



Call for PhD Studentships – IBB Call 2024

PhD programme in Integrative Biology and Biomedicine, Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência

The Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC) from the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian opens a call for up to 8 PhD Studentships. These studentships are open in the context of the PhD Programme in Integrative Biology and Biomedicine from the Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica António Xavier, from the Nova University of Lisbon, with an academic partnership with Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada, and organised and hosted entirely at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência.

1. APPLICATION

This call is open from 19/02/2024 to 29/03/2024 23:59 (Lisbon time). Apart from references, applications and all supporting documents must be uploaded here: [IBB application platform](#) and the necessary references must be sent to ibb2024@igc.gulbenkian.pt. Further details are provided below and can be found in the application platform.

Providing false declarations or committing acts of plagiarism by applicants will lead to excluding the application without prejudice of taking other corrective and punitive disciplinary measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

These PhD Studentships are intended to finance the performance, by the fellow, of research activities leading to obtaining the PhD degree at the IBB Programme. The research activities must be developed within the PhD Programme in Integrative Biology and Biomedicine from the Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica António Xavier, from the Nova University of Lisbon, with an academic partnership with Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada, and organised and hosted entirely at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência.

The research activities leading to acquiring the PhD degree will take place at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, the host institution of the studentship holders, without prejudice to work carried out in collaboration between more than one institution.



As a rule, the duration of the studentship is annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months) and cannot be granted for a period less than three consecutive months.

3. RECIPIENTS

The PhD studentships are aimed at applicants who comply with the requirements to enroll and intend to develop research activities leading to obtaining the PhD academic degree within the scope of the aforementioned Doctoral Programme in Integrative Biology and Biomedicine.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

4.1. Applicant's Admissibility Requirements

Candidates of all citizenships can apply for this call, and also:

- Stateless individuals;
- Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD studentship, it is necessary to hold a bachelor's or master's degree in biological and biomedical sciences or related areas. We also encourage applications from candidates with bachelor's or master's degree in the exact sciences areas (physics, mathematics, chemistry, engineering, etc).

4.2. Application's Admissibility Requirements

Only complete applications are considered. After the deadline, the following elements must be uploaded (application platform) or received by email (reference letters). All documents must be in English.

- Copy of the identity card/citizen card/passport (PDF document to attach);
- Applicant's Curriculum vitae (2 pages maximum);
- Motivation letter (5000 character limit);
- References letters, including a letterhead, signed, contact information and professional status (minimum 2 letters);



- Academic degree certificates specifying the final grade and, whenever possible, indicating the grade for each subject. Alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour of completing the bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application deadline. This must include all courses taken/ completed during the undergraduate and master's degrees.

If a degree has not yet been received by the application deadline, a declaration of honour must be provided, stating that such a degree will be granted by the programme's starting date (02.09.2024). Proof of academic degrees has to be provided before the fellowship can be granted.

5. Work Plan and Scientific Supervision of PhD Studentships

The first academic year of the PhD Programme in Integrative Biology and Biomedicine includes one semester of advanced courses covering various aspects of biology and biomedicine. After completing this semester, each fellow defines their research project by choosing one or more laboratories of the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência, where they will carry out the research work leading to the PhD degree in the remaining seven semesters. Co-supervisors from the Institute of Molecular Medicine (IMM) can also be chosen. During the initial phase of doctoral training, the fellow's supervisor is the Director of the PhD Programme in Integrative Biology and Biomedicine. Once the research project leading to a doctoral degree has started, the supervisors and, when applicable, co-supervisors of the fellows become the Principal Investigators of the host laboratories.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation considers the candidate's merit and motivation, assessed based on the documents submitted in the application. Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale of 1 to 10 in each of the following evaluation criteria:

- Criterion A – CV that reflects academic, scientific and professional merit, with a weight of 0.40:
 - Sub-criterion A1 - Final classification in academic degree(s), weighing 0.1. The score for this sub-criterion will be the arithmetic mean of the classifications in academic degrees adjusted to



a scale of 1 to 10, with the bachelor's degree having a weight of 0.5 and the master's degree also 0.5.

- Sub-criterion A2 - Quality of scientific and professional activity, weighing 0.3.
- Criterion B - Letter of motivation, with a weight of 0.40:
 - The evaluation of the motivation letter takes into account:
 - the motivation to apply for the specific Programme;
 - how the Programme can contribute to the individual career development;
 - alignment of individual professional objectives with the objectives of the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência.
- Criterion C - Letters of recommendation, with a weight of 0.20. The evaluation of letters of recommendation focuses on the following:
 - on the candidate's intellectual potential;
 - curiosity and scientific commitment;
 - academic curriculum;
 - experience and competence in research.

Applications will be ordered according to the weighted average obtained in each of the 3 criteria above, translated into the formula: **Documental classification = (0.40 × A) + (0.40 × B) + (0.20 × C).**

Candidates whose documental classification equals or exceeds 8 will be selected. In case of a tie-break, candidates will be ordered based on the classifications attributed to each evaluation criterion in the following order of precedence: Interview Classification, criterion A, criterion B, and criterion C. Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final classification of less than 8 points are not eligible for studentship.



7. EVALUATION PANEL

The evaluation panel of applications consists of the following members from Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência:

- Caren Norden;
- Ilana Gabanyi;
- Isabel Gordo;
- Marco Fumasoni;
- Moritz Treeck (Panel coordinator);
- Pablo Sartori;
- Ricardo Henriques.

The evaluation panel will analyse applications considering the evaluation criteria disclosed in point 6.1. All panel members recognise responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as impartiality, declaration of potential conflict of interest (COI) and confidentiality. During the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

For each application, the panel will produce a final evaluation report where the arguments that led to the classifications attributed to each evaluation criteria are presented clearly, coherently and consistently.

A panel meeting report will be produced from the evaluation panel meetings. The panel meeting report and its attachments must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all evaluation panel members;
- Identification of all excluded applications and corresponding justification;
- The panel adopted methodology used for particular cases;
- Final evaluation report for each application candidate;
- Provisional classification and ranking list of all the applications evaluated by the panel, in descending order of the final score;
- List of COI declared by all the panel members;
- Eventual vote and competence delegations for justified absences.



8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE, DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR CLAIMS AND APPEALS

The evaluation results are communicated individually by email to all candidates. Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants with an unfavourable provisional decision may use their right to dispute it during the preliminary hearing phase, which takes place within 10 working days. The final decision will be disclosed after analysing the applicants' arguments in the preliminary hearing. Offers must be accepted within 15 working days.

9. STUDENTSHIP

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted to the studentship holder, according to the [IGC Research Fellowship Regulations](#), approved by the FCT. The defined value for the starting year is 1.350 Euros monthly. Registration, enrollment, or tuition fees are paid by IGC directly to ITQB, where the scholarship holder is enrolled.

10. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the studentship always depends on the approval of the student's progress stated in:

- a. Student report of annual activities and progress;
- b. Declaration issued by the supervisor(s) attesting the work plan development and the evaluation of the respective activities;
- c. Thesis committee report attesting to the work plan's progress and evaluation.

11. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

IBB promotes a non-discrimination policy and equal access. Thus, no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged, or deprived of any right or exempted from duty. This includes ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

Oeiras, 16.02.2024
