



Research Initiation Scholarship
Ref: BeFRAIL_5_2025

The Center for Research in Anthropology (CRIA) is opening a call for the award of one (1) Research Initiation Scholarship within the scope of the project *Porto in Times of Cholera and War: A bioarchaeological approach to human fragility (BeFRAIL)*, funded by national funds through FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC) with the reference number 2022.02398.PTDC: <https://doi.org/10.54499/2022.02398.PTDC>.

The BeFRAIL project, with Francisca Alves Cardoso (CRIA, NOVA-FCSH) as Principal Investigator and Nicholas Marquez-Grant (Cranfield University) as Co-Principal Investigator, focuses on the study of health and disease inferred through the study of an archaeological context and associated collection. The context refers to the hospital cemetery of the Ordem 3ª de Nossa Senhora do Carmo, in Porto (Portugal), whose occupation covers the years 1801 to 1869: years of cholera and war in Portugal. The BeFRAIL project has as its core the archaeological and bioanthropological analysis of the context and associated collections using a multi-methodological and multidisciplinary approach (e.g., archaeology, bioanthropology, history, demography, archaeoethnology and archaeosciences).

Scientific Area: Anthropology and related areas

Overall Admission requirements

Candidates must:

- a) be enrolled in a higher professional technical course, a bachelor's degree, an integrated master's degree, or a master's degree; they may also hold bachelor's or master's degree holders but be enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree;
- b) not have exceeded, at the time of signing the contract, an accumulated period of one year (continuous or interpolated) in this type of scholarship;
- c) not have previously benefited from a research scholarship directly or indirectly financed by the FCT (under the terms of the Article 5 of the Research Grant Regulation of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. [Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação da Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.] which is in place).

Specific Admission requirements:

Candidates must have:

- 1) proven experience in the analysis of human remains, even if as a trainee, in a laboratory context, specifically human remains from secondary depositions ;
- 2) Proficiency in reading and advanced knowledge of writing in English;
- 3) Knowledge of Microsoft Office (or equivalent) and Mendeley (or equivalent), as well as cloud-based storage services and collaborating online tools (e.g., Google Drive, Dropbox, etc.).

Work plan:

The selected candidate will perform tasks associated with the BeFRAIL research project in close collaboration with the project PI and team members. The work plan includes:

- meetings participation and training related to the work development;



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- laboratory work related to the curating biological remains (human and non-human), assessing their state of preservation, and collecting samples for analysis;
- identification of the elements under analysis, with assessment of the biological profile and typologies of observed changes;
- documenting, via photography, of the elements being studied;
- databases incrementation and data curation;
- participation in the production of outputs based on the work developed.

Workplace and scientific supervision:

The workplace is located at the Laboratory of Biological Anthropology and Human Osteology (LABOH), a CRIA laboratory located at NOVA FCSH, Av. de Berna 26C, Lisbon, and/or other locations necessary for the development of research activities under the scientific supervision of Francisca Alves Cardoso.

Duration of the grants:

The scholarship has a duration of 3 months, with the possibility of renewal, and is scheduled to start on 1st June, 2025.

Applicable legislation and regulations:

Statute of the Research Fellow [Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação], approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and Regulation of Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. [Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação da Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, I.P] – in place and available at: <https://www.fct.pt/financiamento/programas-de-financiamento/bolsas/>

Activity Regime:

The scholarship does not generate or entitle a legal-employment relationship and is exercised on an exclusive dedication basis, in accordance with the Statute of the Research Fellow.

Value of the monthly maintenance allowance:

The monthly amount corresponds to €651,12, as per Annex I - Table of monthly maintenance allowances of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the FCT in place. Personal accident insurance is added to the grant amount. The grant will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

Selection methods:

The assessment of applications will be based on the following criteria:

- 1) Evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae (30%), taking into account:
 - a. Academic background: including grades obtained in the subjects of the respective course and final grade (if applicable), or another academic certificate;
 - b. Reference to training courses/activities/participation in projects/others (proven via certificates/declaration/other) relevant to the work to be developed;
 - c. Experience in work/areas relevant to the work to be developed;
- 2) Assessment of the Motivation Letter (50%), taking into account:
 - a. Reason for applying for the position;
 - b. Reason why the candidate should be selected;
 - c. Demonstration having undertaken activities related to the work to be developed;
 - d. Expectations regarding inclusion in this research project.



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- 3) Indicators of work experience related to the curation of human remains in a laboratory context (20%)

The criteria will be scored between 0 and 100. The candidate's Final Score (CF) will be obtained by calculating the weighted average of the criteria. In the event of a tie, the CV score will prevail. The jury reserves the right not to award a scholarship if no candidate matches the desired profile.

Composition of the Selection Jury:

President: Francisca Alves Cardoso, CRIA NOVA FCSH

Full members: Sandra Assis, CRIA NOVA FCSH and Rodrigo Banha da Silva, CHAM, NOVA FCSH

Alternate member: Rui Maia, Fernando Pessoa University

Form of publication/notification of results:

All candidates will be notified of the results via e-mail.

Application and formalization deadline:

The competition is open from 2 to 15 May 2025.

Applications must be submitted on the CRIA website, at <https://cria.org.pt/pt/emprego-e-bolsas>, in Portuguese or English, accompanied by the following documentation:

- Motivation letter: must contain the name and identification of the scholarship to which a candidate is applying, respond to the observations related to this selection criterion, and be dated and signed;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- Certificate(s) of qualifications, including the breakdown of grades obtained in the subjects of the respective course and final grade (if applicable);
- Proof of enrollment (bachelor's, master's, other).
- Declaration of honor of compliance with the general admission requirements.

Applications submitted by other means will not be considered. Candidates who formalize their application incorrectly or who do not meet the required requirements will be excluded from admission to the competition. In case of doubt, the jury has the right to require any candidate to present supporting documents for their statements. The jury reserves the right not to award a scholarship if no candidate matches the desired profile.

*Academic degrees obtained abroad require recognition by a Portuguese Institution in accordance with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16, and Order no. 33/2019, of January 25. Presentation of the recognition is mandatory for signing the contract. More information can be obtained at: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374>.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy.

CRIA actively promotes a non-discrimination policy and equal access, so no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty for any reason whatsoever.



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