

## Evaluation Panel: SOCIAL SCIENCES - Language Sciences

### Panel Members

Marilyn Vihman (Chair)	University of York, United Kingdom
Margaret Deuchar	University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
Paul Heggarty	Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Germany
Philip Carr	Université de Montpellier, France
Teresa Biberauer	University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

### R&D Units

Centro de Estudos de Linguística Geral e Aplicada (CELGA-ILTEC)	Universidade de Coimbra (UC)
Centro de Estudos em Letras (CEL)	Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD)
Centro de Linguística da Universidade de Lisboa (CLUL)	Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Lisboa (FL/ULisboa)
Centro de Linguística da Universidade do Porto (CLUP)	Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto (FL/UP)
Centro de Linguística da Universidade Nova de Lisboa (CLUNL)	Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas (FCSH/UNL)



## Evaluation Panel: SOCIAL SCIENCES - Language Sciences

---

**R&D Unit:** Centro de Estudos de Linguística Geral e Aplicada (CELGA-ILTEC)

**Coordinator:** Maria Isabel Pires Pereira

**Integrated PhD Researchers:** 37

---

**Overall Quality Grade:** EXCELLENT

### Evaluation Criteria Ratings

- (A) Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application: 5
- (B) Merit of the team of Integrated Researchers: 4
- (C) Appropriateness of objectives, strategy, plan of activities and organization: 4

**Base Funding for (2020-2023):** 619 K€

### Recommended Programmatic Support

PhD Fellowships: 6

Programmatic Funding: 550 K€, including for 2 (Junior) New PhD Researchers Contracts.

### Justification, Comments and Recommendations

CELGA-ILTEC is an extremely active R&D Unit, with no hesitation in taking on major projects, and it seems well organised to implement and achieve them. Its staff are deeply committed to the powerful and much-needed resources they are developing. CELGA-ILTEC relatively small scale as a R&D Unit, very recent foundation and need to create all new structures make its portfolio of outputs all the more impressive. The Unit got off to a flying start by holding two international conferences in its first year, 2015, as part of the celebration of 725 years since the founding of the University of Coimbra, thus immediately making its presence known. There has been ongoing significant publication progress since 2015, as for example in the online publication of VOC in 2017.

CELGA-ILTEC rightly characterises its work as the “development and supply of linguistic resources” and “services to the R&D community”. The Unit produces a huge range of such resources, research tools for linguists (e.g. corpus management tools), but also resources of very direct relevance and value to the general Portuguese-speaking public, and many public institutions, an area in which CELGA-ILTEC is exceptionally strong and the leader in Portugal. This does not mean that the Unit is overly focused on applied linguistics, however. These tools rely on the strong theoretical background that underlies their functionality, and the sample publications confirm that there is no lack of fundamental research and theoretical sophistication.

Exploring the tools mentioned in the application and on the CELGA-ILTEC website constitutes a tour of much-needed and intelligently devised resources, from TEITOK to Spock, and above all to the suite of resources at [www.portaldalinguaportuguesa.org](http://www.portaldalinguaportuguesa.org). These resources fill clearly evident needs (e.g. the special focus on ‘Vocabulário de Mudança’), and find intelligent solutions to providing the data and functionality needed by the general public and linguist users alike.

The practical, applied value in CELGA-ILTEC research could hardly be higher. CELGA-ILTEC is a key player in creating reference databases and resources for Portuguese in the world, including on behalf of the CPLP itself. Almost all of the Unit work brings rigorous practical contributions, from linguistic tools for the identification and assessment of Alzheimer, to resources for second language learners of Portuguese. Above all, their resources serve the Unit deep commitment to the vision of Portuguese as a pluricentric language. CELGA-ILTEC research has produced, for instance, the first large-scale corpora for Mozambican, Cape Verdean and Angolan Portuguese. The impacts and benefits of its research can thus be reaped across the Portuguese-speaking world, including by the CPLP itself, for whom CELGA-ILTEC is effectively an official provider of linguistic resources.

One especially impressive example is the ‘Vocabulário Ortográfico do Português’. Its advanced search features are powerful and linguistically informed (e.g. ‘Restrições morfosintáticas’). Thanks to an intelligently constructed algorithm that ‘computerises’ aspects of sound change in historical linguistics, the pronunciation of any term is given for Díli (East Timor), Luanda, and then in both standard and non-standard varieties in each of Lisbon, Maputo, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo. (Shibboleth words such as ‘sete’, the numeral 7, illustrate this well.) This puts to shame leading international

dictionaries of English or French, for example, which lack a truly pluricentric vision. The VOP is a model for dictionaries for pluricentric languages. It is notable that Portuguese and Portugal are showing the way on this.

CELGA-ILTEC clearly achieves a very high level of internationalisation. It is active in hosting international conferences, and is perfectly placed to host the 2019 eLex conference on “Lexicografia Inteligente”, to continue this. It publishes its work in international journals, to high international research standards. The CELGA-ILTEC team working on toponyms in Portuguese has been integrated into a UN working group on toponymy, for example.

Many of CELGA-ILTEC resources are specifically applied to Portuguese, but explicitly avoid the traditional bi-national dominance of just Portugal and Brazil. CELGA-ILTEC is deeply committed to the vision of Portuguese as a truly pluricentric language. Its tools are recognised as the official references for the international standardisation of Portuguese orthography.

The CELGA-ILTEC produces so many applied research tools, online databases and resources that the application might seem to be dominated by them. The publications sample, however, confirms that CELGA-ILTEC has no lack of academic papers at a high level of theoretical sophistication. The five publications highlighted in the Unit application include four published in international peer-reviewed journals. All represent substantial projects, and their diversity, in terms of both content and intended beneficiaries, is impressive.

CELGA-ILTEC is a vibrant, dynamic Unit with great potential to prove highly influential, not least through the development of its impressive panoply of tools and resources, destined to have an important social impact. In particular, C-I is home to a strong group of young researchers expert in contemporary computational and database methods, ideally supported by a team of experienced senior researchers. The overall sense we gained from the visit is that of a happy, coherent and ambitious team.

The nuclear CVs reveal a core team with expertise across several aspects of linguistics, including computational lexicography. The group coordinators have some highly impressive publication records, including one member with 6 international journal articles since 2010, as well as a co-authored book and six edited books. Each member of the core team has a strong publication record.

The quality of outputs (both academic papers and resources) is high across the board. Moreover, the powerful online resources produced by CELGA-ILTEC are necessarily the product of the pooled efforts of different specialists, from linguistic theory to database collection and analysis to software development. The application rightly reflects this, presenting the Unit work as a team effort, with merit across the team, without undue focus on particular individuals. The existing young team and research plan appear well placed to deliver further competences of exceptional quality and value.

The resources that CELGA-ILTEC plans to maintain and enhance seem of such value and importance — particularly as official resources for the whole Portuguese-speaking world — that it is beyond doubt that they should be appropriately funded. The CELGA-ILTEC application is also admirably clear, specific and concrete. The need for investment in personnel, i.e. for extra PhD fellowships and postdoc positions, has been clearly explained. The objectives for each post are made very clear, in terms of concrete outputs that will be of immediate relevance and utility in the Portuguese-speaking world. The plans are impressively detailed, with well-specified tasks for each of the postdocs and PhD students.

The goals are also realistic. The plan is very firmly rooted in what has already been achieved so far, and is in direct continuity with that. Indeed, this is in part the completion of what was initially seen as a plan for 2015-2020, for the new Unit first five years. The track record of all that CELGA-ILTEC and its predecessor Units have already completed inspires high confidence that the objectives of the plan for the next few years duly will be met.

The application also strikes a good balance between new postdoctoral positions and new PhD fellowships. The plan is appropriately timetabled, to appoint the whole team within the first two years. This will create a highly coherent team with many synergies and pooled talents, and should foster a cohort of new specialists trained in much-needed research skills in the Portuguese-speaking world. One can envisage institutions in various countries across the Portuguese-speaking world having need to call on them.

The FCT funding input is likely to act as a seed that will attract further support from outside, including governmental sources in Portuguese-speaking countries. The track record of what CELGA-ILTEC and its predecessors have already achieved inspires confidence in this. The Unit has already secured some funding for 2019 and 2020, for example, from existing European-funded projects.

The Unit inspires confidence as being very fairly and equitably run, and the research team can count on its strong track record and experience of successfully completing projects, and thus pre-existing resource infrastructure, so that it seems in no doubt that any new funding will be put to productive use. The plans also include providing free and open access to all these resources, which we fully support.

The Unit request one researcher position at the Assistant Researcher level. Limitations on this category of funding in this FCT Program, however, and the objective of fairness across all Units, mean that only researchers at Junior level can be awarded in this category. On the other hand, sufficient Programmatic Funding in section is assigned to CELGA-ILTEC specifically in order to allow that funding to be used to hire one researcher at the Assistant level, if appropriate, in addition to the two Junior Researcher posts awarded. We also approve any remaining (non-personnel) funds within this category being assigned to the other forms of expense requested and allowable under programmatic funding.

RECOMMENDATIONS for specific priority research and administrative tasks that Programmatic Funding should be used for -- although they should by no means exclude other important tasks that should also be supported with this funding:

- 1) The CELGA-ILTEC website is generally excellent, but the English language version of the resources page at <http://celga.itec.pt/en/projects.html> is incomplete and out of date compared to the Portuguese one.
- 2) The websites for all resources should have a timeline to make it explicit which parts of each resource are already functional, which are work in process, and which are further developments envisaged. This timeline should give actual dates (past and envisaged for the future) for each component, and the page should be updated at least every year. (It will be a recommendation to FCT to set timeline as a requirement for all Units.)
- 3) In the VOP, the algorithm to produce the phonetic transcriptions for the full range of reference locations across the Portuguese-speaking world is excellent, but seems to require further elaboration in some cases. The handling of phonotactics, particularly in non-native loanwords and consonant clusters (e.g. from English, or particularly ancient Greek roots), seems incomplete in overlooking epenthetic [i] in popular register realisations in Brazil, for example. These currently omit such epenthetic [i], and resultant palatalisations, in examples like futebol, at[i]mosfera or p[i]sicologia.
- 4) The Vocabulário Toponímico should be enhanced to make even more out of its great potential, for other valuable applications. It could easily serve historical/archaeological research purposes, for example, for which toponyms are precious tracers of the past distributions of (indigenous) languages that may be long extinct in those regions. But the Vocabulário Toponímico could also be enhanced for wide public interest uses. This will require new fields and functionality (e.g. morphological structure, search functions by root or affix, identification of complex toponyms with mixed source languages, Portuguese and local, etc.). Geolocation data (latitude, longitude, elevation) should be added for each place name, allowing every toponym entry to be fully linked to online maps, gazetteer databases, GIS software, Wikipedia, and so on.

## Evaluation Panel: SOCIAL SCIENCES - Language Sciences

---

**R&D Unit:** Centro de Estudos em Letras (CEL)

**Coordinator:** Manuel Gonçalo de Sá Fernandes

**Integrated PhD Researchers:** 23

---

**Overall Quality Grade:** GOOD

### Evaluation Criteria Ratings

- (A) Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application: 3
- (B) Merit of the team of Integrated Researchers: 3
- (C) Appropriateness of objectives, strategy, plan of activities and organization: 3

**Base Funding for (2020-2023):** 269 K€

### Recommended Programmatic Support

PhD Fellowships: 3

Programmatic Funding: 415 K€, including for 1 (Junior) New PhD Researcher Contract.

### Justification, Comments and Recommendations

The Centre for the Study in Letters (CEL) is a bilocal Unit, with the majority of its 23 integrated researchers based at one of the University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro (UTAD; primary Unit) or the University of Évora (UÉvora; secondary Unit). It is a young Unit that came into existence in its present form only in 2013. With Historical Linguistics and Missionary Linguistics as its stated research priorities, CEL's focus is unique in the Portuguese context.

The CEL has shown remarkable (and positive) change since the 2013 evaluation. As recommended, the Unit has dramatically decreased in size (and budget) while at the same time even more radically increasing its publications. Two primary areas of focus have emerged, one on historiographic and the other on missionary studies, in addition to literary studies. These have been the basis for a number of papers in respected journals. There is research quality here, and internationalisation, especially in the form of books published by CUP and OUP, and publications in *Folia Linguistica*. It is especially impressive to note that, despite funding cuts, this small and recently reorganized Unit successfully ran two international conferences, both of which resulted in publications. The 2014 meeting of the International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences (ICHOLS XIII) was held at UTAD, an important mark of success in the effort at internationalization; in 2016 selected papers from this conference were published in two books (John Benjamins; Nodus Publikationen). Similarly, in 2013 the Unit organized Eurocall, at U Évora. This reflects an additional focus, on 'innovative research, development and practice in the area of Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL) and Technology Enhanced Language Learning (TELL)'. It is worth noting that all of the books edited by this Unit have been made available through Open Access.

CEL clearly has several very active and productive researchers. The application document is focused on just a few selected outputs from these researchers, however, and only three of those are in English. Although the quality and scope of these three publications ranges from moderate or narrow in scope to quite original and persuasive and of general interest, from this small sample it would be hard to establish how the rest of the research team are performing. However, the publications list on the CEL website is exceptionally well organised and complete. From that, the volume of publications seems to be significant, although relatively few are published in high-level journals. Similarly, the lead researchers are rather overrepresented in the department's publications list on their website, so outputs do seem uneven across the research staff as a whole.

The most active researchers clearly enjoy international recognition in their fields, in Europe and beyond. The *Dicionário dos Primeiros Livros Impressos em Língua Portuguesa* appears to be a monumental and invaluable reference work, reminiscent of the approach to lexicography 'on historical principles' followed in the *Oxford English Dictionary*, for example. It clearly called for unique expertise and a huge research effort over many years. These researchers also work in collaboration with international partners. A notable example is the fact that CEL was elected (on behalf of Portuguese linguistic societies) to participate in a worldwide committee to conceive and establish an International Society for the History of the Language Sciences (Paris 2017 — Milan 2020).

Given the effective way in which other CEL publications are advertised on its webpages, it would be useful to include a list of completed PhDs on these pages – ideally, with a clear indication as to where they can be downloaded. The submission contains illuminating information about the extent to which team members have been publicly recognised. The extent of this public recognition is impressive and speaks very positively for the quality of the research expertise and leadership located at CEL. This information could also be advertised on the Unit's webpages.

The Unit major objective for the coming reporting period is to consolidate CEL status as an outstanding Centre for the study of Historical and Missionary Linguistics. This is eminently sensible in general terms, taking into account the relatively recent reorganisation of this Unit. The plans surrounding the theme of historiography are well delineated. Several conferences are planned, on themes well suited for the expertise of this Unit (e.g., the International Conference on Missionary Linguistics in 2022). The specialized collection of historical books is a strength of the Unit and should be maintained at all costs; it would also be worthwhile to digitize selected items of this library.

The relationship of the literary theme of 'landscapes of the self' to the remaining activities is unclear. The intention to broaden collaboration regarding the literary studies to other disciplines is good, but it would make more sense in principle for this literary strand to be combined with a Unit specifically specialising in literature, not linguistics. Unfortunately, there appears to be a structural reason for the current structure of the Unit, based on the preferences or requirements of their university that the Unit be connected with a specialism available within UTAD.

CEL is a well-deserving destination as regards social merit and wider impacts. As well as research outputs per se, for which CEL merits its base funding on scientific grounds, CEL's main location in Vila Real also helps maintain the breadth and balance of research across Portugal geographically. CEL integrates PhD researchers from across the Portuguese-speaking world, and maintains its region's research visibility by attracting researchers from across the world to the conferences it hosts, notably the 13th International Conference on the History of the Language Sciences.

We recommend awarding a postdoc for research in African linguistics.

The Unit identified their need for more requested PhD research posts than it is possible to fund within their FCT Program. The Unit need for further salary support for researchers at this level is nonetheless recognised. Programmatic Funding has therefore been assigned to allow the Unit to provide more flexible hiring and top-up support, tailored according to its specific needs. We envisage and recommend that the majority of funding in this category will indeed be assigned to the salaries of new researchers. We also approve any remaining (non-personnel) funds within this category being assigned to the other forms of expense requested and allowable under programmatic funding.

## Evaluation Panel: SOCIAL SCIENCES - Language Sciences

---

**R&D Unit:** Centro de Linguística da Universidade de Lisboa (CLUL)

**Coordinator:** Maria Amália Pereira Mendes

**Integrated PhD Researchers:** 72

---

**Overall Quality Grade:** EXCELLENT

### Evaluation Criteria Ratings

- (A) Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application: 5
- (B) Merit of the team of Integrated Researchers: 5
- (C) Appropriateness of objectives, strategy, plan of activities and organization: 4

**Base Funding for (2020-2023):** 1201 K€

### Recommended Programmatic Support

PhD Fellowships: 5

Programmatic Funding: 310 K€, including for 1 (Junior) New PhD Researcher Contract.

### Justification, Comments and Recommendations

This Unit is a clear research leader in Portugal. This application presents a general picture of an active and successful R&D Unit, with a clear international presence. It is a large Centre by the standards of others in its field within Portugal, but the scale of its outputs, in quantity and quality, is commensurate with that. Across such a large department, it is hard to discern a complete breakdown of productivity across all members, but there are clearly significant outputs in all the main research themes. Certainly, among the particular outputs highlighted in the application, many are highly significant and unquestionably of international relevance. The majority of the publications highlighted in the Unit application appear in international peer-reviewed journals or are monographs with publishers of international reputation (Oxford University Press, John Benjamins). At the site visit we learned that the total number of publications for the period is about 600 (to be found in the publications repository), and that all integrated researchers have contributed to at least one of these publications.

The five contributions specially highlighted in the Unit application are impressive, but it would have been helpful if they had been more clearly linked to the publications in section 4.3 of the application. However, before the site visit the Centre kindly made available an impressive 2.5-page list of publications related to those contributions. In addition, a perusal of the 2013 publications of the 'Gramática do Português' suggests a substantial contribution to what is known about the grammar of Portuguese, involving participation by several members of the Unit. A number of instruments useful for clinical studies have been developed. And the Unit has played a key role in the development and continuing management of digital resource infrastructure. In general there appears to be a high degree of collaboration both within and between research groups. Additional information was provided about the contributions of five research groups, 1) Dialectology and Diachrony (17 members) 2) Grammar and Resources (27 members) 3) PhonLab (9 members) 4) Philology (8 members) 5) Psycholinguistics Laboratory (11 members). The PI of the first group is also the PI of a completed project funded by an ERC Advanced Grant, of which the success rate is only 12%; this indicates a real achievement. Group 1 has also completed the FCT-funded 'Wochwel' project on word order and word order change; data can be viewed on a working website. Group 2 offers as one of three contributions the documentation of Portuguese creoles. Group 3 runs the Lisbon Baby Lab, the only baby lab in Portugal. Group 4 contributions include a corpus of ancient texts, which are also included in the online 'Terminological Dictionary of Textual Studies', which, despite its title, has (under 'resources') a large number of spoken corpora, including a wide range of varieties of Portuguese. Group 5 offers publications on language processing and comprehension, and at least one of their publications (on reading aloud) has been included in the main list of selected publications. The Centre has been successful in attracting external funding and we were pleased to hear at the site visit that new grants (obtained since the submission of the application) totalled 694,000 euros. The members of the Centre clearly play an important role in an international context, as shown by their participation in international networks such as COST, CLARIN and Erasmus, and by their own organisation of conferences, including the conference on Heritage Languages around the world and the international conference on Hindi. The Centre ambition is also shown by the fact that it has submitted a bid to hold the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences 2023 in Lisbon. It has a good number of PhD students, who were happy about their opportunities for training and for participating in group activities and conferences outside Lisbon. Where statistics are needed for a student work they are recommended to attend a course on Statistics in another department



such as Psychology or a specialized one for linguists being held abroad, but the need for in-house training in statistics for linguists was recognised. Another need, for dedicated space for meetings of PhD students, was articulated by the students themselves. A need for more access to interdisciplinary language science journals, identified in an External Board report, remains unmet, but attempts are being made to acquire the requisite licences. Ironically, the Centre itself is committed to the promotion of access to open access resources, and one must ask whether they could arrange for open access for their two-volume Portuguese Grammar, given that, like many of their activities, it has not for profit funding (in this case from the Gulbenkian Foundation). Small samples of the Centre papers that we read are notable for their quantitative approach and the inclusion of multiple well-defined measures to test the research questions. Filipe et al. (2014) provides the results of a study of atypical prosody in children with Asperger Syndrome, including analyses of both the comprehension and the production of contrasting declarative and interrogative intonation, supplemented by adult perceptual judgments of the children's prosody; this is an outstanding contribution, with its clearly focused objectives and rigorous methods; it also has likely clinical implications. Falé et al., 2016, Moniz, et al., 2014 and Frota et al., 2016 all make strong contributions as well. The first of these is particularly original, combining analyses of both eye movements and speech production to study the effects of lexical frequency and complexity on reading aloud. Although it is only a 4-page conference paper, it seems likely to serve as a model for future work in the area. A similar combination of different analytic measures characterizes Moniz et al., which examines the effects of speaking style on the production of dysfluencies in university lectures on technical subjects as contrasted with dialogic communication in a map task; the differences are taken to reflect different communicative strategies, at least in part. Finally, Frota et al. provide a clear account of the adaptation for European Portuguese of a short form of the internationally accepted Communicative Developmental Inventory. The originality of the project is to begin with the more readily used short form, without previously having developed a long form. This again provides a model that others may choose to follow, as communities everywhere seek to develop this simple, widely established assessment tool for identifying children whose language development is in need of special attention. Finally, Pereira (2017) is an interesting, well documented account of a proposed editorial approach to a poet's work, looking forward to the special multimodal methods available through digitisation; however, it seems to highlight the gap between linguistic and literary endeavours and raises a question as to how easily these two approaches can be reconciled and to what extent they have a shared theoretical base.

The Centre clearly has excellent leadership from Mendes and her senior colleagues. Furthermore, Mendes is Managing Director of the National Infrastructure of CLARIN and a member of the management and steering committees of COST action IS1312. Frota is the main editor of the Journal of Portuguese Linguistics and Gonçalves and Santos are associate editors. Several of the researchers have publications in prominent international peer-reviewed journals: e.g. Journal of Child Language (Santos), First Language (Santos), Language Acquisition (Santos), Linguistic Approaches to Bilingualism (Santos), Natural Language and Linguistic Theory (Martins), Linguistic Inquiry (Martins), Speech Communication (Moniz), Journal of Historical Sociolinguistics (Marquilhas). Marquilhas is also the PI of the ERC Advanced Grant 'Post Scriptum'. Young researchers (born in the 1970s and 1980s) also feature among the authorship of some of the top publications: of the 25 contributing authors with a CLUL affiliation: Fully 13 fell into this age bracket, with a further 4 having been under 50 (b. 1967-1969) at the point at which their Unit-leading (collaborative) research was published. This speaks to CLUL's success in recruiting talented and productive younger researchers and underscores the vitality of this Unit. This same fact is also clearly demonstrated by the high number of MA (51) and PhD dissertations (113) completed during the review period.

There is a plan for numerous PhD posts, but rather less support for researchers beyond that. This seems somewhat surprising, and an instance of the generalised problem in academia that PhD positions far outnumber the postdoctoral posts available on completion of those PhDs. We would suggest that ideally there should be rather more balance between the number of postdocs and PhD students. So although a "contract for a PhD in Computational Linguistics [who] will provide support to all these areas" is certainly very much needed, that still reads like a recipe for one unenviably overworked researcher. If anything, the scale of CLUL ambitions in linguistic databases, and the number of these projects that seem to still be under construction, suggest that this need might well merit even more resources. At the same time we recognise the need for a researcher in language processing who will be able to oversee lab-based projects. One area not yet well catered for is neuroscience, which provides state-of-the-art methods which are rapidly becoming standard in linguistics. We recognise the participation of the Centre in the Mind Brain College, but we do not have a good grasp of specific research questions with a neuroscientific orientation that the Centre is planning to pursue.

The award for hiring a new Junior PhD Researcher should be applied in a computational linguistics post as support for work in Portuguese Creoles.

This Unit has been highly rated under all criteria and fully deserves the five PhD fellowships and one researcher position that we have been able to allocate. We recognise that the Unit has ambitions for a larger number of PhD and

postdoctoral funding. The Programmatic Funding awarded allows the Unit to provide further flexible hiring and top-up support, tailored according to its specific needs. We also approve any remaining (non-personnel) funds within this category being assigned to the other forms of expense requested and allowable under Programmatic Funding. We are confident that the excellent reputation of the Unit will enable them to obtain additional funding from alternative sources.

## Evaluation Panel: SOCIAL SCIENCES - Language Sciences

---

**R&D Unit:** Centro de Linguística da Universidade do Porto (CLUP)

**Coordinator:** João Manuel Pires da Silva e Almeida Veloso

**Integrated PhD Researchers:** 25

---

**Overall Quality Grade:** VERY GOOD

### Evaluation Criteria Ratings

- (A) Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application: 4
- (B) Merit of the team of Integrated Researchers: 4
- (C) Appropriateness of objectives, strategy, plan of activities and organization: 3

**Base Funding for (2020-2023):** 360 K€

### Recommended Programmatic Support

PhD Fellowships: 6

Programmatic Funding: 415 K€, including for 1 (Junior) New PhD Researcher Contract.

### Justification, Comments and Recommendations

There is good quality research in this team, and quality publications, some of them very good. There is a great deal of merit in the activities of the team, both in terms of research but also in terms of integration of postgraduates. This is important, since postgraduate students are often isolated, and not part of a team. While members of the team engage in much activity at the national level, they also give papers at international conferences in many European countries, such as Belgium, Germany, France, Spain, Holland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and the UK, and often publish in international journals. The Unit has a coherently organised External Advisory Board, consisting of internationally recognised scholars in the fields of syntax, semantics, phonology and applied linguistics. There is a clear, and conceptually coherent, differentiation of the Unit two main areas of research (description of language structures, subsuming three core areas of linguistics, and description of language uses and applications), but historiography of linguistic thought, while a valuable part of the Unit research activities, does not seem to fit into either of these areas. The Unit work in historical linguistics seems to fit more clearly within the Description of Language Structures area, and unifies work in semantics, syntax and phonology. It is clear that the two main areas of research activity can be connected in fields such as Natural Language Processing and the construction of linguistic corpora and databases. Journal editing is impressive, and the overall results are very impressive, with clearly defined research projects, very good publications at national and international level, and much high-level conference organisation, both national and international.

The Unit needs junior researchers to help sustain its level of activity. It is also impressive that most PhD students are from elsewhere (i.e. not internal), which shows that the Unit is attracting PhD students. In the field of phonology, the application of Element Theory to the vowel system(s) of Portuguese constitutes a welcome extension of the empirical base of studies in Element Theory. In the field of syntax, the Unit work on movement verbs and prepositions constitutes a valuable addition to current international research in this area, and has resulted in a useful volume (Verbs, Movement and Prepositions), edited by one of the Integrated Researchers (António Leal). This volume is the result of collaboration between members of the Unit, including graduate students. FCT funding for the Unit would be most helpful for future volumes of this sort.

A very positive feature of the Unit activities is the fact that all journals and edited volumes are available in Open Access, which is important for international visibility. The in-house working papers in linguistics series (eling UP) is an important part of the Unit publishing activities, since it helps postgraduate students to get started on their publications careers. The Unit also publishes, at national level, a journal of linguistics (Linguistica: Revista de Estudos Linguísticos da Universidade do Porto), which can act as a stepping stone for postgraduate students who have begun publishing in the Unit working papers in linguistics and wish to go on to publish in international journals. Two other journals, on discourse studies and language and the law, complement the two journals just mentioned. It is worth noting that studies in the field of language and the law also add to the Unit responses to societal needs.

One of the strengths of the team is the wide range of research topics, ranging from phonology, through syntax, to textual analysis. Inevitably, this means that the research activities of the team are less integrated than they would be if

the team research activities were more narrowly defined. It is not possible to assess research teams within the Unit, since the Unit has no fixed research sub-groups. Members of the Unit explained that the relatively small size of the Unit is the reason for the absence of fixed groups, but such groups can be valuable, even in a small Unit.

Recommendation:

The Unit should consider establishing fixed research groups within the Unit. These could correspond to the two main areas of research, although there might be a problem in integrating historiography of linguistics into one of these groups. The establishment of sub-groups would add structure to the group, and perhaps more focus.

The objectives are very clearly stated for both main areas of research, and the plan of activities is coherent. The contribution of the team to populations including teachers and translators is one of the strengths of the team. The study of gestures is a unique feature of this Unit. The work done in this field includes, not only hand and arm gestures, but also facial gestures, and, interestingly, gestures with the foot by victims of Thalidomide. This is an area in which research by the Unit answers to societal needs. The work done on gestures also complements work on Portuguese Sign Language, thus allowing for collaboration between researchers within the Unit in these areas. Another unique feature is the work on braille notation for formal semantics; the Unit current work could also be extended to formal notation in other areas of linguistics. Another unique area of research is the study of the language of suicide notes, which has potential applications, in terms of societal needs. Given the wide range of activities in this Unit, increased travel funding is a priority. PhD student and postdoctoral students are very positive about the help given to them by the Unit, but additional FTC funding would help immensely. It is clear that any such funding would be fairly and effectively deployed in the Unit.

The Unit identified their need for more requested PhD research posts than it is possible to fund within this FCT Program. The Unit need for further salary support for researchers at this level is nonetheless recognised. Programmatic Funding has therefore been assigned that allows the Unit to provide more flexible hiring and top-up support, tailored according to its specific needs. We envisage and recommend that the majority of funding in this category will indeed be assigned to salaries of new researchers. Approval is also given for any remaining (non-personnel) funds within this category being assigned to the other forms of expense requested and allowable under Programmatic Funding.

## Evaluation Panel: SOCIAL SCIENCES - Language Sciences

---

**R&D Unit:** Centro de Linguística da Universidade Nova de Lisboa (CLUNL)

**Coordinator:** Maria Rute Vilhena Costa

**Integrated PhD Researchers:** 36

---

**Overall Quality Grade:** VERY GOOD

### Evaluation Criteria Ratings

- (A) Quality, merit, relevance and internationalization of the R&D activities of the Integrated Researchers in the R&D Unit Application: 4
- (B) Merit of the team of Integrated Researchers: 4
- (C) Appropriateness of objectives, strategy, plan of activities and organization: 4

**Base Funding for (2020-2023):** 473 K€

### Recommended Programmatic Support

PhD Fellowships: 4

Programmatic Funding: 310 K€, including for 1 (Junior) New PhD Researcher Contract.

### Justification, Comments and Recommendations

CLUNL is a high-performing and very active R&D Unit, well-organised and ambitious, with a track record of high-quality outputs that promises continuing impact at this level. The Unit focuses on both fundamental and applied research, with a particularly strong 21st century (Portuguese) society-oriented emphasis on the latter. It has a very clearly defined structure, with four explicitly defined research groups, three of which are longer-standing, while G(roup) 4, which was created in 2015, had to be restructured in 2018, following the departure of an ERC grant holder to another Unit. Overall, this is a Unit with an impressive number of strengths across the research, training and outreach domains, and there is no question that it has achieved a great deal on all of these fronts during the reporting period.

Gs1-3 all gave the impression, both in the submitted documentation and during our site visit, of being very well organised, productive Units, but the same unfortunately cannot be said for G4. For example, while Gs1-3 are praised by the three external evaluators, whose specialisations reflect the research foci of these groups, the same is not true for G4, which is not specifically represented on the Advisory Board. Similarly, the five main successes reported in the Unit application barely register G4, while the ten top publications reflect only the work of Gs1-3; further, at the time of our initial evaluation, only Gs1-3 had an on-line presence on the CLUNL site, with the CLCM site having been under construction – this had, however, been addressed to the same extent by the time of our visit. Also, these three groups are impressively balanced in terms of numbers (G1 & G2 both have 12 PhD researchers and 19 PhD students, while G3 has 15 PhD researchers and 14 PhDs); by contrast, G4 currently comprises only Alberta-based CLUNL member, Hanna Batoréo, and three further affiliates based in Portugal, three in Brazil and one in Poland. The Group has been active during its first 18 months, having met in October 2018 with a special issue of CLUNL's on-line working papers, *Cadernos WGT*, in the pipeline and participation in this year's Summer School on the cards, but there are no PhD students or younger researchers or, indeed, anyone at NOVA involved in this group. Given the above, the Unit as a whole clearly cannot be evaluated as consistent in quality, merit, relevance and internationalization, although it is clear that the bulk of the Unit is strong.

In terms of output, there is evidently much highly original research underway, an admirable amount of which has also fed into the very wide-ranging resources and applications that the Unit has produced during the evaluation period, and beyond. Unit members have produced research published in top-ranked journals (e.g. *Cognition and Language Acquisition*) and researchers in all three groups have also been invited to contribute to leading Handbook and research overview publications. Unit members also have strikingly strong international links, i.a. being involved in COST actions, in a Heritage Languages Consortium and also in collaborations with universities, government agencies and other groups in Europe, Africa and South America. The high standing of individual Unit members, both in Portugal and beyond, is also apparent, with appointments including the presidency of the European Languages Council, membership of the ISO technical committee, and the appointment of G1 lead, J. Costa, as Secretary of State for Education. Further, CLUNL hosts a now biennial international conference on the relationship between grammar and text (GRATO), and a steadily growing annual Summer School which attracts significant numbers of PhD students, not only from Portugal, but also from abroad (74 participants from 18 nationalities were registered for the 2019 edition at the time of our visit).

The KRUse doctoral programme is a notable strength, and both the submission and what we were told in the course of our site visit underlined CLUNL commitment to study programmes and other opportunities that will allow its graduates to gain both wider-than-usual advanced knowledge of theoretical and applied linguistics and exposure to aspects of academic life – summer schools, collaborative research, conference organisation, and consultation with invited/visiting speakers/researchers – that are not always prioritised. Graduate students are also encouraged to develop and promote their own initiatives, e.g. within the Young Researchers Group. As CLUNL's graduate-oriented activities – notably the annual Summer School – benefit graduates elsewhere too, they should be a funding priority.

Also clear from the documentation is CLUNL commitment to Open Access via the NOVA Institutional Repository and the Scientific Open Access Repository of Portugal (RCAAP). Additionally, many of the 2013-17 outputs are e-outputs and on-line resources. This seems exemplary, and deserving of (further) funding. The Unit also (now) has an exceptionally informative, up-to-date website, which serves as an excellent indicator of the Unit remarkable range and activity.

Also quite exceptional is CLUNL's varied and Unit-wide commitment to outreach: there are PhD training-related collaborations with eight universities beyond Portugal; training courses for teachers and translators; consultation and evaluation work for the FCT, the Portuguese Ministry of Education, and the Institute for School Evaluation. Additionally, much of the experimental, lexicographic and grammar-text research being undertaken is aimed at producing linguistic resources for use in various kinds of more challenging linguistic contexts – e.g. clinical evaluation and support for children and adults with linguistic impairments, multilingual contexts, complex language-contact situations in which Portuguese is spoken (e.g. in Angola), the growing Portuguese L2 domain, industry, etc.

The comments in this section relate only to the staff and students associated with Gs1-3, given the limited information that we have about G4 and its seemingly uncertain future. This is evidently a team of talented, and, as we discovered during our site visit, also very enthusiastic and energetic researchers and PhD students. Each of the active research groups is led by at least one researcher who is very senior nationally and also an internationally respected researcher (G1: J. Costa & Lobo; G2: Rute Costa & Lino; G3: Coutinho); as noted in connection with Criterion A, some of these have held key national and international positions during the reporting period. It is striking that Gs1-3 are each committed not only to producing high-quality fundamental research, but also to developing applications of this research to themes of direct social relevance, e.g. gaining a better understanding of typical and atypical language development, language impairment, and the language of migrants and heritage speakers, and developing tools to aid education, diagnosis and therapy. The researchers' enthusiasm for engaging with contemporary varieties of Portuguese, world-wide, and also with languages beyond Portuguese is also a distinctive feature of this Unit: this is an "outward"-looking team.

During our site visit, we met a team of senior researchers who evidently work together very effectively, despite the very considerable demands that are placed on their time. The facts that (i) the Unit has only two administrative staff and (ii) each senior researcher also has an average of 9hrs/week teaching load means that the existing sharing-oriented ethos among them is crucial. The postdocs, too, typically have significant teaching loads (generally 12 hrs/week, and often at other institutions), but their commitment to their research, in particular in cases where this is collaborative, and their appreciation for the personal and financial support that they receive from the seniors were very evident. This gratitude was also a marked feature of our interaction with the Unit PhD students, a significant number of whom are beneficiaries of the very generous funding that has supported the KRUse doctoral programme in recent years. Individual supervision aside, group meetings are frequent, with members who cannot be on-site being included via Skype or other appropriate means. Further, the students in the various groups also emphasised the extent to which they appreciate all the freedom they have, not only in their own research, but also in relation to opportunities like the production of the Open Access student publication, NOVALing, and the enabling way in which they are included in collaborative research from a very early stage of their academic development. The support given to the Unit younger members, then, deserves great praise, as does the more general fairness that seems to govern decision-making, resource allocation and co-working in this Unit.

Turning to the actual funding application, the submitted application was very helpfully structured, and it is clear that much careful thought went into it. That this careful thought included serious thinking about prioritisation of activities was also evident during our site visit: when asked to highlight PhD funding priorities for the coming period, for example, there was general agreement that the proposed experimental rather than formal work should be the chief priority for the proposed G1 PhD allocation, and, more generally, that the Linguistics requests should enjoy priority over those relating to Translation. While the significant focus on training in this application is to be strongly commended since it contributes to sustainability and succession planning, the extent of the training-related funding requests here is exceptionally high. The Unit has evidently been successful in attracting funding via the FCT and European funding programmes, and it also seems to have excellent links with non-academic bodies and industry, which could be further

exploited to ensure that the first-rate KRUse programme is appropriately sustained. The need for a computer scientist and part-time statistician is certainly clear.

We recommend, based on discussion during our visit, that experimental rather than formal work should be the chief priority for the proposed G1 PhD allocation, and, more generally, that the Linguistics requests should enjoy priority over those relating to Translation.

We recognize the need for a computer scientist and part-time statistician; the postdoctoral post should go to one of these.

The Unit identified their need for more requested PhD research posts and postdocs than it is possible to fund within this FCT Program. The Unit need for further salary support for researchers at this level is nonetheless recognised. Programmatic Funding has therefore been assigned in such a way to allow the Unit to provide more flexible hiring and top-up support, tailored according to its specific needs. We envisage and recommend that the majority of funding in this category will indeed be assigned to the salaries of new researchers. We also approve any remaining (non-personnel) funds within this category being assigned to the other forms of expense requested and allowable under programmatic funding.