

ANÚNCIO Nº18/2018/BI

Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária I.P.

ONE RESEARCH TECHNICIAN FELLOWSHIP

A call is open for one Research Fellowship (BI) within the project **Protocolo Driscolls / INIAV.**

Main research field:

Agronomical Sciences

Funding sources:

Phytoplasma study INIAV/ Driscolls

Secondary research field:

Plant Health, Molecular Biology and Entomology

Candidate Profile:

Eligible candidates will be admitted to the competition when demonstrating:

- (i) A BSc title in agronomical engineering with an average equal or above 14/20;
- (ii) Basic practical experience in molecular diagnostics for, at least, 1 year;
- (ii) Basic practical experience in field detection of phytoplasmas on *Rubus* for, at least, 1 year;
- (iii) Motivation letter;
- (iv) Degree certificate with details concerning the marks attributed per discipline.

Preference will be given to candidates with proven experience in:

- (i) Field identification of symptoms associated to virus and phytoplasmas, particularly '*Candidatus phytoplasma rubi*'.
- (ii) DNA extraction through different methods;
- (iii) Experience in real-time PCR (quantitative through regression curves and $2^{-\Delta\Delta Ct}$, ELISA tests and digital-PCR);
- (iv) DNA cloning;
- (v) Experience in laboratory and field work with cicadellids (Insecta: Homoptera: Cicadellidae), especially those vectors of phytoplasmas

Working plan:

1) Supporting all tasks concerning collection of plant material (symptoms identification and correlation with the Rubus stunt disease) and laboratory detection of *Candidatus phytoplasma rubi*. Such tasks will include:

- (i) Field sampling of plant material;
- (ii) Plant material processing and conservation at $-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
- (iii) DNA extraction (CTAB and Kits)
- (iv) Molecular detection of phytoplasma (nested-PCR, electrophoresis, DNA sequencing and real time-PCR)
- (v) Collaboration in writing technical reports
- (vi) Novel approaches for early detection at very low phytoplasmas concentrations including novel technologies as LAMP and digital-PCR.

2) Field sampling of insects, weekly, by traps and sweep net and screening of cicadellids in laboratory.

Legislation and regulations: Grant Regulation of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia – (<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>).

Workplace: The work will be carried out at Instituto Nacional de Investigação Agrária e Veterinária (INIAV, IP) and Odemira region, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Esmeraldina Sousa and Dr. Célia Mateus.

Grant duration:

Grants will be awarded for a period of 9 months.

Value of monthly maintenance allowance:

Monthly allowance will be € 745,00, according to the grant regulation of FCT in Portugal (<http://alfa.fct.mctes.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>). The payment will be done by bank transfer at the end of each month.

Selection methods:

The ranking of candidates will result from a global appreciation of the *Curriculum vitae* and the motivation letter. An interview will occur in case of equal rates between the two best candidates.

Composition of the Selection Panel:

Dr. Esmeraldina Sousa (president of the selection jury), Célia Mateus (vowel), Dr. Pedro Oliveira (vowel), Dr Isabel Miranda Calha (vowel deputy), Eng. Céu Mimoso (vowel deputy).

Form of advertising/notification of results:

The final evaluation results will be notified by e-mail.

Deadline for application:

The application period will be from 15th to 28th of May 2018.

Presentation of applications:

Applications must be formalized by sending a letter of application/motivation together with the following documents: *Curriculum vitae*, degree certificate (with details concerning the marks attributed per discipline), and other documents considered relevant. Candidates with professional activity, at the time of grant award, compatible with the exclusivity conditions for grants must submit a document confirming that situation issued by the employer. Candidates without professional activity, at the time of grant award, must submit a declaration, on their honour, about the non-existence of professional occupation during the grant period.

Applications should be sent to:

esmeraldina.sousa@iniav.pt; celia.mateus@iniav.pt; pedro.oliveira@iniav.pt