

# Notice of the Call

## Call for PhD Studentships and Post-doctoral Fellowships – 2016

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**June 2016**

## **Notice of the Call for PhD Studentships and Post-doctoral Fellowships – 2016**

In accordance with the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.* approved by Regulation no. 234/2012 of 5 June 2012, amended and republished by Regulation no. 326/2013, of 7 August 2013, and amended by Regulation no. 339/2015 of 9 June 2015 and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, amended and republished by Decree-Law no. 202/2012 of 27 August, amended still by Decree-Law no. 233/2012 of 29 October, by Law no. 12/2013 of 29 January, and by Decree-law no. 89/2013 of 9 July, *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.* (FCT) hereby opens a call for funding of 1 200 studentships and fellowships, being circa 2/3 **PhD studentships**, and 1/3 **Post-doctoral fellowships** (reference values).

### **STUDENTSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP TYPE AND DURATION**

#### **PhD Studentships (BD)**

Are aimed at applicants seeking to develop research work leading to the academic degree of Doctor and who satisfy the necessary enrolment conditions for the corresponding cycle of studies. As a rule, the duration of the studentship is annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years, provided that at the time of renewal all conditions for holding the studentship are assured. The work plan may be carried out at Portuguese or foreign institutions.

#### **Post-doctoral fellowships (BPD)**

Are intended for PhD holders, preferably those who obtained the degree less than six years prior to the call, to carry out advanced research in Portuguese scientific institutions of renowned competence. As a rule, the duration of the fellowship is annual, renewable up to a maximum of six years, provided that at the time of renewal all conditions for holding the fellowship are assured, and pending a favorable evaluation at the end of the first three years.

## RECIPIENTS

### General requirements (BD and BPD)

Applicants to the current call should comply with the following:

- Be Portuguese citizens or citizens of another European Union member state;
- Be third-country nationals, either holders of valid residence permits or who have acquired long-term resident status;
- Be citizens of third-countries with which Portugal has a reciprocity agreement;
- Foreign researchers who are non-residents in Portugal may also apply to BPD (post-doctoral fellowships), as long as their application is supported by a Portuguese host institution and the work plan takes place entirely in Portuguese territory;
- Only citizens (Portuguese or foreign) who are able to provide proof of permanent and regular residence in Portugal may apply to studentships/fellowships with work plans taking place totally or partially in foreign institutions.

### Specific requirements for BD applicants

- To have finished, at the time of submission of application, the masters degree, or, alternatively, to comply, at time of application, with the conditions of access to the cycle of studies leading to the PhD degree, foreseen in sub-paragraphs a) or c) of article no. 30 of Decree-Law no.74/2006 of 24 March, amended by Decree-Law no.115/2013 of 7 August.
- Not have been selected for any studentship or fellowship, of any type (research fellowship, PhD studentship or PhD studentship in industry) or duration, within the scope of any of the FCT PhD programmes.
- Not have benefited from any PhD studentship or PhD studentship in industry directly financed by FCT, regardless of its duration.

### **Specific requirements for BPD applicants**

- To have obtained, at time of submission of application, a PhD degree.
- Not have benefited from a BPD directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.

### **STUDENTSHIP/FELLOWSHIP STARTING DATE**

The approved studentships/fellowships can commence at a date defined by the applicant as long as all the following requirements are met:

- Studentships/fellowships cannot start before 1 October 2016, or after 1 September 2017;
- Studentships/fellowships cannot start before applicants return the contract, duly signed, within 15 working days of the day the contract reaches the applicants.

The release, by FCT services, of the respective studentship/fellowship contract is also dependent on verification of budget allocation.

### **FUNDING**

Studentships/fellowships awarded in the current call will be financed from the Portuguese State Budget of the Ministry for Science, Technology and High Education, and, where eligible, from the European Social Fund, available through the *Programa Operacional do Capital Humano*, in accordance with regulatory provisions of Portugal2020, which frames the European Union structural funds from 2014 to 2020.

### **SUBMISSION PERIOD**

The call for applications will be open from the 15 June to 17:00 (Lisbon time) on 15 July 2016.

### **APPLICATIONS**

Individual applications, as well as the supporting documents specified in the FCT Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships should be submitted online, using the form that is available at: : <https://concursos.fct.pt/bolsas/>.

Applications submitted through other means shall not be accepted.

For the purpose of calculating the applicant's core grade, within the merit criterion, any diploma of an academic degree that does not have full information on the average final grade for each cycle of studies and the respective ECTS (if applicable), will not be considered (only for PhD studentships).

Applicants to PhD studentships that do not hold a Masters degree should provide a declaration attesting to their capacity to carry out the cycle of studies towards a PhD, issued by the legally competent scientific body of the university they wish to attend for their PhD.

Applicants to PhD studentships holding foreign academic degrees will have to submit proof of registration of the recognition of the degree and the respective conversion of the final scores to the Portuguese grading scale (whenever a final grade has been awarded to the foreign degree), provided either by the *Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior* or by a Portuguese public higher education institution (as regulated by Decree-Law no.341/2007 of 12 October). Alternatively, applicants should submit proof of recognition/equivalence of foreign qualifications to Portuguese degrees provided by a Portuguese public higher education institution (as regulated by Decree-Law no.283/83 of 21 June).

It is mandatory for applicants for PhD studentships to submit a document that they consider to be the most representative of their scientific/professional career. Applicants to post-doctoral fellowships may submit up to two documents.

It is mandatory to submit a motivation letter and two reference letters, for all applicants.

Each applicant may submit a single application, under penalty of all submitted applications being cancelled.

Each application in this call, if considered to meet the eligibility criteria, will be evaluated by the panel of the scientific area indicated by the applicant on the application form.

The awarding of a studentship/fellowship depends on the scientific evaluation, on reception of the required documentation and on budget availability of the funding body.

## **EVALUATION**

Evaluation takes into account the scientific merit of the applicant, of the work plan, and the host institution conditions.

For the subsequent decision on awarding of a studentship/fellowship, applicants will be ordered in accordance with the weighted average of the grades of the three evaluation criteria. The three evaluation criteria have weights of 40%, 30%, 30%, respectively, in the case of BD, and of 40%, 40%, 20% for BPD.

The evaluation panel, to whom the evaluation guide of this call will be distributed, will examine the applications in accordance with the parameters defined in the guide, considering the assessment elements.

The evaluation guide is available at:

<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2016.phtml.en>.

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

As a public entity, FCT, I.P. upholds a policy of non-discrimination and of equal access. As such, no applicant may be advantaged, benefit from, be disadvantaged, or deprived of any right or free from any duty due to, namely, his/her descent, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family context, economic situation, education, origin or social circumstance, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, handicap, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and trade union membership.

## **BINDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATION**

Reading of the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships, the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, the Application and Evaluation Guides and other supporting documents is recommended. All are available on the FCT website:

<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/individuais2016.phtml.en>.