

Highlights

Call for PhD Studentships – 2021

What is new in the 2021 Call?

February 2021

This document **summarises the relevant information** about **what is new** in the Call for PhD Studentships 2021 when compared to its previous edition.

Reading this document does not waive the careful reading of the Notice of the Call, Evaluation Guide (Annex I of the Notice of Call) and Application Guide (available at the FCT website and in the myFCT portal – <https://myfct.fct.pt>), and of the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

In the 2021 Call for PhD Studentship, in general, and for purposes of admissibility and evaluation, the rules established for the 2020 edition are applied, except for the following:

1. ADMISSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT

New Applicants' admissibility requirement

In addition to the requirements applicable in the 2020 edition, only candidates who **do not hold a doctoral degree** may apply to the 2021 Call for PhD Studentships.

2. ADMISSIBILITY OF THE APPLICATION

2.1 Documents that become mandatory

For the admission of the application to this call, the submission of the following documents is **mandatory**:

- **Most representative document of the applicant's scientific/professional path;**
- **Timeline** with the scheduling of the tasks proposed in the work plan, and the main goals (or milestones) to be achieved.

In both cases, the respective files must be submitted in the corresponding form fields, which are duly identified for this purpose, and must strictly respect the formats and limit size indicated (in the form and in the Application Guide).

2.2 Content of the applicants' CIÊNCIAVITAE Curriculum Vitae (CV)

As in the 2020 edition, it is indispensable to associate an updated version of the **CIÊNCIAVITAE Curriculum Vitae (CV)**, to enable its evaluation by the panel. In this edition it is reinforced that, **applications whose CV does not contain any curricular information**, presenting only name, CIÊNCIA ID and ORCID references, will be considered as **non-eligible** to the call. In the application form, candidates may view the PDF content of the CV obtained from the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform and, if desired, replace it before submitting the application.

3. NEW FIELDS IN THE APPLICATION FORM

3.1 Field for the justification of a studentship held exclusively abroad

Whenever the work plan fully proceeds in a foreign institution (studentship abroad) it will be necessary to clearly explain the reasons why the studentship should be developed exclusively abroad, without the participation of any national entities. Thus, whenever the selection for the location of the studentship activities is **"Abroad"**, a **mandatory field** will appear, in which the candidate must register the respective **justification** for this choice.

3.2 The Motivation letter becomes a field to be filled in the application form

Submission of a **motivation letter** remains a mandatory requirement for application's admission to the call. However, in this edition of the call, it must be written in the appropriate field of the application form, replacing the submission of a specific file. Hence, the candidate must explain the reasons for her/his application, presenting her/his academic/professional career path and how it is related to the work plan, when applicable, within the **mandatory text field of the form**, indicated for this purpose.

3.3 Ethical Questions field

Whenever the work plan's scientific area, methodology or results include **ethical questions**, these should be clearly identified and justified, and it should be made explicit how these issues will be addressed within the work plan. For this purpose, a field has been added to the application form in which the candidate must indicate whether the work plan involves ethical issues, and whenever this is verified, a **justification mandatory text field** will appear. To help the candidates in identifying these questions, an ethics self-assessment guide is made available (Ethics Guide, <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2021.phtml.en>).

4. EVALUATION

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

In this call edition, the **criterion A, Merit of the Applicant**, which has a 40% relative weight to the final score, will be evaluated based on only two sub-criteria: academic career (A1) and personal curriculum (A2):

A1. **Academic career** (reflecting the academic degree grades), with a **relative weight of 50%** in the Merit of the Applicant;

A2. **Personal curriculum** (reflecting the scientific and professional career, and academic career, when applicable, and applicant's motivation to pursue this study cycle), with a **relative weight of 50%** in the Merit of the Applicant.

The score awarded to criterion A – Merit of the Applicant, will be calculated applying the following formula:

$$\textit{Criterion A} = (0,5 \times A1) + (0,5 \times A2)$$

Therefore, the weighting applied in the previous edition, in which criterion A was segregated into three sub-criteria A1 (academic career – 50%), A2 (personal curriculum – 40%) and A3 (motivation letter – 10%), is changed.

The **motivation letter**, in which the candidate explains the reasons for her/his application, presenting her/his academic/professional career path and how it is related to the work plan, will now be **assessed under sub-criterion A2 – personal curriculum**, thus eliminating the former A3 sub-criterion. In this evaluation, the clarity with which the candidate identifies the reasons underlying her/his application will be valued, including, for example, the choice of the proposed work plan, as well as the scientific maturity shown.