

NOTICE NO. 011/2026**COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE****Research Fellowship (Bachelor/Licenciado)**

A competition is open for the award of 1 Grant Research Fellowship Bachelor/Licenciado within the scope of the R&D project Population Trajectories and Cultural Dynamics of Late Neanderthals in Far Western Eurasia, 101045506-FINISTERRA-ERC-2021-COG, funded Horizon Europe European Research Council – ERC Consolidator Grant, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific Area: Archaeology.

2. Admission Requirements: Bachelor's degree (Licenciatura) in Cultural Heritage and Archaeology (Património Cultural e Arqueologia), fieldwork experience in prehistoric sites in Portugal.

3. Project Objectives: The fellow will contribute to the creation of different representations of the Late Pleistocene Iberian Peninsula to simulate likely movement routes of the last Neanderthals before their extinction. The work involves constructing gridded cost surfaces in GIS, incorporating various parameters drawn from the literature that may have influenced Neanderthal movement decisions. Using traditional methodologies for path analysis (least-cost paths, circuit modeling) commonly applied in archaeology, the fellow will produce possible movement paths through Iberia and compare them against a database of Late Pleistocene Middle Paleolithic archaeological sites, in order to identify which landscape model best matches the archaeological record and generate hypotheses about the factors that influenced Neanderthal movement decisions.

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 ICArEHB – Interdisciplinary Center for Archaeology and Evolution of Human Behaviour of University of Algarve, Campus de Gambelas, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Emily Coco.

6. Duration of grant(s): The grant will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled for March, 2026. The scholarship contract may be renewable until the end of the project, 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 €1,040.98. 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) Curriculum Vitae (CV) – 30% – assessment of the candidate's academic record and relevant experience; b) Motivation Letter (ML) – 50% – assessment of the candidate's motivation and interest in the project; c) Interview (I) – 20% – assessment of communication skills in english, technical knowledge, and suitability for the position, reserved for the two highest-ranked candidates from criteria a) and b). Formula: $FS = 0.30 \times CV + 0.50 \times ML + 0.20 \times I$. Candidates who are not selected for an interview will have a weight of 80% within the set of the other two evaluation criteria. The final classification for candidates is expressed on a scale from 0 to 20, up to one decimal place.



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

- João Cascalheira, Principal Researcher, ICArEHB (President);
- Emily Coco, Junior Researcher, ICArEHB (Regular Member);
- Célia Gonçalves, Senior Researcher, ICArEHB (Regular Member);
- Ana Gomes, Assistant Researcher, ICArEHB (Alternate Member).

10. 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. (email, official letter, or other means).

11. Application Deadline and Submission Method: The call is open from **13/02/2026 a 27/02/2026**.

12. 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) Motivation Letter
- d) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;
- e) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.
- f) The Application form, dated and signed, addressed to the President of the 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: Attn: Prof. João Cascalheira, University of Algarve / Faculty of Human and Social Sciences, Campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro or by email to jmcascalheira@ualg.pt. **The candidate must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding process being sent to the indicated email address.**

13. 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 supervisor(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.

14. 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.

15. Scholarship Contract:

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

16. 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) Achievement of Objectives – Assessment of the degree to which the fellow has achieved the expected results, considering the work plan (75%).
- b) Behavioral Competencies – Evaluation of personal characteristics demonstrated during the evaluation period, particularly related to professionalism and rigor in all activities carried out (15%).
- c) Personal Attitude – Assessment of personal commitment and availability shown during the evaluation period, considering factors such as effort, interest, motivation, and receptiveness to 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, February 10, 2026

The Principal Investigator

Dr. João Cascalheira

