

BIOPOLIS

Appointment of Associate Director

BIOPOLIS is a highly ambitious and novel Centre of Excellence located in the north of Portugal with a genuine commitment to excellence in environmental biology, ecosystem and agrobiodiversity research with an innovative and dynamic community addressing the major challenges confronting the environment and society. BIOPOLIS was possible as a result of a successful Horizon 2020 teaming project involving Porto Business School, the University of Montpellier and CIBIO (Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources). As leading global institutions with strong values, a unique sense of community and strategic intent, they aim to spread, through BIOPOLIS, excellence towards innovation and contribute to the socioeconomic development at the regional and national levels. It counts on significant support and investment from the European Commission, national structural funds and private partners amounting to an overall budget of around €130 million for the next 10 years.

The main objective of BIOPOLIS will be to upgrade the existing CIBIO; a private and independent research institution hosting 31 multidisciplinary research groups, around 175 PhD level researchers and over 100 MSc students and PhD students from across the world, conducting world-class research in biodiversity and evolution, and elevate it to a Centre of Excellence by integrating new and innovative strands of research in the fields of environmental biology, ecosystem research and agrobiodiversity. The Centre has state of the art ecology and molecular laboratories, and it conducts research projects at a global scale. The working language of the institute is English, and it offers a vibrant, multicultural and enthusiastic working atmosphere.

The Installation Committee, made up of the representative partners, is now seeking to appoint the inaugural Associate Director for Research & Innovation, who will take responsibility for the coordination and overall executive management of all activities of BIOPOLIS related to research and innovation, including components such as strategic research planning, recruitment of research and technical staff, advanced training programs, scientific infrastructure and equipment, scientific internationalization and networking, communication and dissemination, intellectual property rights and knowledge transfer, among others. The successful candidate will be an internationally renowned scholar in a relevant area to BIOPOLIS as well as having experience of, and sustained performance in winning external research funding. They will demonstrate proven experience in management and leadership together with evidence of engaging successfully with a broad array of external - including public and private sector - organizations operating at the interface of research, innovation and entrepreneurship to foster collaborations.

For an informal conversation regarding the post please contact Rita Araújo on rita.araujo@cibio.up.pt or +351 252 660 400.

For further details, including the job description, person specification and how to apply, please visit <https://www.cibio.pt/>. A summary of the BIOPOLIS project is also available upon request.

The deadline for applications is noon CET on 24th July 2020. If not adequate candidate is found, the call will be open for another month, until 24th August 2020.

Announcement/Profile

Associate Director for Research & Innovation of the BIOPOLIS Centre of Excellence

(Reference ICETA 2020-28)

1. Summary

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2. Background

BIOPOLIS is a new Centre of Excellence in Environmental Biology, Ecosystem Research and AgroBiodiversity. Based in Porto, Portugal and funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, BIOPOLIS is being created through upgrading the research unit CIBIO (Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources) to a Centre of Excellence (CoE) for Research, Development and Innovation (RDI). The upgrade is supported through teaming with the University of Montpellier, a leading scientific institution, and Porto Business School (PBS).

Rooted on an ambitious Business Plan, the project will establish BIOPOLIS as a leading international Centre of Excellence in Environmental Biology, Ecosystem Research and AgroBiodiversity, with the capacity for leading research excellence towards innovation in the areas of Environment, Biodiversity and Agriculture, and thereby contributing to socioeconomic development at the regional and national levels.

This will be achieved by attracting talented researchers, providing excellent conditions for research, training, internationalisation and networking, by aligning research with societal challenges, engaging in ambitious advanced training programmes, developing strong communication, dissemination and capitalisation of activities, and developing a strong partner programme and other mechanisms to promote the translation of research and innovation into the applications of science and other business opportunities.

BIOPOLIS will receive a contribution of €15 million by the European Commission, which will add to funds from national structural funds and private partners, amounting to an overall budget of around €130 million for 10 years.

Further information about BIOPOLIS can be found at <https://www.biopolis.pt/en/>

3. Associate Director Role

The Associate Director for Research & Innovation of BIOPOLIS will be the main responsible for the coordination and executive management of all activities of the CoE related to research and innovation. The components under the direct responsibility of this Associate Director will include components such as strategic research planning, recruitment of research and technical staff, advanced training programs, scientific infrastructure and equipment, scientific internationalization and networking, communication and dissemination, intellectual property rights and knowledge transfer, among others. The Associate Director will be member of the Direction Board of BIOPOLIS, which will also include a Director and an Associate Director for Administration and Finances.

4. Requirements

The successful candidate is expected to have:

- Experience in the coordination or executive management of research and innovation activities in large research institutions, preferably at the levels of Director, Deputy Director, or equivalent.
- An outstanding research background, with at least 10 years of past successful experience at an international level in evolutionary biology, biodiversity, ecology, sustainability or related areas in the scope of BIOPOLIS activity.

- Proven experience of engagement with the public administration, business corporations and/or other stakeholders, in the co-development of research projects or other initiatives promoting the translation of research and innovation into applications and business opportunities.
- Significant track record of fundraising success, including for instance large research grants or fellowships from national or European Union funding programs, contracts with the industry, and/or other funding sources.
- Excellent communication skills, with demonstrated capacity to reach successfully beyond the scientific community.
- High proficiency in English; a working knowledge of French will also be valued.

5. Benefits

Exceptional conditions will be offered to the Associated Director of BIOPOLIS, including:

- An initial appointment of 4 years, renewable upon assessment of performance and achievements;
- Internationally competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and experience;
- Financial support and logistical assistance for relocation to the Porto region.
- Other side benefits to be negotiated on a case by case basis.

6. Application

Applications should be submitted at the electronic address <http://www.cibio.pt>, until the 24th July 2020. If no qualified candidate is selected, the call will be open for another month, until 24th August 2020. A summary of the BIOPOLIS project is available upon request to the mail address cibio.up@cibio.up.pt. The application should include at least the following elements:

- **Personal statement (Up to 4 A4 pages)**, detailing the candidate's vision for development of excellent research and innovation at a centre like BIOPOLIS and the role of the Associate Director for Research & Innovation in achieving its ambitious objectives in the short, medium and long term. The statement should also describe how her/his past achievements and experience provides excellent qualifications for the Associate Director role.
- **Applicant's CV (Up to eight A4 pages)**, providing evidence that the applicant's comply with the call requirements, and describing achievements related to the call (scientific highlights, past management experience, track record of fundraising, relations with stakeholders and knowledge transfer, communication skills, among other relevant aspects of professional activity).
- **Reference letters (Up to three)**, providing evidence from qualified researchers and colleagues on past professional performance and achievements.

7. Evaluation

The evaluation process and subsequent recruitment will be made according to the principles of the Code of Conduct for Recruitment of Researchers established by the European Commission. These principles ensure observance of values such as transparency of the recruitment process and equal treatment of all applicants, in particular regarding the development of an attractive, open and sustainable European

labour market for researchers, and are complementary to those outlined in the European Charter for Researchers.

Selection will be made by a panel including external experts and representatives from BIOPOLIS partner institutions, and it will include:

- Review and assessment of documentary elements provided by the candidates (i.e., Personal Statement, CV and Reference letters. Based on these elements, candidates will be ranked, and a short list of suitable candidates will be produced.
- Interviews for all short-listed candidates, either in person or remotely.
- Before final selection, up to three candidates will be invited for a 2-day visit to the BIOPOLIS headquarters, where a final interview will take place.

8. Employer

The BIOPOLIS Consortium (<https://www.biopolis.pt/en/>)

9. Employer

BIOPOLIS, Campus de Vairão, Rua Padre Armando Quintas, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal (coordinates: N41.328940, W8.672635).