

Announcement of Postdoctoral Fellowship

A postdoctoral fellowship is available in the project “Symbiolite - A novel microbial-algal calcification process driven by coral symbiotic algae: Structure, function, ecological role and evolutionary significance” funded by national funds from FCT/MCTES and co-financed by FEDER (POCI-01-0145-FEDER-016748), within PT2020, and Compete 2020, with the following conditions.

The fellowship has a duration of 3 months (renewable for an additional 6 months, if the project extension is approved). Starting date is 01.03.2019, as regulated by the “Regulamento da Formação Avançada e Qualificação de Recursos Humanos” da Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>).

Dinoflagellates of the family Symbiodiniaceae are important coral symbionts. Previous work of the team has resulted in the discovery that free-living symbiodiniaceans in culture commonly form calcifying bacterial-algal communities that produce aragonitic spherulites – ‘symbiolites’ – and encase the dinoflagellates as endolithic cells. This discovery offers entirely new perspectives on fundamental questions regarding the life cycle and ecology of these important dinoflagellates.

The postdoctoral fellow is expected to further explore this new field of research at the cross section of microbial-algal calcification, *Symbiodinium* ecology and biogeochemistry through the study of: i) the functional role of symbiolites in the symbiodiniacean life cycle; in particular, the effects of the incorporation of living symbiodiniaceans into symbiolites on their photosynthetic performance and the potential photoprotective role of symbiolites against UVR exposure; ii) the effects of ocean chemistry on symbiolite formation; and iii) the diversity of symbiodiniacean communities associated with naturally occurring symbiolites.

Academic profile: PhD in Biology or related area with a demonstrated ability for independent and creative research. Experience in microbial ecology, phycology, photo-/eco-physiology and molecular genetics are highly desirable. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in *in vivo* photosynthesis measurements (FRRF and PAM, microelectrodes) as well as microbial and molecular genetics techniques. Good English skills are essential.

The allocation of the fellowship is based on the Statute for Research Scholars and the Research Grants Regulation by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P. (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf>) and the Grants Regulation of Scientific Research of the University of Aveiro (Despacho n.º 9887/2005 (2ª série), de 13 de Abril). The fellowship will be €1.495,00/month + voluntary social security, according to FCT regulations for scientific fellowships in Portugal (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>). The scholarship is paid monthly through bank transfer.

Applicants should send the following documents: Candidate form (available at <http://www.ua.pt/drh>, under Bolseiros/Modelo de Candidatura), *curriculum vitae*, copy of PhD certificate, copy of ID card or passport, motivation letter and contact details for two references.

Applications should be sent by email or by mail, from 25.01.2019 to 08.02.2019, to the following address: João Serôdio, Department of Biology, University of Aveiro, Campus de Santiago, 3810-193 Aveiro, Portugal; Email: jserodio@ua.pt

The selection criteria is based on: *curriculum vitae* (40%; considering the marks obtained in the various academic degrees), previous experience in the research field of the project (40%; including publications in the field), and adequacy of the profile for the project (20%). In case of a tie between the 3 candidates with best classifications, an interview will be held. The final classification will be determined as: 50% for the classification bases on previously described items and 50% for interview.

The jury responsible for the selection will consist of: Chairman: Prof. Dr. João Serôdio. Other members: Dr. Artur Alves and Dr. Jörg Frommlet (Department of Biology, University of

Aveiro, CESAM). The final evaluation results will be communicated to all candidates by e-mail and within the periods prescribed by applicable law.

University of Aveiro, 11.01.2019