

Highlights

Call for PhD Studentships – 2019

What is new in the 2019 Call?

January 2019

This document **summarises the relevant information** about **what is new** in the Call for PhD Studentships 2019 when compared with the 2018 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. ADMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Change of procedures and information of mandatory presentation in the application

It is required, under penalty of non-admission of the application:

- a) To associate an updated *Curriculum Vitae* (CV) in the platform [CIÊNCIAVITAE](#) or FCT-SIG. Note that for this edition, the CV of the platform **DeGóis can no longer** be used;
- b) To present two separate and signed recommendation letters. In this edition, letters of recommendation should include the reference to the call you are applying for and information about the context of the academic and/or professional relationship of the candidate with whom recommends it, and should not be, for example, a simple letter of acceptance.

Change of the documents of obligatory submission in the application

The submission of **academic certificates is no longer a requirement for admission of the application**, however is a granting requirement. Thus, academic certificates must be submitted, at the time of eventual granting, for the purpose of contracting. It should be noted, however, that to apply the scores presented in Table 1 of the Evaluation Guide, it is necessary to submit, upon application, the academic certificates stating the final classification obtained, and in case of foreign degrees' certificates must include the conversion of classifications to the Portuguese grading scale (see Table 1, page 5 and Evaluation Guide, page 10).

Revocation of the Declaration of Capacity

Applicants who do not hold a master degree are **no longer required to present the declaration attesting the capacity to complete the PhD**, issued by the legally and statutorily competent scientific body of the university where they wish to be admitted. However, for contracting purposes, it is mandatory to submit the document proving their enrolment in the study cycle leading to a PhD academic degree, issued by the higher education institution identified in the application as the responsible for the award of the academic degree.

2. EVALUATION

Change of the Weighting Criteria

In order to decide the conditional granting of the PhD studentships, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in the following criteria: merit of the applicant (A); merit of the work programme (B); merit of the hosting conditions (C). In the 2019 Call **there is a new weighting** of these three criteria:

- (A) merit of the applicant: **40%**
- (B) merit of the work programme: **40%**
- (C) merit of the hosting conditions: **20%**

The final score is obtained applying the following formula:

$$Final\ Score = (0.4 \times A) + (0.4 \times B) + (0.2 \times C)$$

Change of sub-criteria included in the Merit of the Applicant Criterion

For this edition, the criterion A - Merit of the Candidate, weighting 40% to the final score, is evaluated based on **three sub-criteria**: academic career (A1), personal curriculum (A2) and motivation letter (A3).

The weighting of criterion A, from these three sub-criteria, is as follows:

- (A1) academic career: **50%**
- (A2) personal curriculum: **40%**
- (A3) motivation letter: **10%**

thus changing the weighting applied in the 2018 call, based only on sub-criteria A1 and A2.

The classification to be assigned in the sub-criterion **letter of motivation (A3)** should take into account the clear identification of the applicant's motifs to submit the application, the maturity to develop the proposed scientific work programme and to obtain the PhD academic degree, as well as the choice of the most representative document to explain her/his personal and professional path.

The score of criterion A - Merit of the Candidate will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$Criterion\ A = (A1 \times 0.5) + (A2 \times 0.4) + (A3 \times 0.1)$$

Change of the methodology to calculate Sub-criterion A1 - Academic Career

In the 2019 Evaluation Guide, a new table was included that systematizes the score to be assigned to the sub-criterion academic career (A1), to be considered in criterion A - Merit of the Candidate scoring (Table 1).

Table 1. Reference table to score the sub-criterion A1 – Academic career

<u>Graduate + Master degrees</u> (pre- or post-Bologna) or <u>Integrated Master degree</u>		<u>Graduate degree</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)		<u>Master degree</u> (pre- ou post-Bologna)	
Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score
≥ 18	5.0	≥ 17	3.5	≥ 17	3.0
17	4.5	16	3.0	16	2.5
16	4.0	15	2.5	15	2.0
15	3.5	14	2.0	14	1.5
14	3.0	<14	1.5	< 14	1.0
<14	2.5				

The **minimum grade of 1** (A1=1) will be scored to **sub-criterion A1** in any case that is not included in Table 1.

In order to apply the scoring system presented in Table 1, only the final grades stated in the Academic degree certificates will be considered. In case of **foreign academic degrees**, only the **recognition of such degrees** and **conversion of the respective final grades to the Portuguese grading scale**, issued by a Portuguese public higher education institution, or by the Directorate General for Higher Education (*Direção Geral do Ensino Superior*, DGES), will be used to apply Table 1.

The table that systematizes the conversion of grades to be adopted for the certificates that specify only a qualitative classification (Table 2) was also revised, as to allow the subsequent calculation of the classification of the sub criterion - academic course (A1), by application of Table 1.

Table 2: Table for conversion of qualitative grades

Qualitative grade	Converted grade
Excellent Very Good with Distinction Praise and Distinction <i>Magna Cum Laude / Summa Cum Laude</i>	18
Very Good Approved with Distinction Good with Distinction <i>Cum Laude</i>	16
Good Approved / Approved by Unanimity	14
Sufficient	12

Change of the Disability Bonuses

In this edition the methodology for bonus calculation of the candidates with a proven degree of incapacity, as well as the bonus rates to be applied, is reviewed.

Candidates with a proven degree of disability equal to or greater than 90% will receive a 20% bonus in Criterion A - Merit of the Applicant, and candidates with a proven degree of disability equal to or greater than to 60% and less than 90%, will have a bonus in this criterion of 10%.

This bonus replaces the one applied in the previous edition to candidates with a degree of incapacity equal or superior to 90% and to candidates with a degree of incapacity equal to or greater than 60% and less than 90%, which was, respectively, 10% and 5%, applied on sub-criterion A1 - academic career.

Merit of the Hosting Conditions – C1 Parameter – Scientific merit and experience of the supervisor/co-supervisor(s)

In case of a discrepancy between the supervisor and co-supervisor indicated by the applicant, with the ones associated to the application, the panel should only consider the supervisor and co-supervisor(s), if applicable, associated to the application.

3. OTHER CHANGES TO BE CONSIDERED

Approved studentships shall begin **on the first day of the month** indicated by the applicant during the contracting process, taking into account the period defined for the beginning of the grant announced in the Notice of the Call (Studentship Starting Date).

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.

When applying to a 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.