

## NOTICE OF THE CALL FOR PHD STUDENTSHIPS – 2018

The Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) opens a Call for granting **950** (nine hundred and fifty) PhD studentships (BD).

### APPLICABLE LEGISLATION

Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., approved by Regulation No. 234/2012, of June 5<sup>th</sup>, altered and republished by Regulation No. 326/2013, of August 7<sup>th</sup>, altered by Regulation No. 339/2015, of June 9<sup>th</sup> and by Regulation No. 137-A/2018, of February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Research Fellowship Holder Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18<sup>th</sup>, altered and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012, of August 27<sup>th</sup>, altered also by Decree-Law No. 233/2012, of October 29<sup>th</sup>, by Law No. 12/2013, of January 29<sup>th</sup>, and by Decree-Law No. 89/2013, of July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

With the aim of supporting advanced training, PhD studentships will be granted to applicants that fulfil the requirements to join a study cycle that allows obtaining a PhD degree and that wish to develop research work that allows obtaining that degree.

The research work may be carried out in any intensive-knowledge environment, namely in collaboration with companies, so that the host institution(s) of the fellowship may be: R&D units; State Laboratories; Associated Laboratories; Collaborative Laboratories; or Interface Centres.

The work programme may proceed fully or partially in a national institution (studentship in the country or mixed studentship, respectively), or proceed fully in a foreign institution (studentship abroad). In case of a mixed BD, the period of the work programme in a foreign institution cannot, in any case, exceed two years.

Studentships are, as a rule, annual, renewable up to four years, and cannot be granted for a period of less than three consecutive months.

## RECIPIENTS

### General Requirements

Applicants to the current call must comply with the following:

- Be national citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union;
- Be citizens from third-party states, that hold, until the starting date of the studentship, a valid residence permit or be beneficiaries of the long-term resident statute;
- Be citizens from third-party states with which Portugal has signed a reciprocity agreement.

### Specific requirements

To apply for a PhD studentship it is necessary:

- To have completed, at the time of application submission, the master academic degree or, alternatively, fulfilling, on that time, the conditions provided in items b) or c) of article No. 30 of Decree-Law No. 74/2006, of March 24<sup>th</sup>, altered by Decree-Law No. 63/2016, of September 13<sup>th</sup>, for access to the study cycle that allows obtaining the PhD degree.
- To be a citizen permanently and usually living in Portugal, in case the work plan of the requested studentship proceeds, wholly or partially, in foreign institutions (mixed or abroad studentships); this requirement is applicable to national or foreign citizens.
- Not to have benefited from a PhD or a PhD in industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.

## STUDENTSHIP STARTING DATE

The studentships approved may begin on a date to be defined by applicants as long as the following requirements are cumulatively met:

- Studentships may not begin before September 1<sup>st</sup> 2018 or after August 31<sup>st</sup> 2019;
- Studentships may not begin before the return of the duly signed studentship contract by the applicants, which must happen within fifteen business days of the date of contract receipt.

Issuance by the FCT services of the respective studentship contract is also dependent on the verification of the respective budget availability.

## FUNDING

Studentships granted under the present call will be funded with allocations from the State Budget of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education and, when eligible, with allocations from the European Social Fund, to be made available under PORTUGAL2020, which covers European Union structural assistance for the period 2014-2020, namely through the Human Capital Operational Programme (PO CH) in accordance with the regulatory provisions set for that purpose.

## APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD

The call is open from February 28<sup>th</sup> to 5:00 pm (Lisbon time) of March 28<sup>th</sup> 2018.

## APPLICATIONS

Applications, as well as all the supporting documents described in the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships and in the Evaluation Guide for the Call, must be submitted online, using the form available at: <https://concursos.fct.pt/bolsas/>.

Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

In the criterion Merit of the Applicant, certificates of academic degrees that do not include complete information about the final average grade for each study cycle, and the respective number of ECTS, if applicable, will not be considered for the evaluation.

Applicants that do not have the master's degree must, under penalty of application's non-admission, submit a declaration issued by the legally and statutorily competent scientific body of the university where they intend to be admitted for PhD, proving their capacity to attend this study cycle. This declaration must be issued in accordance with the Minute / Model provided in the Evaluation Guide.

Applicants with foreign academic degrees are required to submit the records of acknowledgment of such degrees and conversion of the respective final grades to the Portuguese grading scale (whenever a final grade was awarded to the foreign degree), issued by the Directorate General for Higher Education or by a Portuguese public higher education establishment (regime governed by Decree-Law No. 341/2007, of October 12<sup>th</sup>) or, alternatively, submit the document of acknowledgment/equivalence of the foreign qualifications to the corresponding Portuguese qualifications, issued by a Portuguese public higher education establishment (process governed by Decree-Law No. 283/83, of June 21<sup>st</sup>). Documents that do not comply with this requirement will not be considered for evaluation or studentship granting.

Applicants are required to submit a motivation letter and two recommendation letters.

In the field of the application form entitled "United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda)", applicants should identify one, or a maximum of three, of the 17 goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030 that is/are in line with the work programme.

Each applicant may submit one application only, under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted.

Each application admitted to the Call, if considered to meet the admissibility criteria, will be assessed by the panel of the scientific area stated by the applicant in the respective application form.

Providing false declarations or committing acts of plagiarism by applicants is a reason for cancelation of the respective application without prejudice of taking other corrective and punitive disciplinary measures.

Granting the studentship is dependent on the result of its scientific assessment, receipt of the required documentation and budget availability from the funding entity.

## EVALUATION

The FCT will appoint a Scientific Coordination Group for the Call consisting of three to five researchers with internationally recognized scientific merit in distinct fields of knowledge. The work carried out by this Group is coordinated, under FCT's invitation, by one of its members.

The evaluation of the applications will be carried out by a set of evaluation panels corresponding to an adaptation of the FOS Classification of the Frascati Manual (OECD's Revised Field of Science and Technology Classification in the Frascati Manual), which will integrate experts with renowned scientific merit and experience.

The assessment work developed by each panel is coordinated, under FCT's invitation, by one of its members, who has the responsibility for assuring that the evaluation exercise is carried out with transparency, independence and equality.

Evaluation takes into account three criteria: i) merit of the applicant; ii) merit of the work programme; and iii) merit of the hosting conditions. Applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of grades in the three evaluation criteria, following the relative weighting of, respectively, 50%, 25%, 25%.

All applications will be graded from 1.000 (minimum) to 5.000 (maximum) in the three evaluation criteria considered.

Applications are assigned to the different panels according to the main scientific field, secondary scientific field and scientific subfield stated by the applicant in the application form.

The evaluation panel shall evaluate the applications received in accordance with the parameters defined in the Evaluation Guide for the current Call, considering the evaluation elements.

Candidates whose application is scored with a final grade lower than 3.000 are not eligible for studentship granting.

After the classification and ranking of all applications by the evaluation panels, the Scientific Coordination Group will perform a global analysis of the Call results, proposing to FCT the "cut-off line" for each panel. In this process the Commission will consider the scientific policy guidelines for Portugal in the European context (Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Portugal - Perspectives, available at: <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=6ac404ca-9f41-4d83-ae70-6ffff158803b>), as well as the need to guarantee a highly qualified human resources framework, recognizing the disciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary nature of scientific knowledge. The Commission should also consider the need to ensure the alignment of the doctoral research to the major objectives of sustainable development at the global level, as defined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, available at: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E).

The Evaluation Guide is available at: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2018.phtml.en>.

## **DISCLOSURE OF RESULTS**

The evaluation results are published in the personal area of each applicant on the FCT-SIG portal at <https://sig.fct.pt/fctsig/?lang=EN> and their disclosure is made available on the FCT call website call in: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2018.phtml.en>.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY**

FCT, I.P, as a public body, promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due to, namely, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, handicap, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological persuasions or trade union affiliation.

## **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION**

The present call is governed by this Notice of the Call, by the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, by the Application and Evaluation Guides of the Call and by the applicable national and Community legislation. It is recommended to carefully read all the documents that support application, which are available on the FCT portal at: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2018.phtml.en>.