

**CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP – MASTER’S STUDENTS IN THE  
AREA OF PRODUCTION ENGINEERING OR RELATED FIELDS – STRAPSHELL PROJECT**

Bearing in mind Regulation No. 437/2020 on Research Grants of the Polytechnic Institute of Setúbal, published in the 2nd series of the Official Gazette No. 83, of April 28, it is made public that, by order of 12-03-2026 from the President of the IPS, a competition is open for the award of a **Master Research Grant** aimed at carrying out R&D activities for candidates **enrolled in a Master Degree, in the area of Aquaculture Engineering and Management or related fields**, within the scope of the **Strapshell project - advancing oyster cultivation through sustainable tape systems**, funded by IFAP/MAR2030, **with the period for receiving applications from 25-03-2026 to 07-04-2026**, in accordance with the following conditions:

- 1. Duration of the Scholarship** - The grant is valid for 12 months and may be renewed until December 31, 2027, the final date for completion of the respective project.
- 2. Recipients** - The scholarship is intended for candidates with the following profile:
  - Students enrolled in a master’s program in Aquaculture Engineering and Management or related fields.
  - Knowledge of microbiology, biochemistry, DNA sequencing, and biomarkers applied to biology and aquaculture.
  - A sense of responsibility and the ability to communicate and work effectively in multidisciplinary teams.
- 3. Financial component** - According to the Table, contained in Annex I to the FCT Scholarship Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series of December 16 (updated version), the value of the Scholarship corresponds to € 1040,98 being paid monthly, by bank transfer.
- 4. Workplace** - The work will be carried out on an exclusive basis at the Setúbal School of Technology, part of the Setúbal Polytechnic Institute, and at the company Marvelous Wave, Lda/Aquanostra, under the scientific supervision of Research Assistant Nuno Borges.

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**5. Activity plan** - The candidate will carry out duties within the grant project in which IPS is participating. The candidate will carry out work in the following areas:

- Implementation of protocols to determine the level of oxidative stress in oysters (i.e., antioxidant enzymes; non-enzymatic biomarkers and biomarkers of oxidative damage).
- Determination of the level of oxidative stress in oysters cultured in the traditional system and the automated system, and comparison of the results.
- Extraction of DNA from oysters cultivated in both systems and submission of genetic material for sequencing (16S amplicon sequencing).
- Taxonomic and functional analysis and comparison of the microbiomes of oysters cultivated in the traditional system versus the automated system, using state-of-the-art bioinformatics tools.
- Preparation of publications and technical documentation and support for the research team.

**6. Assessment and ranking criteria:**

**6.1. Assessment of Academic Qualifications and Motivation Letter – (scored out of 15)**

**a) Academic Qualifications (weighting 0,30) - Maximum 15 values**

Enrolment in a master’s degree in Environmental and Marine Technologies, Marine Biology, Marine Biology and Biotechnology, Aquaculture, and Biological Sciences	15 values
Enrolment in a master's programs in related fields	10 values

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**b) Assessment of knowledge of digital transformation as applied to the project  
area (weighting 0,20) – Maximum 15 values**

With knowledge and experience in geographic information systems as applied to the project’s field (e.g., participation in research projects, theses, presentations, published articles)	15 values
With knowledge of geographic information systems as applied to the project area	10 values
Without knowledge of geographic information systems	0 values

**c) General analysis of the Curriculum Vitae (weighting 0,20) – Maximum 15 values**

Very good	15 values
Good	10 values
Satisfies	5 values
Does not satisfy	0 values

**d) General analysis of the Motivation Letter (weighting 0,20) – Maximum 15 values**

Very good (outlines motivational factors related to the activities to be performed as a fellow, clearly aligned with the role)	15 values
Good	10 values
Satisfies	5 values
Does not satisfy	0 values

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**6.2. Selection Interview - (0–5 value scale)**

The interview includes four evaluation criteria, and the final score is calculated using the following formula:  $E = MI + CTT + SC + EFV$

- Motivation and Interest (MI)
- Theoretical and Technical Knowledge (CTT)
- Critical Thinking (SC)
- Verbal Expression and Fluency (EFV)

Each parameter is scored from 0 to 1.25 points, based on the candidate’s demonstration of competence or behavior.

**6.3.** Each candidate’s score will be calculated by adding the scores obtained from the CURRICULUM EVALUATION, the MOTIVATION LETTER, and the SELECTION INTERVIEW.

**6.4.** Each candidate’s score will be calculated by adding the scores obtained through the selection methods specified in the previous section, and the ranking of candidates will be expressed on a scale of 0 to 20 points, rounded to the nearest tenth.

**6.5.** To be approved, the candidate must achieve a minimum total score of 9.5 points and must have obtained at least half of the maximum possible score in each of the selection methods applied in the competition.

**6.6.** In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be the candidate who achieved the higher score in the Interview component.

**6.7.** Based on the final ranking list, a recruitment reserve will be established, which will be used for the eventual hiring of successful candidates if those ranked in positions eligible for hiring withdraw.

**7. Application documents** - The application must be accompanied by the following documentation:

- Letter of motivation addressed to the President of the IPS
- Candidacy form (signed)
- Detailed CV
- Certificates of qualifications for academic degrees held

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- Proof of student status for the course and degree attended at a Portuguese Higher Education Institution, issued by the respective academic services
  - Documents and visas relating to residence in Portugal (for applicants who are not citizens of Portugal or another European Union Member State)
- 8. How to submit your application** - The application must be made by filling out the standard form, available on the IPS website, at [www.ips.pt](http://www.ips.pt), and sent to [bolsas.investigacao.dgp@ips.pt](mailto:bolsas.investigacao.dgp@ips.pt) or through the address, Campus do IPS, Estefanilha, 2910 761 Setúbal, until the application deadline.
- 9. The jury is made up of:**
- President**
- Doctor Ricardo Manuel Nunes Salgado, Adjunct Professor at the Setúbal School of Technology/IPS
- Effective vowels**
- Doctor Ana Maria Álvares Tavares da Mata, Adjunct Professor at the Setúbal School of Technology/IPS
- Doctor Nuno Miguel Formiga Borges, Research Assistant at the Setúbal Polytechnic Institute
- Substitute members**
- Doctor Aldina Maria Pedro Soares, Adjunct Professor at the Setúbal School of Technology/IPS
- Doctor Pedro Miguel Emídio Félix, Adjunct Professor at the Setúbal School of Technology/IPS
- 10. Applicable legislation and regulations** - The scholarship is awarded under Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, in its updated version (Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow) and Regulation of Scholarships and Research of the Foundation for Science and Technology, available for consultation at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>