

NOTICE OF OPENING N.º 85/SGA/DOFAE

Institute for Interdisciplinary Research

Academic Year 2026/2027

3rd Cycle Course

3rd cycle

PhD degree in Experimental Biology and Biomedicine

1. Number of places:

1st call: 2 places

2nd call: 4 places

3rd call: 14 + remaining places

Supplemental application call: remaining places

2. Minimum number of students for course opening: Not applicable

3. Application deadlines:

1st call: 2nd to 31st March 2026

2nd call: 1st June to 15th July 2026

3rd call: 1st to 11th September 2026

Supplemental application call: 20th to 27th October 2026

4. Admission requirements:

1 - Applicants for admission to the PhD degree in Experimental Biology and Biomedicine must be:

a) Holders of a Master's Degree (or Pre-Bologna Bachelor's Degree) in Biology, Biochemistry, Medicine, Pharmacy, Biotechnology, Genetics or in another scientific field;

b) Holders of a bachelor's degree, holders of a particularly relevant academic or scientific CV that is recognized as attesting capacity to carry out this cycle of studies by the Academic Board of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, in the fields referred to under a);

c) Holders of a school, scientific or professional curriculum that is recognized as attesting capacity to carry out this cycle of studies by the Academic Board of the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research. Applicants must obtain a curricular evaluation equal to or higher than 10 points.

d) Proficiency in English as a working language;

e) The research work should directly involve groups of the CNC (Center for Neuroscience and Cell Biology) in its areas of intervention, and it is therefore important to know these aspects beforehand by the candidates.

2 - The recognition referred to in subparagraphs b) and c) of paragraph 1 only allows access to the cycle of studies leading to a PhD Degree and does not grant its holder the recognition or equivalence to a Bachelor's or Master's Degree.

5. Selection criteria:

3rd Cycle Course

A) CV Assessment [Weighting 40/100]:

Applicant's scientific and academic curriculum. Average calculated by the formula $(0.35 \times \text{average of 1st cycle course}^* + 0.35 \times \text{average of 2nd cycle course}^* + 0.30 \times \text{merit of the scientific curriculum}^*)$.

Where * is evaluated from zero to twenty (0-20) points; integrated master multiplied by 0.7

Relevant experience: scientific experience with laboratory skills and production of results in scientific fields relevant to the Programme.

0-9 - No adequate training in fields relevant to the Programme and no relevant scientific experience;

10-12 - Adequate training, with no relevant experience;

13-15 - Adequate training, with relevant experience;

16-17 - Adequate training, with relevant experience and with communications at conferences;

18-20 - Adequate training, with relevant experience and with communications at conferences and with scientific publications.

B) Motivation Letter [Weighting 10/100]:

0-9 - Applicant is not able to express a mature and specific scientific interest in the Programme;

10-16 - Applicant is able to express a mature scientific interest, not necessarily in a concrete way, in the Programme;

17-20 - Applicant is able to express a mature scientific interest, specifically appropriate to the

Programme and in its areas of intervention.

C) Letter of Recommendation [Weighting 10/100]:

0-9 - Applicant with no recommendation or considered below average;

10-12 - Applicant with no apparent recommendation or neutral recommendation;

13-16 - Applicant with recommendation, but without indicating the profile as being appropriate for the Program

17-18 - Applicant with recommendation, and with indicating the profile as being appropriate for the Program

19-20 - Applicant with strongly recommendation, and with indicating the profile as being very appropriate for the Program

D) Interview Assessment [Weighting 40/100].

Jury: Nuno Empadinhas, Ricardo Rodrigues e Luísa Cortes

4 points – communication and oral expression, including English language proficiency

6 points - motivation and interest for the Program

6 points - ability to analyze, critical sense and articulation of research perspectives

4 points – knowledge of the Program and the institution

Applicant will be ranked according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the 4 criteria, translated by the following formula:

Final Classification = $(0.4 \times A) + (0.1 \times B) + (0.1 \times C) + (0.4 \times D)$

3rd Cycle - Application based on Subparagraph c)

i) School curriculum, considering the final classification of the course (s) taken by the applicant (20%);

ii) Relevance of the course (s) taken to the scientific area of the study cycle to which you they are applying (10%);

iii) Scientific Curriculum, considering the participation of applicants in congresses, seminars, research projects, number and scientific quality of publications (monographs, book chapters, articles in periodicals), prizes and similar elements, as long as these activities are developed in the scientific area of the study cycle in question (50%);

iv) Professional curriculum, considering the duration and nature of the professional activity in the scientific area of the study cycle in question (20%).

NOTE: Assessed applications that have a grade lower than 9.5 in one of the evaluation criteria will automatically become non-approved.

6. Required documentation:

- 1- Motivation Letter [MANDATORY];
- 2- 1st Letter of Recommendation [MANDATORY];
- 3- 2nd Letter of Recommendation [MANDATORY];
- 4- Certificate of Bachelor's degree with final course classification (diploma). A certificate proving approval in the curricular units carried out must be included, with respective classifications (school transcript) [MANDATORY, except if the primary course is a course taught at the University of Coimbra];
- 5- Certificate from Master's degree with final course classification (Master degree diploma). A certificate proving approval in the curricular units carried out must be included, with respective classifications (school transcript) [MANDATORY, except if the origin course is a course taught at the University of Coimbra];
- 6- Official declaration of course outlines and hourly course loads with classification of each course unit of courses previously taken (transcript), in case of equivalence credits request [MANDATORY, except in degrees awarded by the University of Coimbra under the Bologna Process – after 2007/2008];
- 7- Curriculum Vitae [MANDATORY];
- 8- Identity Document [MANDATORY only for foreign applicants];
- 9- Official document certifying qualifications, issued by the institution awarding the highest degree, indicating the weighted average and the grading scale [MANDATORY only for holders of a degree obtained abroad that does not contain the average].

NOTE: If the documents mentioned above are written in a foreign language other than Spanish, French, and English, it is mandatory to present a translation to Portuguese undertaken by a translator recognised by the Portuguese diplomatic representation.

The submission of the authenticated original documents is mandatory to the applicants admitted who enrol and register and must be done as soon as possible in order to complete their personal file. Further information at: <https://www.uc.pt/en/academic-services/submit-docs/>.

7. Tuition fee:

- 2750€ (valor anual).

8. Part-time registration: Allowed

9. Assessment committee:

- Luísa Maria Oliveira Pinheiro Leitão Cortes;
- Nuno Miguel da Silva Empadinhas;
- Ricardo Jorge de Alves Rodrigues.

10. Other information:

- Application is subject to the payment of a 50.00 € fee, which is non-refundable, even in case of invalidation of application and of non-placement.
- Applications are submitted online at: <https://inforestudante.uc.pt/nonio/security/candidaturas.do>.
- Applicants who do not have the documents attesting the required qualifications or other documents until the end of the deadline for applications may apply conditionally. If they do not submit the required documents until the new deadline provided, their application will become "Not Admitted". Then, they can move their application onto the following call for applications without any additional charges.
- In applications definitively considered valid, and after the evaluation period has started, it is not possible to add or replace the documents presented. To add new documentation, a new application must be submitted in the next phase, if any.
- After the last phase of applications, and if there are still places available, applicants may submit their application by means of a request, beyond the deadline, which will be duly appraised by the coordination of the Course /Organisational Unit.
- Further information about academic issues, including the academic calendar, is available at:<https://www.uc.pt/en/academic-services/>
- Contacts:
E-mail: <https://apps.uc.pt/forms/view/sga/en>
Telephone:(00351) 239 247 195
In person assistance at the Student Hub. Schedules at:<https://www.uc.pt/en/academic-services/location-contacts/>

University of Coimbra, on 20th January 2026.

Head of Division,