

# ICArEHB Seed Fund

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## Objectives

The *ICArEHB seed fund* (ISF) is an annual fund established by the Board of Direction of ICArEHB to allow members of ICArEHB to conduct selected projects of scientific research in human evolution and prehistoric archeology.

The ISF must allow members of ICArEHB to enrich their experience and track as researcher while promoting ICArEHB's activity in research, education, and science communication, both locally and internationally.

The ISF can cover expenses of analyses (access to equipment or facilities, consumables) and the costs of travel and accommodation required for the fellow to conduct the work of the research program. The rules of FCT apply to determine eligible expenses of travel and accommodation. Salary, stipend, and equipment purchase cannot be covered by the ISF.

The amount requested can be of maximum 5 000 € per project, and the project must be conducted within 12 months following the announcement of the results of evaluation.

If the project is conducted within the framework of activities of a non-profit institution, 100% of funding can be requested. If the project is conducted within the framework of the activities of a for-profit institution, the amount requested can be funded up to 50%.

The project must be integrated into a research question with a tangible objective of dissemination in the research community (publications, presentation in conference). The project can be a pilot, original study, or can be inserted into a bigger project if the budget is not available for the proposed analysis.

The successful applicants have to i) present their project and outcomes during an internal seminar and ii) present their work on the website of ICArEHB.

**Box 1.** Annual tasks of the Board of Direction of ICArEHB prior to the opening of the ISF call.

*Every year the Board of Direction of ICArEHB determines the strategic orientation of the call and nominates a member of ICArEHB to take charge of coordinating the call for projects and the evaluation procedure.*

## Procedure of application

**Applicant:** Applicants must be members of ICArEHB, and the project must fit the strategic orientation. Priority will be given to young researchers (Master, PhD students and postdoc with less than 3 years of postdoctoral experience) and researchers without on-going alternative sources of funding.

Interested applicants must contact [iseefund@icarehb.com](mailto:iseefund@icarehb.com) at least seven days before the deadline to receive the templates of application.

The completed application should be sent to [iseefund@icarehb.com](mailto:iseefund@icarehb.com) before the deadline.

### Application documents:

- 1) A short Curriculum Vitae including all affiliations (one page).
- 2) Responses to the following sections in the template document (total maximum 5 pages):
  - *Section 1: Project information. Title, Acronym, Dates of project, Location of the work, and type of equipment.*
  - *Section 2: What will be the focus of your investigation? What is your main research question? Describe the purpose of your research, the state-of-the-art and gap of knowledge, the objective of the research, and the scientific impact of your research.*
  - *Section 3: What evidence will you need to collect to answer your research question? How will you go about collecting and analysing this evidence? Describe the research methodology and the expected outcome/results (a sketch or figure is optional).*
  - *Section 4: What contribution will your project make to your future career? Explain what your short- and long-term professional goals and how this research contributes to reaching your objectives.*
  - *Section 5: What contribution will your project make to the scientific excellence and visibility of ICArEHB? Explain how your project is relevant to ICArEHB and your contribution to activities in ICArEHB.*
- 3) Budget: fill in the Excel form appropriately, deleting the example (in red).

## Procedure of evaluation

The application is evaluated according to the following criteria:

- A. Quality of the project (including scientific impact, feasibility, dissemination, and adequacy of the budget) (60%)
- B. Impact of the project on the career of the researcher, on the visibility and scientific quality of ICArEHB (40%)

Each application will be evaluated for each criterion over a scale from 1 to 10 without decimal, and the final grade will be calculated according to the following equation:

$$\text{Final grade} = A \times 0.6 + B \times 0.4$$

In case of equality, priority will be given to higher grades in criterion A over criterion B. The applications will be evaluated by at least two (2) reviewers. The reviewers will be selected by the scientific coordinator of the call among the members of ICArEHB who have no conflict of interest with any of the applicants.

The reviewers have freedom to amend and edit the budget and to suggest alternative solutions.

All applications received after the deadline will be rejected. Incomplete applications or those that do not adhere to the guidelines, will not be considered.

## Results of evaluation

Within 90 days following the deadline, ranking of the applications according to the evaluations will be transmitted for validation to the Board of Direction of ICArEHB. The top-ranking applications will be funded until the total fund available is used. The results will be announced to each applicant by email.

There is no appeal procedure.

## Annual Update

### Call 2022

**Strategic orientation:** all fields of study of human evolution and prehistoric archeology

**Scientific coordinator:** Prof. Michael Benedetti

**Deadline for application:** 10 February 2022 23:59 Lisbon time.