

ENGLISH VERSION

Reference: BI/CESAM/949880/KleptoSlug/ERC-2020-STG

CALL FOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

<http://www.eracareers.pt/opportunities/index.aspx?task=global&jobid=131977>

Applications are now opened for two (2) Research fellowships to carry out work leading to a doctoral degree, within the scope of R&D project 949880 KleptoSlug - “The sea slug that got away with stolen chloroplasts”, with financial support from the European Research Council (ERC) H2020 program, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific area: Biological Sciences, Biochemistry or similar/related.

2. Admission pre-requisites: MSc. degree in Biological Sciences, Biochemistry or similar/related subject, enrolled in a PhD program when starting the position. Candidates must be fluent in English and be available to travel within and outside Europe. Experience in areas relating to the work plan will be an advantage. Such experience must be described in the motivation letter and demonstrated during the interview, if invited.

If the qualification has been granted by a foreign higher education institution, it will have to be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, under the terms 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 of paragraph e) of paragraph 2 of article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018, of August 3, and any formalities established there must be completed by the date of the contracting act.

3. Eligibility: Candidates who comply with the provisions of subparagraph a) of paragraph 1 of article 2 of the Research Fellow's Statute are eligible, as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August, and also the provisions of article 9 of the Regulation for Scientific Research Grants of the University of Aveiro.

4. Work plan: Some sea slugs are able to retain functional chloroplasts from macroalgae (kleptoplasty). The cellular mechanisms that support the retention of functional chloroplasts within the cells of these animals, and the benefits that the host derives from this retention, remain unclear. The work to be carried out, leading to a doctoral degree, will have a comprehensive comparative approach, exploring the variability of the maintenance of chloroplasts in sea slugs. The main objectives are: 1) to uncover the mechanisms that allow sea slugs to retain functional chloroplasts; 2) to verify the interconnection of the system of induction / elimination of reactive oxygen species with the capacity to retain chloroplasts; 3) to determine the benefits of kleptoplasty for the host. The main procedures and techniques to be used will include: maintenance of life support systems for Sacoglossa sea slugs (*Placida dendritica*, *Elysia viridis*, *Elysia timida*, *Elysia crispata*, *Elysia chlorotica*); reproduction of some of the indicated species (e.g. *Elysia timida* and *Elysia crispata*); macroalgae cultivation (e.g. *Codium* sp., *Bryopsis* sp., *Acetabularia* sp., *Vaucheria* sp.); lipidomics, genomics and metabolomics analyses of the mentioned species; oxidative stress analysis; analysis of stable isotopes in fatty acids and amino acids; high resolution secondary ion mass spectrometry (nanoSIMS) analysis; optical and electronic microscopy; data analysis and treatment; reporting and writing scientific articles.

5. Legislation and applicable regulations: Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow, in the wording given by Decree-Law No. 123/2019, of 28 August; Regulation of Scientific Research Scholarships at the University of Aveiro, Regulation No. 292/2020, published in “Diário da República” No. 61, 2nd Series, of 26 March; Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of 16 August (Legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of higher education awarded by foreign higher education institutions).

6. Work place: The work will be developed at the Department of Biology, Department of Chemistry, CESAM (Centre for Environmental and Marine Studies) and at the Laboratory for Innovation and Sustainability of Marine Biological Resources



(ECOMARE) of the University of Aveiro, Portugal, under the supervision of Doctor Sónia Marisa Gonçalves da Cruz, Doctor Paulo Jorge Sousa Dias Cartaxana and Doctor Felisa Rey Eiras.

7. Duration: The fellowship will be awarded for 12 months, aiming to start between May and October 2021, after which it can be renewed up to 48 months in total and within the duration of the project (May 2021 – April 2026).

8. Monthly maintenance allowance: €1.074,64 according to the table for monthly maintenance allowance, described in the annex III of the Regulation for Scientific Research Grants of the University of Aveiro.

9. Selection criteria: Curricular path (60%); interview (30%); communication skills in English language (spoken and written) (10%). The curricular path evaluation will include final grade of degree (up to 15 points), the number and impact of publications in scientific journals (up to 3 points depending on the relevance to the project, proved submitted papers are accepted), communications in international conferences (up to 1 point depending on the relevance to the project), science communication and dissemination (up to 1 point). Only candidates with a minimum of 14 out of 20 points in the curricular path will be evaluated regarding English skills and interview. Performance at interview will evaluate the development perspectives of the candidate in terms of the scientific career in the area, with particular focus on the project topic.

10. Selection committee: Doctor Sónia Marisa Gonçalves da Cruz, Doctor Paulo Jorge Sousa Dias Cartaxana and Doctor Felisa Rey Eiras, Researchers at the University of Aveiro, as main jury; Doctor Ricardo Jorge Guerra Calado, Principal researcher with Habilitation, and Doctor Maria do Rosário Gonçalves dos Reis Marques Domingues, Associated Professor with Habilitation, both from the University of Aveiro.

11. Application deadline and format: Applications are open between 3rd and 22nd March 2021, and are only admitted within the deadline.

The applications should be formalized using an application letter and including the following documents: Motivation letter, *Curriculum Vitae*, academic certificate, 2 recommendation letters or reference of 2 contacts for recommendation, publications and communications at international conferences (if applicable), other evidences of experience or professional activities considered relevant by the candidates. If the degree has been obtained abroad the respective documents relative to equivalence and due grades are required. The candidate should provide an e-mail contact for notification of selection process, by which the candidate accepts to be notified for all matters within this process.

Applications should be sent via e-mail to sonia.cruz@ua.pt, with the subject “Fellowship – KleptoSlug”. Please keep a notification of received E-mail.

12. Form of disclosure/notification of results: The final evaluation will be communicated by e-mail to all the candidates within 60 working days from application deadline. Candidates are informed, in the context of a prior hearing, under the terms enshrined in the Code of Administrative Procedure, of the draft decision, and may, within 10 working days of this notification, comment on this decision. The candidates may appeal to the Dean against the final results, to be presented within 10 working days of the respective notification.