

Highlights

Call for PhD Studentships – 2017

What is different in the 2017 Call

PhD studentships

February 2017

This document **summarises the relevant information** about **what changes or is new** in the Call for PhD Studentships (BD) 2017 when compared with the 2016 Call. **Reading this document does not waive the attentive reading of the Evaluation Guide** (to be made available) **and of the Evaluation Guide** (available at the FCT website).

CALL

The 2017 Call for Scholarships is aimed at supporting advanced training by granting PhD studentships, while post-doctoral fellowships are not supported in this edition of the Call.

ADMISSIBILITY

Applicant Admissibility Requirements

Changes as far as specific requirements

The following restriction, included in previous editions of the Call for scholarships, ceases to exist:

“Not having been selected for the granting of any scholarship, regardless of the type (research, PhD or PhD in companies scholarship) and duration thereof, under any FCT PhD Programmes.”

Only the impediment to apply for applicants that have already benefited from a PhD or PhD in companies scholarship directly funded by FCT remains, regardless of the duration thereof.

Application Admissibility Requirements

Changes as far as the documents of proof of compliance with the Admissibility Requirements

- Submission in the application form of the qualifications certificates for all academic degrees obtained is mandatory. Hence for “post-Bologna” degrees, submission of the certificate for the first and second study cycles or, if it is not a two-stage education, of the integrated master’s

certificate, is mandatory; for “pre-Bologna” degrees, submission of the graduate certificate and of the master’s certificate is mandatory.

Lack of certificates of academic degrees for applicants holders of 1st or 2nd cycle, pre- or post-Bologna, implies exclusion of the application from the Call. Applicants that do not have the 1st or 2nd education cycle post-Bologna, or a graduate degree or master degree in pre-Bologna education, must mandatorily attach to their application, in the proper field and in replacement of the certificate for the degree in question, a statement of responsibility and oath of honour stating that they do not hold that degree.

- Applicants that do not hold the academic degree of master must mandatorily 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 (deliberation made by the Scientific Council of the entity that grants the degree, concerning the application to the PhD course for which the applicant is requesting a scholarship). This declaration/deliberation will be accepted only if issued in conformity, and by the statutory body provided in the PhD regulation of the university that grants the degree, a regulation published under and in compliance with the provisions of article 38 of Decree-Law No. 74/2006, of March 24th, altered by Decree-Law No. 107/2008, of June 25th, and Decree-Law No. 115/2013, of August 7th.

Proofs of enrolment, admission or attendance of PhD programmes **will not be accepted** in replacement of the declarations/deliberations mentioned above, even if they concern the PhD programme for which the scholarship is being requested, nor will any other documents regardless of their form or nature.

Changes as far as the documents required to be submitted in the application

In this Call **it is no longer mandatory** to submit an autonomous document that the applicant deems most representative of their scientific/professional career. Submitting said document is now optional, and only documents in pdf format will be accepted (see technical specifications in the Application Guide).

APPLICATION EVALUATION PROCESS PER PANEL

Establishment of Evaluation Panels

The evaluation work developed by each panel is coordinated, under an invitation by FCT, by one of its members. The coordinator may never be a tutor or co-tutor of applicants with applications submitted under the evaluation panel that they coordinate; **they may, nevertheless, be the tutor or co-tutor of applicants with applications under assessment in other evaluation panels.**

According to the number of applications submitted in each panel, one or more co-coordinators may be appointed to assist the coordinator in their tasks. Co-coordinators and the other assessors that form the evaluation panel **may be tutors or co-tutors of applicants** as long as the respective applications have been **submitted to panels other than the panel that they are part of.**

Scientific Areas

Some adjustments were introduced in the adapted version of the FOS classification of the Frascati Manual (*OECD's Revised Field of Science and Technology Classification in the Frascati Manual* – see Annex I to the Evaluation Guide). Evaluation panels will be formed on the base of this version of the FOS classification of the Frascati Manual. Applicants are responsible for the selection of the main, secondary area and subarea where they submit their application, which determines the evaluation panel. For greater safety of applicants, the application form includes a field showing the evaluation panel that results from the main/secondary scientific area /subarea selection made by applicants.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applicant's Merit - Sub-criterion academic career

Explanation of criteria to award the Base Grade

A new table (Table 1) systematises the methodology adopted to identify the Base Grade to consider when assessing the score of the criterion “Applicant's Merit”, sub-criterion “academic career”.

Table 1: Definition of the Base Grade

	Certificates attached to the application ⁽¹⁾	Methodology to ascertain the Base Grade
1	Graduate certificate + master's certificate, both with final grade ⁽²⁾ .	Base Grade computed by applying the 1 st column of Table 1
2	Integrated master's certificate with single final grade (1 st +2 nd cycles)	Base Grade computed by applying the 1 st column of Table 1
3	National graduate certificate, pre- or post-Bologna, with final grade ⁽²⁾ or foreign graduate certificate with grade converted to the Portuguese scale, without master degree, but with declaration/deliberation by the Scientific Council confirming capacity to complete the PhD	Base Grade computed by applying the 2 nd column of Table 1
4	National graduate certificate, pre- or post-Bologna, with final grade ⁽²⁾ or foreign graduate certificate with grade converted to the Portuguese scale + Master's certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) or, in case of foreign certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale	Base Grade computed by applying the 2 nd column of Table 1
5	Graduate certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) or, in case of foreign certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale + national master degree certificate with final grade ⁽²⁾ or master's foreign certificate with grade converted to the national scale	Base Grade to be decided by the panel
6	Without graduate degree but with national master degree certificate with final grade ⁽²⁾ or master's foreign certificate with grade converted to the national scale	Base Grade to be decided by the panel
7	Submission of more than one graduate degree and/or master degree	Base Grade to be decided by the panel
8	Without graduate degree and without master degree, but with declaration/deliberation by the Scientific Council confirming capacity to complete the PhD	Equivalence to the minimum grade (Base Grade = 1)
9	Graduate certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) or, in case of foreign certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale, without master degree, but with declaration/deliberation by the Scientific Council confirming capacity to complete the PhD	Equivalence to the minimum grade (Base Grade = 1)
10	Graduate certificate and master's certificate (national or foreign), both without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) or, in case of foreign certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale	Equivalence to the minimum grade (Base Grade = 1)

⁽¹⁾ Foreign certificates may be deemed valid only when their acknowledgment record is submitted, or alternatively, when a document of acknowledgment/equivalence of foreign qualifications with the corresponding Portuguese qualifications is submitted. The respective classifications may be used, for purposes of computing the Base Grade, only if officially converted to the Portuguese grading scale (by DGES or by a public higher education establishment).

⁽²⁾ If the final grade is qualitative, and before Table 1 is applied, it must be converted to a quantitative grade by applying Table 2.