

Terms of Reference

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI) for experts to be appointed members of the FCT Scientific Councils

This call is addressed to scientists who wish to be considered for integrating the FCT Scientific Councils.

1. Purpose and Scope

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) is the Portuguese funding agency for science and technology. FCT funds all areas of knowledge through several funding instruments.

Currently, the FCT structure has four Scientific Councils whose main functions are to provide support to FCT activities, including evaluation exercises, and advice on scientific and research matters when necessary. The scope and number of Scientific Councils may be subject to change after the implementation of *Decreto-Lei n.º 55/2013*.

2. Requirements

The minimum criteria for consideration to become a member of the FCT Scientific Councils are:

- PhD degree;
- Affiliation with a Scientific Research Institution;
- Minimum of 8 years of professional experience after obtaining the doctoral degree.

3. Criteria for appreciation of Expressions of Interest

FCT values the following general competencies:

- Scientific merit;
- Publication track record in the area(s) of expertise;
- Experience in supervising postgraduate students;
- Experience in successfully applying for and obtaining funding for grants in competitive calls;

- Professional experience in a multidisciplinary environment and internationalization;
- Experience in carrying out scientific assessments and/or providing scientific advice (scientific panel meeting participations, peer reviewing of scientific publications, providing advice for policy makers, etc);
- Degree of insight into disciplines other than his/her own;
- A strong interest in science policy;
- Availability and motivation to accomplish the specified tasks and to commit the appropriate amount of time;
- Engagement with the mission and objectives of FCT.

4. How to Apply

An EOI form should be completed and submitted at the following address:
<http://inqueritos.fccn.pt/index.php?sid=19966&lang=en>

Submitting this application does not automatically ensure any right or preference to be appointed by FCT as a Scientific Council member. FCT reserves the right to invite scientists that did not apply to the present call for Expression of Interest.

5. Scientific Councils Constitution

The FCT Board of Directors shall propose the composition of the Scientific Councils which shall be approved by the member of Government responsible for science. Each Scientific Council is composed of 6-12 members, chaired by a president assisted by two vice-presidents.

When possible, the composition of the Scientific Councils shall follow the general guidelines:

- Multidisciplinary environment with a diversity of scientific subjects, methodologies and professional backgrounds (e.g. academia, industry, etc);
- Proper gender balance;
- Geographic and institutional diversity;
- Different levels of seniority.

The Scientific Council members should have an understanding of the Portuguese scientific community, its needs, weaknesses and strengths.

6. Roles and Responsibilities (translated from *Decreto-Lei n.º 55/2013, Diário da República, 1ª série – Nº 75 – 17 de abril de 2013*)

Scientific Council members are responsible for:

- (a)** Identifying programmes and projects in scientific research and technological development, assess their funding needs and monitor the respective executions;
- (b)** Support the Board of Directors in the assessment of applications for funding and in the monitoring of their executions, across all FCT funding instruments:
 - (i) Programs and projects in scientific research and technological development in the scope of FCT mission and objectives;
 - (ii) Pluriannual funding schemes of institutions, program-contracts and other types of contracts to be celebrated with institutions that promote and perform scientific research or technological development;
 - (iii) National and international fellowships, research grants and other type of grants that contribute to the improvement of researchers skills and qualifications.
- (c)** Collaborate with the Board of Directors in the assessment of infrastructures that support scientific research and technological development activities;
- (d)** Identify the opportunities for the establishment of program-contracts, protocols and other type of agreements with national, foreign or international institutions;
- (e)** Advise, when requested by the Board of Directors, on the establishment of new scientific institutions or the reorganization of the existing ones;
- (f)** Propose the creation or the revision of relevant science policy instruments;
- (g)** Collaborate with the Board of Directors in the definition of the priority lines of action of FCT;

- (h) Propose the attribution of grants and other financial support to events of scientific and technological interest, as well as the awarding of prizes or other rewards for actions of scientific merit;
- (i) Recommend appropriate instruments to increase the interest of society in scientific and technological activities;
- (j) Report the Scientific Council activity to the Board of Directors of FCT through reports, studies or recommendations.

In order to effectively perform the above mentioned tasks it is the duty of Scientific Council members to:

- (a) Attend Scientific Council regular meetings that take place in Lisbon once every two months;
- (b) Be available to attend extraordinary Scientific Council meetings when necessary. These may be scheduled by the Board of Directors of FCT or the Scientific Council president. In addition, these meetings may be required by any Scientific Council member or by the member of Government responsible for science;
- (c) Ensure timely and effective communication with FCT staff.

7. Contact Information

For further information please contact FCT through gav-m-interesse@fct.pt.