

Call for PhD Student Research Fellowship **Fellowship Reference GIMM-BI-29-2026**

The GIMM – Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine is a pioneering Portuguese private research foundation with an ambitious vision for fundamental scientific exploration and its profound impact on global health and well-being. Founded in 2024, GIMM is the result of the merge of two leading research institutes: Instituto de Medicina Molecular João Lobo Antunes (iMM) and Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência (IGC) and dedicates to unraveling the fundamental mysteries of life and aims to be at the forefront of transdisciplinary research.

What GIMM seeks: At this moment, GIMM is looking for a Phd Student to join the Peripheral Neuroimmunology Laboratory coordinated by Dr. Pavel Hanc, funded by GIMM Core Funding.

Work Plan and Objectives:

The successful candidate will build on the lab's preliminary data and utilize a combination of in vitro and in vivo techniques, integrating immunology, neuroscience, genomics, and cancer/cell biology, to conduct research that broadens our understanding of how nociceptors influence immunity. Based on their interests, the specific project may be focused on the dissection of molecular communication mechanisms between nociceptors and DCs, the role of the nociceptor: monocyte dialog in tumorigenesis, or the identification of novel communication modalities between nociceptors and other immune cells.

Fellowship recipients / Admission requirements (indicate mandatory and preferential requirements): Any National, foreign and stateless candidate(s).

Applicants must hold the following requirements:

Mandatory:

- Education and practical experience in neurobiology at the MSc level. Less than 3 years of postdoctoral experience;
- Practical lab experience with in vivo and in vitro lab work, mammalian cell culture, immunofluorescence microscopy, ELISA, Western blotting, cell biology and molecular biology techniques.;
- Good knowledge of spoken and written English;
- Experience with data analysis and interpretation.

Desirable:

- Experience with rodent behavioral models, flow cytometry and genomics.



Legislation and Applicable Regulation: Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação (Lei n.º 40/2004, de 18 de Agosto, republished in attachment to Decreto-Lei n.º 202/2012, de 27 de Agosto, changed by Decretos-Leis n.º 123/2019, 28 de Agosto e n.º 65/2024, 1 de outubro) and current Regulation of Fellowships of GIMM.

Predicted start date, duration and renewal conditions: The fellowship contract is predicted to start in January 2027, for a period of 4 years on an exclusive basis, eventually renewable until the maximum stipulated in applicable regulations, not exceeding the eligibility period of the project.

Application documents:

- **Cover Letter** explaining the candidate's interest in the position, listing their past academic achievements and highlighting how their experience and expertise relate to the proposed project;
- **Reference letters;**
- **Declaration of Honor** indicating previous fellowships, if any, its typology and duration;
- **Detailed Curriculum Vitae;**
- **Bachelor's degree Certificate.**
- **Master's degree Certificate.**

Application process: The call will be open from 2026-08-03 until 2026-08-17. Applications should be submitted to People & Culture Unit, through the email positions@gimm.pt, with the reference "GIMM/BI/29-2026" in the subject.

Failure to comply with these requirements will result in the rejection of the application.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: GIMM promotes a non-discrimination and equal access policy, wherefore no candidate can be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any rights whatsoever, or be exempt of any duties based on their ancestry, age, sex, sexual preference, marital status, family and economic conditions, instruction, origin or social conditions, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, origin territory, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and union membership.

International environment and experience: Diversity is a fundamental aspect of the essence of GIMM, where researchers and non-researchers of different nationalities, backgrounds and areas of study work together, promoting the exchange of experiences and interactions, contributing to the personal and professional development of each person and to the existence of an international, inclusive and stimulating environment.

Research Fellows Support Centre: The Research Fellows Support Centre works everyday from 09:00AM to 11:00AM at People & Culture Unit Office.



Fellowship financial conditions: The fellow will benefit from a monthly stipend in the amount of **1.359,00€**. The amount will be paid by wire transfer at the end of each month. The fellow will also benefit from a personal accident insurance to execute the proposed research activities as well as the right to Social Security through Voluntary Social Insurance regimen, if wanted, under the terms of Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social, and the contributions costs will be supported by the research project.

Pursuant to Decree-Law nr 29/2001 of 3rd February, disabled candidates shall be preferred in a situation of equal classification, and said preference supersedes any legal preferences. Candidates must declare, on their honour, their respective disability degree, type of disability and communication / expression means to be used during selection period on their application form, under the regulations above.

Evaluation Criteria: Applications will be evaluated by Pavel Hanč (President of the Jury), Marie-Louise Bergman, Elisa Jenthó (all PhD's), in accordance with the following method:

First phase:

Curricular and scientific evaluation (70%):

- Academic, scientific and professional merit (30%)
- Field-specific expertise (40%)
- Motivation (30%)

Second phase

Interview (30%) (for candidates who achieve a minimum score of 50 in the first phase)

- i. After evaluation of all admitted applications, the jury will write a meeting minute with all process of recruitment, evaluation and selection including an ordered short list of approved candidates (alphabetic order) and their respective classification.
- ii. The final decision of the jury shall be validated by the Head of the Institution, who is also in charge of deciding about the hiring.

Results: Both admitted and excluded candidates list and final classification list shall be communicated to all admitted candidates through email.

Preliminary Hearing and Final Decision Deadline: After notification, all candidates have 10 working days to respond. Panel's final decisions are pronounced within a period of 90 days, from application deadline.

The present call is exclusively aimed at filling the indicated vacancy and may be terminated until the homologation of the final candidates' ranking list and expires with the respective occupation of the position on offer.





Oeiras, 3rd of August 2026



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