

Sheila Vidal, Head Research Funding Affairs Unit, IGC

Sheila Vidal heads the Research Funding Affairs Unit at the Instituto Gulbenkian de Ciência in Oeiras, Portugal. She has dedicated the last twelve years of her career to Research Management, having a long standing experience in the conception & implementation of pre-award grant management strategies at both the individual and institutional level. She has also acquired global experience in research funding policies and in providing support to Life Science researchers in the assembling of successful proposals to prestigious national and international research grant programmes, such as FCT-Portugal, ERC, EU, HHMI, HFSP, EMBO, amongst others. In addition, she creates and organizes a grant application training programme for in-house researchers and, regularly coordinates/lectures advanced training modules on grant development at several Masters and PhD programmes in Lisbon, Brazil and Cape Verde. She is an active member of the EU-LIFE Grants & Funding and EARMA Cultures & Diversity in Research Management & Administration working groups. She has also acted on certain occasions as an advisor for the FCT-Portugal on grant management programs and for the Ministry of Science on career development & training for research managers.



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Sheila Vidal graduated in Biology at the University of Porto, Portugal (1994) and went on to complete a M.Sc. in Plant Physiology and Biochemistry at the University of Lisbon, Portugal (1997). In 1999 she was accepted into the Gulbenkian PhD Programme in Biology and Medicine where she completed a PhD in *Drosophila* innate immunity at the University Paris XI, France (2003) under the supervision of Bruno Lemaitre. In the final period of her PhD, while attending seminars in alternative science related careers, her interests started to focus on the management of the interactions between science, funding and politics. Upon her return to Portugal, in May 2004, she joined the IGC as a Grant Administrator to further develop the Science Funding environment. In April 2008 she was appointed as Head of the IGC Research Funding Affairs Unit (Ciência 2007 position), responsible for the conception and implementation of the current strategy of the pre-award grant management service. This service aims at maximizing the available governmental and private funds from various national and international grant programs in the Life Science field. The responsibilities of the Unit involves identification and dissemination of funding opportunities tailored to the needs of the institute, support of the development and submission of grant proposals and management of contract negotiation and supervision of final contracts.