

CALL FOR 2 (Two) PhD RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM CIVIL ENGINEERING

CERIS, through the Association of Instituto Superior Técnico for Research and Development (IST-ID), is pleased to announce the opening of a call for 2 (Two) PhD Grant at the research area of Civil Engineering, under the Research Fellowship Holder Statute and the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships.

The grants to be awarded will be funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) under the collaboration agreement between FCT and CERIS - Civil Engineering Research and Innovation for Sustainability, number 4625, for Funding the Multiannual Plan of Research Scholarship for PhD Students.

1. APPLICATION

The call is open from 02/10/2023 at 9:00am (Lisbon time) to 16/10/2023 5:00pm.

Applications should be submitted [here](#)

Only one proposal per applicant is allowed, under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted.

Any false statement or plagiarism by the candidates may be reason for canceling the application without prejudice to the adoption of other sanctioning measures.

2. TYPE AND SCHOLARSHIPS DURATION

PhD Scholarships aim to finance research activities leading to a doctoral degree at Instituto Superior Técnico.

The research activities leading to the academic doctoral degree will take place at CERIS - Civil Engineering Research and Innovation for Sustainability, which will be the host institution of the scholarship holders, without prejudice that the work may be carried out in collaboration with more than one institution.

The research activities leading to the doctoral degree of the selected candidates must be framed in the activity plan and strategy of CERIS and one of its research groups, and should be developed within the scope of a Doctoral Program at IST at the area of Civil Engineering.

The work plan may occur entirely or partially in a national institution (scholarship in the country or mixed, respectively). The scholarships' duration is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months), and scholarships cannot be awarded for less than three consecutive months. In the case of a mixed scholarship, the work plan period in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. STUDENTSHIP RECIPIENTS

Registered candidates or candidates who fulfill the necessary conditions to enroll in a Doctoral Program according the point 2 of this Call and who intend to develop research activities leading to a doctoral degree in the one of the CERIS groups, or at host institutions associated with it.

4. WHO CAN APPLY

4.1 Admissibility Requirements

Applicants should comply with the following:

- Be Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states;
- Be citizens from third-party states;
- Stateless;
- Citizens benefiting from political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD Research Scholarship, you must:

- Have a degree or a master's degree in Civil Engineering or in areas considered to be related;
- Permanently and habitually reside in Portugal, if the work plan associated with the grant takes place, partially, in foreign institutions (mixed grants), a requirement applicable to both national and foreign citizens;
- Not have doctor degree, not having benefited from a doctoral or doctoral grant in companies directly financed by the FCT, regardless of its duration

4.2 Application Admissibility Requirements

It is essential, under penalty of not being considered to the Call, to submit the following documents:

- Identification elements contained in the citizen's card or legal equivalent or in the passport;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Qualification certificates of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all the subjects taken, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor by the candidate that he/she completed the bachelor's or master's degree (and where indicate the referred classifications) until the end of the application deadline;
- Registration of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, declaration of honor by the candidate that he will obtain recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to that of Bachelor's or Master's degree by the end of the application period, indicating the final classification in the Portuguese classification scale;
- Motivation letter, indicating the area(s), topic(s) of work and preferred supervisor(s);
- Letters of Recommendation (optional).

The application and all associated documents, including motivation and recommendation letters, must be written in Portuguese or in English.

Regarding the aforementioned admissibility requirements, the following should be noted:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to ensure the application of the principle of equal treatment to candidates who hold foreign and national academic degrees, it's compulsory the recognition of these degrees and the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale.
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale may be required in any public higher education institution, or at Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior (DGES, just for automatic recognition). For more about this subject please check <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.
- Only applicants who have completed the studies cycle leading to a bachelor or master degree until the end of the application period, will be admitted. If they do not yet have the course certificate, a declaration of

honor from the candidates will be accepted. The granting of the scholarship will depend on the presentation of proof of the academic qualifications required.

5. WORK PLANS AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION

The work plan will be developed in one of the CERIS Research Groups, according to the unit's strategic plan and having as one of the supervisors any of the Doctorate members of the CERIS groups linked to IST.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUS

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

The assessment takes into account the candidate's merit and suitability for the Research Unit's program. Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale of 0 to 20 in each of the following evaluation criteria:

- Criterion A – Academic Classifications in the Master in Civil Engineering or in a related area or in a Degree (5 years) in Civil Engineering or similar, with a weight of 45%;
- Criterion B – Research experience relevant to the PhD project, with a weight of 30%;
- Criterion C – Reputation of the institution where the degree was obtained, with a weight of 15%;
- Criterion D – Letter of motivation, with a weight of 10%.

Applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the 4 criteria mentioned above, according the following formula:

$$\text{Initial Classification} = (0,45 \times A) + (0,30 \times B) + (0,15 \times C) + (0,10 \times D)$$

In case of tie-breaking, the ranking of applicants will be carried out based on the ratings assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence: criterion A, criterion B, criterion C, criterion D.

For the purpose of deciding on the granting of scholarships, the first 5 will be interviewed and given a rating from 0 to 20. The following formula will obtain the final classification of applicants:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (0,70 \times \text{Initial Classification}) + (0,30 \times \text{Interview})$$

Important notice for applicants with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions:

- Candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions can apply and will be evaluated using the same criteria as candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, as long as they submit, in their application, proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of final classification for the Portuguese classification scale in terms of the applicable legislation.
- As the only exception to the previous rule, applicants with foreign degrees who do not show proof of conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale will be evaluated with the minimum classification (10 points) in criterion (A).
- In any case, scholarship contracts with candidates holding diplomas issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final classification, as indicated above.

Applicants whose application is evaluated with a final classification below (14) points are not eligible for the scholarship.

7. EVALUATION

The evaluation jury of the applicants is composed by the following members:

- Dídia Covas, Instituto Superior Técnico (coordenador and CERIS President);
- António do Nascimento Pinheiro, Instituto Superior Técnico;
- João Gomes Ferreira, Instituto Superior Técnico;
- Luís Calado, Instituto Superior Técnico (alternate)

The evaluation jury will assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria of this Call, considering the elements of evaluation. All panel members, including the coordinator, are committed to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

Jury members, including the coordinator, cannot be advisors or co-supervisors of applicants of this Call.

For each application, a final evaluation form will be produced by the panel, in which the arguments that led to the ratings attributed to each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria will be presented in a clear, coherent and consistent manner.

Minutes of the responsibility of all its members will be produced from the meetings of the evaluation panel. Minutes and annexes must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective reasons;
- Methodology adopted by the panel for particular cases;
- Final Evaluation Sheets for each applicant;
- Provisional list of classification and ranking of applicants, in descending order of the final classification, of all applications evaluated by the panel;
- Conflict of Interest Statements from all panel members
- Possible delegations of votes and competences due to justified absence

8. RELEASE OF RESULTS

The results of the evaluation are communicated by e-mail to the e-mail address used by the applicant to send the application / indicated in the application.

9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRIOR HEARING, CLAIM AND APPEAL

After the communication of the provisional list of results, applicants have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, make a statement at the prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. The final decision will be communicated after the analysis of the pronouncements presented at the previous hearing of interested parties. The final decision may be lodged within 10 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification. Applicants who choose to submit a complaint must address their pronouncement to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated competence. Applicants who choose to submit an appeal must address it to the FCT Board of Directors.

10. GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship contracts are signed directly with FCT.

The following documents must be sent, when the grant is awarded, for the purposes of contracting:

- a) Identification elements contained in the citizen's card or legal equivalent or in the passport;
- b) Copy of certificates of the academic degrees held;
- c) Presentation of the recognition record of foreign academic degrees and conversion of the final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- d) Document proving registration and enrollment in one of the Doctoral Programs identified in this Call;
- e) Statement by the supervisor (s) taking responsibility for supervising the work plan, according Article 5-A of the Research Fellowship Statute (template to be made available by FCT);
- f) Document proving the candidate's acceptance by the institution where the research activities will take place, guaranteeing the conditions necessary for its good development, as well as the fulfillment of the duties provided according 13 of the Research Fellowship Statute (template to be made available by FCT);
- g) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (template to be made available by FCT). The granting of the scholarship is still dependent on:
 - compliance with the requirements of this Call;
 - the result of the application evaluation;
 - the absence of unjustified non-compliance with the candidate's duties under a previous scholarship contract financed, directly or indirectly, by FCT
 - FCT's budget availability.

Failure to deliver any of the documents necessary to complete the scholarship contracting process, within 6 months from the date of communication of the conditional grant decision, implies the expiration of the referred grant and the end of the process.

11. FUNDING

The payment of the scholarships will start after the return, by the candidate, of the duly signed scholarship contract, which should occur within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date of receipt.

The scholarships awarded under this call will be financed by the FCT with funds from Orçamento de Estado and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under the Programa Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão (PDQI), in accordance with the regulatory provisions established for that purpose.

12. COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship holders receive a monthly stipend in accordance with the table of Annex I of the RBI. The stipend may include other components, under the terms of article 18 of the RBI and at the amounts provided in Annex II.

All scholarship holders benefit from personal accident insurance for research activities, supported by FCT. All scholarship holders who are not covered by any social protection regime can ensure the exercise of the right to social security through access to the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Schemes of the Social Security System, as FCT assures the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and with the limits provided for article 10 of the EBI.

13. PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

Payments due to the scholarship holder are made by bank transfer, to the account identified in the scholarship

holder's file. The monthly allowance is paid on the first business day of each month.

Payments of registration, enrollment or tuition fee components are made by FCT directly to the national institution where the holder is enrolled for the PhD.

14. RENEWAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The renewal of the scholarship will depend on an application submitted by the holder, within 60 working days prior to the renewal starting date, with the following documents:

- a) statements issued by the supervisor/s and the host entity/s reporting the monitoring of the holder's work and the evaluation of his activities;
- b) updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) document proving the renewal of enrollment in the cycle of studies leading to the doctoral degree.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE FINANCING GRANTED

In all R&D activities directly or indirectly financed by the scholarship, namely, in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided for in the scholarship, the mention of financial support from da FCT and Fundo Social Europeu, through the Programa Demografia, Qualificações and Inclusão (PDQI). For this purpose, FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU insignia must be inscribed in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational program.

The dissemination of results of research funded under the RBI must comply with the rules for open access to data, publications and other research results in force at the FCT.

In all scholarships, and in particular in the case of actions supported by community funding, namely from the ESF, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by national and community bodies in accordance with the applicable legislation in this matter, having the scholarship holders the obligation of collaboration and provision of the requested information, which includes carrying out surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the scholarship has already ceased.

16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, origin or social status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or race origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and affiliation union.

17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The Call is ruled by this notice, by the FCT Research Scholarship Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in the II Series of the DR of December 16, 2019, by the Research Scholarship Statute approved by the Law 40/2004, of August 18, in the current wording, and by other applicable national and community legislation.