



Instituto de Ciências, Tecnologias e Agroambiente da Universidade do Porto

Reference: ICETA 2022-03

Main research field: Parasitology

Sub research field: Biomedical Sciences

1. In a meeting the Board of Directors of ICETA has decided to open an international call for PhD holder Researchers, under a work contract for a non-fixed term. This announcement is intended to 1 (one) research position (**Reference ICETA 2022-03**) to pursue scientific research activities at Center for the Study of Animal Science (CECA) (UIDP/00211/2020), funded by national funds through FCT/MCTES, in the areas of Biomedical Sciences and Molecular Biology under a work contract for a non-fixed term, aiming at the development of research activities in the thematic line related with Emergent and Zoonotic Diseases: new diagnostic and therapeutic tools of CECA.

Description of the activities and functions to be performed:

CECA R&D activities are directed to the One Health initiative addressing a large set of diseases, including inherited metabolic diseases, bovine cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis, drinking water contamination by protozoa, development and evaluation of new diagnostic tools of pathogens, together with antimicrobial resistance aspects and carcinogenesis associated with helminth infections.

One of CECA's six research thematic lines is dedicated to research on Emergent and Zoonotic Diseases: new diagnostic and therapeutic tools, and encompasses the biochemical and molecular basis of protozoa contamination, including the development of diagnostic tools and risk assessment monitoring.

The researcher to be hired will be involved in the:

- Design of a new diagnostic tool, parasite-specific IMS/IF procedures based for *Toxoplasma gondii* and waterborne Protozoa.
- Monitoring the environmental spread of waterborne Protozoa (rivers, water treatment stations and city fountains), fruits and vegetables (berry fruits, bulk or ready-to-eat lettuces obtained from local producers and supermarket suppliers).
- Characterize genetic diversity of protozoa and estimate the potential risks for the consumers.

2. Applicable Legislation

Decree-Law no. 57/2016 of August 29th, amended by Law 57/2017 and Regulatory Decree No. 11- A / 2017 which approved the doctorate hiring regime destined to stimulate scientific and technological employment for all knowledge areas (RJEC); Portuguese Labour Code, approved by Law 7/2009 of February 12, in its actual form.

3. Pursuant to article 13 of RJEC, the tender selection panel is formed by: Doctor José Manuel Alves Correia da Costa (Principal Investigator with Habilitation at Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr.

Ricardo Jorge, INSA, I.P. and Coordinator of CECA-ICETA, President of the jury by delegation of ICETA's director), Doctor Ana Colette Pereira de Castro Osório Maurício (Associated Professor with Habilitation at ICBAS and Researcher of CECA-ICETA) and Doctor Sandra Catarina da Conceição Alves (Auxiliary Researcher at INSA, I.P. and Researcher of CECA-ICETA).

4. The workplace shall be at Instituto Nacional de Saúde Dr. Ricardo Jorge, (INSA, I.P.), Rua Alexandre Herculano 321, 4000-055 Porto.

5. Monthly remuneration to be paid is the one set by article 23 (3) of RJEC, corresponding to level 33 of the Single Salary Table, approved by Order no. 1553-C/2008 of December 31st, i.e. 2.153,94 Euros.

6. Application can be submitted by any national, foreign and stateless candidate(s) holding a doctorate degree in Biomedical Sciences or related area.

In case the doctorate degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 341/2007 of October 12th, and all formalities established therein must be complied with at the signature of work contract.

7. The tender admission general requirements are those defined in the previous point 6, and additional specific requirements:

- a) The candidate must have at least three years of previous post-doctoral experience in research relevant to the field of Parasitology/Protozoology;
- b) Specifically, the candidate must have prior knowledge and experience in Parasitology and molecular biology, cell biology and biochemistry techniques, namely in: i) mammalian cell cultures (immortalized cell lines, isolation of primary cells from tissues and their maintenance; ii) DNA and RNA extraction, PCR, RT-PCR, transfection and cloning; iii) Western-blot, ELISA, immunohistochemistry and fluorescence microscopy, magnetic immunoseparation applied to Protozoa (*Toxoplasma*, *Cryptosporidium*, *Giardia* and *Cyclospora*);
- c) The candidate must be fluent in English, both spoken and written. Fluency in other languages will be valued.

Additional valuation points will be considered:

- a) Experience in participating in other research projects;
- b) Experience in supervising/co-supervising students;
- c) Comfortable in working and intervening in multinational contexts;
- d) The successful candidate should be highly motivated, curious, persevering and have good interpersonal relationships in the context of a multidisciplinary research team. Great communication skills with peers and professional integrity are essential.

8. Pursuant to article 5 of RJEC, the selection is to be made based on the evaluation of the scientific and curricular career of the candidate.

9. Scientific and curricular career evaluation focuses on relevance, quality and up-to-datedness:

a) of scientific, technological, cultural or artistic production considered most relevant by the candidate;

- b)** of research activities, fundamental or applied science, developed and considered of higher impact by the candidate;
- c)** of knowledge extension and dissemination activities developed, namely under the scope of the promotion of culture and scientific practices, deemed most relevant by the candidate.

10. The five-year period mentioned above can be extended by the panel, if requested by the candidate, whenever the suspension of scientific activities is reasoned by socially protected grounds like paternity leave, long-term serious illness, and other legal situations of unavailability to work.

11. Evaluation criteria are the following:

The evaluation of the CV of the candidates, in particular the scientific merit and research experience will take into consideration the elements falling within the scope of the specific areas of the tender (see Point 1) and will be performed according to the following criteria:

11.1 Integrated assessment of the curriculum trajectory of the candidate, based on an overview of their scientific merits, namely (50%):

- I. overall scientific quality of the CV - 20%
- II. Scientific and technological production relevant to the specific areas of *Toxoplasma gondii* and Protozoa (see point 1) - 20%
- III. participation in research projects and students supervision - 10%

11.2 Relevant experience in:

- I. Mammalian cell cultures - 20%
- II. Molecular Biology, Biochemistry and Diagnostic Techniques – 20%
- III. Research on Protozoology - 10%

Only candidates who obtain a classification equal to or greater than 50% in the parameters indicated at points 11.1 and 11.2 will be eligible.

12. In the case of admitted candidates whose evaluation does not differ more than 10% from that obtained by the best positioned candidate, the jury will interview the best positioned candidate and the candidates in this situation. This will be aimed at obtaining clarifications and explanations about the curricular elements and additional information as well as to evaluate the attitude profile and motivation of the candidate.

The final score of each jury member is obtained by the following assessment: 90% scientific and curricular career evaluation and 10% interview.

13. Candidate final classification system shall be given based on a scale 0 to 100.

14. The panel shall deliberate by means of roll-call vote justified under adopted and disclosed selection criteria, with no abstentions allowed.

15. Minutes of panel meetings shall be executed and include a summary of all occurrences of said meeting, as well as of all votes casted by the members and respective reasoning, and shall be provided to candidates whenever required.

16. After selection criteria application, the panel shall prepare a sorted list of approved candidates and respective classification.

17. Panel's final decision shall be validated by the leader of the institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

18. Application formalization:

18.1. The applications are formalized at the electronic address bolsas@iceta.up.pt with following documents in a digital form, in PDF format:

- i) Curriculum vitae
- ii) Motivational Letter
- iii) Qualifications Certificate
- iv) Other relevant documentation

18.2. The application period is from **22/12/2022 to 04/01/2023**.

19. All candidates who formalize their applications in an improper way or fail to prove the requirements imposed by this tender are excluded from admission. In case of doubt, the panel is entitled to request any candidate to present further documentation supporting their statements.

20. False statements provided by the candidates shall be punished by law.

21. Both admitted and excluded candidate list and final classification list shall be published at the address of ICETA (Praça Coronel Pacheco nº 15-6º andar, Porto), in the website of the Institute and the selected candidate shall be notified by email.

22. Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline: After publication, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 working days, from response period deadline.

23. This tender is exclusively destined to fill this specify position and can be terminated at any time until approval of final candidate list, expiring with the respective occupation of said position.

24. Non-discrimination and equal access policy: ICETA 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, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

25. The panel has approved this announcement in meeting held on 12/12/2022.

26. According to Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honor, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication/expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.