

**CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP**  
**Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/23-2024**

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project “*PTDC/MED-FAR/4834/2021 – Does the context matter for drug action? Context dependency of the long-lasting neurobiological and antidepressant actions of psilocybin*” with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, IP.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

**Scientific Area(s):** Neuroscience.

**Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements:** Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled in a PhD study cycle (in area(s) related to the work plan) can apply.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- MSc degree holder in Neuroscience, Biology, Biochemistry or related areas;
- Animal experimentation course;
- Knowledge of spoken and written English;
- Prior experience in at least 3 of the following competencies:
  - Rodent behavioral testing, with a focus on anxiety- and depression-like behaviors;
  - Experience with animal models of depression;
  - Experience in *ex vivo* field electrophysiological recordings from hippocampal slices;
  - Experience in the field of neuropharmacology.

The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

**Work Plan and Objectives:**

- Assessment of the acute and delayed behavioral actions of the psilocybin, on anxiety- and depression-like behaviors, in animal models;
- Assessment of the effects of psilocybin in functional synaptic plasticity, using electrophysiological recordings.

**Legislation and Applicable Regulation:** Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law nr 40/2004, from 18<sup>th</sup> August in its current form (altered by Decree Law nr 123/2019, 28<sup>th</sup> August) and current Regulation of Fellowships of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt> (approved by Regulation nr 950/2019, from 16<sup>th</sup> December).

**Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions:** The fellowship contract is predicted to start in July 2024, for a period of six (6) months on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project (it is expected to end on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2025).

**Work place and Scientific orientation:** The research activities will be developed at Neuronal Communication & Synaptopathies Laboratory, under the supervision of Ana Sebastião.

**Non-discrimination and equal access policy:** IMM undertakes to ensure compliance with the principles of non-discrimination and equality and to that extent, provides that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due in particular ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

**International environment and experience:** Diversity is a fundamental aspect of the essence of IMM, where researchers and non-researchers of different nationalities, backgrounds and areas of study work together, promoting the exchange of experiences and interactions, contributing to the personal and professional development of each person and to the existence of an international, inclusive and stimulating environment.

**Research Fellows Support Centre:** The Research Fellows Support Centre works on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 08:30AM to 6:00PM at Human Resources Office.

**Fellowship financial conditions:** The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of €1,259.64 in accordance with the defined in FCT table <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.phtml.pt>. The amount will be paid by wire transfer at the end of each month. The fellow will also benefit from a personal accident insurance to execute the proposed research activities as well as the right to Social Security through Voluntary Social Insurance regimen, if wanted, under the terms of Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social, and the contributions costs will be supported by the research project.

**Application documents:** - Motivation Letter in English; - Detailed CV; - MSc certificate; - Animal experimentation certificate (FELASA guidelines); email contact of 1 reference. ***The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.*** In case the applicant does not have yet the required degree certificate, a declaration of honor stating the conclusion of the necessary qualifications for the purposes of this process will be accepted and must be sent by the end date of the call.

**Jury evaluation and selection:** Applications will be evaluated by a jury composed by Doctors Ana M. Sebastião (FMUL/iMM), Sandra Vaz (FMUL/iMM) and Sara Xapelli (FMUL/iMM).

**Selection methods:** The admitted applications will be evaluated taking into account the quality, timeliness and relevance of the curriculum of each candidate, as well as the expressed motivation.

The Curriculum (70%), it will be analyzed qualitatively, and in on the light of its relevance for the work plan and objectives and considering research experience. The motivation and interest for the activities to be performed, will be assessed by analysis of the motivation letter (30%).

**Deadlines and application process:** The call will be open **from May 29<sup>th</sup> until July 13<sup>th</sup> 2024.**

Applications should be submitted through IMM website, by clicking in the “Apply” button below the position job ad. ***The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of the application.***

**Notification of results:** The evaluation results will be announced within 90 days after the termination of the applications submission deadline, by writing and publishing a jury meeting minute at IMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> with all process of recruitment, evaluation and selection including a list of all excluded and admitted candidates and for these last ones, their classification. All admitted candidates will be notified by email.

**Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline:** After notification, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline.

**Selection reserve list:** Not applicable.

**Fellowship contracting:** The Fellowship is granted through the signature of a [contract](#) between IMM and the selected fellow and after the fellow send the following mandatory documents: copy of identification document (in case of non-European citizens is mandatory the work visa / valid resident permit), document proving the required academic degree and the document proving the enrollment in a PhD study cycle.

Applicants with academic degrees obtained abroad will be required to present a certificate of recognition in accordance with the applicable regulation. This document is mandatory only in the contracting phase.

For each Fellowship period an [Activity Report](#) must be prepared by the fellow as well as the [Report](#) by the supervisor.

Lisbon, 28<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The Executive Director of IMM  
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota