

Reference IMM/CT/ 45-2024

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for the hiring of a **Computational Medicinal Chemist**, under an **Unifixed-term contract**, with the funding support by Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência (PRR), under the project Centros de Tecnologia e Inovação (CTI).

What iMM seeks

iMM is seeking a dynamic and experienced Computational Medicinal Chemist with a strong background in the biotech/pharma industry. The successful candidate will employ the expertise in computational chemistry, molecular modeling, and state-of-the-art AI technologies for *de novo* drug design to propel our drug discovery and translational research efforts.

Regulation

- Decree-Law nr 57/2016, from 29th August, altered by Law nr 57/2017, from 19th July, that approves a Doctoral Hiring regime to stimulate Scientific and Technological Employment in all knowledge areas (RJEC).
- Portuguese Labor Law, approved by Law nr 7/2009, from 12th February in its current writing.
- Regulatory Decree Nr 11-A / 2017, of 29th December.
- Decree-Law nr 26-B/2023, from 18th April.

1. Work Plan Activities

- Leverage computational and molecular modeling methodologies to design, refine, and evaluate potential therapeutic compounds.
- Work with interdisciplinary teams, including biologists, bioinformaticians, chemists and clinicians, to identify and validate promising leads and drug candidates.
- Implement appropriate algorithms and software for molecular simulation, docking, virtual screening, AI-driven *de novo* drug design, and predict drug-target interactions.
- Analyze and decipher intricate datasets to offer insights into structure-activity relationships (SAR) and make predictions about pharmacokinetic and toxicological properties of compounds.
- Offer computational expertise to steer drug discovery efforts and guide preclinical testing.
- Pursue an active role in pertinent national, EU, and global networks and initiatives on computational chemistry and drug discovery.
- Contribute to grant writing, publications, and presentations in the realms of computational chemistry and drug discovery.
- Stay abreast of the latest advancements in computational medicinal chemistry, especially using emerging digital technologies.

2. Profile of Candidate: Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that hold the following requirements can apply:

- PhD in Computational Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry, or a related discipline.
- Proven experience as a computational medicinal chemist in the biotech/pharma industry is preferred, but experience in academic-led drug discovery centers will also be considered.
- Successful track record in leveraging computational methodologies to fuel drug discovery projects.
- Deep knowledge of drug discovery software suites and a good understanding of AI technologies for *de novo* drug design.
- Knowledge in Quantitative Structure-Activity Relationship techniques (QSAR) will be positively considered.
- Aptitude to thrive in a multidisciplinary, collaborative research environment.
- Proven leadership and management skills, with the ability to inspire and guide a team.
- Proficiency in English, spoken and written.
- Forward thinking, can-do, pro-active attitude.
- The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

3. **Members of the Jury:** According to article nr 13 from RJEC, the jury is composed by Miguel Duarte (President of the Jury), Pedro Silva, and Vanessa Sana Miranda.
4. **Start Date and workplace:** The contract is expected to start in August 2024 and will remain only for the necessary execution period of the work plan; the activities will be developed in iMM installations and/or other necessary locations to their execution.
5. **Monthly remuneration:** Gross monthly Remuneration is 2893,81€, in accordance with subsection a), section 1, article 15 from Law nr 57/2017, 19th July, and with the remuneration position at initial level predicted in article 2 of Regulatory Decree nr 11-A/2017, of 29th December, correspondent to level 44 at Tabela Remuneratória Única, approved by Order nr 1553-C/2008, 31st December and updated by Decree-Law nr 10B/2020, from 20th March as well as Holidays and Christmas allowances subject to the current mandatory taxes according to Portuguese Labor Law. A meal allowance will also be paid in the amount of 6€ per each working day.
6. **Application process:** The call is open from **24th May until 8th July 2024** (30 working days), and the application documents (indicated below) should be submitted, in PDF format, through iMM website by clicking in the “Apply” button below the position job ad:
 - a) Motivation Letter in English;
 - b) Detailed CV;
 - c) PhD Certificate;
 - d) Other documents that applicant may consider to be relevant to support the application.

Note: The non-compliance with these requirements determines the immediate rejection of application.

- 6.1. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: iMM promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and 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.

Pursuant to Decree-Law nr 29/2001 of 3rd February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication / expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.

7. **Evaluation criteria:** The admitted applications will be evaluated taking into account the quality, timeliness and relevance of the profile and curriculum of each candidate and their adequacy to the proposed work plan, in accordance with the following method:
 - **1st Phase:** Curricular evaluation: 65% and Motivation Letter: 25%

Based on the Curriculum, it will be analyzed qualitatively, and in what concerns to its content and relevance for the tasks to be performed, namely: qualifications relevant to the position (25%), experience and results in similar positions (25%) and leadership skills and team management (15%). The candidate's motivation for the position (25%) will be evaluated through the letter of motivation.

- **2nd Phase:** Interview: 10%. The jury will select for interview the 3 candidates who have obtained the highest classification in the first phase.

7.1. The final decision of the jury shall be validated by the Head of the Institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

8. **Results:** Both admitted and excluded candidates list and final classification list shall be posted at IMM website at <https://imm.medicina.ulisboa.pt/jobs/#results> and all admitted candidates will be notified by email.
9. **Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline:** Pursuant to article 121 of the Administrative Procedure Code, after notified, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 30 days, from application deadline.

The present call is exclusively aimed at filling the indicated vacancy and may be terminated until the homologation of the final candidates' ranking list and expires with the respective occupation of the position on offer.

Lisbon, 22nd of May of 2024