



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 001/2025 – Research Fellows

**A collaboration to establish a paediatric research and outreach centre in northeast Brazil
for health promotion in marginalized groups**

The academic project “A collaboration to establish a paediatric research and outreach centre in northeast Brazil for health promotion in marginalized groups”, under the responsibility of its Coordinator, Dr Ricardo Santos Oliveira, in the exercise of their legal duties, hereby announces the opening of a call for applications for the selection of two research fellows. The selected candidates will join the project with the purpose of contributing to the achievement of its main objective: To understand how movement behaviours, along with physical fitness, impact vascular physiology in childhood and adolescence.

1. INITIAL PROVISIONS

1.1 This call for applications is intended for the selection of external researchers from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte (UFRN) to fill paid positions in the project: “A collaboration to establish a paediatric research and outreach centre in northeast Brazil for health promotion in marginalized groups”.

1.2 This call is available at: <https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/portal.jsf?id=5591>

1.3 Selected candidate will be remunerated in accordance to Item 2.



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

2. POSITIONS

2.1 The following positions will be offered:

CATEGORY	External Researcher
NUMBER OF POSITIONS	2 Research Fellows 2 waiting list
MONTHLY PAYMENT	R\$7,500.00
DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIP	36 months. Being renewable annually given sufficient performance is achieved.
WEEKLY WORKLOAD DEDICATED TO THE PROJECT	35 hours per week
REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR APPLICATION	CV lattes Application letter Letter of recommendation Publication highlights
REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE ACTIVITIES TO BE PERFORMED	Conduction of the research study See item 3 for details

3. ABOUT THE PROJECT

This project is a partnership between UFRN and the University of Exeter (UoE). The partnership includes a cross-sectional investigation into vascular dysfunction, a key aspect of atherosclerosis that starts in childhood. The investigation aims to understand how movement behaviours, along with physical fitness, impact vascular physiology in children and adolescents. To address this, children aged 9-14 years will be recruited from schools in Natal. Children will undergo fasted blood sampling for cardiovascular risk factors, resting vascular function/structure assessment (arterial stiffness, intima-media thickness, and flow-mediated dilation), body composition and anthropometry measurements, a cardiorespiratory fitness assessment, and a post-exercise vascular health assessment. Participants will also complete socioeconomic and behaviour questionnaires and accelerometers will be used to determine movement behaviours. Upon completion, each participant will receive an illustrated, age-appropriate book detailing their health status, with tips for improving vascular health. The project also includes outreach initiatives to engage participants, families, and schools: 1- Data collection visits: children will visit the university to learn about their health; 2 - Open days:



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

Schoolchildren will be invited to the university to discuss higher education opportunities and children's health; and 3 - Health information weeks: schools will participate in health information weeks when the research team will present findings and provide educational materials on cardiovascular health.

3.1 Main duties and responsibilities

3.1.1 To conduct the study together with the research team. The responsibilities may include a combination of the following:

- I. Conduct vascular health data collection and analysis
- II. Conduct movement behaviours data collection and analysis
- III. Conduct fitness and body composition assessment and analysis
- IV. Conduct other relevant data collection for the completion of the study

3.1.2 Being responsible for the study logistic:

- I. Act as a facilitator of the transport to children from school to UFRN
- II. Organise raw data storage
- III. To build the study dataset
- IV. Organise the logistic with schools and participants
- V. Participate actively in meetings and organisational activities together with the research team
- VI. Linking the research activities with schools and education secretaries
- VII. Write ethics application together with the research supervisory team
- VIII. Organise and obtain ethical assent/consents from children and parents before data collection

3.1.3 Supervise postgraduate researchers together with the research supervisory team.

- I. Provide supervision to Doctorate and Masters students during the duration of the study
- II. Provide supervision to undergrad research assistants who will also participate in the study



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

3.1.4 Research funding and dissemination. The responsibilities may include all or some of the following:

- I. Contributing to the process of securing funds for future study follow-ups
- II. Writing and contributing to publications and disseminating research findings
- III. Making presentations at conferences and exhibiting work in other appropriate events

3.1.5 To act as research team leader including:

- I. Mentoring colleagues with less experience and advising on their professional development
- II. Coaching and supporting colleagues in developing their research techniques
- III. Supervising the work of others, for example in research teams or projects

3.1.6 To routinely communicate complex and conceptual ideas to those with limited knowledge, such as children, parents, schoolteachers and other relevant stakeholders. Also, connect via different medias and to present the results of scientific research at conferences.

3.1.7 As determined by the nature of the project and at the direction of the supervisory team, to plan, co-ordinate and implement research programme activity including:

- I. Managing the use of research resources
- II. Participate in the budget administration, including acquisition of equipment and capital spendings. Planning and ensuring that effective use of resource is made
- III. Monitoring and reporting on the use of research budgets
- IV. Where appropriate, to plan and manage own consultancy assignments

3.2 Requirements

3.2.1 Applicants will possess a relevant PhD in health sciences or a related field of study. The successful applicants will also be able to work collaboratively, supervise the work of others and act as team leaders as required.



MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE

3.2.2. The Table below will guide the assessment of the appointments.

Competency	Essential	Desirable
Qualification	PhD in Health Sciences and/or related areas	
Skills and understanding	<p>Possess sufficient specialist knowledge in the discipline of physical activity, fitness and health to develop and follow research programmes and methodologies.</p> <p>Record of research output in high quality publications relevant to the subject</p>	<p>English fluency</p> <p>Demonstrable experience in working with large datasets and epidemiological studies.</p> <p>Demonstrable experience in accessing vascular outcomes.</p> <p>Demonstrable experience in accessing physical activity, sedentary time and sleep.</p> <p>Demonstrable experience in accessing physical fitness and body composition.</p> <p>Skills in R coding and statistical analysis</p>
Prior Experience	<p>Experience of managing research projects and working closely with others within a research team</p> <p>Experience of managing data collection</p>	<p>Experience working as a post-doc/research fellow</p> <p>Supervision of postgraduate students</p> <p>Experience of managing research budgets and expenditure reports</p>



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

		Working with children and adolescents, either at research projects or school projects
Behaviour characteristics	<p>Able to work effectively to tight deadlines.</p> <p>Excellent eye for detail – able producing high-quality outputs.</p> <p>Excellent written and verbal communication skills.</p> <p>Able to participate in and develop external networks.</p> <p>Able to balance the pressures of research, administrative demands and competing deadlines.</p> <p>An understanding of the importance of equality and diversity within an organisation and a commitment to helping create an inclusive culture.</p> <p>No criminal records at the state or federal level. This should be confirmed with a criminal background certificate</p>	



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

3.2.3 What we will offer:

- I. Successful candidates will be trained to conduct the study. This includes training for vascular, physical activity, and fitness assessments, as well as other relevant data collection.
- II. There will be travelling between Natal and Exeter as part of research activities. You will be based in Natal, and your appointment will last for 36 months, pending annual approval based on performance. As part of this research project, dedicated computers and a workspace will be provided
- III. Additionally, we will provide training opportunities to enhance awareness and implementation of gender equality and inclusivity practices (please see: <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/departments/inclusion/support/gender/training/>).
- IV. The research team will undergo training, including courses on health and safety, child protection, and the ethical conduct of research involving minors
- V. Training on research data management will also be provided

3.2.4 Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Commitment.

- I. Applicants of all genders will be given equal consideration. For this, we will be committed to ensuring that reasonable adjustments are available for interviews and workplaces. All applicants will be judged solely on their merit, but we will particularly welcome applications from groups currently underrepresented within our working community. To support this, we will ensure gender balance on interview panels and implement policies that support flexible working and family-friendly arrangements.

4. APPLICATION

4.1 Submission of the application by the candidate implies knowledge of and tacit agreement with the rules and conditions established in this call for applications, which may not be claimed as unknown.

4.2 Applications will be open from 10/10/2025 until 11:59 pm on 15/11/2025 and must be submitted by sending an email to: ppgef@ccs.ufrn.br, strictly following the procedures below:

4.2.1 You must send your application to the following email: ppgef@ccs.ufrn.br. Applications must include: 1 - the application letter; 2 - your publication highlights (as in item 5.1); 3 - a link to your curriculum lattes; and 4 - a recommendation letter. Applications must be sent by 15/11/2025.



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

4.3 Providing false information will result in the candidate's automatic disqualification.

4.6 Candidates are responsible for knowing the rules of this call and for monitoring the progress of this selection at: <https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/portal.jsf?id=5591>

4.7 Interviews are expected to occur between 25/11/2025 – 05/12/2025.

4.8 Applications are free of charge.

5. SELECTION

5.1 The selection process will consist of 2 stages:

5.1.1 Stage 1 – In stage 1, we will assess your:

1 - Application letter, CV lattes, and letter of recommendation

- I. Your application letter must be maximum three pages long. You will write about your academic trajectory including the skills and projects you worked at. We expect you to describe how your profile fits the job description described in item 3. How your past experiences will enable you to conduct the outlined activities during the duration of your appointment. You are encouraged to indicate how COVID impacted your research activities, as well as whether you had time off research. Time off may be for maternity leave or for other reasons that you were not able to conduct research (e.g., few research employment opportunities)
- II. Your letter of recommendation. This will be a formal document written by someone who knows you in a professional, academic, or personal capacity and can attest to your abilities, character, and accomplishments. Normally this would be written by your PhD supervisor or a head of the department where you have worked at
- III. The link to your CV lattes. We will assess projects, journal publications, journal reviews, and supervisions. Please note your CV must be updated.

2 - Your publication highlights

- I. Your publication highlights must be maximum two pages long. You will indicate your three most important journal publications. If you have not published three articles, please present what work you have published so far. Please not only consider journal metrics and citations, but also which was your role in the publications listed, as well as which skills you have developed and how they fit the job description



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

5.1.2 Absence or incomplete submission of the required documentation will result in the candidate's disqualification.

5.1.3 Stage 2 – In stage 2 we will conduct interviews

- I. In stage 2, the first to the fifth ranked candidates (see item 5.4.4 below) will be invited for an online interview. Interviews will be mixed Portuguese and English. Please note that although English is not essential for the appointment, it is expected some level of understanding

5.2 The selection process will be governed by this call and executed by the Examination Committee. This Committee will be composed of and chaired by the following members:

- Professor Saionara Maria Aires Da Camara - UFRN
- Professor Ana Katherine da Silveira Gonçalves de Oliveira - UFRN
- Professor Bert Bond – University of Exeter
- Professor Ricardo Santos Oliveira – UFRN

6. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND CLASSIFICATION

6.1 The Examining Committee will assign a score from 0.00 (zero) to 10.00 (ten) to the application letter and your cv lattes. The final score will be the arithmetic mean of the scores given by the examiners. This score will be based on the evaluation considering the following criteria:

- I. The text is structured as a historical and reflective account of the events that have shaped the candidate's academic and professional journey. It should provide a precise overview of the path taken and its connection to the desired position
- II. The text describes how the candidate background relates to the items listed in the table in section 3
- III. The text describes and establishes a relationship between the different stages of the candidate's education and professional experience relevant to the activities outlined in section 3
- IV. The text articulates the described trajectory to justify their potential performance in the role detailed in section 3



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

- V. The candidate has research outputs, project participation, supervisory experience, and worked as reviewer

6.2 The Examining Committee will assign a score from 0.00 (zero) to 10.00 (ten) to the publication highlights. This score will be based on the evaluation considering the following criteria:

- I. The publications selected are highly relevant and demonstrate a significant contribution to scientific knowledge
- II. The publications are featured in reputable journals, considering both journal metrics (e.g., impact factor) and their standing within the academic community
- III. Leadership and Initiative: The candidate's role in the publications is clearly defined and demonstrates significant intellectual leadership
- IV. Scope of Involvement: The description of the candidate's role goes beyond standard authorship, detailing specific contributions to the research process (e.g., experimental design, data analysis, manuscript writing)
- V. Skill Articulation: The candidate effectively links their contributions to the development of specific, transferable skills (e.g., experimental techniques, data modelling, collaborative project management)
- VI. Relevance to Position: The skills highlighted are directly applicable and valuable for the professional role as described in the role detailed in section 3.1

6.3 based on the assessment of items 6.1 and 6.2 a rank will be created according to the final score obtained:

$$\text{Stage one} = (\text{AL} \times 0.5) + (\text{PH} \times 0.5)$$

Where = AL: application letter and CV; PH: publication highlights

6.4 The first to the fifth ranked candidates will be invited to an online interview (stage 2). The Examining Committee will assign a score from 0.00 (zero) to 10.00 (ten). This score will be based on the evaluation considering the following criteria:

- I. Clarity and Coherence: The candidate clearly and concisely articulates their academic and professional experience, demonstrating a deep understanding of their work and its relevance to the position



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

- II. Problem-Solving Skills: The candidate demonstrates the ability to think critically and apply their knowledge to solve hypothetical or real-world problems related to the role's activities (as described in section 3)
- III. Command of the Field: The candidate shows a strong grasp of the key concepts, methodologies relevant to the research project (as described in section 3)
- IV. Effective Communication: The candidate communicates their ideas with confidence, clarity, and precision
- V. Self-Reflection: The candidate provides thoughtful, reflective answers that show an understanding of their strengths, weaknesses, and professional growth. They can elaborate on the skills they developed and their role in past projects
- VI. Justification of Suitability: The candidate convincingly articulates how their trajectory and skills directly align with the responsibilities and expectations of the role detailed in section 3
- VII. Future Contributions: The candidate outlines how their unique background, skills, and experience will enable them to contribute effectively to the team and the goals of the position. They demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for the role
- VIII. Articulation of Career Goals: The candidate's career aspirations and goals are consistent with the long-term opportunities and expectations of the position

6.5 The final classification will be obtained following equation:

$$\text{Final note} = (S1 \times 0.4) + (S2 \times 0.6)$$

Where = S1: stage 1; S2: stage 2

7. PROHIBITIONS

7.1 For the purposes of Article 151 of Resolution 001/2022 - CONSPE/CONSAD, the following are prohibited:

- I. The granting of scholarships for the fulfilment of regular undergraduate and postgraduate teaching activities
- II. The granting of scholarships to civil servants as remuneration for the performance of commissioned functions
- III. The granting of scholarships to technical-administrative staff as remuneration for the performance of administrative activities inherent to their post



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

- IV. The granting of scholarships to civil servants for participation on the councils of Support Foundations
- V. The cumulative receipt of the Course and Competition Allowance Payment, provided for in Article 76-A of Law No. 8.112/90, with the granting of a scholarship for the same activity
- VI. The payment of scholarships that characterise a quid pro quo for services (Revenue Service Co-ordination of Taxpayer Guidance Solution 140 - COSIT, of 21 September 2021)
- VII. The granting of scholarships to a spouse, partner, or relative in the direct line, collateral line, or by affinity of the project coordinator and deputy coordinator
- VIII. The payment of a scholarship to any person who has an employment link with the Support Foundation
- IX. The payment of scholarships to civil servants concomitantly with the irregular subcontracting of individuals and legal entities that effectively carry out the object of the contract

7.2 In addition to the prohibitions described in item 7.1, the norms contained in current Brazilian legislation must also be observed.

8. DISCLOSURE OF RESULTS

8.1 The results of each stage and the list of selected candidates will be published at: <https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/portal.jsf?id=5591>

9. APPOINTMENT

9.1 Candidates approved in the selection process will be appointed in order of classification, in accordance with the number of vacancies, the validity of this call, and the classification criteria specified in item 5.

9.2 We expect candidates to start on 01/01/2026.

9.3 Essential documents are a PhD certificate (or the *ata* of PhD defence) and a certificate of past criminal records.

10. VALIDITY

10.1 This selection process will be valid for 36 months and may be extended for an additional 12 months, counted from the date of publication of the results.



**MINISTÉRIO DA EDUCAÇÃO
UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO
NORTE**

11. FINAL PROVISIONS

11.1 Candidates selected and placed on the waiting list in this call may be recruited for other projects, provided that the same characteristics of the position are met, upon justification by the Project Coordinator and provided that the rights of other selected candidates are not compromised.

11.2 Cases not covered by this call will be resolved by decision of the Selection Committee

11.3 For additional information, please contact Professor Ricardo Oliveira:
ricardo.oliveira@ufrn.br

Natal, 10 of October 2025

Prof. Ricardo Santos Oliveira
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Project coordinator