor catedrático; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

    Maria Dulce Carlos Antunes (2º Vogal efetivo) (Professor associado com agregação; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

    Amílcar Manuel Marreiros Duarte (1º Vogal suplente) (Professor auxiliar; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

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 **16/11/2026 to 27/11/2026.**

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) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;

d) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.

e) 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, by email to nmarques@ualg.pt, Ref. UID/05183/2025 – MED. 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 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) Report on activities, setting out the activities carried out.
b) The supervisor's assessment.

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the fellowship award process, within the scope of the Project in question, whenever funding is not awarded or the scholarship duration exceeds the project completion date.

University of Algarve, 3 November of 2026.

The Principal Investigator,

_____

Professor (Natália Tomás Marques)

Fundação
para a Ciência
e a Tecnologia