

NOTICE NO. 062/2025

COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF UNIVERSIDADE DO ALGARVE

Title: **Open call for one research grant for a master holder (1 BI-M)**

A competition is open for the award of one Research Grant for a master holder (1 BI-M) within the scope of the project ALGARVE-FEDER-01203900 - expressCDx (17474) - "Identification of RNA Biomarkers for the Development of New Personalized Cancer Diagnostic Methods " co-financed by the Programs CRESC Algarve 2030, Portugal 2030 and European Union. The project is led by EXPRESSTEC – Investigação e Desenvolvimento em Biotecnologia, Lda, in consortium with the University of Algarve, and will be carried out at RISE-Health – University of Algarve, under the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Biological Sciences.

2. **Admission Requirements:** Candidates must hold a Master's degree in Biomedical Sciences, Oncobiology, Biological Sciences, Biology, Computational Biology, Bioinformatics, or a related scientific field. Experience in computational biology and bioinformatics analyses of genomic and transcriptomic data will be valued

3. **Project Objectives:** This project aims to identify RNA biomarkers for the development of new methodologies for personalized cancer diagnostics. The work to be carried out under this scholarship will be computational and has the following objectives:

- (1) To test the association between allelic expression levels of the PIK3CA gene and clinical features in colorectal, prostate, and other cancers; and
- (2) To identify new biomarkers for breast cancer based on allelic expression analysis of other genes frequently mutated in cancer.

4. **Applicable Legislation and Regulations:** Research Fellow Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, as amended by Decree-Law No. 65/2024 of October 1, and the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>). And the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>).

5. **Workplace:** The work will be carried out at RISE-Health – University of Algarve, under the scientific supervision of Professors Álvaro Tavares and Paulo Martel.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last six months, with the start date scheduled for December of 2025. The grant contract may be renewed until 31/07/2025, taking into account the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations. (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>) and the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>).

7. **Monthly maintenance allowance amount:** The monthly maintenance allowance is €1.309,64. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer. (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf).

8. Candidate evaluation: In accordance with the provisions of Article 11.2 of the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations OR the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations In the Science and Technology field, the evaluation of candidates will be based solely on the following criteria: (a) Academic and scientific background, considering the final Master's degree grade and relevance of the scientific area to the project, as well as curricular and/or extracurricular training in Computational Biology and Biostatistics - 6 points (30% weighting); (b) Research experience in Genomics, Oncobiology, Computational Biology, or Biostatistics, demonstrated through academic work, research projects, or scientific communications — 3 points (15% weighting); (c) Experience in analyzing genomic and/or transcriptomic data, preferably with a focus on Human Genetics and Oncogenomics, including familiarity with next-generation sequencing (NGS) — 4 points (20% weighting); (d) Bioinformatics and computational skills, including use of UNIX/Linux systems, knowledge of R and/or Python, and ability to manipulate data and interpret genetic results — 4 points (20% weighting); (e) Motivation and interest in the research area, teamwork skills, and ability to work independently — 3 points (15% weighting).

9. The evaluation process may include an interview, to be conducted with candidates invited by the evaluation panel, for the purpose of supporting the final ranking.

10. Composition of the Application Evaluation Board: The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):

- Paulo José Garcia de Lemos Trigueiros de Martel (President) (Assistant Professor at Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia);
- Álvaro Augusto Marques Tavares (Effective member) (Associate Professor at Faculdade de Medicina e Ciências Biomédicas);
- Joana Gonçalves de Gouveia Maia Xavier (Effective member) (Invited Assistant Professor at Faculdade de Medicina e Ciências Biomédicas);
- Ana Teresa Luís Lopes Maia (Substitute member) (Assistant Professor at Faculdade de Medicina e Ciências Biomédicas).

11. Publication/Notification of Results: The final evaluation results will be published on the Ualg website, in a list ordered by the final grade obtained, and all candidates will be notified via email.

12. Application Deadline and Submission Method: The competition is open ***from 21/10/2025 to 04/11/2025***.

13. Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

- a) Official identification document (simple copy or legal equivalent). Applicants of non-Portuguese nationality must present a residence permit, permanent residence certificate, or long-term resident status, valid on the scholarship start date. Any of these may be replaced, in its absence, by a declaration of honor by the candidate. However, this must be submitted during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b) Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;
- d) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.
- e) The Application for Application to the Competition, dated and signed, must be addressed to the President of the Competition Evaluation Panel, <https://www.ualg.pt/sites/default/files/documentos/2022-12/anexo-iii-requerimento-para-candidatura-bolsa-pt.pdf>, by email to pmartel@ualg.pt with the subject EDITAL N.º

062/2025 - expressCDx. In the aforementioned application form, **the candidate must expressly consent to all notifications related to the recruitment process being sent to the indicated email address.**

14. Documents to be submitted for the scholarship agreement:

- a. Individual Taxpayer Registry (INV) information, if the applicant is a nationality other than Portuguese, must be submitted during the scholarship agreement process, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b. Documents proving that the applicant meets the requirements for the respective type of scholarship, namely, proof of enrollment and registration and the study cycle or course that does not confer an academic degree;
- c. Declaration of the advisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Scholarship Statute, as well as guaranteeing the necessary conditions for the successful development of the work and compliance with the duties set forth in Article 13 of the Research Scholarship Statute;
- d. Declaration of Commitment to the Exclusive Dedication Regime.

15. Deadlines and Procedures for Complaints and Appeals:

Candidates may, if they so wish, comment on the draft decision to award the requested scholarship, at a hearing for interested parties within 10 business days, under the terms and for the purposes set forth in Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Candidates have the right to complain to the evaluation panel within 10 business days regarding the commission or omission of any act.

An appeal may be filed against the final decision of the application evaluation panel to the Rector within 10 business days of notification.

16. Scholarship Contract:

After receiving all required documentation, a scholarship contract will be signed with the selected candidate(s) in accordance with the attached template.

17. Evaluation of Fellow(s):

At the end of each period of duration of the scholarship contract, the activity developed by the scholarship holder(s) is evaluated by the supervisor, by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached model:

- a) Fulfilment of the proposed objectives considering the work plan (80%)
- b) Interest and motivation in the project development (20%)

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the fellowship award process, within the scope of the Project in question, whenever funding is not awarded.

University of Algarve, 20 of october of 2025.

The Principal Investigator

Professor (Paulo Martel)