UNIVERSITY OF ÉVORA
School of Science and Technology / MED — Mediterranean Institute for Agriculture, Environment and Development

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ONE RESEARCH GRANT (MSc HOLDER)

Ref. OptiGenPIG/BI/1/2026

Genomics, Multi-Omics Data and Science Communication

1. Framework

Applications are invited for **one (1) Research Grant (BI) for holders of a master's degree** within the project **OptiGenPIG — Artificial-intelligence-based genomic optimisation algorithm: proof of concept applied to precision animal breeding of the Alentejano pig**, funded by the Alentejo Regional Programme 2021–2027 (Intervention Typology RSO1.1-01-01 — Scientific and technological research), reference ALT2030-FEDER-02677200, under the responsibility of the Principal Investigator Prof. Andreia J. Amaral.

The grant supports the genomic and multi-omics data production and organisation components of the project, as well as its communication and dissemination activities, offering advanced training in sequencing techniques, large-scale data analysis and science communication.

2. Scientific area

Bioinformatics, Molecular Biotechnology, Animal Genetics, Biology, Veterinary Sciences, or related scientific areas.

3. Applicable legislation

- Research Fellow Statute (Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação), as currently in force;
- Research Grant Regulations of FCT, I.P., as currently in force;
- Research Grant Regulations of the University of Évora
- Funding rules of the Alentejo Regional Programme 2021–2027.

4. Purpose and activities

The grant holder will support sample management and the preparation of biological material for sequencing, including DNA extraction and quality control; the initial processing, verification and structured organisation of sequencing data on high-performance computing infrastructure; the processing and integration of multi-omics data and comparative analyses of genetic variability across breeds; and the project communication and dissemination activities, namely the management and updating of the institutional website and social media and the production of outreach content. The grant holder will receive specific training in science communication.

The detailed work plan, including the schedule of project activities and milestones, will be made available to the selected candidate.

5. Admission requirements

5.1. Mandatory requirements

- Hold a **master's degree** in Bioinformatics, Molecular Biotechnology, Animal Genetics, Biology, Veterinary Sciences or a related field, or be in a position to complete the master's degree by the grant start date;

- Be **enrolled**, at the date the grant contract is signed, in a study cycle leading to an academic degree (master's, integrated master's or doctorate) **or** in a non-degree course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, as required by the Research Grant Regulations for this grant type;
- Knowledge of biological data analysis and of Linux/command-line environments, with basic programming skills in R or Python;
- Knowledge of English allowing the reading of scientific literature and communication in an international context;
- Applicants must meet all further eligibility conditions set out in the Research Fellow Statute and in the applicable Research Grant Regulations.

Note: enrolment in a non-degree course, where applicable, is a legal condition for signing the grant contract in this category. The University of Évora will provide information on the courses available for this purpose.

5.2. Preferred qualifications (scored in the evaluation)

- Experience with in vivo assays, or breeding farm animals;
- Laboratory experience in **DNA extraction and nucleic acid quality control**, particularly for sequencing;
- Previous experience, even in an academic context, with **next-generation sequencing (NGS) data** and bioinformatics tools;
- Knowledge of **data management and organisation** (databases, version control, FAIR data practices);
- Experience or training in **science communication**, website management (e.g. WordPress) and social media, or production of graphic or audiovisual content;
- Demonstrated interest in animal genetics and breeding and availability for occasional work on farms;
- Driving licence and availability to travel within the scope of the project.

6. Supervision and workplace

The work will be carried out at the University of Évora under the scientific supervision of Prof. Andreia J. Amaral (Principal Investigator), with the collaboration of Prof. João Pedro Lebre Magalhães Pereira (Task 2) and Prof. Rui Charneca (animal selection and handling, Task 1).

7. Duration, regime and grant value

- **Duration:** 12 months, expected to start in **december of 2026**, under an exclusivity regime, in accordance with the Research Fellow Statute. Any renewal is subject to the project budget and to the applicable legal limits.
- **Monthly maintenance allowance:** €1 359,64 (research grant value table in force for 2026, to be confirmed at the date of publication), paid monthly by bank transfer.
- **Other costs:** personal accident insurance and social insurance scheme, under the applicable legal terms.
- The award of this grant does not create an employment relationship and is held under an exclusivity regime.

8. Selection methods and evaluation criteria

Selection is based on **curriculum evaluation (70%)**, complemented by an **interview (30%)** with the best-ranked candidates in the curriculum evaluation (up to a maximum of five). All scores are expressed on a 0–20 scale, rounded to two decimal places.

8.1. Curriculum evaluation — weight 70%

Criterion	Weight
A1. Academic background: field alignment and grades obtained in the bachelor's and master's degrees	25%
A2. Experience in biological data analysis and bioinformatics (including master's dissertation, internships and academic projects)	25%
A3. Laboratory experience (DNA extraction, quality control, sample management)	20%
A4. Science communication skills (website and social media management, content production, outreach activities)	15%
A5. Motivation and other merits (motivation letter, previous grants, training, publications or presentations)	15%

8.2. Interview — weight 30%

Criterion	Weight
B1. Motivation and fit of the candidate's background to the work plan	40%
B2. Organisational skills, autonomy and teamwork	30%
B3. Communication skills, including in English	30%

The final score (FS) is calculated as **FS = 0.70 × CE + 0.30 × I**. No grant will be awarded to candidates scoring below **12 points**, and the call may be closed without award if no candidate meets the required profile. The panel may waive the interview stage where the curriculum evaluation allows an unambiguous ranking, duly justified in the minutes; in that case the final score equals the curriculum evaluation.

9. Selection panel

- **Chair:** Prof. Andreia J. Amaral (Principal Investigator);
- **Members:** Prof. Rui Charneca; Prof. João Pedro Lebre Magalhães Pereira;
- **Alternates:** Prof. Francisco Coelho; Prof. Ana Faustino.

10. Application documents

Applications must include the following documents in PDF format:

1. Motivation letter (maximum one page);
2. Detailed curriculum vitae;
3. Bachelor's and master's degree certificates with final grades, or an institutional declaration of completion or expected completion;
4. Proof of enrolment in a study cycle or non-degree course, where already available, or a commitment statement that enrolment will be secured by the date the grant contract is signed;
5. Copy of identification document;

6. Portfolio or examples of science communication work, where applicable (optional);
7. Any other relevant supporting documents (training certificates, recommendation letters — optional, maximum two).

Failure to submit the documents listed in points 1 to 3 results in exclusion. Under the applicable legislation, supporting documents may be replaced at application stage by a sworn statement, with proof required at the contracting stage.

11. Deadline and submission

The call is open 13 of november of 2026 to 27 of november of 2026 and the results presented up to 30 de novembro of 2026. Applications must be sent by e-mail to para andreia.fonseca@uevora.pt , stating the reference **OptiGenPIG/BI/1/2026** in the subject line. Applications may be written in Portuguese or English.

This notice is published on the institutional website of the University of Évora, on the EURAXESS portal and through any other legally required channels.

12. Results and prior hearing

Evaluation results will be communicated to candidates by e-mail. Candidates may exercise their right to a **prior hearing within 10 working days**, under the Portuguese Administrative Procedure Code. The final decision may be subject to a **complaint within 15 working days** or an **appeal to the institution's highest body within 30 working days** of notification.

13. Equality and non-discrimination policy

The University of Évora actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. No candidate may be privileged, benefited, prejudiced or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on grounds of ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, 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 beliefs, or trade union membership.

Applications are welcome from national citizens, citizens of other EU Member States and of third countries, as well as stateless persons and holders of political refugee status.

ANNEX I

MINUTE SCHOLARSHIP CONTRACT

Between,

FIRST PARTY: The_____ (name of organisation), com sede em _____ with registered office at _____ (address of registered office of organisation), with tax number _____, represented in this act by _____ (name of representative of organisation), in the capacity of _____ (Director/President) of the contracting/financing organisation, hereinafter referred to as the "First Party", and

SECOND PARTY: _____ (*name of grantee*), holder of ID card/passport no. _____ (*ID card/passport no*.) and taxpayer no. _____(*taxpayer no.),* resident at _____(*address of grantee*), hereinafter referred to as the "Second Party".

whereas,

The application requirements for the award of the scholarship under the call _____ (*call identification / call notice reference*) have been met, the process of evaluating the candidates and publicising the results has been completed and the required documentation has been received.

This scholarship contract is entered into in good faith and mutually accepted, under the terms of the Research Fellow Statute, and is governed by the following clauses:

FIRST CLAUSE

The First Party undertakes to award the Second Party a grant _____ (type of grant and reference of the call for tenders), within the scope of the project _____(type of project) / R&D unit with the reference _____ (reference of the project or unit) and with the title _____(title),

(Reference should be made to the sources of funding for the project/unit).
- with 100% OE funding - Mention of funding: financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P./MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC)
- With FEDER co-financing - Mention of funding:
Financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) of the European Union, through (indicate which Operational Programme it finances) Portugal 2030 or other programmes that may succeed it) starting at _____ (date of start of the scholarship), for a period of ____ months, possibly renewable (as defined in the call for proposals).

SECOND CLAUSE

In the alternative, the FCT Research Grant Regulations apply, of which the Second Party declares that it is aware.

THIRD CLAUSE

The Second Party undertakes to carry out the attached work plan, the content of which he/she declares that he/she has taken full cognisance of and accepts unreservedly, from the above-mentioned start date and on an exclusive dedication basis, under the terms of article 5th of the Research Fellow Statute.

FOURTH CLAUSE

The Second Party will carry out the work at _____ (*name of the host institution as defined in Article 3(g) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations*), which acts as the host institution, with _____ (*name of the supervisor and affiliation institution)* as the scientific supervisor.

FIFTH CLAUSE

1. The monthly maintenance allowance awarded is _____ (€...,00).

2. The Second Grantor also benefits from personal accident insurance for the duration of the grant, the conditions of which he/she declares to have read and accepted without reservation.
3. The following scholarship components are also added _____
(*specify the applicable components in the terms set out in the FCT Research Grant Regulations*).

SIXTH CLAUSE

The First Party may cancel the grant and the Second Party may be obliged to refund all or part of the sums received in the following cases:

a) a) Serious and repeated failure to comply with the Second Party's obligations under the Research Grant Holder Statute and the FCT Research Grant Regulations, for reasons attributable to the Second Party;
b) b) A negative evaluation of the Second Grantor's performance by the supervisor or the host organisation under the terms of the FCT Research Grant Regulations;
c) c) False declarations by the Second Granting Party on matters relevant to the award and renewal of the grant or to the assessment of its development.

SEVENTH CLAUSE

Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous clause, this contract shall terminate automatically:

a) Upon completion of the activity plan;
b) End of the period for which the scholarship is awarded;
c) Repeated non-compliance by one of the parties;
d) Revocation by mutual agreement;
e) Establishment of a legal employment relationship with the host organisation.

EIGHTH CLAUSE

1. The rights and duties of the parties are those resulting from the provisions of the Research Fellow Statute.

2. The Second Party declares that he/she has read the Research Fellow Statute and the applicable Regulation(s) and undertakes to comply with their provisions.

NINTH CLAUSE

It is agreed between the parties, that in case of need and to settle all questions arising from this contract, the District Court of _____ (*name of the District*) shall have jurisdiction, expressly waiving any other.

TENTH CLAUSE

Any changes to be made to the contract in the course of its performance shall be the subject of prior written agreement.

ELEVENTH CLAUSE

1. This contract shall take effect on the date it is signed by both parties.
2. The grant awarded under the terms of the FIRST CLAUSE of this contract may be renewed for additional periods of (...) months, up to a maximum of (...) months, under the terms of article 15 of the FCT Scholarship Regulations.
3. [ONLY FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS, otherwise withdraw]: The award of the academic degree (or diploma) during the term of this contract shall not affect its effects, and the grant referred to in the preceding paragraph may be renewed at a later date, provided that it is aimed at carrying out activities that are indispensable for the completion of the project (...).
4. The concrete definition of the activities referred to in the previous paragraph is the responsibility of the First Party, after hearing the Second Party and the Scientific Advisor, and they must be included in the agreement to be signed, as provided for in the previous clause.

_____, _____ of _____

The First Party	**The Second Party**
(Signature and stamp of the organisation)	(Signature of the grant holder or his/her proxy)

With 100% OE funding

Or with FEDER co-financing:

(Logotipo do Programa Operacional)

ANNEX II

FINAL REPORT FORM (Fellowships)



UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA
Largo dos Colegiais, N.º 2
Apartado 94
7002-554 ÉVORA PORTUGAL
Telefone (telephone): +351 266 760 975
Mail: cop@uevora.pt

	Referência da bolsa (Grant Reference)	
	Organização (Organisation)	

DETALHES DO BOLSEIRO / FELLOWSHIP DETAILS

Título (Title)	
Nome próprio (Forename)	
Apelido (Surname)	
Organização (Organisation)	
Departamento ou Centro (Department or Centre)	
Supervisor (Supervisor)	

DETALHES DO PROJETO / PROJECT DETAILS

Título da Bolsa (Grant Title)	
Referência da bolsa (Fellowship reference)	

Período da bolsa (Period of Review)	**Data de Início:** *(Start Date):*		**Data do Termo:**	

OBJETIVOS / OBJECTIVES

Objetivos originais como constam na proposta (Original objectives as presented in the proposal)

Estes objetivos permaneceram válidos durante o período da bolsa, ou ☐
(These objectives remained valid throughout the Fellowship *(tick box),* or

Estes objetivos foram modificados ☐

(explique como/ porque no seu relatório)

(These objectives were changed) *(tick box).*

(If so please explain how/why in your report)

Novos objetivos (New objectives)

Sumário dos resultados do projeto: descreva em termos simples o seu trabalho de forma a que possa ser divulgado perante uma audiência genérica (Summary of project outcomes: In simple terms describe your work in such a way that it could be publicised to a general audience.)
Endereço de página com mais detalhes, se desejar: (Web address with further details if you wish)

RESULTADOS DA BOLSA / OUTCOMES OF THE FELLOWSHIP

Os principais benefícios das bolsas concedidas pela Universidade de Évora incluem:
(Major benefits of Évora University Fellowships include:

i) os impactes potenciais sobre as carreiras dos bolseiros e
(the potential to impact positively on the careers of individual Fellows and)

ii) os resultados da investigação
(the research results)

RELATÓRIO DAS ACTIVIDADES DESENVOLVIDAS / REPORT ON WORK UNDERTAKEN

Utilize o número de páginas necessário (please continue on additional pages as required)

Participação em conferências científicas, no país e no estrangeiro (nome, local e data)
(Scientific Conference attendances – name, location and date)

RESULTADOS DA INVESTIGAÇÃO (RESEARCH RESULTS)

Publicações/ Publications

(1) Enuncie quantos resultados da investigação resultaram principalmente da investigação financiada através desta bolsa e indique o tipo (revista, conferência, livro, patente, software, outro).

(Please state how many research results have resulted principally as a result of the research funded through this grant and indicate the type (journal, conference, book, patent, software, other))

	REVISTA (JOURNAL)	ARTIGOS EM CONFERÊNCIAS (CONFERENCE PAPERS)	LIVRO OU TESE (BOOK OR THESIS)	PATENTE (PATENT)	SOFTWARE	OUTRO OTHER
Número total de publicações / Total Number of Publications						
Número de Publicações com arbitragem científica (se diferente do anterior) / Number of Refereed Publications (if different from above)						
Número de Publicações que contêm um coautor estrangeiro / Number of Publications That Contain An International Co-Author						

(2) No caso de Bolseiro de mestrado ou doutoramento, referencie os dados relativos à tese: (In the case of Master or Ph.D. Fellowship, please indicate:)

Título da tese/ Thesis title:

Classificação obtida / Classification:

Universidade e data/ University and date:

(3) Liste até cinco publicações que resultaram principalmente da investigação financiada através da Bolsa e indique o tipo (revista, ata de conferência, livro, patente, software, outro); se houve coautores estrangeiros ou industriais e se a publicação foi sujeita a arbitragem científica. / Please list up to five significant publications that have resulted principally as a result of the research funded through this grant and indicate the type (journal, conference, book, patent, software, other); whether there was an international or industrial co-author and whether the publication was refereed.

AUTOR(ES) (AUTHOR(S))	TÍTULO (TITLE)	REFERÊNCIA (REFERENCE)				TIPO (TYPE)	Arbitragem? Refereed?	Industrial co-author?	International co-author?
		Revista/Ata de Conf. (Journal/Conference).	ano (year)	Vol./Nº (vol./Nº)	página (page)				
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐
							☐	☐	☐

Outros resultados da Bolsa / Other Results of the Fellowship

Indique o calendário para potencial exploração (i.e. conseguido, expectável dentro de 3 anos, expectável dentro de 10 anos, não expectável em 10 anos) e inclua números das patentes, datas, nomes e endereços das empresas, etc., de forma apropriada, nas colunas "detalhes" e "referência" / Please indicate the timescale for potential exploitation (e.g. achieved, expected within 3 years, expected within 10 years, none foreseeable in 10 years) and include patent nos., dates, company names and addresses etc. as appropriate, in the 'details' and 'reference' columns.

	DETALHES (DETAILS)	REFERÊNCIA / REFERENCE	CALENDAR. / TIMESCALE
Licenças ou Patentes/ Licences or Patents			
Empresa de Spin Off/ Spin Off Company			
Consultadoria Direta/ Direct Consultancy			
Cursos de Formação Industrial/ Industrial Training Courses			
Compreensão Pública de Ciência e Engenharia/ Public Understanding of Science and Engineering			
Outro (especifique) / Other *(please specify)*			

Contribuições Relacionadas Concedidas/Pendentes (Related Support Awarded / Pending)

Indique o nível de apoio à investigação que derivou principalmente como resultado da Bolsa./ Please indicate the level of research support that has arisen principally as a result of the Fellowship.

FONTE DE FINANCIAMENTO (FUNDING SOURCE)	DETALHES (DETAILS)	SUPORTE (€) SUPPORT (€)
Universidade de Évora (desde o início da bolsa) Évora University (from start of Fellowship)		

Outro Organismo Nacional de Investigação /Other National Research Organization		
Outro Organismo Governamental Português / Other Portuguese Government Council		
Empresa / Industrial		
Outra (Other)		
Comissão Europeia / European Commission		
Pendente (Pending)		

Assinaturas (Signatures):

Bolseiro (Fellow)
Data (Date):

ANNEX III

MODEL OF THE FINAL EVALUATION REPORT ON THE ACTIVITY OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH FELLOW TO BE DRAWN UP BY THE SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISOR

1. Scientific supervisor of the scholarship:
2. Identification of the grant:
3. Project name:
4. Host organisation:
5. Fellow:

5.1. Critical analysis of the activities and work carried out by the grant holder.
[A brief description of the activities carried out by the grant holder, in accordance with the announcement and the activity plan, and a critical appraisal of the objectives and results achieved by the grant holder].

5.2. Final assessment of the work carried out by the grant holder.
[Reasoned overall appraisal of the work carried out by the grant holder, with a final positive or negative balance, addressing their performance, effort and dedication]

Évora, ___ of ___ 20__

The Scientific Supervisor of the Scholarship, ___ (full name)