Position: MASTERS-level RESEARCH ASSISTANT (m/f/d)

Job Reference: DB RA 2022.01

General research areas: Health and medical sciences

Specific research areas:
- Science and technology
- Life Sciences
- Neuroscience

Job summary:
The Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology (CNC), of the University of Coimbra, is opening a selection tender for the recruitment of 1 Master’s-level research assistant, to carry out research activities in the scientific area of Health and Medical Sciences - Systems and Behavioural Neuroscience, under project DYNABrain - “DYNAMIC BRAIN FUNCTION: Towards the Understanding and Treatment of Brain Disorders” (https://dynabrain.cnc.uc.pt/) funded by the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No 952422).

Work Contract regime: fixed-term employment contract, under Portuguese Labor Code, approved Law no. 7/2009, of February 12, in its current version - Law No. 93/2019 of September 4. The contract's duration is of 1 year, renewable for up to 1 more year, maximum.

Remuneration level: Monthly salary corresponds to the remuneration level 22 of the Single Remuneration Table (TRU) approved by Decree no.1553-C/2008 of the 31st December, currently set at 1,580.71 Euros gross for an exclusive basis work contract.

Funding: The contract is celebrated in the context of the grant agreement No 952422 signed between the European Commission and the Centro de Neurociências e Biologia Celular in 2020, for the project entitled “DYNAMIC BRAIN FUNCTION: Towards the Understanding and Treatment of Brain Disorders”.

Place of work: Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology, University of Coimbra, UC-Biotech, Parque Tecnológico de Cantanhede (Cantanhede, Portugal).

Eligible Applicants: Nationals, Foreign or Stateless candidates who hold a Master’s degree in Biological Sciences, Neuroscience, Psychology, Physics or related fields. Applicants should hold a scientific and professional curriculum that reveals a profile appropriate to the activity to be developed. In case of Master’s degrees awarded by a foreign higher education institution, the degree must comply with the provisions of Decree-Law no. 341/2007 of 12th of October, and all formalities established therein must be fulfilled by the deadline for application submission.

Type of Activity: Research activities within the scope of project DYNABrain (H2020 grant agreement No 952422), including activities focused on performing in vivo experiments with socially behaving rodents, optogenetic manipulation of brain circuits in behaving animals, analysis of pose estimation of unmarked body parts with DeepLabCut, data analysis of calcium imaging data, and ultrasonic vocalizations.
Selection method: Curriculum Evaluation (CE) and Interview (INT) to the three (3) candidates with the highest ranking in the CE.

Selection and final decision criteria: The Curriculum Evaluation (CE), weighting 90% will consider the following criteria:

- Consistency and quality of the CV along with the applicant’s suitability to the above described activities (C1) – 65%, focusing on: the quality of the scientific contributions to the field; scientific papers in journals; laboratorial experience relevant for the scientific project (in particular, experience with quantitative approaches to behavior, experience with social decision making tasks, programming skills with Python, demonstrable user knowledge of tracking software such as DeepLabCut, demonstrable knowledge in behavioral prototyping, 3D printing, 3D design, electronics, use of pyControl and behavioral prototyping, demonstrable experience with analysis of ultrasonic vocalisations in rodents); knowledge of English (oral and written); holding an animal experimentation course, accredited by DGAV (Direcção Geral de Alimentação e Veterinária) for the performance of procedures in animals, will be valued.
- Participation in activities of dissemination and exploration of knowledge (C2) – 5%, including the organization and active participation in courses and scientific meetings, activities of science communication.
- Motivation letter (C3) – 20%

The Interview (INT), weighting 10%, will evaluate the view of the candidate of its own technical training and its fit in the research lines of the host laboratory

The final classification (FC), expressed on a scale of 0 to 100, will be determined by the formula:

\[ FC = 0.65 \times C1 + 0.05 \times C2 + 0.20 \times C3 + 0.10 \times INT \]

Composition of the selection panel: Cristina Márquez (Chairman of the jury); João Peça (juror), Ana Luísa Carvalho (juror), Carlos Duarte (alternate juror) and Mónica Santos (alternate juror).

The panel’s final decision is approved by the ERA Chair holder of the DYNABrain project jointly with the CNC director that is also in charge of deciding about hiring.

Formalization and submission of the applications: Applications are formalized in English and by uploading the following documents into the application form in the online system DYNABrain - Join us: https://dynabrain.cnc.uc.pt/?page_id=1369: a) Copy of Masters certificate or diploma and animal experimentation course; b) Detailed curriculum vitae; c) Other documents relevant for the evaluation of the qualification in related scientific area (English language levels will be evaluated taking into account the documents sent by the applicant as well as in the interview); d) Motivation letter, explaining the interest for the projects of the host laboratory, and a brief description of previous training and expertise in the field (max. 2 pages); e) contact of 2 persons willing to give references about the candidates.

Applicants should merge the required documents into a single pdf and name it with the name of the applicant and job reference. All candidates who do not formalize their applications according to the rules set forth, or fail to provide the requirements imposed by this tender, are excluded from admission. In case of doubt, the panel is entitled to request any candidate to present further documentation supporting their statements.

For questions related to the call, applicants can contact raquel.rodrigues@cnc.uc.pt.
Deadline for applications: 22nd December 2022.

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Notification of candidates: The list of admitted and excluded candidates, as well as the final classification list, are posted in the project’s website (https://dynabrain.cnc.uc.pt/) and the selected applicants will be notified to their specified contact email with receipt of delivery of the notification.

Preliminary Hearing and deadline for Final Decision: After notification of the results, the candidates have 10 working days to respond and exercise their right-to-react (rebuttal). In the following 2 working days, counted from the deadline for submitting the rebuttal, the final decisions of the jury about eventual complaints shall be published on the DYNABrain website: https://dynabrain.cnc.uc.pt/. The final decision of the jury shall be published no longer than 90 days following the deadline for application submission.

The present tender is exclusively destined to fill the vacancy indicated, may be terminated until the homologation of the final ranking list of candidates and expires with the respective occupation of the job on offer. The jury may decide to terminate the present tender at any time, if no candidates are deemed suitable for the position on offer.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: The CNC actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, beneficiary, disadvantaged or private of any right or exemption from any duty owing, in particular, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and trade union membership.

Under the terms of D.L. No. 29/2001, of February 3, a candidate with disability has preference in case of equal classification, which prevails over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare and provide proof of their respective degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication / expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned diploma, on the application form.

Under the terms of the RU 2016/679 27/04/2016 and Law nº 67/98 26/10 the personal data collected by the entity is for recruitment purposes only. Personal data collected by the entity by means of this application are intended to assess whether candidates are suitable for the positions on offer and for the preliminary calculation of the remuneration, bonuses and perks of the candidates who are admitted to the recruitment. The data entered in the application are essential data in the weighting of the selection of candidates, which may affect the efficiency and the result of the respective application if the candidates do not provide them. Personal data of unsuitable candidates will be retained by the entity for a period of five years for subsequent recruitment. Applications by prospective candidates may be transferred by the entity to its own premises or to the entities of the consortium where there are job openings during the abovementioned period. Candidates shall enjoy, in accordance with the law, the rights of access and rectification of their personal data. For exercising the right of access, they must submit a request in writing to the person in charge of the data protection office at the entity.