

CALL FOR A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
Fellowship Reference IMM/BI/2-2023

Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) opens a call for one research fellowship under the project “*Genetic variability in Plasmodium liver stage schizogony*” - 2022.04143.PTDC with the funding support from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. / MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

Scientific Area: Health Sciences

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements: Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s) that fulfill the necessary conditions to be enrolled 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:

- Holder of a MSc degree in the field of Microbiology or related (mandatory requirement);
- Experience malaria research (mandatory);
- Experience with animal models of malaria, namely *P. berghei* (mandatory);
- Personal license to work with Laboratory Animals equivalent to FELASA Category B (mandatory);
- Experience with microscopy techniques (desired);
- Excellent knowledge of English, spoken and written;
- The international experience of the candidates, although not a determining criterion for selection, will be valued.

NOTE: *In the event the MSc was awarded by a foreigner higher institution, the degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law nr 66/2018, 18th August, and all formalities established there must be fulfilled by applications deadline.* For further information about the procedure, please check [here](#).

Work Plan and Objectives: The development of malaria parasite throughout liver stage (LS) has a major impact in the successful establishment of the disease; however, little is known about *Plasmodium* intra-hepatic replication and the consequences of that. The high and synchronous replication of *Plasmodium* throughout LS, is accompanied by an accumulation of DNA damage. The transformative idea that rapid replication at this early stage of *Plasmodium* life cycle could generate DNA damage, and hence genetic diversity, to the potential benefit of the parasite, remains utterly unexplored. In order to understand the connection between parasite replication capabilities and genetic diversity, the recruited MSc will participate in the following tasks:

- i) assess the interactome of DNA damage marker (γ -H2A) in *Plasmodium* throughout LS,
- ii) assess the genome wide distribution of γ -H2A during LS,
- iii) Reveal the cause(s) of DNA damage.

Legislation and Applicable Regulation: Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação approved by Law nr 40/2004, from 18th August in its current form (altered by Decree Law nr 123/2019, 28th 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 16th December).

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in February 2023, for a period of 12 (twelve) months on an exclusive basis, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project.

Work place and Scientific orientation: The research activities will be developed at Biology & Physiology of Malaria Lab of IMM, under the supervision of Inês Bento, PhD.

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 9:00AM to 6:30PM at Human Resources Office.

Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of **1144,64€** 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; - Detailed CV; - MSc certificate (please check the “NOTE” in *Fellowship recipients*); - Contacts of 1 reference; - 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 Inês Fernandes Bento (iMM), Maria Manuel Mota (iMM) and Sofia Guia Marques (iMM).

Selection methods: The selection will be made based on curriculum evaluation (75%), information provided by the reference (15%) and motivation letter (10%).

Deadlines and application process: The call will be open from 23rd of January 2023 until 3rd of February 2023.

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.

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 non-academic degree course. 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, 20th of January 2023

The Executive Director of IMM
Professor Maria Manuel Dias da Mota