

Notice of the Call for PhD Studentships – 2017

In the terms of the Research Scholarships Regulation of Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., approved by Regulation No. 234/2012, of June 5th 2012, altered and republished by Regulation No. 326/2013, of August 7th 2013 and altered by Regulation No. 339/2015, of June 9th 2015 and the Statute of the Scientific Research Grantee, approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18th, altered and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012, of August 27th, altered also by Decree-Law No. 233/2012, of October 29th, by Law No. 12/2013, of January 29th, and by Decree-Law No. 89/2013, of July 9th, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) opens a Call for granting 900 (nine hundred) research scholarships.

TYPE AND DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

PhD studentships (PD) - They are aimed for applicants that fulfil the conditions required to join a study cycle that allows obtaining the academic degree of PhD and that wish to develop research work that allow obtaining such academic degree.

The scholarship is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to four years, as long as the assumptions for granting it are met on the date of renewal. The work plan may proceed in national or in foreign institutions. No scholarships are granted for periods of less than three consecutive months.

RECIPIENTS

General Requirements

The following may apply to the present Call:

- National citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union;
- Citizens from third-party states, holders of a valid residence permit or beneficiaries of the long-term resident statute;
- Citizens from third-party states with which Portugal has signed a reciprocity agreement;
- Citizens permanently and usually living in Portugal, if the work plan of the requested scholarship proceeds, wholly or partially, in foreign institutions (mixed or overseas scholarships – applicable to national or foreign citizens).

Specific requirements

- Having completed, until the date of submission of the application, the master academic degree or, alternatively, fulfilling, on that date, the conditions provided in items b) or c) of article 30 of Decree-Law No. 74/2006, of March 24th, altered by Decree-Law No. 115/2013, of August 7th, for access to the study cycle that allows obtaining the PhD degree.
- Not having benefited from a PhD or a PhD in companies scholarship directly funded by FCT, regardless of the duration thereof.

INITIAL PERIOD OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

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

- Scholarships may not begin before September 1st 2017 or after August 31st 2018;
- Scholarships may not begin before the return of the duly signed scholarship 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 scholarship contract is also dependent on the verification of the respective budget availability.

FUNDING

Scholarships 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 March 1st to 5 pm (Lisbon time) of March 31st 2017.

APPLICATIONS

Applications, as well as the documents that support the application described in the FCT Research Scholarships Regulation and in the Evaluation Guide for the Call, must be submitted digitally, using the form available at: <https://concursos.fct.pt/bolsas/>.

Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

In the criterion Applicant's Merit, qualifications certificates for academic degrees obtained 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 purposes of assessing the Base Grade.

Applicants that do not have the master academic degree are required to 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.

Applicants with academic degrees obtained overseas 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 12th) 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 21st).

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

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

Each application admitted to the Call that meets the admissibility criteria will be assessed by the panel of the scientific area stated by the applicant in the application form.

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

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

EVALUATION

Evaluation takes into account three criteria: Applicant's Merit; merit of the work plan; merit of the hosting conditions.

For purposes of ulterior decision on the granting of scholarships, applicants will be ranked according to the pondered average of grades in the three evaluation criteria. The three evaluation criteria will have the relative contribution of, respectively, 40%, 30%, 30%.

The evaluation panel, who will be provided with the Evaluation Guide for the Call, shall evaluate the applications received in accordance with the parameters defined in that guide, considering the evaluation elements.

The Evaluation Guide is available at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2017.phtml.pt>

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

We recommend reading the FCT Research Scholarships Regulation, the Statute of Research Grantee, the Application and Evaluation Guides for the Call and further documents that support application, available at the FCT portal at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2017.phtml.pt>