

NOTICE NO. 078/2025

COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF UALG

Title: One research grant (BI-M)

A competition is open for the award of one (1) Research Grant – Master within the scope of the R&D project: 01161975 – PRIMERS – ERC – 2024 -STG funded by the European Research Council (ERC), under the following conditions

1. **Scientific Area:** Archaeology, Primatology, Primate Archaeology

2. **Admission Requirements:**

- Masters degree in Biological Sciences with a specific focus on Ecology and Evolution
- Bachelors degree in Biology
- Proficiency in English, speaking and writing
- Experience in organizing and hosting scientific meetings/conferences
- Extensive experience in collecting data with captive primates (preferably with a focus on chimpanzees)
- Experience in working with eye-tracking and touchscreens with primates
- Experience in designing and implementing cognitive experiments with various non-human primate species

Taking into account paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5, Research Grants, of the University of Algarve Grants Regulations:

“1. Research grants, hereinafter referred to as BI, are intended for R&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated master's degree, a master's degree or a doctorate, with a view to consolidating their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the respective academic degree, whether or not integrated into R&D projects.

2. The scholarships referred to in this article may also be intended for the performance of R&D activities by graduates or masters enrolled in non-degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.”

3. **Project Objectives:** The research fellow will investigate the origins of percussive stone tool-use across non-human primates (including chimpanzees, capuchins and macaques) as proxy models for the emergence of this behaviour in early hominins. The research fellow will design experiments to test the ontogeny of specific behaviours in both wild and captive subjects, and will collect the necessary data during fieldwork to field sites, sanctuaries and zoos that house the appropriate study samples. The aim of the project will be to determine the conditions required for percussive behaviours to emerge across species, to generate insight for the evolution of stone tool modification and use in the human lineage.

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>)

5. **Workplace:** The work will be carried out at the Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behaviour (ICArEHB) at The University of Algarve, under the scientific supervision of Dr Elisa Bandini.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The grant *will last 12 months*, with the start date scheduled for March 2026. The grant contract may be renewed until 30/09/2030 taking into account the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations. (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>)

7. **Monthly maintenance allowance amount:** The monthly maintenance allowance is €1309.64. 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: merit of the candidate, merit of the work plan (if applicable), merit of the proposed training plan (e.g., academic qualifications, curricular path, required research experience, other admission requirements), with the respective weighting of:

- a) Candidates merit (50%)
- b) Motivation letter (30%)
- c) Interview (to the two best applications evaluated by the above criteria) (20%)

9. The evaluation process may include an interview with the candidates or a portion of them, to be selected by the Evaluation Panel, which will have a maximum weighting of 20%.

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

- Elisa Bandini (President)
- Vera Aldeias (Effective member)
- Tomos Proffitt (Effective member)
- Jonathan Reeves (Substitute member)

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 the successful candidate will be notified via email to the address indicated by the applicant.

12. **Application Deadline and Submission Method:** The competition is open from **07/01/2026 to 20/01/2026**.

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) Cover letter (max 2000 words)
- f) 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>, it can be sent by mail to the following address: Universidade do Algarve, FCHS, Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro Ref.^a (01161975 – PRIMERS – ERC – 2024 -STG - Edital nº 078/2025) by email to ebandini@ualg.pt. In the aforementioned application, **you must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding 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 fellowship contract period, the advisor will evaluate the fellow(s)' work by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached template:

- a) Fulfillment of objectives - evaluating the level of results' achievement by the grantee, taking into consideration the work plan (75%);
- b) Behavioral skills - assessing the personal characteristics highlighted during the assessment period, namely those related to professionalism and thoroughness in all activities carried out (15%);
- c) Personal attitude - rating the personal commitment and availability shown during the evaluation period, taking into account factors such as the effort made, the interest and motivation shown, and the receptivity of the guidance team's recommendations (10%).

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, 12 of December of 2025

The Principal Investigator

Dr Elisa Bandini