

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR POSITION IN PLANT SCIENCES REF. CBL.160812_PI

CEBAL- Centro de Biotecnologia Agrícola e Agro-Alimentar do Alentejo is seeking candidates for a Principal Investigator (100% research) position. CEBAL is looking for a highly motivated researcher, to lead a research group, in order to develop an independent research programme focused on the genetic regulation of plant development processes, and to actively contribute to the research goals of CEBAL. This includes the work to be developed within several recently funded projects by Alentejo 2020, through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Potential research areas pertinent to this position include, but are not limited, to: genomics and transcriptomics, epigenetics, metabolomics, reverse genetics, secondary growth development, functional studies to validate genes of interest, among others.

DESIRED SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE:

- Ph.D. or post-doctoral experience in plant physiology/biology, forestry, or other plant science-related fields;
- Previous experience in analysis of high-throughput sequence datasets is essential; previous involvement in projects where genomics, transcriptomics and/or epigenetics approaches were used is highly desirable ;
- Excellent *in vitro* plant culture and plant genetic transformation skills;
- Knowledge of physiological and molecular regulation of plant secondary growth;
- Demonstrated capacity to conduct and publish independent, original, innovative research (record of published scholarly work, in peer-reviewed scientific journals of the relevant scientific fields);
- Demonstrated experience in securing funding through competitive grant proposal writing;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills (English is required, Portuguese is highly desirable) appropriate for both scientific peers as well as stakeholders and general public;

- Postdoctoral experience, at least three years,
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to work collaboratively, both as a team member and a leader;

We expect that applicants will have an excellent PhD in the area of plant science, documented in depth knowledge of plant development and are willing to work in an interdisciplinary team. The successful candidate will be expected to develop an independent research programme within CEBAL team, as well as outreach collaborations with extramural peer and interdisciplinary scientists; procure competitive external grant funding; publish in peer-reviewed scientific journals; develop leadership activities in regional, national, and international professional scientific associations; mentor graduate and undergraduate students; actively participate in outreach activities to disseminate scientific findings and to promote scientific education. The successful candidate will have preferably previous experience with tree species. However, candidates who worked with other model systems are also encouraged to apply for this position. .

WORK PLACE:

The work will be developed at CEBAL, in Beja, Portugal, in the frame of the following research projects: “LENTIDDEV – A molecular approach to cork porosity” (REF: ALT20-03-0145-FEDER-000020), “SelectPinea – Development of genetic markers methodology for selected traits of interest in *Pinus pinea*” (REF: ALT20-03-0145-FEDER-000041), “ValBioTecCynara – Economic valorization of Cardoon (*Cynara cardunculus*): study of natural variability and biotechnological applications” (REF: ALT20-03-0145- FEDER-000038) and “HYDROREUSE – Treatment and reuse of agro-industrial wastewaters using an innovative hydroponic system with tomato plants” (REF: ALT20-03-0145-FEDER-000021).

CEBAL is a private, non-profit research and development center located in Beja, Portugal. CEBAL activities privilege the development of applied research, focusing in questions with potential on local economy, proposing biotechnological solutions, production optimization and/or product certification. CEBAL combines R&D activities with postgraduate teaching and training, consulting and services. For more information please visit www.cebal.pt.

DURATION:

A 2 year work contract, starting date October 2016, under the regime of exclusivity, with the possibility of extension. Contract will be subject to a probationary period of 2 years, during which time work performance and conduct will be assessed. On satisfactory completion of this period, the appointment will be confirmed to a permanent position.

SALARY:

The gross salary will consist of 3191.82 € per month. Benefits include 2 month salary subsidies and a daily food allowance.

SELECTION METHODS:

The selection methods used will be curriculum evaluation (50%) and interview (50%). There will be a pre-selection based on ranking by curriculum evaluation, being summoned to interview the selected candidates.

The evaluation panel reserves the right not to award the position if no candidate has the desired profile.

SELECTION COMMITTEE:

The selection committee will consist of Professor João Lopes Batista, as president, Dra. Fátima Duarte and Dr. António Marcos Ramos, as effective members, and Dra. Eliana Jerónimo and Dra. Maria Conceição Fernandes, as alternative members.

APPLICATIONS DELIVERY AND DEADLINE:

The call is open from August 23th. This call will be open until a candidate with desired characteristics is found. The first deadline for applications is September 15th, 2016. Then, on the 15th of every following month until the position is filled. Qualified applicants should submit the following materials as a pdf via email to Dra. Fátima Duarte (fatima.duarte@cebal.pt) and Dra. Eliana

Jerónimo (eliana.jeronimo@cebal.pt): a letter of application, a summary of research accomplishments and future research interests, a current resume, and at least three reference letters (please provide contact information in case selection committee intends to directly check the references). The candidate is also encouraged to send the five most relevant publications within their research activities. Questions about the position or the interview timetable can be directed to Dra. Fatima Duarte (fatima.duarte@cebal.pt).

RESULTS NOTIFICATION:

The final results will be sent to the applicants by e-mail.