UAlg
UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

NOTICE NO. 118/2026

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

A competition is open for the award of 1 Bolsa de Investigação - Mestre within the scope of the R&D project/institution (28712 –UPSEA - Unraveling the Potential of Advanced Biorefineries for the Development and Upscaling of Algae Ingredients from Invasive Seaweed Biomass for Biotechnological Applications to Reduce EU Strategic Dependencies/University of Algarve), ALGARVE-FEDER-04084700 (STEP) - UPSEA -28712, funded PT2030-SIID -I&D Empresarial - Copromoção), under the following conditions:

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

2. **Admission Requirements**: (i) Master's degree in Molecular Biology, Cell Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology or related scientific fields;
   ii) Previous experience in experimental research activities in a laboratory setting in biochemistry or biotechnology, with knowledge of good laboratory practices and experimental procedures;
   iii) Technical knowledge of biochemical analysis, cell biology and molecular biology methods;
   iv) Experience in cell culture and in the use of in vitro and ex vivo experimental models will be valued, as will experience in bioactivity assays, including cytotoxicity, anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and other relevant biological activities, protein analysis and quantification, gene expression analysis and immunoassays;
   v) Demonstrated interest in pursuing doctoral studies, particularly through the development of a research project within the scientific activities of the UPSEA project, will be valued;
   vi) Proficiency in English and Portuguese at levels B2 and B1, respectively, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR);
   vii) Availability to begin research activities on the scheduled start date of the grant.

   Taking into account 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**: The UPSEA project aims to promote the sustainable valorisation of invasive macroalgal biomass through the development of biorefinery processes and the production of ingredients and bioactive compounds with potential biotechnological applications, particularly in the nutraceutical and cosmetic sectors.

Within the activities carried out by the University of Algarve, the aim is to assess the bioactivity of marine-derived extracts, fractions and compounds using in vitro and ex vivo experimental models and cell biology, molecular biology and biochemical methodologies.
The grant work plan will comprise the following activities:
i) Establishment, maintenance and optimisation of cell culture and ex vivo experimental models to evaluate the bioactivity of marine-derived extracts, fractions, compounds and formulations;
ii) Participation in the development and preparation of formulations containing marine-derived bioactive ingredients, as well as their characterisation and functional assessment;
iii) Assessment of cytotoxicity, biocompatibility and biological safety of extracts, fractions, compounds and formulations, including the determination of suitable concentrations for biological activity assays;
iv) Evaluation of anti-inflammatory, antioxidant and other biological activities relevant to potential nutraceutical and cosmetic applications, using cellular and biochemical assays;
v) Characterisation of cellular responses and molecular mechanisms associated with the biological activities observed, using biochemical and molecular biology techniques;
vi) Participation in citizen science activities carried out through the Algas na Praia® / Seaweeds on the Beach® platform, including the collection, organisation, validation and analysis of data on the occurrence and accumulation of invasive macroalgae, as well as related awareness-raising and scientific outreach activities;
vii) Processing, statistical analysis and interpretation of experimental results, and participation in the preparation of scientific reports and dissemination of project results.

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 laboratories of the Faculty of Sciences and Technology, University of Algarve, under the scientific supervision of Professor/PhD Dina Simes, Assistant Researcher/Phd Carla Viegas and Professor/PhD Ana Grenha.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last 6 months, with the start date scheduled December of 2026. The grant contract may be renewed until 30/11/2029 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 €1359.64. 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).**Candidate evaluation**: In accordance with Article 11(2) of the Research Grant Regulations of the University of Algarve, candidates will be evaluated on the basis of their merit, taking into account their academic qualifications, academic and scientific track record, research experience, and scientific and technical skills relevant to the work plan, according to the following criteria, assessed on a scale of 0 to 20.

(a) academic record, including final bachelor's and master's degree grades and relevance of the scientific training to the work plan — 30%;
(b) previous experience in experimental laboratory research in the area of biochemistry or biotechnology — 15%;
(c) technical knowledge and skills in biochemistry, cell biology and molecular biology — 15%;

(d) experience in cell culture, in vitro and ex vivo models and bioactivity assays — 5%;
(e) scientific track record, including participation in research projects, publications, scientific presentations and other relevant research activities — 15%.
Curriculum assessment accounts for 80% of the final score; the remaining 20% is assigned to the interview. The Evaluation Panel reserves the right not to recommend awarding the grant to candidates whose final score is equal or below 14 out of 20.

8. The evaluation process will include an interview, with a weighting of 20% in the final score, aimed at assessing scientific maturity, the ability to critically analyse and discuss experimental results, autonomy, motivation to carry out research activities, and interest in pursuing further academic training at doctoral level. The three candidates with the highest scores in the curriculum evaluation will be invited for an interview, including any candidates tied for fifth place.
9. **Composition of the Application Evaluation Board**: The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):

   Dina Cristina Fernandes Rodrigues da Costa Simes (Presidente) (Professor associado; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

   Carla Alexandra São Bento Viegas (1º Vogal efetivo) (Colaborador; Centro de Ciências do Mar);

   Ana Margarida Moutinho Grenha (2º Vogal efetivo) (Professor associado com agregação; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

   Luísa Paula Viola Afonso Barreira (1º Vogal suplente) (Professor associado com agregação; Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);

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 **18/11/2026 to 02/12/2026.**
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 dsimes@ualg.pt, Ref. NOTICE NO. 118/2026). 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) Fulfilment of the work plan and scientific objectives established for the evaluation period;
b) Quality, scientific rigour, and ability to carry out the experimental activities;
c) Autonomy, initiative, problem-solving skills, and critical thinking in the performance of research activities;
d) Ability to analyse, interpret, and present the scientific results obtained;
e) Organisation, responsibility, compliance with good laboratory practices, and ability to integrate and work effectively within a team;
f) Contribution to the preparation of scientific reports and to the communication and dissemination of project results.

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, 13 of November of 2026

The Principal Investigator

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Professor (Dina Cristina Fernandes Rodrigues da Costa Simes)

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PORTUGAL 2030
Cofinanciado pela União Europeia