

#5178

Public Notice - International Selection Procedure

Recruitment of a Research Trainee with a Master Degree (employment contract)

FCiências.ID/2026/BioISI/1

FCiências.ID - Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências, through its President of the Administration Board, hereby announces the opening of an international call for the recruitment of a Research Trainee with a MSc Degree, of the FCIências.ID Scientific Research Career, within the scope of the project SKINDEV: Skin Microbial Devices (Ref. HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-06-01-HORIZON-EIC-2022-PATHFINDEROPEN-01-101098826), financed by the European Union's Horizon Europe Research & Innovation Programme under the Grant Agreement No. 101098826, in the form of a(n) full-time indefinite duration fixed-term employment contract, according to the Portuguese Labour Code and complementary legislation.

I. Admission Requirements

Portuguese nationals, foreign and stateless persons may submit applications to this selection procedure, with a MSc degree* in Biochemistry, microbiology or similar areas, and fully comply with the following requirements:

- a) R&D activity in a scientific research laboratory - information provided in the CV and/or in the motivation letter.

* Please note that Degrees obtained in foreign countries need a Portuguese Recognition issued by a Portuguese high degree Institution, according to the [Decree-Law nr. 66/2018](#), of August 16th and the [Ministerial Order nr. 33/2019](#), of January 25th. The presentation of such Recognition is mandatory for contract signature. More information can be obtained in: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>.

II. Preferential Requirements

- a) Relevant scientific and/or professional training in the field of bacterial bioenergetics - information provided in the CV and/or in the motivation letter;
- b) Proficiency in English (written and spoken) – information provided in the CV and/or motivation letter;
- c) Immediate availability – information provided in the CV and/or motivation letter.

III. Applicable Law

1. Portuguese Labour Code, as approved by Law No. 93/2019, of September 04th, in its current version (CT);
2. Administrative Procedure Code, as published in Decree-Law No. 4/2015, of January 7th, in its current version (CPA).

IV. Work plan

Scope of the project

Chronic skin inflammation, including conditions like atopic dermatitis (AD), burdens at least 250 million patients worldwide with a lifelong chronic, debilitating, and incurable disease. Current therapeutic drugs are effective but compromise the immune system. An ideal therapy should only be produced in situ at the required time and provide simpler and local administration. SKINDEV focuses on the creation of Smart Skin Microbial Devices by genetic engineering of naturally occurring skin bacteria, *Cutibacterium acnes* (CA), so they can sense the skin health status. The Bioenergetic group at Ciências will consolidate this ambition by contributing to the design and creation of robust and versatile chassis for SSMDs. This will be achieved by delivering insights into the bioenergetics and metabolism of CA. We plan to investigate CA bioenergetics, nutrient uptake, secreted metabolites (via metabolomics), and biomass composition in AD

lesions compared to healthy skin. Understanding *CA* energy metabolism, which is still elusive, is fundamental not only to design and optimize production of therapeutic substances, but also to bring light into competitive/synergetic interactions within the skin microbiota and with the host.

Tasks

The work plan to be executed by the Investigator includes the following tasks:

- 1) **Provide information for genome-scale network models of *C. acnes* metabolism** by studying cell growth under several controlled conditions, aeration (aerobic vs anaerobic) and pH, in defined media supplemented with different carbon sources (e.g. glycerol, lactate or acetate).
- 2) **Identification of *C. acnes* responses in strain-to-strain co-existence/competition/symbiosis conditions** by co-strain growth and assess possible metabolic interactions with *S. aureus*;
- 3) Cell growths in **skin models/skin mimicking media** - The researcher will develop surveys of metabolomic profiles
- 4) Participation in dissemination activities, communication and involvement of project agents.

The work plan is included in the work-packages 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the project. The work plan must begin no later than February 2026.

V. Composition of the Jury

The members of the jury are:

- President – Manuela M. Pereira;
- 1st Member of the jury – Ana Coutinho;
- 2nd Member of the jury – Francisco Pinto;
- 1st Alternate Member of the jury – Federico Herrera;
- 2nd Alternate Member of the jury – Rodrigo Almeida.

VI. Place of work

Work will be developed at the facilities of Research Center BioISI – BioSystems & Integrative Sciences Institute, in Campo Grande, Lisboa, Portugal.

VII. Contract Duration

The full-time indefinite duration fixed-term employment contract, is expected to start in February 2026, and will last until the Work Plan referred to in section IV is completed. It will have an expected duration of 12 months, will not exceed the limits set in the RCD, including an initial experimental trial period of 30 days.

VIII. Monthly Allowance

The gross monthly salary corresponds to 1.705,73 Euros, on a full-time regime, which complies with one of the Levels of the Salary Table (NTS) for a Research Trainee, in step 1 level 21, equivalent to the same level of the Single Remuneratory Table, as approved by Government Order No. 1553-C/2008, of December 31st, in its current version, on which legal discounts will apply, plus holiday and Christmas allowances, as well as food allowance in the amount and conditions set out for workers with a legal employment relationship under the Labour Code.

IX. Evaluation of applications

1. Failure to comply with the Admission Requirements implies the non-admission of candidates in absolute merit.
2. The final classification of candidates is given on a scale of 0 to 100%.
3. Based on the assessment of the candidates' scientific and curricular background each member of the jury presents a justified proposal for admission (final classification equal to or greater than 75%) or exclusion (final classification below 75%) for each candidate, according to the evaluation criteria referred to in no. 4.

4. Evaluation of the relative merit of candidates, will rely on the following criteria:
 - a) Assessment of the CV - 60%;
 - b) Letter of motivation - 20%;
 - c) Adequacy to the project – 20%;
 - d) Interview if deemed necessary by the jury - 30%.
5. The jury may interview the 3 best ranked candidates in the total of criteria a) to c) in no. 4, for clarifications and improved explanations of curricular elements. If there is an interview, the sum of the classification obtained in the evaluation criteria a) to c) will correspond to 70% of the final classification and the interview will correspond to 30%.
6. The jury shall deliberate by means of a roll-call vote based on the evaluation criteria.
7. Minutes of the jury meetings are drawn up, summarizing all relevant elements considered by jury members, as well as their individual votes and justifications.
8. After completion of the evaluation process, the jury will draw up a ranking of successful candidates with their classifications.
9. Hiring will be decided by the Chairman of the Board of Directors of FCIências.ID, based on the final jury recommendation.
10. The candidates will be individually notified of the evaluation results by e-mail sent to the address indicated in the "Personal Data" section of the submitted form.
11. With the notification referred to in no. 10, the hearing phase of interested parties referred to in Article 121 *et seq.* of the CPA will begin, and last for ten working days.
12. The possible pronouncement of the candidate in a prior hearing must be addressed to the President of the jury and submitted in writing to concursos@fciencias-id.pt. The President of the jury will convene a jury's meeting to produce the final decision, within thirty working days.
13. Within five working days of the final jury decision, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of FCIências.ID will approve it and the candidates will be notified.
14. The communication between FCIências.ID (concursos@fciencias-id.pt) and the candidates will be electronic and will comply with the following rules:
 - a) At the time of electronic submission of any document - namely in the case of no. 12 - the candidates must generate proof of "sent message".
 - b) FCIências.ID will send an email message acknowledging documents received to the email address used by the candidates, within two working days.
 - c) In case of absence of a confirmation receipt by FCIências.ID – showing the possibility of technical problems that should neither be the responsibility of the candidate nor FCIências.ID - the candidates should contact FCIências.ID, with the proof referred to in point (a), to ensure delivery and proper receipt of the documents concerned.

X. Processing of personal data

1. FCIências.ID - Associação para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento de Ciências, as the responsible for processing the personal data, in accordance with the [General Data Protection Regulation](#), collects and processes the personal data requested in the context the job application, under paragraphs b) and c) of Article 6.1 of the General Data Protection Regulation (RGPD).
2. The personal data shall be kept for the period necessary for the execution of the purposes for which they are intended, and the processing and protection, in an appropriate and diligent manner, of the confidentiality and integrity of such data shall be ensured through appropriate technical and organisational measures.
3. Personal data may be transmitted to third parties, namely the entity funding the research project, solely for the purposes specifically established. In this sense, whenever necessary the transfer of personal data to countries outside the European Union and/or international organizations, compliance with the applicable legal provisions shall be ensured.

4. You have the right to request access, rectification, erasure, limitation of processing, the right to object and also data portability (if technically feasible) by sending an e-mail to: dpo@fciencias-id.pt. You also have the right to lodge a complaint with the National Data Protection Commission.
5. For more information, we recommend that you consult the Internal Rules of Data Protection of FCIências.ID - Association for Research and Development of Sciences at <https://fciencias-id.pt/>.

XI. Compliance with public policies

1. FCIências.ID actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, disadvantaged or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due to, inter alia, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and trade union membership.
2. Under the terms of D.L. No. 29/2001, of February 3rd, a disabled candidate has a preference in equal classification, which prevails over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare their respective degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication / expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the above-mentioned diploma.

XII. Submission of Applications

1. The present call will be open from the 13th of January 2026 to the 26th of January 2026.
2. The application and all the required documents must be submitted in Portuguese or English.
3. Applications will be submitted online, through the electronic platform of FCIências.ID (<http://concursos.fciencias-id.pt>).
4. On the electronic platform, applicants will complete a mandatory section on Personal Data [name, address, date of birth, contact email, nationality and scientific identifiers] and upload files with the documents listed below:
 - i. Detailed *curriculum vitae* in PDF format - *mandatory*;
 - ii. A motivation letter clearly demonstrating that the candidate has an adequate profile for the position and fully complies with the Admission Requirements - *mandatory*;
 - iii. Up to five publications relevant for the objectives of the for the objectives of the Work Plan - *optional*;
 - iv. Reference letter(s) (maximum 2) - *optional*;
 - v. Digital copies of documents proving formal academic degrees required in the call (MSc) - original documents must be provided in case of actual recruitment - *mandatory*;
 - vi. Digital copies of documents of other scientific and professional qualifications – *optional*;
 - vii. Other documents that candidates consider relevant for the assessment of their scientific merit, or to declare the personal situation in the cases covered in section XI-2 of this Notice - *optional*.
5. By decision of the Chairman of the Board of Directors of FCIências.ID, candidates who do not submit the documents identified in no. 4 will not be admitted to the call. In case of doubts, the Chairman may also invite candidates to substantiate specific data or statements with official supporting documents, before accepting the candidates' submission.

This Public Note was approved by the jury on the 12th of January 2026.