

Opening Notice for the of a Grant

(Call for the award of a Postdoctoral Research Grant (BI) under the BiolivingLabs project of the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco – School of Agriculture)

A call is open for the award of a Research Grant under the BioLivingLABS – Bioeconomy serving the sustainability of inland territories/Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco (BioLivingLABS/BI/2025-01), under PT2030 and the following conditions:

Admission requirements:

PhD in Biochemistry, Biotechnology or a related field; proven experience in chemical characterisation and bioactivity of plant matrices (with emphasis on apicultural products and plant extract characterisation); skill in vibrational spectroscopy methods; ability to analyse scientific data, write articles and communicate results; experience in organising scientific dissemination activities and interaction with the productive sector; initiative, autonomy and ability to work in a multidisciplinary team.

Degrees obtained abroad: Candidates with academic qualifications from foreign institutions must prove that they are recognised in Portugal, in accordance with Decree-Law n.º 66/2018.

Incompatibilities: Those who have previously received postdoctoral grants for a period equal to or greater than the limit specified in the IPCB Research Grants Regulations are not eligible.

Work plan:

The present work plan focuses on dissemination, communication and technology transfer associated with various projects already underway at the Institution, namely the MobFood project (valorisation of PDO apple and pear), BeeLand (valorisation of PDO honeys), Acacia4FirePrev (characterisation of extracts from different plant parts), Veratec, Mountain Olive Oils (particularly the characterisation of olive oil and pastes by Vibrational Spectroscopy), and the ageing of different spirits in wood, enhancing the scientific, business and territorial impact of the results obtained.

The selected grant holder is expected to:

- 1) prepare dissemination articles on topics such as honey characterisation, valorisation of Acacia biomass, innovation in spirit production and ageing and relevant results for the agri-food industry. Content will also be prepared to facilitate the interpretation and practical application of the technologies developed.
- 2) organise and participate in events and capacity-building activities, including thematic workshops and technological demonstration sessions aimed at beekeepers, agri-food companies, beverage producers and forest managers, focusing on advanced analytical

techniques and technological solutions generated by the projects. Active collaboration in congresses and technical-scientific meetings is required to improve communication of results to the productive sector from a technology transfer perspective.

3) identify opportunities for practical application of the solutions developed in the various projects, coordinate with team members to prepare prototypes or demonstrations with partner companies and systematise methodologies with transfer potential. Synergies between research centres, companies, and public entities will be encouraged to promote the adoption of innovative technologies that contribute to the sustainability and competitiveness of the areas covered.

Applicable legislation and regulation: the grant will be awarded through a grant contract between the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco and the Grant Holder, pursuant to the Research Grant Holder Statute established in Law n.º 40/2004 of 18 August, and subsequent amendments, and the Scientific Research Grant Regulations of the Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco.

Contracting is subject to funding availability and compliance with all applicable legal requirements.

Place of work: the work will be carried out at the School of Agriculture of Castelo Branco, under the scientific supervision of Professor Ofélia Maria Serralha dos Anjos.

Duration of the grant: the grant will last for 12 months, starting on 1/3/2026, and may be renewed up to the maximum duration of the project (30 September 2027).

Monthly maintenance allowance: the grant amount is €1,851.00, according to the table included in the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grants Regulations. Payments are monthly via bank transfer. Voluntary Social Insurance may be added to this amount.

Selection methods: The following selection methods will be used: (Curricular Assessment and Interview), with weighting as follows: Curricular Assessment: 65% and Interview: 35%.

Category weightings:

1. Curricular Assessment (65%): A. PhD field (40 points) [PhD in the subject area – 40 points; PhD in a related area – 25 points]; B. Professional experience in areas relevant to the call and linked to project tasks (30 points) [≥ 5 years = 30 points; ≥ 3 years = 15 points; ≥ 1 year = 7 points]; C. Scientific output (30 points) [C1. Scientific articles: ≥ 10 SCOPUS publications = 20 points; ≥ 5 = 10 points; ≥ 2 = 4 points; C2. Participation in congresses: ≥ 20 = 10 points; ≥ 10 = 5 points; ≥ 5 = 2 points].

2. Interview Assessment (35%): Professional motivation = 25 points; Critical thinking skills for solving project related issues = 25 points; Communication skills = 25 points; Interpersonal skills = 25 points.

Final Classification (FC) will be calculated as follows:

$$FC = 0.65 \times \text{Curricular Assessment Score} + 0.35 \times \text{Interview Score}.$$

After publication of the provisional list, candidates have 10 working days to comment under the right to a prior hearing.

Composition of the Selection Panel: (President: Adjunct Professor Paulo Alexandre Justo Fernandes; effective members: Coordinator Professor Maria de Fátima Pratas Peres and Coordinator Professor Rogério Pais Dionísio).

The President will be replaced, in case of absence or impediment, by the first permanent member.

Publication/notification of results: the draft final classification list and the final classification list approved by the President of IPCB will be published on the IPCB website or the website of the respective Organic Unit and posted in a public and visible place. Candidates will be notified by email with delivery receipt.

Application deadline and submission: the application deadline will run for ten working days following publication of this notice, during normal office hours.

Applications must be submitted through the application form accompanied by the following documents: (*Curriculum vitae*, certificates of academic and professional qualifications and other relevant supporting documents), otherwise the candidate will be excluded.

The application form is available in Mod.IPCB.RH.11 on the IPCB website.

Applications must be submitted in person between 9:00–12:30 and 14:00–17:30 at the School of Agriculture of Castelo Branco – Quinta da Senhora de Mércules, or sent by email to ESACB Human Resources at rh.esa@ipcb.pt with mandatory delivery receipt and reference “BioLivingLABS”.