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Apply

NOVA MEDICAL SCHOOL

28 Mar 2023

Job Information

Organisation/Company	NOVA Medical School
Research Field	Biological sciences
Researcher Profile	First Stage Researcher (R1)
Country	Portugal
Application Deadline	11 Apr 2023 - 23:59 (Europe/Lisbon)
Type of Contract	Other
Job Status	Other
Offer Starting Date	29 Mar 2023
Is the job funded through the EU Research Framework Programme?	Not funded by an EU programme
Is the Job related to staff position within a Research Infrastructure?	No

Offer Description

Research Grant (BI), for the conduct of R&D activities by a graduate with a Master degree enrolled in a PhD or in a course non-leading to an academic degree

ref.ª SAI/2023/04 - 1 vacancy

There is an open call for applications for a Research Grant (BI), for the conduct of R&D activities by a graduate with a Master degree enrolled in a PhD or in a course non-leading to an academic degree, under reference SAI/2023/04 in the scope of the project PTDC/SAU-SER/7406/2020-My Back, at the institution Faculdade de

Ciências Médicas|NOVA Medical School (FCM|NMS) from Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (UNL), supported by income from the above mentioned project financed by the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., under the following conditions:

Field of study: Clinical Research and Innovation

Admission requirements(eligibility criteria):

- Master's degree in the area of Biostatistics or related fields;

- English language proficiency.

- Enrolment in a PhD or in a course non-leading to an academic degree, in the area of clinical research or related fields (The Proof of enrolment in a PhD or in a course non-leading to an academic degree could be obtained until contracting. The assessment made here will only take into account if the candidates meet the conditions for enrolling in a PhD or in a course non-leading to an academic degree).

Work plan:

Integrate MyBack research project, with following description:
MyBack project aims to compare the effectiveness of a personalized self-management programme for low back pain recurrences and usual care compared to usual care alone, in patients seeking primary health care, while also seeking to pilot test the acceptability, feasibility and results of an implementation strategy designed to facilitate its adoption across patients and health professionals, through a hybrid type I, randomized, controlled and multicentre study of effectiveness and implementation.

Low back pain (LBP) is a long-term health condition with a variable clinical course and multiple interrelated episodes. Most LBP episodes have a favourable prognosis, but recurrence is common with about 33-70% of people experiencing a recurrence within a year, 40% of whom seek health care. The recurrence of an LBP episode is the main occurrence responsible for the demand for health care services, prescription of sickness certificates and limitations in carrying out day-to-day activities, with great impact on the consumption of healthcare resources. Moreover, episodes of recurrence improve the probability of developing persistent and disabling LBP, further contributing to the individual, social and economic impact of this condition.

Results of recent systematic reviews show that treatment for an LBP episode is not effective in preventing future recurrences, even when this treatment is planned with the purpose of avoiding new episodes, and therefore specific post-discharge programs need to be designed. The few existing studies on specific programs to prevent recurrence indicate that the combination of education and exercise reduces the risk of a new episode of back pain in the medium (RR= 0.55, 95% CI: 0.41-0.74) and long term (RR= 0.73, 95% CI 0.55-0.96). However, these studies are of poor to moderate methodological quality and their results are imprecise, which generates considerable uncertainty regarding the effect of the interventions and their generalization. In addition, these studies have not been complemented with comprehensive, prospective assessments of their impact in real practice settings (for example, on primary health care), including their cost-effectiveness, neither have they considered if their implementation is feasible with enough fidelity to preserve their effectiveness.

The programme to be tested is a personalized program, adjusted to the biopsychosocial characteristics and physical capacities of the patient, and aims to promote the use of self- management strategies in patients at risk of recurrence of LBP episodes, in order to enable them to manage their symptoms in the long term, prevent functional and occupational disability and reduce the need to seek healthcare due to recurrence of this condition.
Hybrid design studies simultaneously evaluate the impact of interventions in real contexts (effectiveness) and the implementation strategy. They enhance the ability to identify important intervention-implementation interactions that inform decisions about optimal implementation and widespread impact and can accelerate the introduction of high-value health innovations, informed by the current scientific evidence, in real practice contexts. In the spectrum of hybrid studies of effectiveness and implementation, designs differ according to the emphasis placed on intervention (effectiveness) or implementation evaluation. This project uses a hybrid type I study, which favors the study of the effectiveness of "MyBack" programme, in the context of primary health care.
Through the effectiveness component, this project intend to determine whether or not MyBack programme reduces the frequency and severity of recurrence, the impact on functionality, musculoskeletal health and quality of life, and to investigate its cost-effectiveness from the perspective of the healthcare services, when compared to usual practice. The acceptability, feasibility and results of the implementation strategy designed to facilitate the adoption, implementation and future sustainability of the programme will be assessed through mixed methods.

The project is designed for a 3-year time period and is aligned with the sustainable development goals, in particular with the objective of strengthening the capacity of all countries for early warning, risk reduction and management national and global health risk. The design of this study was informed by the recent studies developed by the research team, namely, the study regarding the implementation of a stratified model of treatment for patients with low back pain who seek primary health care (SPLIT Project) and a large observational population-based cohort study (EpiReuma.pt). These studies demonstrate that the planned and implemented methods of identification, evaluation and recruitment of participants have been successful and that the implementation of high-value innovative practices is possible and sustainable in the context of primary health care.

The fellow will perform the following functions: 1) quantitative data analysis; 2) collaborate in dissemination activities; 3) other scientific activities.

Legislation and applicable regulations:

The fellowship is legally framed by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute and the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships in force.

Place of work:

The work will be carried out at EpiDoC Research Groupof Faculdade de Ciências Médicas|NOVA Medical School (FCM|NMS) from Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (UNL), under the scientific supervision of Ana Maria Rodrigues.

Fellowship duration and predicted start date:

The fellowship will last for 3 months and is expected to start on May 1, 2023.

Monthly Scholarship Amount:

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The monthly amount of the fellowship corresponds to € 1199.64 (one thousand one hundred and ninety-nine euros and sixty-four cents), paid monthly by ba
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Selection Methods:
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The motivation letter and CV of the candidates will be evaluated according to the weighting of the factors indicated below.

Preferential Factors and assigned values in %:

- Master's Degree in Biostatistics, Statistic or similar areas-25%;

- Experience with R and/or Stata software - 25%;

- Experience in quantitative data analysis through statistical or epidemiological methods - 25%;

-Proven English language proficiency - 25%.

Selection Jury:

- President of the Jury – Ana Maria Rodrigues, FCM|NMS;

– 1st Effective Jury Member – Nuno Mendonça, FCM|NMS;

– 2nd Effective Jury Member – Ana Rita Henriques, FCM|NMS;

– 1st Alternate Jury Member – Helena Canhão, FCM|NMS;

– 2nd Alternate Jury Member – Rute Dinis de Sousa, FCM|NMS.

Form of publicizing/notifying the results:

The results of the evaluation will be send by email to the candidates who submitted the application within the deadline. The candidates will also be notified by email that if they wish to comment at the prior hearing, they should present their comments by email within 10 working days.

Application deadline and form of presentation of applications:

The call is open March 29 to April 11, 2023 *(10 working days)*, and is published on https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/ and in https://www.nms.unl.pt/en-us/NMS/Join-NMS/Recruiting (Portuguese and English versions on this website).

Applications have to be submitted by email, to rh.recrutamento@nms.unl.pt, **mentioning the reference SAI/2023/04 in the Subject of the message.**

Applications are formalized by sending a Letter of Motivation accompanied by the following documents: *Curriculum vitae*, Certificate of Qualifications, proof of enrolment in a PhD or in a course non-leading to an academic degree or statement on the CV or on the letter of motivation saying that the candidate wants to enter a PhD or a course non-leading to an academic degree, and other supporting documents deemed relevant.

FCM|NMS reserves the right not to award the proposed grant if the candidates do not meet the requirements indicated in this announcement.

Lisbon, March 28, 2023

Requirements

Research Field	Biological sciences » Other
Education Level	Master Degree or equivalent

Additional Information

Work Location(s)

Number of offers available	1
Company/Institute	NOVA Medical School

Country	Portugal
City	Lisbon

Where to apply

E-mail	rh.recrutamento@nms.unl.pt

Contact

City	LIsboa
Street	Campo Mártires da Pátria 130
E-Mail	rh.recrutamento@nms.unl.pt