



Maria Teixeira Borges

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Master's in Organismal and Evolutionary Biology

Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon [09/2024 – Current]

Thesis: Research on the mechanisms driving fibrotic scar formation after spinal cord injury, focusing on how pericyte plasticity and EMT-like processes contribute to fibrosis and exploring molecular pathways that could be targeted for novel therapies. Neurotrauma Lab, Católica Medical School (CIIS & GIMM). Supervisors: Dr. Dalila Neves-Silva and Prof. Isaura Martins

- Specialization: Organismal Biology
- Practical Project: Left-right axis development in zebrafish embryos using in situ hybridization, ciliary beat frequency, and heart laterality analysis. Cilia in Development and Disease Lab (CE3C), Supervisor: Prof. Susana Lopes
- Practical Project: The role of the *white* gene in the fitness of *Drosophila melanogaster* under bacterial exposure (*Pseudomonas entomophila*) Developmental and Evolutionary Morphogenesis Lab (CE3C), Supervisor: Prof. Élio Sucena
- Lab Rotation: IDOLizing pericytes as regulators of cardiometabolic effects after spinal cord injury. Neurotrauma Lab, Católica Medical School (CIIS & GIMM). Supervisors: Dr. Dalila Neves-Silva and Prof. Isaura Martins

Bachelor's in Biology

Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon [09/2021 – 06/2024]

- Specialization in Organismal Biology and Evolution
- Final Project: “*Retinal Organoids as Disease Models (Parkinson's and Diabetes)*” at the Degeneration and Ageing group, Nova Medical School.
- Supervisor: Prof. Sandra Tenreiro

Bachelor's in Geology

Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon [09/2020 – 07/2021]

WORK EXPERIENCE

 **Pavilhão do Conhecimento – Ciência Viva, Lisbon** – Lisbon, Portugal

City: Lisbon | Country: Portugal

Science Communicator (Monitor)

[09/2023 – Current]

- Delivered hands-on science communication and outreach activities for audiences of all ages at a public science museum;
- Support in science outreach activities.

 **Staff Global, Brandlooks, Brandp, Brandcom**

Promoter/Hostess

[05/2021 – Current]

- Brand activation and guest reception.
- Cloakroom service, audience support, prize delivery, flyer distribution.

Freelance

Babysitter

[01/2020 – Current]

- Responsible for one or more children.
- Organization of recreational and educational activities.

KeyPoint - Nestlé por Crianças mais Saudáveis

Project "Nestlé, For Healthier Children"

[01/2020 – 06/2020]

- Led educational outreach on healthy eating habits for children in kindergartens and primary schools.
- Adapted the program during COVID-19 by creating remote learning activities and teaching materials for teachers.

VOLUNTEERING

[09/2022 – Current] Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

Tutor

- Academic and personal support for first-year Biology undergraduates.

[09/2023 – 04/2024] Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

Head of Communication & Image Department, Sustainability Week

- Team management.
- Creation of flyers and posters.
- Management of social media channels and adaptation for diverse audiences.

[10/2022 – 10/2023] Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

Head of Communication Department – Biology Students' Association (NEB)

- Led the communication team.
- Creation of flyers and posters.
- Management of social media channels.

[11/2022 – 03/2023] Lisbon Zoo

Volunteer, CRIA Project (Center for Research in Anthropology): "And after reintroduction? Zoo visitors' experiences with the Iberian lynx"

- Supported the Anthropology undergraduate internship from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities (FCSH). Supervision: Dr. Margarida Fernandes.
- Conducted interviews with visitors at the Iberian lynx (*Lynx pardinus*) exhibition area.
- Collected observational data on visitor behaviors, emotions, verbalizations, and knowledge about the species.

[04/2022 – 04/2022] Futurália (Science Fair)

Monitor

- Promoted and represented the Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, particularly the Biology degree.

[11/2019 – 04/2020] Vasco da Gama Aquarium, Lisbon

Technical Assistant

- Supported the maintenance and monitoring of live aquatic exhibits.
- Assisted with animal care routines and daily operations of the aquarium.

CERTIFICATIONS

[Gulbenkian Institute for Molecular Medicine (GiMM), 11/11/2025]

Laboratory Animal Science Course Successfully completed both the CONGENTO Theory Course in Laboratory Animal Science (21 hours) and the Practical Course on Laboratory Animal Science at GiMM (11 hours) meeting Directive 2010/63 requirements for work with rodents. Training covered core and function-specific modules across theory and practice, including ethics and welfare (Three Rs), species-specific biology, advanced husbandry and enrichment, pain and distress recognition, minimally invasive procedures, and humane euthanasia methods.

SKILLS

OCTAVE / LaTeX / R / R Studio / R Markdown

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Português

Other language(s): Inglês | Espanhol