

Awarding of Research Scholarships for PhD

C^oa Parque - Foundation for the safeguard and enhancement of the C^oa Valley, also known as C^oa Parque Foundation is launching a contest for the attribution of 10 (ten) research grants, hereinafter called Doctoral Research Grants, in the scientific areas of "Environment and Global Change", "Environment, Territory and Population", "Cultures and Cultural Production", "Study of the Human Past", "Agriculture and Forestry Sciences", "Geosciences", "Biological Sciences" and "Institutions, Values, Beliefs and Behaviour", under the FCT Research Grant Regulations (RBI) and the Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI).

The grants will be funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol for the Funding of the Pluriannual Research Grant Plan for PhD Students, signed between FCT and the C^oa Parque Foundation. The selected fellows will have to spend a considerable part of their time in the territory of the C^oa Valley, creating a strong connection to the territory and contributing to its valuation and recognition.

1. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION

The call is open between 01 and 23:59 (Lisbon time) until November 30, 2021.

Applications and supporting documents for the application foreseen in this Notice of Call for Proposals must be submitted by email to museugeral@arte-coa.pt.

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

False statements or plagiarism on the part of the candidates will be grounds for cancellation of the application without prejudice to the adoption of other sanctionary measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF THE GRANTS

Doctoral research grants are intended to fund research activities leading to a doctoral degree in Portuguese and European universities.

Doctoral research grants are intended to fund research activities leading to a doctoral degree awarded by Portuguese universities, in accredited doctoral programs in scientific areas related to the topics described in

this Notice, fostering the development of transdisciplinary research. The research activities leading to the doctoral degree will take place at the University of the Doctoral Program and at the C^oa Park Foundation, notwithstanding the fact that the work may be carried out in collaboration between more than one institution. The research activities leading to the doctoral degree of the selected fellows must be framed in the activity plan and strategy of the C^oa Parque Foundation.

The work plan may take place fully or partially in a national and/or European institution (in-country fellowship or mixed fellowship, respectively).

The duration of the fellowships is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months), and no fellowship may be awarded for a period of less than 3 consecutive months.

In the case of mixed grants, the period of the work plan that takes place in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Doctoral Research Grants are intended for enrolled candidates or candidates who meet the conditions necessary to enroll in a Doctoral Program and who intend to develop research activities leading to the award of a doctoral degree.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

4.1 Candidate Admissibility Requirements:

The following may apply to this competition:

- National citizens or citizens of other member states of the European Union;
- Third Country Citizens.
- Stateless persons.
- Citizens benefiting from political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD Research Fellowship, it is necessary:

- Hold a bachelor's or master's degree in areas that are compatible with the development of a PhD plan, which must necessarily fall into one of the following scientific areas: "Environment and Global Change", "Environment, Territory and Population", "Cultures and Cultural Production", "Study of the Human

Past", "Agriculture and Forestry", "Geosciences", "Biological Sciences" and "Institutions, Values, Beliefs and behaviour" or in areas considered to be related.

- To be permanently and habitually resident in Portugal at the starting date of the work plan period abroad if the proposed work plan includes a period in foreign institutions (mixed grants), a requirement applicable to both Portuguese and foreign citizens.
- Not have benefited from a PhD or PhD in companies grant directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not hold a doctoral degree.

4.2 Admissibility requirements for the application

The following documents must be attached to the application, under penalty of non-admission to the contest:

- Identity elements: citizen card/passport.
- Motivation Letter.
- Letters of Recommendation (2 letters requested).
- Candidates' civil, fiscal and, when applicable, social security identification numbers.
- Documents proving that the candidates meet the required conditions for the respective type of scholarship, namely certificates of all academic degrees obtained or respective recognition.
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate duly updated, on the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform; applications whose CV does not contain any curricular information, presenting only the name and identification of CIÊNCIA ID, will be considered ineligible.
- Certificates of academic qualifications, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken, or, alternatively, a declaration of honour from the candidate that has completed the degree of Bachelor or Master by the application deadline.
- Certificates of academic qualifications, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the marks obtained in all the courses taken, or, alternatively, a declaration of honour from the applicant stating that has completed the graduate or master's degree by the application deadline.
- A record of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and a record of the conversion of the respective final classification into the Portuguese classification scale, or

alternatively, a declaration of honour from the applicant that he/she has obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent the graduate or master's degree by the application deadline.

- Plan of work to be developed with an applied theme in the domain of the following scientific areas: "Environment and Global Change", "Environment, Territory and Population", "Cultures and Cultural Production", "Study of the Human Past", "Agriculture and Forestry Sciences", "Geosciences", "Biological Sciences" and "Institutions, Values, Beliefs and Behaviour". The work plan should contain the following fields: Title, Abstract, State of the Art, Objectives, Detailed Description and Bibliographical References, in a maximum of 3000 words. The work plan must also be accompanied by a - Schedule, indicating the timing of the tasks proposed in the work plan, as well as the main goals (or milestones) to be achieved. It must also clearly define the orientation team, which must include a member of the C^oa Parque Foundation, which will only be defined at the end of the entire selection process of the 10 grants to be awarded.
- To write the application and all documents associated with it, including the letters of motivation and recommendation, in Portuguese or English.

Regarding the above admissibility requirements, the following should be noted:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and to ensure the application of the principle of equal treatment to applicants holding foreign and national academic degrees, the recognition of these degrees and the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale is mandatory.

The recognition of foreign degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final classification into the Portuguese classification scale may be requested at any public higher education institution, or at the Directorate General of Higher Education (DGES, only in the case of automatic recognition).

Regarding this matter, we suggest that you consult the DGES portal at the following address:

<http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

- Applicants will only be admitted if they have completed the cycle of studies leading to a bachelor or master's degree by the application deadline. If they do not yet have a degree certificate, a declaration of honour from the candidates that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the competition by the application deadline will be accepted. The conception of the scholarship is always dependent on the presentation of proof of the academic qualifications required for the awarding of

the scholarship.

5. WORK PLANS AND SCIENTIFIC ORIENTATION OF THE FELLOWSHIPS

The grantees' work plan shall be partly developed at C&A Parque Foundation, without prejudice to the association with other host institutions, namely those associated with the doctoral programs attended by the grantees.

The research work underlying the fellowships is developed under the supervision of a scientific advisor designated by the host entity under the terms foreseen in article 5-A of the EBI, which must include an integrated doctoral member of the C&A Parque Foundation. Another co-supervisor may also be designated, if deemed appropriate due to the nature of the work plan to be developed.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUSES

6.1 Evaluation

The evaluation takes into account the applicant's merit and the interview.

Applications deemed admissible will be scored on a scale of 0 to 20 points on each of the following evaluation criteria:

- Criterion A - Nature and relevance of the research project, with the weight of 40%.
- Criterion B - Integrated evaluation of the applicant's curriculum vitae, based on an overview of his/her scientific merits, with a weight of 40%:

Sub-criterion B1 - Diversity and quality of scientific indicators, including master's average, indexed articles published in the specific area of the competition, with a weight of 20%.

Sub-criterion B2 - Previous participation in research projects. Experience in research activities (collecting and reviewing literature, planning and conducting applied studies) as well as experience in conducting and being involved in research activities, with a weight of 20%.

- Criterion C - Interview aimed at evaluating the scientific production potential of each candidate in the area of the competition, with a weight of 20%.

For the purposes of the scholarship decision, the candidates will be ranked according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the three criteria, translated by the following formula:

$$\text{Final score} = 0.4A + 0.4B + 0.2C$$

For tie-breaking purposes, candidates will be ranked on the basis of the marks awarded for each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence: criterion A, criterion B, criterion C.

Important notice for applicants with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions:

- Applicants with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated with the same criteria as applicants with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, if they present, in application, proof of recognition of the academic degrees and of the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese grading scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- Applicants with foreign degrees who do not submit proof of the conversion of the final classification into the Portuguese classification scale will be assessed with the minimum classification (10 points) in criterion (B1).
- In any case, scholarship contracts with applicants with diplomas issued by foreign institutions will only be awarded upon presentation of proof of academic degree recognition and conversion of the final classification, as indicated above.

Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final classification of less than 10 points are not eligible for a scholarship.

7. EVALUATION

The candidate evaluation panel consists of the following:

- Maria Paula Diogo (panel coordinator)
- Aida Carvalho/ Fundação Coa Parque
- Helena Freitas/ Universidade de Coimbra
- Norberto Santos/ Universidade de Coimbra
- Carlos R. Cunha/ Instituto Politécnico de Bragança
- Domingos Lopes, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro
- Artur Cristóvão, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro
- Carlos Brito, Universidade do Porto
- José Alberto Cardoso Pereira/ CIMO
- Ana Isabel Simões/ Universidade de Lisboa
- Marta Lourenço/ Museu Nacional de História Natural e da Ciência
- Helmuth Trishler/ Deutche Museum

- José Luís Câmara Leme/Universidade Nova de Lisboa
- João Ribeiro Mendes/Universidade do Minho
- Egidia Souto/ Universidade Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Jean-Louis Georget/ Universidade Sorbonne Nouvelle
- Richard Kuba, Instituto Frobenius / Universidade Goethe de Frankfurt

The evaluation panel will evaluate the applications according to the evaluation criteria in this notice of call for applications, weighing the elements of evaluation.

All panel members, including the coordinator, are committed to a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, declaration of any potential conflict of interest, and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

Panel members, including the coordinator, may not be supervisors or co-supervisors of candidates with applications submitted to the competition.

For each application, the panel will produce a final evaluation sheet where the arguments that led to the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria and subcriteria are presented in a clear, coherent, and consistent manner.

Minutes will be produced of the evaluation panel meetings and will be the responsibility of all its members.

The minutes and their annexes must obligatorily include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel.
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective justification.
- Final Evaluation Forms for each applicant.
- Methodology adopted by the panel for cases considered.
- Provisional ranking and seriation list of the candidates, in descending order of the final ranking, of all applications evaluated by the panel.
- CDI statements from all panel members.
- Possible delegations of vote and competencies for reasons of justified absence.

8. DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

The results of the evaluation are communicated via e-mail to the e-mail address used by the candidate to send

the application/indicated in the application.

9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRIOR HEARING, COMPLAINT, AND APPEAL

After notification of the provisional list of evaluation results, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, make their comments during a prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code.

The final decision will be issued after the analysis of the statements presented during the prior hearing of interested parties. A complaint may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or alternatively an appeal may be lodged within 30 working days, both counting from the respective notification. Candidates who choose to file a complaint must address their appeal to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated authority. Candidates who choose to file an appeal should address their appeal to the FCT Directive Council.

10. GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Research grant contracts are made directly with FCT.

The following documents must be submitted, at the time of the grant award, for contractualization purposes

- a) Copy of the civil, fiscal and, when applicable, social security identification document(s)¹ (The availability of these documents may be replaced, at the option of the applicant, by face-to-face presentation to the funding entity, which will keep the elements contained in them that are relevant to the validity and execution of the contract, including civil, tax, and social security identification numbers, as well as the validity of the respective documents).
- b) Copy of the qualification certificates of the academic degrees held.
- c) Presentation of the record of recognition of the foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final grades to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable.
- d) Work plan.
- e) Document proving enrolment and registration in the Doctoral Program.
- f) Declaration of the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for the supervision of the work plan, in accordance with article 5.A of the Research Grant Holder Statute (draft of the declaration to be made available by FCT).
- g) Document proving acceptance of the applicant by the institution where the research activities will take

place, guaranteeing the necessary conditions for its proper development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties set forth in article 13 of the Research Grant Holder Statute (draft declaration to be made available by FCT).

h) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (draft declaration to be made available by FCT).

The award of the grant is also subject to:

- of the fulfilments of the requirements foreseen in this Opening Notice.
- the result of the scientific evaluation.
- the absence of unjustified non-compliance with the duties of the grant recipient under a previous grant contract funded directly or indirectly by FCT.
- FCT budget availability.

Failure to submit any of the documents required to complete the grant contracting process within 6 months of the date of communication of the decision to award the grant conditionally will result in the expiration of the grant and the termination of the process.

11. FINANCING

Payment of the grants will begin after the applicants return the duly signed grant contract, which should occur within a maximum of 15 working days from the date of receipt.

The grants awarded under this call will be financed by FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under the PORTUGAL2020 program, namely through the Regional Operational Program of the North (NORTE 2020), the Regional Operational Program of the Center (Centro 2020) and the Regional Operational Program of the Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), according to the regulations established for this purpose.

12. COMPONENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

Grant recipients are entitled to a monthly maintenance allowance under the terms of the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The grant may also include other components under the terms of article 18 of the RBI and the values foreseen

in Annex II.

All grant recipients shall be covered by personal accident insurance for research activities, borne by FCT.

All grant recipients who are not covered by any social protection scheme may exercise their right to social security by joining the voluntary social insurance scheme, under the terms of the Social Security Contributions Code, with FCT paying the costs resulting from the contributions under the terms and within the limits set forth in article 10 of the EBI.

13. PAYMENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

All payments due to the grantee are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the grantee. The payment of the monthly maintenance allowance is made on the first working day of each month.

FCT will make payments for the registration, enrolment and tuition components directly to the national institution where the grant recipient is enrolled or enrolled in the doctoral program.

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR RENEWAL OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The renewal of the scholarship is always subject to a request submitted by the grant holder within 60 working days prior to the renewal date, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) opinions issued by the supervisor/s and the host entity/s on the monitoring of the grant holder's work and the evaluation of his/her activities.
- b) up-to-date document proving compliance with the regime of exclusive dedication.
- c) document proving renewal of enrolment in the study cycle leading to a doctoral degree.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE FUNDING GRANTED

In all R&D activities directly or indirectly funded by the grant, namely in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided by the grant, mention should be made of financial support from the FCT and the European Social Fund, namely through the Regional Operational Program of the North (NORTE 2020), the Regional Operational Program of the Center (Centro 2020) and the Regional Operational Program of the Alentejo (Alentejo 2020). To this end, the insignia of the FCT, the MCTES, the ESF and the EU shall be inscribed on the documents relating to these actions, in accordance with the graphic standards of each operational program.

The dissemination of results of research funded under the RBI must follow the rules of open access of data, publications and other research results in force at the FCT.

In all fellowships, and in particular in the case of actions supported by community funding, namely from the ESF, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by national and community bodies, in accordance with the applicable legislation on this matter, with the grant recipients being required to cooperate and provide the requested information, which includes surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even if the fellowship has already ended.

16. POLICY OF NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS

The FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no candidate shall be privileged, benefited, prejudiced, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty because of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, or union membership.

17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The Call is governed by this Opening Notice, by the FCT Research Grant Regulations, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in the II Series of the DR of December 16, 2019, by the Research Grant Holder Statute approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18, as amended, and by other applicable national and EU legislation.