



Fundação
para a Ciência
e a Tecnologia

Call for Research Fellowships for doctoral students

**Call for Research Fellowships for doctoral students in
a non-academic environment in a range of scientific
fields, determined by the Côa Parque Foundation
2023**

April 2023



Ciência, Tecnologia
e Ensino Superior





Côa Parque – Foundation for the safeguarding and enhancement of the Côa Valley, also known as the Côa Parque Foundation, opens a Call for Research Fellowships for 12 doctoral students, in the scientific topics: Environment and Changes Global; Environment, Territory and Population; Cultures and Cultural Production; Study of the Human Past; Agriculture and Forest Sciences; Geosciences; Biological Sciences; Institutions, Values, Beliefs and Behaviour, under the FCT Research Grants Regulation (RBI) and the Statute of Research Fellows of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology FCT.

The scholarships will be funded by the Portuguese FCT under the Collaboration Protocol for Financing the Multi-annual Plan of Research Scholarships for Doctoral Students, signed between FCT and the Côa Parque Foundation. The selected scholarship holders will have to spend a considerable part of their time at the Côa valley territory, as defined later, creating a strong connection to the Territory and contributing to its appreciation and recognition. Scholarship projects must effectively contribute to a development of the Côa Parque Foundation territory, in its patrimonial, environmental and social components.

1. APPLICATIONS SUBMISSION

The Application process is open between 15th April and 17:00h (Lisbon time) on May 31st, 2023.

Applications and application support documents must be submitted by email sent to: museugeral@arte-coa.pt

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

Providing false statements or carrying out acts of plagiarism are grounds for cancelling the application, without prejudice to the adoption of other measures of a sanctioning nature.

2. TYPE, LOCATION AND LENGTH OF THE PHD SCHOLARSHIPS

The PhD Scholarships are intended to finance the research activities leading to obtaining the academic degree of doctor, in Portuguese universities.

The scholarships duration is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to the maximum number of months requested in the application, and scholarships cannot be granted for a period of less than 3 consecutive months or more than 48 months.

The working plan may be fully or partially carried out in a national institution (a national scholarship or a mixed scholarship, respectively). In the case of applying for a mixed scholarship, the period of the working plan taking place in the foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.



The working plan is defined in close coordination with the Côa Parque Foundation, which welcomes scholarship holders for at least 12 months of their general working plan, for obtaining this doctoral degree.

The work plan **must obligatorily include the Côa Parque Foundation, as a national non-academic host institution** and an academic host institution (national or foreign), as well as a scientific supervisor from each of these institutions.

The nomination of the the Côa Parque Foundation advisor is only carried out, by decision of the President of the Côa Parque Foundation, after the selection process of all the grants to be awarded, before signing the contract with the FCT. In this way, the doctoral plans will include the advisory team, without the supervisor from the Côa Parque Foundation, being only identified at that time.

The workplan should foresee the periods of permanence at the Côa Parque Foundation and which ones are carried out at the host academic institution (or other additional ones that are still involved in the dissertation and the respective work plan).

The PhD scholarships should be considered in one of the following scientific scopes:

Scientific scope
Environment and global changes
Environment, Land and Population
Culture a Cultural production
Human Past Research
Agriculture and Forest Sciences
Geoscience
Biological Sciences
Institutions, Values, Beliefs and Behaviour

The PhD programs should be, with no doubt, promoting the development of the Patrimonial, Environmental and Social development of this Côa Territory.

3. SCHOLARSHIPS FOCUS PUBLIC

These Doctoral Research Scholarships are available for registered candidates, or candidates who meet the necessary conditions to enrol, in a cycle of doctoral studies, and those who intend to develop research activities leading to obtaining a doctoral degree.



4. ADMITION

4.1 Candidate Eligibility Requirements

Who can apply to this scholarships:

- Portuguese citizens or citizens from other European Union Member States;
- Citizens of third countries;
- Stateless persons;
- Citizens benefiting from political refugee status.

To apply to the PhD scholarship, the candidates must:

- Be holding a graduation or a master in a related scientific area, in which the doctoral scholarships are open (see table above).
- If the proposed working plan includes a period in a foreign institution (which is the case of a mixed scholarship), the candidates must be residing in Portugal, permanently and habitually, on the starting date of the working plan period abroad. This requirement is applicable for both to national and to foreign citizens.
- Not having benefited from a previous PhD fellowship, directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not holding a Doctor's degree

4.2 Application Admissibility Requirements

It is crucial, under penalty of non-admission to the Call, to attach the following documents to the application:

- Identity card/citizen card/passport;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final average grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all subjects taken, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how he has completed the bachelor's or master's degree, until the end the application deadline;
- Registration of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how



he obtained recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to that of Bachelor or Master with effect at the end of the application period;

- A Letter of interest, where the candidate should explain the reasons for this application;
- 2 Recommendation Letters;
- The research working plan (the teaching component of a doctoral program is not considered part of this working plan); This working plan must include a period of stay at the C&A Parque Foundation of at least 12 months;
- Present a schedule of the working plan, clearly indicating the minimum 12 months of stay at the C&A Parque Foundation;
- Define clearly which scientific area, among those open in this Call, fits the submitted study plan;

(The language for the application and all associated documents is Portuguese or English).

It is also important to notice that:

- If the academic degrees were awarded by foreign institutions, and in order to assure the principle of equal treatment among all candidates, it is mandatory to recognize these degrees and convert the respective final classification for the Portuguese rating scale. In cases where students are presenting of degrees obtained abroad and that yet not officially recognized in Portugal, these classifications will be assumed with a grade of 10 (the Portuguese scale varies from 0 to 20).
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas, as well as the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale, can be requested at any public Portuguese higher education institution, or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, just in case of recognition automatic). Regarding this matter, it is suggested to consult the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>
- Only candidates who have completed the cycle of studies leading to a bachelor's or master's degree by the application deadline will be admitted. If they do not yet have the course completion certificate, a declaration of honour from candidates will be accepted stating that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition by the end of the application period. Although, the granting of the scholarship is conditioned to the presentation of the official final Portuguese conversion scale, before the contracting phase.



Taking in consideration the Working Plan and the supervisor team, it is also important to assure that:

- a. immediately assume that the non-academic institution will be the Côa Foundation but it is also mandatory to indicate the Portuguese Academic University (ies) (or also the Foreign one, in the case of a mixed scholarship);
- b. assure that the Working Plan is assuming at least 12 months of stay at the Côa Foundation;
- c. indicate the supervisor from the academic institution(s) involved (either Portuguese or Foreign) and assume that Côa Foundation will also indicate a Supervisor at the end of the selection Process.

5. EVALUATION PANEL

The referee panel is composed by the following elements:

- **President:** Domingos Manuel Mendes Lopes (Vice-president of the Côa Foundation; Forest Sciences and Landscape Department; Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro);
- Aida Maria Oliveira Carvalho (President of the Côa Foundation; School of Communication, Administration and Tourism; Instituto Politécnico de Bragança);
- André Tomás Pinto da Silva e Conceição Santos (PhD, Côa Foundation)
- Américo Manuel dos Santos Carvalho Mendes (Catholic Porto Business School, Universidade Católica do Porto);
- Ana Isabel Da Silva Araújo Simões (History Department; Universidade de Lisboa);
- Aurora da Conceição Parreira Carapinha (Landscape, Environment and Planning Department; Universidade de Évora);
- Carlos José Macedo Tavares (Physics Department; Universidade do Minho);
- Carlos Manuel Martins Santos Fonseca (Director of ForestWISE; Biology Department; Universidade de Aveiro);
- Helena Maria de Oliveira Freitas (Parque de Serralves Director; Life Sciences Department; Universidade de Coimbra)
- Hugo Alexandre Louro Filipe (Instituto Politécnico da Guarda);
- João Carlos Andrade dos Santos (Director of CITAB; Physics Department; Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro);
- João Carlos Teiga Zilhão (Archaeological Centre; Universidade de Lisboa);
- Jorge Américo Rodrigues Paiva (Universidade de Coimbra);



- José Alberto Cardoso Pereira (Director of CIMO; Vegetal Production and Technology Department, Instituto Politécnico de Bragança);
- José Luís Câmara Leme (Applied Social Science Department; Universidade Nova de Lisboa);
- Maria da Conceição Lopes (History, Archaeology and Arts Department, Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra);
- Mário Quinta Ferreira (Land Sciences Department, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Coimbra);
- Nuno Miguel de Resende Jorge Mendes (Heritage Sciences and Techniques Department; Universidade do Porto);
- Pedro Gabriel de Faria Lapa Barbosa de Almeida (Civil Engineering and Architecture Department; Universidade da Beira Interior);
- Thierry Jean Aubry (PhD, Scientific Director of the PhD, C&A Parque Foundation).

The evaluation panel will assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this Call, considering the elements of evaluation.

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

For each application, the panel will produce a final evaluation descriptive document where the arguments that led to the classifications attributed to each of the evaluation criteria are presented in a clear, coherent and consistent way.

A record of each evaluation panel meeting will be produced. These records and their annexes must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all evaluation panel members;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective grounds [if applicable];
- Methodology adopted by the panel for cases considered particular [if applicable];
- Final evaluation sheets for each candidate;
- Provisional ranking and ranking list of candidates, in descending order of the final evaluation mark, of all applications evaluated by the panel;



6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The applications will be evaluated in scores ranging from zero (0.000 in a minimum) till 20 (20.000 in a maximum) according to the following three criteria:

Criterion A – Candidate Merit (representing 40% of the total classification);

- Sub-criterion A1 - Graduation final mark (integrated master will have the final classification of the grade of integrated master) (3%)
- Sub-criterion A2 -Master final mark (7%)
- Sub-criterion A3 – Scientific publications (author and co- author) (20%)
- Sub-criterion A4 – Scientific communications (5%)
- Sub-criterion A5 – Participation on research projects (5%)

Criterion B – Merit of the Working Plan/Research project (representing 50% of the total classification);

- Sub-criterion B1 – Motivation letter (5%)
- Sub-criterion B2 – Quality general evaluation of the Research Project (35%)
- Sub-criterion B3 – Patrimonial, Ecological and Social Impact of the research on the Côa Valley (10%)

Criterion C – Interview (representing 10% of the total classification);

- Sub-criterion C1 -Analysis and critical approach (5%)
- Sub-criterion C2 - Motivation and availability (5%)

Candidates will be ordered according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in the three previous criteria, with the respective weighting in each criterion: criterion A - 40%, criterion B - 50% and criterion C - 10%.

For the purpose of deciding on granting scholarships, candidates will be ordered according to the following formula:

Final Classification = (0.03xSub-criterion A1 +0.07xSub- criterion A2 + 0.20xSub- criterion A3 +0.05xSub-criterion A4 + 0.05x Sub- criterion A5) + (0.05xSub- criterion B1 + 0.35xSub- criterion B2 + 0.10xSub-criterion B3) + +(0.05xSub- criterion C1 + 0.05xSub- criterion C2)

For tie-breaking purposes, the ranking of candidates will be based on the ratings assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence:



- Sub-criterion B3 mark
- Sub-criterion A3 mark
- Sub-criterion C2 mark

The final evaluation mark will be assuming 3 decimal numbers. The lease rules are: if the 4th decimal number is equal and greater than 5 (five), the 3rd decimal number will increase; if the 4th decimal number is lower than 5 (five), the 3rd decimal number will be kept.

Important note for diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions:

- Applications with foreign diplomas will be admitted to this evaluation process and will be assumed as equal of Portuguese diplomas, if the official conversion final mark would be presented, according to the Portuguese legislation.
- Only for evaluation purposes and in the case of applications with foreign diploma, with no official Portuguese final mark conversation, will be assumed with a mark of (10) for sub-criterions A1 e A2.
- Although, the final agreement with FCT for the officialization of the PhD scholarship will only occur after the presentation of the official Portuguese conversion.

The PhD scholarship will be possible if the final mark of the evaluation will be less than ten values (10,000).

The research programs should be focused on the Côa Valley and contribute to the improvement in terms of its Patrimony and/or Economic and/or Social components.

7. DISABILITY BONUS

Candidates with a proved disability equal or higher than 90% will have a bonus of 20% in the criterion A (Candidate Merit).

Candidates with a proved disability equal or higher than 60% and less than 90% will have a bonus of 10% in the criterion A (Candidate Merit)

The disability grade is compulsory proved by presenting an official document according to Portuguese Legislation (Law-Decree nº. 202/96, from 23rd october).

8. SPREAD OF THE RESULTS

The final results will be communicated by the same email the candidates have used to submit their applications.



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

After the communication of the provisional list of evaluation results, candidates with a draft decision unfavorable to granting the scholarship have a period of 10 working days to, if they so wish, comment at a prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121.^o et seq. of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The final decision will be issued after analyzing the pronouncements presented in 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 date of the respective notification.

The comments that students submit in the context of a prior hearing must be sent to the C&A Parque Foundation, via the email: conselhodiretivo@arte-coa.pt

which is responsible for responding through its own channel.

10. INITIAL PERIOD OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The PhD scholarships which were approved and selected for founding will start in the first day of the month that the candidate will select, somewhere between the 1st of September 2023 and the 1st of August 2024.

11. SCHOLARSHIP AWARD REQUIREMENTS

The following documents are needed for contracting the scholarship with the FCT:

- a. A copy of the civil, tax and, where applicable, social security identification documents ¹;
- b. A document which prove that the candidate is living permanently in Portugal, reporting to the date when the Scholarship will be starting. Even for mixed scholarships, where the working plan is reporting that it will be in a foreign country to develop research, will have to present proof that they permanently and habitually reside in Portugal

¹ These documents can be replaced by presenting them in person at the financing entity, which will keep the elements contained therein that are relevant to the validity and execution of the contract, including the civil, tax and social security identification numbers, as well as the validity of those documents.



- c. A copy of the certificates of the academic degrees,
- d. The recognition registration of foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- e. The working plan;
- f. A registration document in the 3rd cycle of studies, from the higher education institution where the candidate is admitted to the PhD;
- g. A statement from the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, pursuant to article 5-A of the Statute of Research Fellows (draft statement to be made available by FCT);
- h. A document, from the institution where the research activities will take place, declaring the acceptance of the candidate, and guaranteeing the necessary conditions for its best development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties foreseen in article 13 of the Statute of the Research Fellow (once again, the draft of this declaration is available on the FCT website);
- i. A document proving compliance with the regime of exclusive dedication (draft of declaration to be made available by FCT).
- j. A statement from the Côa Parque Foundation reporting the number of months in which this working plan will be occurring at Côa Valley.

To contract this PhD scholarship, the selected candidate will still need to provide:

- i. The compliance with all the requirements set out in this call;
- ii. The results of the scientific evaluation;
- iii. The non-existence of unjustified non-compliance with the duties of the scholarship holder under a previous scholarship contract financed, directly or indirectly, by the FCT;
- iv. FCT's budget availability.

If in six months all the reported documents were not presented to FCT, the scholarship contract process will be ended with no change to revert the process.



12. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The payment of these scholarships will begin after the candidates return the scholarship contract duly signed, which must occur within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date of receipt.

Scholarships awarded within the scope of this competition will be financed by FCT with funds from the Portuguese Government budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, through the Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion Program (PDQI), in accordance with the regulatory provisions established for the effect.

13. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

The scholarship holder is awarded a monthly subsidy, and its amount varies depending on whether the research activity is carried in Portugal or abroad, in accordance with the table in Annex I of the FCT Research Scholarship Regulation (RBS).

The grant may also include other components, in accordance with article 18 of the RBS and for the amounts set out in its Annex II.

All scholarship holders benefit from personal accident insurance in relation to research activities, supported by FCT.

All scholarship holders who are not covered by any social protection regime can ensure the exercise of the right to social security by joining the voluntary social security regime, under the terms of the Code of Contributory Regimes of the Social Security System, FCT ensuring the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and within the limits set out in Article 10 of the EBI.

14. PAYMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

Payments to the scholarship holder are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the scholarship holder. The payment of the monthly allowance is made on the first working day of each month. Payments for enrolment, enrolment or tuition fees are made by FCT directly to the **national institution** where the scholarship holder is enrolled in the doctoral program.

15. SCHOLARSHIP RENEWEL TERMS

Renewal of the scholarship always depends on the request submitted by the scholarship holder, within 60 working days prior to the start date of the renewal, accompanied by the following documents:

- a. Statements from the supervisor(s) and by the host entity(ies) on the follow-up of the scholarship holder's work;



- b. Updated document proving compliance with the regime of exclusive dedication;
- c. Document proving renewal of enrolment in the cycle of studies leading to a doctoral degree.

16. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF FINANCING GRANTED

In all research activities financed by this Grant, in all communications, publications, scientific creations and theses, a reference should be made to the financial support of FCT and, when applicable, of the European Social Fund, through the Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion (PDQI). Therefore, the insignia of the FCT, the ESF and the EU must be used in these documents, in accordance with the graphic rules of the financing community program.

The dissemination of research results financed under the RBI must comply with the rules for open access to data, publications and other research results in force at the FCT.

In all grants, and in particular in actions supported by community funding, namely the ESF, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by national and community bodies in accordance with the applicable legislation, with grant holders having the obligation to collaborate and provide the requested information, which covers carrying out surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the grant has already ended.

17. EQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITIES

The application call guarantees equal opportunities in the assessment to the Programme, meaning that all admission procedures and criteria do not discriminate anyone on the grounds of gender, marital status, race, age, colour, nationality, ethnic origin or religious belief, among others.

18. LEGISLATION

The Call is ruled by the present Opening Notice, by the FCT Research Grants Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in the II Series of the DR of December 16, 2019, and the Research Fellow's Statute, approved by the Law 40/2004, of August 18, in the current wording, and by other applicable national and community legislation.

19. CONTACT CHANEL

Additional information about this application can be requested by the following email: museugeral@arte-coa.pt