

## Open Call for a Research Fellowship

The Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC) is welcoming applications to a Master's degree (BI) Research Fellowship, under the project LCF/PR/HR22/52420023, Project Proposal HR22-00799, with the title "T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia: Origin & Relapse (T-ALLOREL)", financed by Fundación Bancaria Caixa d'Estalvis i Pensions de Barcelona ("La Caixa" Foundation) with the following conditions:

**1. Duration** The fellowship duration according to the [IGC Research Fellowship Regulation](#) approved by FCT is 12 months, with the possibility of renewal up to a maximum limit of 2 years. The fellowship contract is expected to start by June 2024, under the exclusiveness regime as required by Research Fellowship Regulation of Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, IP (FCT).

**2. Subject of Activities:** T-ALLOREL proposes to study initiation and relapse in T cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (T-ALL). T-ALL is a particularly aggressive blood-borne cancer that arises from cells of the immune system: T lymphocytes. It affects mostly children but can also affect adults. Although T-ALL can be currently cured in 80% of children and 60% of adult patients, it causes severe secondary side effects. Furthermore, 20% of pediatric and 40% of adult T-ALL cases where therapy fails, succumb to an uncontrollable disease. Improving therapy requires further understanding of the causes that trigger T-ALL and how the disease re-emerges in relapse. We propose an innovative approach to address this challenge to reveal how normal cells become leukemic and how these resist treatment to allow the disease to re-emerge. We will address these aspects by integrating mouse and human cell work. T-ALLOREL should translate into the development of novel therapies and strategies to distinguish responders from non-responders, ensuring more effective therapy for the latter.

**3. Scientific Areas:** Immunology, Cancer, Mouse models.

**4. Scientific Guidance:** The selected candidate will join the laboratory of Lymphocyte Development and Leukemogenesis (<https://gulbenkian.pt/ciencia/research-groups/vmartins/>), headed by Dr. Vera Martins.

**5. Academic Profile and Admission Requirements:** MSc.in Biology, Biochemistry or related area, or Bioinformatics. Fluency in English (written and spoken) is required.

Candidates without a background in Bioinformatics are required to have previous expertise in flow cytometry and the mouse as model organism. It is of advantage if the candidate has previous experience in molecular biology (PCR, RNA/DNA extraction). Additionally, we will prefer candidates with a background in Immunology and cancer/leukemia using mouse models.

Candidates with a background in Bioinformatics should have experience in RNAseq analyses, preferably in single-cell RNAseq.

According to article 3, point 2 of [IGC Research Fellowship Regulation](#), the selected candidate must be enrolled in a non-academic degree course integrated in the educational project of a higher education institution.

Financed by:

If the qualification has been conferred by a foreign higher education institution it must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, under the terms of the provisions of article 25.º of Decree-Law n.º 66/2018, of August 16<sup>th</sup> (<https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>), which approves the legal regime of recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of Higher Education, attributed by foreign higher education institutions, and of paragraph e) of n.º 2 of article 4.º of Decree-Law n.º 60/2018, of August 3rd, and any formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the date of the hiring act. The jury reserves the right to invite the candidate ranked immediately after to the position in question when the first ranked candidate is not recognized with the academic degree after the aforementioned formalities have been fulfilled.

**6. For Portuguese taxpayers:** All candidates that where/are currently taxpayers in Portugal are required to present evidence of the fulfillment of their individual obligations towards the Portuguese Tax Authority and Social Security. Failure to comply with this requirement will be considered as a criteria for exclusion from the recruitment process.

**7. Applicable legislation and Regulation:** All candidates must comply with the [IGC Research Fellowship Regulation](#); [Research Fellowship Statutes](#) amended by [Decree n° 123/2019](#) of August 28<sup>th</sup>; [FCT Legislation and Regulations for Fellowships](#) and the [Decree-Law n.º 66/2018](#), of August 16th (Legal regime for recognition of academic degrees and diplomas of higher education awarded by foreign higher education institutions)

**8. Subsidy Month Stipend:** 1.360,00 €/month according to the table of monthly maintenance allowance amounts set out in Annex I of [IGC Research Fellowship Regulation](#). The payment will be made by bank transfer. The selected candidate will be reimbursed for the amount corresponding to the Voluntary Social Security contribution.

**9. Deadline for applications and how to submit applications:** Interested candidates should send their applications to [igcpositions@igc.gulbenkian.pt](mailto:igcpositions@igc.gulbenkian.pt) in a single PDF file, named “**Applicant Name\_Research Technician\_T-ALLOREL**”, containing: Motivation Letter (2 page max); Curriculum Vitae (2 pages max), two reference letters and proof of degree.

**10. Methods of Selection and Evaluation:** The selection procedure shall be as follows: Curriculum (40%), motivation letter (20%), reference letters (20%). If considered necessary by the jury, the interview of the selected applicants will represent (20%) of the final evaluation.

**11. Jury Selection:** Chairman: Dr. Vera Martins. Other members: Dr. Michelle Pereira and Dr. Bruna Sabino Oliveira.

**12. Form of Advertising / Notification of results:** The assessment results will be sent to all candidates by email. There will be 10 working days for complaints/appeals after the date of publication of the Selection Minute, through the same application email.

**13. Application Period:** From 09/05/2024 until 14/06/2024.

**14. Non-discrimination and equal access policy:** The Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation actively promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefitted, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, education, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage,

Financed by:

reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

Financed by: