



PUBLIC NOTICE/0046/2024

**PUBLIC NOTICE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR THE POST OF POST-DOCTORAL RESEARCHER**

PURSUANT TO DECREE-LAW NO. 57/ 2016 OF 29 AUGUST

Internal Reference: CBR-2024-06

1. Framework

The Rector of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Prof. Dr. Isabel Capelo Gil, hereby announces the opening of an international call for applications for one vacancy of junior doctoral researcher to perform duties of scientific research and knowledge transfer (with an exclusivity clause), in the scientific field of Biology, Biochemistry, Bioengineering or similar fields. The research activities will be carried out at the Católica Biomedical Research Centre (CBR), integrated at the Católica Medical School of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, in Sintra, within the framework of the Control of protein trafficking in vascular physiology and pathology 2022.09228.PTDC, funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia.

Description of the research activities: Task 1 - Identify the molecular changes in EC vesicular trafficking upon flow stimulation. To profile the proteome and surface of endothelial cells in control and KD, under static or flow conditions, to identify molecules that have an impact on vessel function. The candidates will then be validated using the RUSH system developed by Franck Perez's team (Institut Curie, France). Task 2 - Assess whether blood flow controls the trafficking of directional and polarized endothelial cell proteins during angiogenesis. We will infect HUVECs with a geneX-GFP lentivirus and perform live imaging of endothelial cells subjected to different levels of shear stress and study vesicle delivery patterns as a function of flow velocity. Task 3 - Investigate the effects of impaired vesicular trafficking on atherosclerosis. To this end, we will analyze geneX EC-specific KO and WT mice injected with AAV8-Pcsk9-D377Y virus to promote atherosclerotic plaque formation in C57BL/6J mice and analyze the effects of loss of geneX function on plaque formation.

2. Applicable legislation

Decree-Law no. 57/2016 of 29 August, amended by Law no. 57/2017 of 19 July, in its current wording, which sets out the framework for the hiring of post-doctoral academics, aimed at fostering scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC), without prejudice to the specific regulations applicable to the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

3. Workplace

The workplace is located at the Sintra facilities of Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

4. Remuneration

Gross monthly pay is €2.294,95, plus meal allowance, to which will be added annual leave and Christmas allowances.



5. Admission requirements

Any national, foreign, or stateless candidates who hold a doctoral degree in Biology, Biochemistry, Bioengineering or related scientific fields, and who furthermore hold a scientific and professional curriculum vitae whose profile is suited to the activities to be performed, can submit their application. If the doctoral degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, said degree must comply with the provisions of Portuguese legislation regarding the recognition of foreign degrees. For those purposes, the requirements described in **point no. 11** of this public notice must be considered.

5.1. General requirements

- PhD in the field of Biology, Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Immunology or related scientific areas.
- Motivation to work with animal models.
- Good scientific output for career level.
- Fluency in written and spoken English.
- Proactivity, autonomy and critical thinking.
- Ability to handle large amounts of information.

5.2. Specific requirements

- Accreditation by DGAV as a competent person to perform procedures and euthanasia in rodents.
- Expertise in rodent colony management.
- Expertise in biological sample collection methods and substance administration techniques.
- Experience in cellular and molecular biology.
- Experience in cloning, cell culture, and transfection of cells, preferably endothelial cells.
- Experience in immunofluorescence, microscopy and image analysis.
- Expertise in purification and characterization of cellular populations by flux cytometry, preferably endothelial cells.
- Previous experience in supervision and mentoring.

6. Selection process

The selection process must comply with article 5 of the RJEC.

7. Assessment criteria

The assessment criteria are the following: scientific output and its relevance, participation in scientific projects and conferences, student supervision, scientific dissemination activities, knowledge transfer, and other relevant activities and experience. The assessment process additionally includes an interview with the candidates ranked in the top three positions.

The final candidate classification shall be given on a scale of 0 to 100. The value shall be invariably calculated taking into account that, for each item, only those activities relevant to the field of the present call for applications are to be considered, with the following weighting:

1. Scientific and curricular background (SCB)

- a) Scientific and technological output: 40%;
- b) Applied or practice-based research activities: 25%;



- c) Knowledge extension and dissemination activities: 10%;
- d) Motivation Letter: 15%

1st stage classification = 90% SCB

Candidates who obtain a mark equal to or greater than 65% in the 1st phase classification will be called to the 2nd phase of the competition, which includes an interview, and a maximum of 4, ranked in descending order of classification. For the interview phase, candidates are invited to make a presentation, which can be in person or through a digital platform, in which the following information must be included:

- Academic background;
- Summary of major scientific discoveries;
- Details of technical and professional competences related to the proposed activity plan.

2nd stage

Interview (I) - 10%

- a) Scientific curiosity and interest in the work plan: 5%;
- b) Ease of communication and critical thinking: 3%;
- c) English language proficiency: 2%.

Candidates who are interviewed will be awarded a new classification in addition to the one initially indicated, which will be based on the following formula:

$$\text{Final classification} = \text{1st stage classification} + 10\% \text{ Interview}$$

Candidates who obtain a score above 80% will be invited to the position of researcher, ranked in descending order of classification.

8. Tender selection panel

Pursuant to article 13 of the RJEC, the tender selection panel shall be formed by:

President of the Jury: Prof. Dr. Cláudio Franco;

Other members: Prof. Dr. Raquel Oliveira; Prof. Dr. Maria João Amorim and Dr. Ana Figueiredo.

9. Deliberation and publication

The panel shall deliberate by means of roll-call voting based on the adopted and disclosed selection criteria, with no abstentions allowed. Minutes of panel meetings shall be taken. These shall contain a summary of events, as well as details of the votes cast by each of the members and their respective reasoning. After all selection criteria have been applied, the panel shall prepare a ranked list of approved candidates and their respective classification. The panel's final decision shall be approved by the Rector, who shall also approve the hiring of the selected candidate.

The ranked list of approved candidates will be posted at the Sintra facilities of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, located at Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Campus de Sintra, Estrada Octávio Pato 2635-631 Rio de Mouro, Portugal and will be published on [Católica Biomedical Research Centre | FM-WEBSITE \(ucp.pt\)](https://cbr.fm.ucp.pt/) <https://cbr.fm.ucp.pt/>. Candidates will be notified by email once this list has been made available.



10. Preliminary hearing and final decision deadline

After notification of the results, candidates have ten working days to respond. In the following five working days (counting from the end of the candidates' response period), the panel's final decision is issued.

11. Formal application procedure

Applications are formalized by sending the required documentation to cfranco@ucp.pt.

Applications must be submitted in English.

Applications shall include the following documents:

- a) Curriculum vitae, highlighting the scientific and curricular course (of the past five years);
- b) Doctoral Certificate with date of admission to the degree;
- c) Motivation letter;
- d) Contact details (name, affiliation, and email address) of at least two references.

If the Doctoral Degree has been awarded by a non-Portuguese higher education institution, said degree must comply with the provisions of the Portuguese legislation on the recognition of foreign degrees, as set out in Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of August 16th. Entering into a contract with the selected candidate is conditional on the submission of the formal document.

For additional information on this matter candidates are advised to check the website of the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES): <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>.

12. Application deadline

Candidates may submit their application, pursuant to the terms mentioned in the previous point, from July 22, 2024 until August 5, 2024 (until 5pm, Continental Portugal time).

Candidates who do not comply with the application's prerequisites or who fail to submit proof of meeting the requirements stated in the present public notice shall be excluded from consideration. In case of doubt, the panel is entitled to request that candidates present further documentation attesting to their written statements. Failure to submit the requested clarification, information, or documents, within five working days of being requested to do so, determines the dismissal of the application.

Any false statements made or provided by the candidates are punishable by law.

13. Privacy policy

Universidade Católica Portuguesa is the controller responsible for the processing of Personal Data in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 – General Regulation on Data Protection.

The personal data submitted within the scope of this tender procedure is processed within the framework of said tender procedure only, and will be treated by Universidade Católica Portuguesa with the purpose of verifying the fulfillment, by the candidates, of the assumptions established in the applicable legislation for their contracting. Opposition to the processing of data by the candidates will make it impossible to accept the application and, therefore, to analyze and evaluate it.

The personal data of the Data Subject, if it be indispensable for the fulfillment of the obligations of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, may be conveyed to third parties, namely to the Financing Entities identified in this announcement.

The data retention period shall correspond to the legally defined period of five years.



The Data Subject is entitled to oppose to the collection and processing of data, has the right to verification, the right to rectification, the right to deletion, and the right to restriction of processing of the data collected. However, the exercise of such rights may be excluded when the personal data is used to protect public interest, namely in the detection and prevention of crimes or when subject to professional rules of confidentiality.

The Data Subject has the right of access and portability of the data.

Rights of Personal Data Subjects: <https://www.ucp.pt/rights-data-subjects>.

For purposes of exercising the respective rights, contact the University through the e-mail address compliance.rgpd@ucp.pt or by using the address found at the end of this announcement, through the means set out in "Contacts for further information".

The Data Subject is always entitled to contact and file a complaint with the Comissão Nacional de Proteção de Dados (Portuguese Supervisory Authority for Personal Data).

14. Non-discrimination and equal access policy

Universidade Católica Portuguesa actively 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, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, family and economic conditions, instruction, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, and/or union membership.

15. Final remarks

The present call for applications is exclusively destined to fill this specific vacancy and can be terminated at any time up to the approval of the final candidate list. The call for applications expires once the vacancy has been filled.

The present call for applications and the contract signed as a result thereof shall only take effect if financing conditions are met.

The present call for applications may be canceled when it is vacant, when any case of force majeure occurs, or when other reasons of a budgetary nature, occurring after the opening of the competition, determine it.

The selected candidate shall be hired by Universidade Católica Portuguesa as a junior researcher under an uncertain term contract (contrato a termo incerto), predicted to start on September 1, 2024 with the estimate duration of 24 months (duration of the activities) which will never, under any circumstances, be superior to 24 months.

16. Contacts for further information

Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Campus de Sintra, Estrada Octávio Pato 2635-631 Rio de Mouro, Portugal
Human Resources Department

drh.sede@ucp.pt; 217 214 031/2

Lisbon, 8 July 2024

The Rector

