



**MED – Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development**

**Master (MSc) Research scholarship – 1 position**

March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022

A call for tenders is open for one Master (MSc) Research Scholarship within the scope of the project **NemaWAARS** - A motif to unveil mechanisms of parasitism gene regulation in the pinewood nematode as a target for disease control and plant resistance, **PTDC/ASP-PLA/1108/2021**, financed by national funds through FCT/MCTES under the following conditions:

**Scientific area:** Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, Biological sciences or similar.

**Admission requirements:** Master degree (MSc) in Biology, Biochemistry, Biotechnology, or related areas. Candidates should have experience in molecular biology and genetics (DNA/RNA extraction, cloning, cDNA synthesis, RNA interference); and some Nematology knowledge. Good knowledge of spoken and written English are essential. We are looking for motivated person with high degree of initiative and available to work at the partner institute (Oeiras). The candidate should be a PhD student or master enrolled in a non-academic degree courses.

As set forth FCT Research Scholarship Regulation No. 950/2019 of December 16, 2019, article 3 and 6, candidates for “BI” (Research Grants) must comply as a rule condition for the award of the scholarship, the effective inclusion in study cycles leading to the attribution of academic degrees or in courses not leading to an academic degree. Courses that do not confer an academic degree correspond to the courses provided for in subparagraph e) of paragraph 3 of article 4 of Decree-Law No. 74/2006 of 24 March and must be developed in a higher education institution in association with at least one R&D unit, including a course plan in one or several research areas of the unit.

**Work plan:**

The candidate will participate in all activities of the project NemaWAARS which includes functional validation of transcription factors encoded genes that regulate the parasitism-related genes from the plant-parasitic nematode *Bursaphelenchus xylophilus*; spatial localization of mRNA by *in situ* hybridization; gene *knockdown* by RNAi; *in planta (in vitro)* assays; analysis of transcriptomic and proteomic datasets; scientific reports and papers.

**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](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 NemaLab, MED, Pólo da Mitra, University of Évora, under the scientific supervision of Dr Maria Margarida Espada.

**Duration of the scholarship:** The scholarship will have a duration of 6 months, starting in April 2022. The scholarship contract may be renewed until the end of the funding project's budget allocation (PTDC/ASP-PLA/1108/2021- NemaWAARS).

**Amount of monthly maintenance allowance:** The amount of the scholarship corresponds to €1144,64, according to the table of scholarships awarded directly by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (<http://fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>), payments being made monthly, by check or bank transfer.

**Selection methods:** Applications will be evaluated according to the analysis of the documents presented and based in the following evaluation criteria: Curriculum (20%) (HA), adequacy for executing the project and motivation letter (20%) (AP), work experience and references (40%) (EP) and interview (20%) (E).

The results will be expressed by the formula  $CF = 0,2HA+0,4EP+0,2AP+0,2E$ .

#### **Composition of the Selection Jury:**

President: Dr Maria Margarida Espada, University of Évora;  
1<sup>st</sup> Jury member: Dr Cláudia Vicente Letras, University of Évora;  
2<sup>nd</sup> Jury member: Prof. Dr Manuel Galvão de Melo e Mota, University of Évora;  
1<sup>st</sup> Substitute: Dr Paulo Vieira, USDA  
2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute: Dr Maria de Lurdes Inácio, INIAV.

**Advertising/notification of results:** The final results of the evaluation will be publicized, through an ordered list by final grade obtained posted in a visible and public place at MED, being the selected candidate approved 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 submission of applications:** The tender is open from March 7, 2022, to March 21, 2022 and the results of the selection will be published by March 28, 2022.

Applications must be formalized, obligatorily, by sending an application letter with the following documents: Motivation letter, *Curriculum Vitae*, degree certificate, reference or recommendation letter and other supporting documents considered relevant. Applications and reference letter should be sent independently by e-mail with the subject "NemaWAARS\_MSc". Applications should be sent in a single PDF file named "NemaWAARS\_MSc\_*last name*.pdf". Similarly, the reference letter file should be named "NemaWAARS\_MSc\_*last name*\_RefName.pdf".

For the purposes of application, the evidence may be replaced by a declaration of honor 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 enrollment 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 must be sent by email to:

Dr Maria Margarida Espada

University of Évora

email: [mespada@uevora.pt](mailto:mespada@uevora.pt)

email subject: "NemaWAARS\_MSc"