

MARINE SCIENCES LABORATORY

Announcement for the allocation of a Scholarship for Scientific Initiation within the scope of the projects "Support to the National Stranding Network - Alentejo Regional Network (ARROJAL)" and "Monitoring of Marine Environments in the Port of Sines (MAPSi 2021/2023)"

7 of June de 2023

A call for tenders is open for one Scholarship for Scientific Initiation, within the scope of the projects "Support to the National Stranding Network – Alentejo Regional Network (ARROJAL)", financed by national funds through the Fundo Ambiental, and "Monitoring of Marine Environments in the Port of Sines (MAPSi 2021/2023)", financed by the Administration of the Ports of Sines and Algarve, under the following conditions:

Scientific area: Biological Sciences.

Admission requirements:

- frequency of a degree in Biological Sciences or in related areas;
- driving licence;
- national diving licence or equivalent;
- local skipper licence;
- physical robustness indispensable to the exercise of the functions of the scholarship to which is applying;
- a valid licence issued by the competent authority for the handling, transport and collection of samples of stranded marine animals in mainland Portugal (DL 140/99 of 24 April).

Preferential factors will be considered:

- (1) experience in identification of marine mammals and reptiles;
- (2) experience in response to strandings of marine mammals;
- (3) experience in scientific outreach and environmental education activities on marine mammals and reptiles;
- (3) experience in the preparation and preservation of tissue samples for further analysis;
- (3) experience in the sampling of water, intertidal and subtidal hard substrate, in coastal marine environments, and laboratory analysis of coastal marine zooplankton samples.

According to FCT Research Grants Regulation No. 950/2019 of December 16, 2019, article 5, - **BII (Initiation to Research Grants)** cannot be awarded to those who have already benefited from research grants directly or indirectly funded by FCT, awarded under the Research Fellowship Statute.

Work plan:

The tasks to be carried out within the scope of the fellowship include:

- The systematic collection of information on the occurrence and distribution patterns of the main species of marine mammals and reptiles present on the Portuguese mainland coast, taking into consideration strandings of these animals that have occurred on the Alentejo coast;

- the evaluation of the main causes of mortality of stranded animals;
 - the collection of biological samples that allow the characterization of the biology and ecology of the most common species of marine mammals and reptiles, contributing to the tissue bank collections of marine animals;
 - the coordination of effective responses in situations of high mortalities and support to situations of live strandings;
 - the increase of scientific knowledge and Ocean Literacy through the management of collected information and the dissemination of project results;
 - monitoring of coastal marine environments, with emphasis on the sampling of water, intertidal and subtidal hard substrate and indicator organisms (e.g. mussels), and the laboratory analysis of zooplankton.
- It is necessary to be available for frequent trips along the Alentejo coast between Troia and Odeceixe and to carry out regular work at CIEMAR and Monte do Paio.

Applicable legislation and regulations: The granting of the Research Scholarship will be carried out upon the signing of a contract between the University of Évora and the scholarship holder, as set in the template https://www.fct.pt/apoios/Minuta_Contrato_Bolsa.docx, pursuant to the Research Scholarship Statute (Law No. 40/2004 of August 18 and Decree-Law No. 123/2019 of August 28) and in accordance with the legislation and Regulation of Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, IP in force, regulation nº950/2019 of December 16, 2019: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt> and other applicable rules.

Place of work: The work will be developed at the Marine Sciences Laboratory of the University of Évora, in Sines and at the facilities of the Instituto da Conservação da Natureza e das Florestas, in Monte do Paio (Lagoa de Santo André), under the scientific guidance of the Professor João Castro.

Duration of the scholarship: The scholarship will have a duration of 6 months, starting on July 2023. The scholarship contract may be renewed until the end of the budget allocation of the funding projects (ARROJAL and MAPSi).

Amount of monthly maintenance allowance: The amount of the scholarship corresponds to €541,12, according to the table of scholarships awarded directly by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (<https://www.fct.pt/financiamento/programas-de-financiamento/bolsas/>), payments being made monthly, by check or bank transfer.

Selection methods (with the respective value in percentage): *curriculum* evaluation (40%), experience in identification of marine mammals (10%); experience in response to strandings of marine mammals (10%); experience in scientific outreach and environmental education activities on marine mammals and reptiles (10%); experience in the preparation and preservation of tissue samples for further analysis (10%); experience in the sampling of water, intertidal and subtidal hard substrate, in coastal marine environments, and laboratory analysis of coastal marine zooplankton samples (20%).

Composition of the Selection Jury:

President - Professor João José Roma de Paços Pereira de Castro, 1st Effective Member - Professor Teresa Paula Gonçalves Cruz, 2nd Effective Member - Doctor David Miguel de Azevedo Jacinto, 1st Alternate Member - Professor Maria Helena Soares Martins Adão and 2nd Alternate Member - Professor Pedro Miguel Raposo de Almeida.

Advertising/notification of results: The final results of the evaluation will be publicized, through a list ordered by final grade obtained, posted in a visible and public place at the Marine Sciences Laboratory, and the approved candidate will be notified by email.

To ensure the right of prior hearing of interested parties, the Final Classification project will be announced by any written means to all interested parties.

After communicating the provisional list of the results of the evaluation, candidates have a period of 10 working days to express their opinion in a preliminary hearing of interested parties.

Application deadline and form of presentation of applications: The tender is open from 12 to 23 June 2023, and the results of the selection shall be published by 30 June 2023.

Applications must be formalized, obligatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents: *curriculum vitae* of the candidate and photocopy of the qualification's certificates and proof of enrolment in a degree course in the area of biological sciences. In the application letter, the candidate, obligatorily, must declare that he/she is physically fit to carry out the duties of the scholarship to which he/she is applying.

For the purposes of application, the evidence may be replaced by a declaration of honour signed by the candidate, but the failure to demonstrate that evidence, in the contracting phase, possession of the required degree on the deadline for application or the non-presentation of proof of enrolment in the study cycle or non-degree course, for scholarships with this component, imply the cancellation of the candidate's application.

Academic degrees obtained in foreign countries require registration by a Portuguese Institution in accordance with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16 and Ordinance No. 33/2019, of January 25th.

The presentation of the certificate is mandatory for the signing of the contract. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/recognition?plid=374>.

Applications should be sent by email to:

Professor João Castro
Marine Sciences Laboratory
University of Évora
e-mail: jjc@uevora.pt



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