NOTICE NO. 114/2026

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

Title: 1 Bolsa de Investigação – Mestre ou Licenciado

A competition is open for the award of 1 Bolsa de Investigação – Mestre ou Licenciado within the scope of the R&D project/institution (CRIA.FOOD.MED - Criação de Refeições, ALGARVE-FEDER-03704500 - CRIA.FOOD.MED -27739, funded PT2030-SIID -I&D Empresarial - Copromoção), under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area**: Technology

2. **Admission Requirements**: Applicants holding a Master's degree in Food Technology, Master's degree in Biotechnology preferably within the field of Technology, or a related discipline are eligible to apply, provided they possess knowledge and experience in food product development; physicochemical, microbiological, and sensory food quality analysis and control; and the determination of shelf life of food products. Alternatively, applicants holding a Bachelor's degree in Food Engineering, Bachelor's degree in Food Technology and Safety, Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology preferably within the field of Technology, or a related discipline are also eligible to apply, provided they possess knowledge and experience in food product development; physicochemical, microbiological, and sensory food quality analysis and control; and the determination of shelf life of food products. Candidates must be available for immediate commencement and demonstrate motivation, responsibility, and technical autonomy, while working under the guidance of qualified senior researchers. Candidates must also be able to travel within the Algarve region. Proficiency in Portuguese at a minimum level of C1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) is mandatory, together with proficiency in English at a minimum level of B2 CEFR. Preference will be given to candidates holding a Master's degree. Candidates holding a Bachelor's degree may be selected only if no applicants holding a Master's degree who meet the admission requirements apply, or, where such applicants do apply, if they do not possess the required academic background and/or relevant experience corresponding to the requirements of this call.

   Considering paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 of the Research Grants Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology or paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5 of the University of the Algarve's Research Fellowship Regulations:

   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 fellowship period, the research fellow will be responsible for carrying out the following activities and tasks: 1. Conducting documentary, literature-based, and ethnographic research on food, culinary practices, and the cultural heritage associated with traditional Mediterranean gastronomy, with particular emphasis on the Algarve region. This activity will also include benchmarking analyses of

other scientific projects related to traditional gastronomy, the Mediterranean Diet (MD), food sustainability, and innovation in ready-to-eat meal solutions; 2. Developing Minimum Viable Products (MVPs) of meal solutions intended to assess market acceptance, sensory performance, and functional suitability, enabling the collection of stakeholder feedback and the optimization of gastronomic solutions prior to scale-up and commercialization. This task will further involve identifying appropriate packaging solutions for the products, conducting comprehensive food safety assessments, and determining the shelf life of the developed MVPs; 3. Developing, testing, and validating innovative, safe, and sustainable food products by integrating the gastronomic, scientific, and technological knowledge generated in the previous activities. This work will include the evaluation of processing equipment and production methodologies, the industrial-scale up of MVPs in a commercial kitchen environment, and the implementation of feasibility and sustainability studies to assess the commercialization potential of the innovative food products developed within the project; 4. Compiling and analyzing the data generated throughout the previous activities and actively contributing to its scientific dissemination.

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 Institute of Engineering (ISE), primarily within the laboratories of the Department of Food Engineering, under the scientific supervision of Professor Jaime Aníbal.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled January of 2027. The grant contract may be renewed until 31/08/2028, considering 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 depends on the type of research grant applicable to the selected candidate: €1,359.64 for the Research Grant category applicable to holders of a Master's degree and/or doctoral students, or €1,090.98 for the Research Grant category applicable to holders of a Bachelor's degree and/or master's students. 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 the Algarve's Research Fellowship Regulations, the evaluation of candidates will be based solely on the following criteria: (i) academic qualifications and curriculum vitae assessment (40%); (ii) professional and/or research experience in projects or studies involving food product development, physicochemical, microbiological, and sensory quality analysis and control of food products, as well as shelf-life determination and assessment of food products (40%); and (iii) an in-person interview with the candidates (20%).

9. Composition of the Application Evaluation Board: The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate:

   Jaime Miguel Costa Aníbal (Presidente) (Professor coordenador; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);

Jorge Alberto dos Santos Guieiro Pereira (1º Vogal efetivo) (Professor adjunto; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);

Manuel António Dionísio Serra (2º Vogal efetivo) (Professor adjunto; Escola Superior de Gestão, Hotelaria e Turismo);

Patrícia Alexandra Reis Nunes (1º Vogal suplente) (Professor adjunto; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);

10. **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.

11. **Application Deadline and Submission Method:** The competition is open from **30/11/2026 a 15/12/2026.**

12. **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 janibal@ualg.pt, Ref. NOTICE NO. 114/2026. In the aforementioned application, **you must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding process being sent to the indicated email address**.

13. **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.

14. **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.

15. **Scholarship Contract**:

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

16. **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 (50%) – This component aims to assess the extent to which the fellow has successfully achieved the expected results, taking into consideration the approved work plan and the activities carried out during the evaluation period.

b) Behavioral competencies (25%) – This component aims to assess the personal and professional attributes demonstrated by the fellow throughout the evaluation period, including communication, teamwork, responsibility, adaptability, and professional conduct.

c) Personal attitude (25%) – This component aims to evaluate the fellow's level of commitment and availability during the evaluation period, considering factors such as interest in the work undertaken, effort invested, dedication, and motivation.

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, 26th of November of 2026

The Principal Investigator

Professor Jaime Miguel Costa Aníbal