

## **Highlights**

Call for PhD Studentships – 2018

## **What has changed in the 2018 Call**

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**February 2018**

This document **summarises the relevant information** about **what changes or what is new** in the Call for PhD Studentships 2018 when compared with the 2017 Call. **Reading this document does not waive the careful reading of the Evaluation Guide, the Application Guide and of the Notice of the Call** (available at the FCT website).

## 1. CALL

The 2018 Call for PhD Studentships is aimed at supporting advanced training by granting PhD studentships to applicants who fulfil the requirements to join a study cycle that allows obtaining a PhD degree and that wish to develop research work that allows obtaining that degree.

## 2. HOST INSTITUTIONS

### Changes in the type of host institutions

In the 2018 edition of the Call for PhD Studentships, the research work leading to the PhD degree may be carried out in any intensive-knowledge environment, namely in collaboration with companies, so that the host institution(s) of the fellowship may be: R&D units; State Laboratories; Associated Laboratories; Collaborative Laboratories; or Interface Centres.

## 3. ADMISSIBILITY

### Applicant Admissibility Requirements

#### Changes in the Admissibility Requirements of Citizens from Third-party states, non-residents in Portugal

Citizens from third-party states that are not currently living in Portugal may apply for the 2018 Call for PhD studentships, if the required studentship proceeds fully in Portuguese institutions. In this circumstance, the contracting of the studentship that is conditionally granted depends on the presentation of a **valid Portuguese residence permit at the starting date of the studentship**, under the terms established in Law no. 23/2007, of July 4<sup>th</sup>, last amended and republished by Law no. 102/2017, of August 28<sup>th</sup>, **and not at the time of the application, as in previous Calls**.

### Application Admissibility Requirements

#### Changes in Admissibility Requirements: proof of compliance documentation

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.

This declaration **will only be accepted** if issued:

- i) by the legally and statutorily competent 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 24<sup>th</sup>, altered by Decree-Law No. 63/2016, of September 13<sup>th</sup> ;
- ii) in accordance with the Minute / Model provided in Annex I – *Declaração* included in the 2018 Call for PhD studentships Evaluation Guide (also attached at the end of this document).

**This declaration is new and has never been made available in previous calls.**

Applicants who are already attending doctoral degree studies, and enrolled **in the same doctoral programme** for which they are applying for the studentship in this call, may, alternatively, submit the declaration/determination issued at the time of their acceptance in that study cycle, regardless of the issuing date, insofar as it was issued by the legally and statutorily competent scientific body of the university.

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

## 4. EVALUATION PROCESS

### Establishment of Evaluation Panels

In this call for PhD studentships, all evaluation panels will have a **co-chair** appointed by the panel chair, who will be responsible for the quality control of the evaluation forms produced throughout the evaluation exercise, as well as for assisting the chair in all the assigned tasks.

Panel members, including the chair and the co-chair, **may never be a supervisor or co-supervisor of applicants** with applications submitted under the evaluation panel that they belong to; they may, nevertheless, be the supervisor or co-supervisor of applicants with applications assessed in other evaluation panels.

The chair should not evaluate applications, but may **exceptionally** do so, under specific circumstances, such as in case of poor scientific coverage in the panel, or of Conflict of Interests (CoI) of the remaining panel members to specific applications to be evaluated.

The panel member appointed as co-chair may take on tasks of co-coordination along with those of evaluation of the applications assigned to him/her by the panel chair.

## Conflict of Interests

The conflict of interests' situations identified in the Evaluation Guide, which apply to the chair, the co-chair and the evaluators, are now more clearly explained in this PhD Studentship Call edition regarding the following aspects:

- a) Belonging to the same academic organizational unit<sup>1</sup> and/or the same research unit of the host institution associated to the application's work programme;
- b) Belonging to the same academic organizational unit and/or the same research unit of the supervisor and/or co-supervisor(s) associated to the application.

## Scientific Fields

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 II of the Evaluation Guide). Evaluation panels will be formed based on this version of the FOS classification of the Frascati Manual. **Applicants are responsible for the selection of the main and secondary fields and subfield where they submit their application, which determines the evaluation panel.** For applicants' guarantee, the application form includes a field showing the evaluation panel which results from the combination of the main/secondary scientific fields and subfield of their selection.

## 5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

In order to decide on the concessional granting of the PhD studentships, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in each of the three evaluation criteria:

- (A) Merit of the Applicant: 50%
- (B) Merit of the Work Programme: 25%
- (C) Merit of Hosting Conditions: 25%

The final score is calculated by the application of the following formula:

$$Final\ Score = (0.5 * A) + (0.25 * B) + (0.25 * C)$$

Candidates whose application is scored with a final grade lower than 3.000 are not eligible for studentship granting.

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<sup>1</sup> It is considered as academic organizational unit the Department, in case the faculty / school is structured by organizational units of a departmental nature, or the faculty / school itself, when this is not the case.

## Merit of the Applicant

As in previous PhD Studentship call editions, the A – Merit of the Applicant criterion, which has a 50% relative weight to the final score, is evaluated based on two sub-criteria: academic career (A1) and personal curriculum (A2).

The relative weighting of these two sub-criteria in the 2018 Call for PhD Studentships edition will be 60% for the academic career and 40% for the personal curriculum, thus altering the relative weighting enforced in the 2017 call (70% and 30%, for academic career and personal curriculum, respectively).

The score of criterion A – Applicant’s merit shall be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\textit{Criterion A} = (A1 \times 0.6) + (A2 \times 0.4)$$

### Academic career sub-criterion – criteria used for its calculation

In the 2018 Evaluation Guide a new table is included systematizing the score to be assigned to the academic career of applicants who **only hold a master's degree**, that is, applicants holding a master's degree not preceded by a pre-Bologna graduate degree or a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of post-Bologna education (Table 2).

**In these cases only**, the reference table used to score the applicant’s academic career (A1) will be the following:

**Table 2:** Reference table to score the sub-criterion A1 in case of applicants holding only the master academic degree (non-academic careers)

Final Grade Master (90-120 credit points (ECTS))	Sub-criterion A1 score Academic career
≥ 18	3,5
17	3,0
16	2,5
15	1,5
≤14	1,0

The table that systematises the methodology adopted to score the applicant’s academic career sub-criterion (A1), which will be considered to calculate the criterion A – Merit of the Applicant (Table 4 of the Evaluation Guide), was also reviewed.

**Table 4:** Methodology to calculate the academic career score (sub-criterion A1)

	Certificates/Declarations attached to the application <sup>(1)</sup>	Calculation of the academic career score (sub-criterion A1)
1	Graduate certificate + master's certificate, both with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> .	Consider the 1 <sup>st</sup> column of Table 1
2	Integrated master's certificate with single final grade (1 <sup>st</sup> +2 <sup>nd</sup> cycles)	
3	National graduate certificate, pre- or post-Bologna, with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> and <b>declaration issued by the competent scientific body</b> of the university awarding the PhD degree, proving their capacity to attend this study cycle	Consider the 2 <sup>nd</sup> column of Table 1
4	<b>Foreign</b> graduate certificate with grade converted to the Portuguese scale and <b>declaration issued by the competent scientific body</b> of the university awarding the PhD degree, proving their capacity to attend this study cycle	
5	National graduate certificate, pre- or post-Bologna, with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> and Master's certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) <b>OR</b> , in case of foreign certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale	
6	<b>Foreign</b> graduate certificate with grade converted to the Portuguese scale and Master's certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) <b>OR</b> , in case of foreign certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale	Consider a <b>grade of 12</b> for the graduate degree and apply the 1 <sup>st</sup> column of Table 1
7	Graduate certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) <b>and</b> national master degree certificate with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> <b>OR</b> foreign master's certificate with grade converted to the national scale	
8	<b>Foreign</b> graduate certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale <b>and</b> national master degree certificate with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> <b>OR</b> master's foreign certificate with grade converted to the national scale	
9	<b>Without graduate degree</b> , but with one or more national master's degree certificate(s) with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> <b>OR</b> foreign master's certificate with grade converted to the national scale	Consider Table 2. In case more than one master's degree certificate is presented, select the most suitable relatively to the work programme
10	Submission of more than one graduate degree and/or master's degree (pre-Bologna or 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle) with final grade <sup>(2)</sup> <b>OR</b> foreign certificate with grade converted to the national scale	Consider Table 1. Select the most suitable graduate degree and/or master, relatively to the work programme <sup>(3)</sup>
11	<b>Without graduate degree and without master degree</b> , but with declaration issued by the competent scientific body of the university awarding the PhD degree, proving their capacity to attend this study cycle	Equivalence to the minimum grade (sub-criterion A1 = 1)
12	Graduate certificate (national or foreign) without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative), but with declaration issued by the competent scientific body of the university awarding the PhD degree, proving their capacity to attend this study cycle	
13	Foreign graduate certificate, without grade converted to the Portuguese scale, without master degree, but with declaration issued by the competent scientific body of the university awarding the PhD degree, proving their capacity to attend this study cycle	
14	Graduate and master's certificates (national or foreign), both without final grade (neither qualitative nor quantitative) <b>OR</b> without grade converted to the Portuguese scale	

<sup>(1)</sup> Foreign certificates may be considered 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, only if officially converted to the Portuguese grading scale (by DGES or by a public higher education establishment), even if the classification scale used is from 1 to 20.

<sup>(2)</sup> In case the final grade is qualitative, and before Table 1 is applied, it must be converted to a quantitative grade by applying Table 3.

<sup>(3)</sup> In case the applicant holds both an integrated master's degree and a pre-Bologna or 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle master's degree, the grade obtained in the integrated master's degree is the one to be considered, applying therefore Table 1.

## Merit of the Work Programme

### Sub-criterion B1 - Justified relevance of the study object

In the field of the application form entitled "United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda)", applicants should identify one, or a maximum of three, of the 17 goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030 that is/are in line with the work programme.

The evaluators should validate the alignment of the work programme with the major objectives of the United Nations that is indicated by the applicants in the application form.

## 6. FUNDING

### Mixed PhD studentships (BD)

In case of mixed BD (BD whose work programme is partially carried out in a foreign institution), it is mandatory to identify the foreign host institution(s), as well as to associate and lock the CV of the supervisor/co-supervisor affiliated to the foreign host institution indicated. The lack of indication of the foreign host institution and supervisor/co-supervisor in the foreign host institution implies the automatic conversion of the application to a PhD studentship in the country, being evaluated and financed accordingly.

## 7. STRATEGIC COORDINATION OF THE CALL

In this studentship call edition, FCT will appoint a Scientific Coordination Group for the call consisting of three to five researchers with internationally recognized scientific merit in distinct fields of knowledge. The work carried out by this Group is coordinated, under FCT's invitation, by one of its members.

The Scientific Coordination Group will perform a global analysis of the call results, proposing to FCT the "cut-off line" for each panel. In this process the Commission will consider the scientific policy guidelines for Portugal in the European context (Higher Education, Research and Innovation in Portugal - Perspectives, available at: <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/download-ficheiros/ficheiro.aspx?v=6ac404ca-9f41-4d83-ae70-6ffff158803b>), as well as the need to guarantee a highly qualified human resources framework, recognizing the disciplinary, multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary nature of scientific knowledge. The Commission should also consider the need to ensure the alignment of the doctoral research to the major objectives of sustainable development at the global level, as defined in the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, available at: [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E).

## Annex I – Minute of the Capacity Declaration

### DECLARAÇÃO

Em conformidade com o disposto no artigo 38.º do Decreto-Lei n.º 74/2006, de 24 de março, alterado e republicado por último pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 63/2016, de 13 de setembro, e da alínea X, do n.º X, do artigo X, do Regulamento / Despacho / Despacho Normativo / Portaria n.º X publicado(a) em Diário da República, 1.ª/2.ª série, N.º X a (dia) de (mês) de (ano)<sup>2</sup>, compete ao Conselho Científico / à Comissão Científica<sup>3</sup> a aprovação das regras sobre a admissão / ingresso dos candidatos no ciclo de estudos conducente ao grau de doutor da Faculdade X da Universidade X.

Assim, nos termos do disposto no artigo 30.º do Decreto-Lei n.º 74/2006, de 24 de março, alterado e republicado por último pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 63/2016, de 13 de setembro, e da alínea X, do n.º X, do artigo X, do Regulamento / Despacho n.º X publicado em Diário da República, 2.ª série, N.º X a (dia) de (mês) de (ano)<sup>4</sup>, atesta-se que [nome do(a) candidato(a)] é detentor(a) de um currículo escolar ou científico / currículo escolar, científico ou profissional<sup>5</sup> que lhe confere capacidade para a realização do ciclo de estudos conducente ao grau de doutor em [Curso de Doutoramento].

[(Local), (data)]

[assinatura do representante do órgão legal e estatutariamente competente]

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<sup>2</sup> Mencionar a alínea, n.º, artigo, dos Estatutos da Universidade e/ou do Regulamento do Ciclo de Estudos ao abrigo do qual a competência de admissão ao ciclo de estudos lhe é atribuída.

<sup>3</sup> Designar qual é o órgão legal e estatutariamente competente na instituição de ensino superior.

<sup>4</sup> Mencionar a alínea, n.º, artigo, do Regulamento ou Despacho onde constam as Condições/Habilitações de acesso ao ciclo de estudos conducente ao grau de doutor na instituição de ensino superior.

<sup>5</sup> Selecionar a opção correta conforme o acesso ao ciclo de estudos conducente ao grau de doutor seja feito, respetivamente, nos termos da alínea b) ou da alínea c) do n.º 1 do artigo 30.º do Decreto-Lei n.º 74/2006, de 24 de março, alterado e republicado por último pelo Decreto-Lei n.º 63/2016, de 13 de setembro.