

**NOTICE OF OPENING OF AN INTERNATIONAL SELECTION PROCEDURE FOR THE HIRING OF ONE DOCTORAL RESEARCHER FOR THE “MIXING-TOX: INGESTED NANOMATERIALS AND METAL MIXTURES IN FOOD: DEVELOPING INTEGRATED STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT HUMAN HEALTH RISK ASSESSMENT AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS” PROJECT (REF. 2022.03491.PTDC) OF THE INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTO**

The Institute of Public Health of the University of Porto (ISPUP) opens an international selection procedure for hiring a Doctoral Researcher to carry out research activities in the scientific areas of Chemistry or Biochemistry, in the context of an individual employment contract with an uncertain resolution, under the Labour Code, approved by Law no. 7/2009, of 12 February, as amended. These research activities are carried out under the project "INGested nanomaterials and metal MIXtures in food: developing integrated strategies to support human health risk assessment and regulatory frameworks ", reference 2022.03491.PTDC, funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT).

**Application deadline:** 22<sup>nd</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**1. Scientific area(s)**

The scientific areas of this contest are Chemistry; Biochemistry.

**2. Applicable legislation**

Decree-Law no. 57/2016, of 29 August, amended by Law no. 57/2017 of 19 July, which approves a regime for hiring doctorates to stimulate scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC); Regulatory Decree no. 11-A/2017, of 29 December; and applicable regulatory standards; Labor Code, approved by Law no. 7/2009, of February 12, in its current wording.

Following article 16 of the RJEC, this tender procedure is exempt from the authorization of the members of the Government responsible for the areas of finance and Public Administration, namely that referred to in paragraph 3 of article 7 of the LTFP, to obtain the prior favorable opinion of the members of the Government responsible for the areas of finance and Public

Administration, referred to in Article 30(5) of the LTFP and the procedure for the recruitment of re-skilling workers referred to in Article 265 of the LTFP.

### **3. Admission requirements**

The competition may be opposed national, foreign and stateless candidates who hold a degree of doctor in Chemistry, Biochemistry or related areas and holders of a scientific and professional curriculum that reveals experience and a profile appropriate to the activities to be developed.

The candidate must have:

- a) PhD in Chemistry, Biochemistry or related areas for at least 5 (five) years and no more than 12 (twelve) years;  
and
- b) At least 5 (five) years of experience in research, after completing their doctorate, in the fields of nanotoxicology, toxicology of Potentially Toxic Elements (PTEs), and toxicology of chemical mixtures;  
and
- c) Experience in the organization of Interlaboratory Comparison Tests;  
and
- d) Experience in the coordination of research projects, with competitive funding, carried out in the scientific areas of this notice.

*Suppose the doctorate has been conferred by a foreign higher education institution. In that case, it must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution following the provisions of Article 25 of Decree-Law / no. 66/2018, of 16 August, which approves the legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education awarded by foreign higher education institutions and point e) of paragraph 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018 of 3 of August, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the date of the act of contracting.*

#### **4. Preferred conditions**

- a) Prior integration into multidisciplinary teams within the scientific areas specified in this notice;
- b) Experience in cell culture with human cell lines;
- c) Experience in *in vitro* assays of cytotoxicity, genotoxicity, and immunotoxicity (e.g., WST-1, LDH, Comet assay, GSH, ROS, etc.) and flow cytometry (e.g., cell cycle, nanoparticle uptake, etc.);
- d) Experience in nanomaterial characterization techniques (e.g., TEM, SEM, XRD, DLS, etc.);
- e) Experience in quantification of chemical elements in biological matrices (e.g., ICP-MS, AAS, etc.);
- f) Publications as first author, senior author, and/or corresponding author in peer-reviewed international journals related to nanotoxicity, toxicity of PTEs, and chemical mixtures;
- g) An h-index equal to or greater than 14;
- h) Presentations (oral and/or poster) related to nanotoxicity, toxicity of PTEs, and chemical mixtures;
- i) Experience in supervising or co-supervising doctoral, master's, and/or undergraduate students, ongoing or completed;
- j) Proficient in data analysis software (e.g., Excel, SPSS, Prism);
- k) Scientific awards or distinctions in the areas specified in this announcement;
- l) Experience in laboratory management (e.g., reagent and consumable stocks, equipment maintenance, etc.);
- m) Fluency in written and spoken English.

#### **5. Functions**

The functions to be performed include planning and executing various activities related to:

- a) Tasks related to the *in vitro* assays, toxicity tests, and quantification of chemical elements in biological samples described in the preferred conditions (point 4);
- b) Support in organizing (logistics, contacts, preparation of procedures and samples) the Interlaboratory Comparison Test foreseen in the project;

- c) Statistical analysis and interpretation of project data. Integration of data from various project areas, including nanomaterial characterization;
- d) Production of original scientific articles suitable for publication in peer-reviewed international journals;
- e) Dissemination of project results at national and international conferences.
- f) Supervision or co-supervision of internship and/or postgraduate students
- f) Management of supplies and reagent stocks.

## **6. Workplace**

The workplace is located at Department of Environmental Health of the National Health Institute, I.P. Address: Rua Alexandre Herculano, 321, 4000-055, Porto, Portugal

## **7. Contracting regime**

The PhDs will be hired under an uncertain fixed-term employment contract by legal imperative, according to point b) of paragraph 1 of article 6 of the RJECC, ex vi, paragraph 2 of article 18 of the RJECC, and remain only for the period necessary for the execution of the tasks defined in the project and identified in the following paragraph.

## **8. Duration**

The uncertain fixed-term contract is expected to start in July 2024, lasting 20 months, 20 months, possibly renewable, but not exceeding the project's end date.

## **9. Remuneration**

The basic monthly remuneration is € 3,427.59 (three thousand, four hundred and twenty-seven euros and fifty-nine cents), equivalent to the Auxiliary Research level, following point a) of paragraph 1 of article 15 of Law No. 57/2017, of July 19 and corresponding to the level of Assistant Researcher of the Scientific Research career of the single remuneration table, approved by Decree-Law n.º 84-F/2022, of december 16. The basic remuneration includes the legally provided discounts, meal allowance of € 6.00 (six euros), and holiday and Christmas allowance.

## 10. Selection methods

According to Decree-Law No. 57/2016, of 29 August, amended by Law no. 57/2017, of 19 July, are selection methods:

- a) Evaluation (curricular) of the scientific and curricular path of the candidates (90%);
- b) Interview, if the jury deems it necessary, to perform a maximum of 3 candidates among the best positioned in the curricular evaluation (10%);
- c) If the jury does not consider the interview necessary, the evaluation of the scientific and curricular path will be weighted 100%.
- d) The successful candidate must score at least 10 points (half of the total score) in the curricular evaluation and the interview, if applicable;

If none of the candidates demonstrates having the profile indicated for carrying out the work plan, the Selection Committee reserves the right not to allocate the vacancy in the competition.

## 11. Evaluation of the Scientific and Curricular Course of the candidates (0 to 20 points)

The evaluation of the scientific and curricular path, considering the profile appropriate to the requirements of the functions corresponding to the category to which this competition relates, focuses on the relevance, quality and timeliness of the following aspects:

- a) Skills and abilities required to effectively perform the functions described (50%);
- b) Scientific production considered most relevant by the candidate for the recruitment area (publications, communications at congresses, etc.) (40%);
- c) Other relevant factors that demonstrate the candidate's suitability for carrying out the described functions (10% points).

## 12. Interview Evaluation (0 to 20 points)

If the interview takes place, up to a maximum of 3 candidates with the best classification in the evaluation of the scientific and curricular course will be admitted, and the jury will evaluate aspects related to:

- a) Professional knowledge and skills to implement the work plan (0-10 points);
- b) Motivation to carry out the research project (0-4 points);

- c) Communication skills (0-3 points);
- d) Professional attitude (0-3 points).

The failure of the candidates to appear at the eventual interview phase of the selection process is equivalent to the withdrawal from the competition, and the candidates are excluded from the procedure.

### **13. Valuation of selection methods**

- a) Each jury member evaluates the candidates' scientific and curricular path on a scale of 0 to 20 points. The classification is obtained through the weighting defined in the evaluation criteria.
- b) The evaluation of the second selection method is expressed on a scale of 0 to 20 points, and the classification is obtained through the weighting defined in the criteria to be evaluated.

### **14. Composition of the jury**

President – Doctor Sónia Fraga

1.º Member of the Jury – Doctor João Paulo Teixeira

2.º Member of the Jury – Doctor Carla Costa

1.º Alternate member of the Jury – Doctor Solange Costa

2.º Alternate member of the Jury – Doctor Joana Madureira

### **15. Formalization of applications**

15.1 Applications are formalised, mandatorily, through email to the address [candidaturas@ispup.up.pt](mailto:candidaturas@ispup.up.pt), with the ref. " PhD Researcher\_MixIng-Tox" in the subject, accompanied by the documents proving the conditions provided for in points 3, 4 and 11 of this competition, namely:

- a) Curriculum Vitae, in English, with the indication of full name and contact;
- b) Letter of motivation, in English, in which the candidate must, in addition to the references indicated in the minimum requirements, explain the reasons that motivate him or her to carry out scientific research, to apply for this competition and how his/her academic profile and previous experience are suitable for this project;

- c) Copy of the supporting documents of all the degrees obtained by the candidate (including doctorate), with the final classification obtained and the respective academic degree recognition by a Portuguese higher education institution (if applicable).

The degree recognition must be duly proven until the act of hiring. If the recognition of the degree is under review, should be send proof of the request;

- d) Other documents that the applicant justifies are relevant for the examination of his/her application (if applicable).

15.2 Applications must be submitted by June 5th, 2024.

15.3 Failure to comply with the deadline for submission of the application set, failure to submit or submit the documents referred to in point 15.1 (a) after the application submission deadline. The exclusion decision is notified to the candidates in the final minutes by e-mail to hold the hearing of the interested parties.

15.4 The jury may, whenever it deems it necessary, request the candidates to submit documents complementary to the facts in the curriculum submitted, determining a deadline for this purpose.

15.5 False statements made by candidates will be punished following the law.

## **16. Form of advertising/notification of results**

- a) The minutes(s) regarding the phase(s) of evaluation of the applications will be sent via email to the address provided by the candidates in their Curriculum Vitae.
- b) Prior hearing and deadline for the final decision: under Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure, after being notified, candidates have ten working days to comment.

17. In case of withdrawal of the candidate ranked first, the highest body of the Institute reserves the right to call the next candidate and so on until the vacancy is filled.

## **18. Non-discrimination and equal access policy**

ISPUP actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due to, in particular, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, the territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and trade union membership.

## **19. Privacy and data protection policy**

ISPUP is committed to complying with personal data protection legislation to protect the data and privacy of employees, students, and partners. As the controller, ISPUP undertakes to process all data collected in the application process following the procedures defined in the data protection legislation and per the stipulations of the Privacy Policy.