COFAC COOPERATIVA DE FORMAÇÃO E ANIMAÇÃO CULTURAL, C.R.L.

Call for Applications for Awarding one Research Fellowship

Reference: PCINa/BI-COFAC/2027

Type of fellowship: BI-COFAC

Scientific area: Exercise Physiology, Sport Sciences, Physical Education, Public Health, Social Inclusion through Sport, Adapted and Inclusive Sport or related fields.

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1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

A call for applications is open for the award of 1 Research Fellowship (BI-COFAC) to candidates holding a doctoral degree, for the development of research activities within the project "NADAR JUNTOS no Programa de Competições Inclusivas de Natação (PCINa)", Sports Development Contract-Programme No. CP/893/2024 – Measure II.5 - Research Fellowships, funded by the Portuguese Paralympic Committee (CPP), with total funding of €125,800, at Universidade Lusófona - CIDEFES.

2. CANDIDATE PROFILE

Candidates may apply if they hold a doctoral degree obtained less than five years ago (junior researcher) in Exercise Physiology, Sport Sciences, Physical Education, Public Health or related fields, and demonstrate research experience involving sport, adapted sport, children and young people, and social inclusion, including people with disabilities, as well as the following requirements:

- Proven experience in international, multi-partner research projects, preferably in EU-funded programmes such as Erasmus+ Sport;

- Experience in coordinating deliverables, documentation workflows and internal monitoring systems; experience working with vulnerable populations, including children and young people with disabilities or socially disadvantaged groups; familiarity with methodologies for evaluating participation, inclusion or motor development outcomes; ability to support scientific and operational tasks in research units, including reports,

dissemination materials and structured project-management documentation; and affiliation or eligibility for academic integration at Universidade Lusófona, specifically within research activities developed at CIDEFES.

3. ELEGIBILITY AND RECOGNITION OF DREGREES

Candidates of Portuguese or foreign nationality may apply. Where academic degrees have been obtained at foreign higher education institutions, recognition of the degree and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale (by DGES or a public institution) must be provided.

Note: Candidates who do not submit the grade conversion at the time of application will be assessed with the minimum grade under the academic qualifications criterion.**4.**

4. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

This call is governed by the COFAC Research Fellowship Holder Statute (OS No. 97/2025), the COFAC Research Fellowship Regulations (OS No. 98/2025), and other applicable internal rules.

5. CONTRACTING ENTITY

COFAC – Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural, Crl.

6. WORK PLAN

The fellowship holder will join the scientific and operational team at CIDEFES within the PCINa project, supporting research, coordination and documentation processes related to the scientific component led by Universidade Lusófona, in coordination with the Portuguese Swimming Federation (FPN).

Task 4 – Co-creation of the Inclusive Swimming Competitions Programme (PCINa)

- Support the integration of the findings of the national participatory diagnosis into the programme design.

- Contribute to the development of methodological tools, templates and internal documentation for data collection.

• Support the preparation of the first version of the PCINa Operational Manual, including pedagogical guidelines and the assessment and monitoring model.

Task 5 – National Training (Initial and Advanced) and Certification

• Support the organisation and documentation of training sessions for coaches/teachers and club officials.

• Assist in preparing pedagogical materials, competency assessment instruments and evaluation templates;

• Support the analysis of evidence submitted through the online assessment for the certification of implementers.

Tasks 6 and 9 – Initial and Consolidation Implementation (local and national phases)

• Ensure systematic data collection across the six implementation sites, involving 144 children aged 8–16, with and without motor disabilities.

• Conduct structured observation of training sessions, local inclusive competitions and national inclusive championships.

• Monitor impact indicators: participation, attendance, retention, functional technical progression (pre- and post-cycle), perceived inclusion and quality of peer interactions.

• Coordinate communication flows between Universidade Lusófona, FPN and the implementation sites.

Task 7 – Iterative Refinement of the PCINa

• Support the analysis of Cycle 1 data and debriefing sessions with coaches/teachers.
• Contribute to the refinement report and the revised version of the PCINa Operational Manual.

Tasks 1 and 10 – Project Coordination, Reporting and Dissemination

• Manage documentation flows between partners.

• Support the project's online platform, social media and digital dissemination content.

• Draft scientific and technical reports, including the interim progress reports (50% and 75%) and the final progress report.

• Support project coordination and internal monitoring, including meeting logistics, quality assurance processes, milestone tracking and alignment between scientific and administrative requirements.

The fellowship holder will also provide scientific and technical support to the UL/CIDEFES team, including the preparation of abstracts, conference materials, scientific publications, workshops, seminars and dissemination events aligned with the project's objectives.

7. PLACE OF WORK AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION

The work will be carried out at CIDEFES – Centre for Research in Sport, Physical Education, Exercise and Health, Universidade Lusófona, under the scientific supervision of Professor José P. Morgado and Professor Catarina N. Matias.

8. DURATION AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS

- Duration: 23 months, starting on 1 February 2027.
- Monthly maintenance allowance: €575.00, paid by bank transfer.
- Personal accident insurance is included for activities carried out under the fellowship.

Under the COFAC Research Fellowship Holder Statute:

- The fellowship does not establish an employment relationship;
- The fellowship holder shall perform duties in accordance with the approved work plan and under scientific supervision.

9. SELECTION METHODS

For the purpose of deciding on the award of the fellowship, candidates will be ranked according to the weighted average of the scores obtained in each of the assessment criteria, in accordance with the following formula:

Final Score = (50% × Criterion A) + (20% × Criterion B) + (30% × Criterion C).

In the event of a tie, the ranking of candidates shall be determined on the basis of the scores awarded under each criterion, in the following order of precedence: Criterion A, Criterion B and Criterion C.

Assessment criteria:

- Experience and training based on Curriculum Vitae analysis (50%);
- Academic degrees and grades (20%);
- Scientific output in the specific field (30%);

Each criterion will be scored on a scale from 0 to 20 points. The final score will be calculated using the weighted average of the scores awarded under the criteria listed above. The minimum score required for the award of the fellowship, if any, is to be confirmed. The source job offer does not specify an interview as a selection criterion.

10. COMPOSITION OF THE SELECTION PANEL

President: José Pedro Morgado, PhD;

Effective members: Catarina Nunes Matias, PhD and Raquel Santos Barreto, PhD;

Substitute member: Bruno Rosa, PhD.

11. APPLICATION

Application period: from 24 November 2026 to 07 December 2026;

Applications must be submitted by email to jose.morgado@ulusofona.pt, with the reference “PCINa/BI-COFAC/2027” in the subject line.

Required documents:

- Curriculum Vitae, including the ORCID reference number;
- Academic degree certificates;
- Motivation letter explaining how the candidate's profile and previous experience meet the fellowship's mandatory requirements and align with the project objectives;

12. NOTIFICATION AND RIGHT TO BE HEARD

Results: The jury's assessment results will be sent by email within 10 days after the application deadline, together with the written minutes and the provisional ranking list.

Acceptance: Following notification of the final list, the successful candidate has 10 working days to confirm, in writing, their acceptance of the scholarship. Failure to respond within this period will be deemed a waiver of the scholarship, in which case the next candidate in the ranking order will be invited to take up the place.

Prior hearing: Under Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA), candidates have 10 working days from the date of notification to lodge an objection to the result. Any objection must be addressed to the Chair of the Selection Panel. In the absence of any objections, the list shall become final.

13. PROTECÇÃO DE DADOS

The personal data collected will be used exclusively for the management of the selection process, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

14. GENERAL PRINCIPLES

This call complies with the principles of equal opportunities, non-discrimination and equitable access, ensuring impartiality regardless of age, gender, disability, nationality, religion or other factors.

The selection panel reserves the right not to award the fellowship if no candidate meets the required scientific profile.