

CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship Reference IMM/BII/21-2024

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project “*Programa de Apoio a Bolsas de Investigação Científica*” with the funding support from *Janssen-Cilag Farmacêutica, Lda*.

Scientific Area(s): Human Immunology.

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements: Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled in a in a non-academic degree course in an area related to the work plan can apply.

Are considered “Non-academic degree courses” the ones referred in [paragraph e\) of number 3 of article 4 of Decree-Law nr 74/2006, from 24th March](#), in its current version, as long as they are developed in association and cooperation between a higher education institution and at least one R&D Unit in accordance with the provisions of paragraph e) of Article 3 of FCT Fellowship Regulation.

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

- MSc degree holder in the field of Biomedicine;
- Experience in immunologic studies;
- Previous work involving isolation and culture of human cells;
- Experience in Flow cytometry;
- Knowledge in Molecular Biology.

Work Plan and Objectives:

The work plan co-opts cell and tissue culture systems, in-vitro HIV infection approaches and use of the biosafety-level 3 (BSL-3) facility, flow cytometry, histology, molecular biology techniques and NGS approaches to uncover mechanisms underlying the establishment and maintenance of the human naïve CD4 T cells in individuals with HIV-1 infection, HIV-2 infection and seronegatives, that will translate into new strategies to preserve immune competence throughout ageing and to foster immune recovery in the face of thymus impairment or pro-inflammatory states found in many immune disorders and persistent infections.

The specific objectives are:

1. Reveal the contribute of the thymus to the heterogeneity of the naïve compartment;
2. Discover novel cues to modulate homeostatic proliferation conserving naivety;
3. Better understand the unique behaviour of naïve regulatory T cells;
4. Decipher the impact of a pro-inflammatory microenvironment in naïve CD4 T cells.

Legislation and Applicable Regulation: Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação (Lei n.º 40/2004, de 18 de Agosto, republished in attachment to Decreto-Lei n.º 202/2012, de 27 de Agosto, changed by **Decreto-Lei n.º 123/2019, 28 de Agosto**), current Regulation of Fellowships of iMM and iMM Career By-Law and Assessment regulations.

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in June 2024, for a period of 5 (five) months on an exclusive basis.

Work place and Scientific orientation: The research activities will be developed at Human Immunodeficiency & Immune Reconstitution Laboratory under the supervision of Professor Ana Espada de Sousa.

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 8:30AM 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 applicable regulations. 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; - Detailed CV; - MSc degree certificate; - Contacts of 2 references; - Candidate's declaration of honor indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration. ***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 Afonso Almeida (FMUL/iMM), Ana Espada de Sousa (FMUL/iMM) and Alexandre Raposo (iMM).

Selection methods: Curricular Evaluation (100%).

Deadlines and application process: The call will be open **from May 17th until May 31st 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: A reserve selection list will be created for a period of 3 months (not mandatory).

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 in a non-academic degree course in an area related to the work plan can apply.

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

Lisbon, 16th May 2024

The Executive Director of IMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota

