

## **NOTICE OF THE CALL FOR PHD STUDENTSHIPS – 2019**

The Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) opens a Call for granting **950** (nine hundred and fifty) PhD studentships (BD) under the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

### **TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS**

Aiming to support advanced training, PhD studentships will be granted to applicants that fulfil the requirements to join a study cycle that allows to obtain a PhD degree and that wish to develop research work that allows obtaining that degree.

The research work 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.

The work programme may proceed fully or partially in a national institution (studentship in the country or mixed studentship, respectively), or proceed fully in a foreign institution (studentship abroad). In case of a mixed BD, the period of the work programme in a foreign institution cannot, in any case, exceed two years.

PhD studentships are, as a rule, annual, renewable up to the maximum number of months requested upon application, and cannot be granted for a period less than three consecutive months neither more than forty-eight months.

### **RECIPIENTS**

#### **General Requirements**

Applicants to the current call must comply with the following:

- Be national citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union;
- Be citizens from third-party states, that hold, until the starting date of the studentship, a valid residence permit or be beneficiaries of the long-term resident statute;
- Be citizens from third-party states with which Portugal has signed a reciprocity agreement.

### **Specific requirements**

To apply for a PhD studentship it is necessary:

- To be a citizen permanently and usually living in Portugal, in case the work plan of the requested studentship proceeds, wholly or partially, in foreign institutions (mixed or abroad studentships); this requirement is applicable to both national and foreign citizens.
- Not to have benefited from a PhD or a PhD in industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.

### **STUDENTSHIP STARTING DATE**

Approved studentships shall begin on the first day of the month to be indicated by the applicant upon the contracting process, and may not begin before September 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 or after August 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

### **FUNDING**

Payment of the studentships will only take place after the return of the duly signed studentship contract by the applicants, which must happen within a maximum period of fifteen business days from the date of contract receipt.

Studentships granted under the present call will be funded with allocations from the State Budget of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education and, when eligible, with allocations from the European Social Fund, to be made available under PORTUGAL2020, namely through the Human Capital Operational Programme (PO CH), the North Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2020), Centre Regional Operational Programme (Centro 2020) and Alentejo Regional Operational Programme (Alentejo 2020), in accordance with the regulatory provisions set for that purpose.

### **APPLICATION SUBMISSION PERIOD**

The call is open from February 28<sup>th</sup> to 5:00 pm (Lisbon time) of March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Applications, as well as all the supporting documents described in the RBI and in the Evaluation Guide for the Call, must be submitted online using the form available at: <https://concursos.fct.pt/bolsas/>.

Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

Applicants are required to submit a motivation letter and two recommendation letters.

Each applicant may submit one application only, under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted.

Each application admitted to the Call, if considered to meet the admissibility requirements, will be assessed by the panel of the scientific area stated by the applicant in the respective application form.

Providing false declarations or committing acts of plagiarism by applicants leads to the cancelation of the application without prejudice of taking other corrective and punitive disciplinary measures.

Granting the studentship is dependent on: i) compliance with the requirements set forth in this notice of call; ii) the result of the scientific assessment; iii) the receipt of the documentation required in the RBI and proof of enrolment in a cycle of studies leading to the PhD degree, within six months after the date of notification of conditional studentship granting; iv) budget availability from the funding entity.

## **EVALUATION PROCESS**

FCT will designate a Scientific Coordination Group to the Call, composed by three to five researchers of renowned international scientific merit, in distinct fields of knowledge. The work developed by this Group is coordinated by one of its members, by FCT invitation.

The evaluation of the applications will be carried out by a set of evaluation panels corresponding to an adaptation of the FOS Classification of the Frascati Manual (OECD's Revised Field of Science and Technology Classification in the Frascati Manual), which will integrate experts with renowned scientific merit and experience.

The assessment work developed by each panel is coordinated, under FCT's invitation, by one of its members, who has the responsibility for assuring that the evaluation exercise is carried out with transparency, independence and equity.

Evaluation takes into account three criteria: i) merit of the applicant; ii) merit of the work programme; and iii) merit of hosting conditions. Applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in the three aforementioned criteria, following the relative weighting of 40%, 40%, 20%, respectively.

All applications will be graded from 1.000 (minimum) to 5.000 (maximum) in each of the three evaluation criteria.

The panel responsible for the evaluation of each application is identified taking into account the main scientific field, the secondary scientific field and the scientific subfield stated by the candidate in the application form.

The evaluation panel shall evaluate the applications received in accordance with the criteria defined in the Evaluation Guide for the current Call, considering the evaluation elements.

In the merit of the candidate criterion, sub-criterion A1 - academic career, only the following will be scored:

i) the academic degrees awarded by Portuguese universities whose certificates contain complete information regarding the final grade of each study cycle and the respective number of credits (ECTS), if applicable; ii) the academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions whose recognition and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, according to the applicable legal regime, is demonstrated in the application.

Applicants whose application is scored with a final grade lower than 3.000 will not be eligible for studentship granting.

After the assessment and ranking of all applications by the evaluation panels, the Scientific Coordination Group will perform a global analysis of the Call results, proposing to FCT the "cut-off line" for each panel.

The Evaluation Guide is available at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2019.phtml.en>.

## **DISCLOSURE OF RESULTS**

The evaluation results are published in the personal area of each applicant on the FCT-SIG portal at <https://sig.fct.pt/fctsig/> and their disclosure is made available on the FCT call website call in: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2019.phtml.en>.

## **NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY**

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty due to, namely, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

## **APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION**

The present call is governed by this Notice of the Call, by the Application and Evaluation Guides of the Call, by the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, approved by Regulation No. 234/2012, of June 5<sup>th</sup>, altered and republished by Regulation No. 326/2013, of August 7<sup>th</sup>, altered by Regulation No.

339/2015, of June 9<sup>th</sup> and by Regulation No. 137-A/2018, of February 27<sup>th</sup>, by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18<sup>th</sup>, altered and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012, of August 27<sup>th</sup>, altered also by Decree-Law No. 233/2012, of October 29<sup>th</sup>, by Law No. 12/2013, of January 29<sup>th</sup>, and by Decree-Law No. 89/2013, of July 9<sup>th</sup>, and by the applicable national and Community legislation.

It is recommended to carefully read all the documents that support application, which are available on the FCT portal at: <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2019.phtml.en>.