

Call for Applications for PhD Research Scholarships

The University of Coimbra hereby opens this Call for Applications for two research scholarships, hereinafter called PhD Research Grants, in the field(s) of Humanities and the Social Sciences, in compliance with the provisions of the FCT Regulations for Research Grants and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The scholarships will be financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia) (FCT) under the Collaboration Agreement for Doctoral Research Scholarship for the European Campus of City-Universities (EC2U) Alliance, signed between FCT and the University of Coimbra.

1. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The Call for Applications is open from March 18th, 2024 until 23h59 (Lisbon time) April 17th, 2024.

Applications and all the supporting documents described in this Call must be submitted by email to diogohenrique@uc.pt, with the following reference "2023_Research Grant - EC2U - VIQE".

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

Please note that false declarations or acts of plagiarism from the applicants will lead to the exclusion of the application notwithstanding the need to take other corrective or punitive disciplinary measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The PhD scholarships are intended to finance research activities carried out by the doctoral candidate that will lead to the attainment of the academic degree of doctor in Portuguese Universities.

The research activities leading to the attainment of the academic degree of doctor will take place at the University of Coimbra and at least one of the Universities of the EC2U consortium, with possible co-supervision by a member of a partner institution. The University of Coimbra (UC) will be the host institution for the scholarship holders, without prejudice to the work being carried out in collaboration at the others partners Universities.

The research activities leading to the attainment of the academic degree of doctor of the selected applicants must be framed within the activity plan and strategy of European Campus of City-

Universities (EC2U) Alliance, and must be carried out within the following areas of Doctoral work:

- Humanities and the Social Sciences, under Doctoral Programmes at the University of Coimbra (such as Modern Languages, Feminist Studies, Discourse: Culture, History and Society, Portuguese Linguistics, Educational Sciences, Communication Sciences, among other doctoral programmes in the areas of Humanities, Social Sciences and/or International Relations);

The scholarship corresponds to a mixed type of work plan, preferably with co-supervision by a member of the Alliance partner institution. The duration of scholarships is, as a rule, annual, renewable for a maximum of four years (48 months), and scholarships cannot be granted for a period of less than 3 consecutive months. The period of the work plan taking place in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. RECIPIENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

PhD scholarships are intended for candidates who comply with the requirements to enroll (or who are already enrolled) in the Doctoral Programmes mentioned under point 2 of the present call, who wish to carry out research activities as part of this degree in at the indicated host institution.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Admission requirements for applicants

The following candidates may apply to this Call:

- National (Portuguese) citizens or citizens from other member states of the European Union;
- Third-country nationals;
- Stateless individuals;
- Citizens with political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD scholarship, applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- Has not benefited previously from a PhD scholarship or a PhD Industry scholarship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration;
- Reside permanently and habitually in Portugal at the start of the work plan period abroad, a requirement applicable to both national and foreign citizens.
- Not having a doctorate degree.

4.2 Application requirements

The following documents are mandatory, under penalty of exclusion from the Call:

- Identification elements: identity card/citizen card/passport;
- Candidate's Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- Certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held, obligatorily specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all subjects taken, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor from the candidate that he/she completed the bachelor's degree or master, specifying the final classification, until the end of the application period;
- Record of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor from the candidate in obtaining the degree recognition foreigner equivalent to a bachelor's or master's degree, specifying the final classification, until the end of the application period;
- Motivation letter, which explains, justifies and argues with due scientific solidity the preference for one of the disciplinary guidelines of the scholarships (see point 5 of the notice);
- Letters of Recommendation (maximum two);
- Other elements considered relevant.
- Write the application and all documents associated with it, including letters of motivation and recommendation, in Portuguese or English.

Regarding the aforementioned admission requirements, the following should be noted:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to candidates who hold foreign and national academic degrees, it is mandatory to recognize these degrees and convert the respective final classification for the Portuguese classification scale.

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 higher education institution, or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, only in the case of automatic recognition). Regarding this matter, we suggest consulting the DGES portal at the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

All requests for automatic recognition or level made to the UC are exempt from payment of fees in the case of candidates for competitive procedures (from the UC) for the recruitment of Researchers and, as well, for the award of Research Grants, which may be selected and hired and need to obtain recognition of academic degrees or higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions, in accordance with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August, as requirement for hiring.

If the applicant has the nationality of one of the Member States of the European Union, the fees provided for Level Recognition or Specific Recognition, Doctorate, will be reduced by half.

- Only candidates who have completed the study cycle leading to a bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application deadline will be admitted. If they do not yet have a course completion certificate, a declaration of honor from candidates stating that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition will be accepted until the end of the application period. The granting of the scholarship is always dependent on the presentation of proof of possession of the academic qualifications necessary to grant the scholarship.]

5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The work plan is inscribed in the developing activities of the *Virtual Institute for Quality Education* (VIQE) of the EC2U alliance on multilingualism and intercultural dialogue in spaces configured by materialities and discourses founded on European matrices. It involves potential co-supervision from members of the consortium institutions. Research to be developed starts from a comparative perspective and is centred on topics with a direct focus on linguistic, cultural and social diversity in articulation with discourses of (in)security, from a critical and interdisciplinary angle, both in theory and in methodology. Starting from the empirical lived experience of relocation by higher education students identified as international or mobility for reasons of migration and/or refuge, the project follows the dynamics of construction and transnational circulation of discourses of (in)security and their impact on language mediation and citizenship in the universities of the consortium. Two distinct comparative research lines are identified:

1. The discursive dimension, i.e., the textual dynamics of construction and circulation of narratives, images and metaphors about (in)security – in cultural texts and institutional documents associated to the implementation of security measures and policies in the consortium institutions, especially when articulated with the language integration and hosting of multilingual students, at multiple language policy scales.
2. The impact of these discourses in the dimension of lived experience of practices of language mediation and participation of these multilingual speakers in the academic spaces of the university and the lifeworld spaces of the city. The focus on language and literacy resources and repertoires (both material and immaterial), on students' historical bodies and corresponding internalized dispositions will identify how resources afford unique and situated "socioculturally mediated capacity to act" and survive in the new environments (Ahearn, 2001: 12).

The project combines critical analyses of discourses of (in)security and their impact on cultural policies (line 1), with a critical sociolinguistic analysis of the dynamics of language belonging and citizenship crossed by multiple dimensions (institutional, lived experience, agency – line 2). Data collection and analysis combine archival work and official public policy documents, with the help of digital methodologies (line 1), with (online and offline) linguistic ethnography in institutional contexts, including interviews and/or focal groups, linguistic landscape analysis, creative methods of co-construction of knowledge (e.g. biographical or creative writing workshops, among others), participant observation in academic and non-academic socialization spaces (line 2). Research scholarships will be attributed to those proposals that best meet each one of the research activity lines described above.

The remaining points of the work plan are common to both scholarships and they include:

- Active support and collaboration in implementing activities related to research, training and extension to be developed by the VIQE on Linguistic, Cultural and Social Diversity in Europe;
- Organisation of VIQE workshops on topics related to linguistic, cultural and social diversity, underlying theories and the corresponding research methodologies and data analysis;
- Organization, implementation and maintenance of networks and data bases resulting from VIQE's projects and activities related to linguistic, cultural and social diversity;
- Preparation and instruction of research proposals to national and international funding in the framework of VIQE on the topics of linguistic, cultural and social diversity;
- Participation as researcher in national and international research and action research projects in the context of VIQE, related to language, cultural and social diversity;
- Elaboration and publication of articles and other dissemination outputs related to linguistic cultural and social diversity, relevant in the context of VIQE.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUSES

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation will be based on Curriculum Evaluation (AC) and Interview (E) to the **five-best** classified in the AC.

All admitted applications will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained on **1 to 100** in each of the following evaluation criteria:

- Criterium A – Curricular Evaluation (AC), 80%
 - Subcriterium A1 - absolute merit of the Curriculum Vitae in the frame of the Institute's broader interdisciplinary project (M), 40%;
 - Subcriterium A2 - suitability of the candidate's profile to the work plan

(according to preference stated in the motivation letter (PT), 40%;

- Subcriterion A3 - additional characteristics (CA), such as the implicit motivation shown for the work to be carried out and availability to start the scholarship, 20%

- Criterium B - The five-best candidates classified in the Curriculum Evaluation (AC) will be interviewed. In Interview (E) the parameters to be considered are the following:

- Subcriterion B1 - Communication skills (CC), 40%
- Subcriterion B2 - Motivation and Interest for the workplan (MI), 60%.

In order to decide the granting of a PhD scholarship, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in each of the **two** criteria, according to the following formula:

$$\text{Final classification} = (0.8 \times A) + (0.2 \times B)$$

For tiebreaking purposes, the final ranking list will be based on the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order: Curriculum Evaluation (Criterium A) and Interview (Criterium B).

Important note for candidates holding a degree issued by foreign higher education institutions:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and to guarantee the principle of equal treatment among applicants with national and foreign academic degrees, the applicants must submit proof of recognition of such degrees and the conversion of the respective final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- Applicants with recognized foreign academic degrees who do not submit a proof of conversion of the final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale will be evaluated with the minimum grade of **0 (zero)** points in criterion Curriculum Evaluation (AC).
- In any case, scholarship contracts with applicants whose diplomas have been issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final average grade, as indicated above.

Applicants whose application is scored with a final grade lower than 45 points are not eligible to be granted a scholarship.

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7. EVALUATION

The evaluation panel is composed of the following members:

- Professor Maria Clara Bicudo de Azeredo Keating (Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra);
- Professor Marta Araújo (Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra);
- Professor Susana Araújo, (Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra)
- Professor Maria Joana Vieira Santos (Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra), alternate member
- Professor Maria José Canelo (Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Coimbra), alternate member

The evaluation panel will assess applications based on the evaluation criteria described in this Call for Applications, considering the components of evaluation.

All panel members, including the coordinator, will make a commitment to respect the responsibilities of the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflicts of interest, 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, a final evaluation form will be produced by the panel, in which the arguments that led to the scores attributed to each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria will be presented in a clear, coherent and consistent manner.

Minutes of the meetings of the evaluation panel will be taken under the responsibility of all its members.

The minutes and their attachments must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective reasons ;
- Methodology employed by the panel for particular cases;
- Final Evaluation Sheets for each application;
- Provisional list of the scoring and ranking of the candidates, in descending order of the final grade, of all applications evaluated by the panel;

- Conflict of Interest (COI) statements from all members of the panel;
- Delegations of voting and decision powers by reason of justified absence.

8. DISCLOSURE OF THE RESULTS

Evaluation results will be communicated by email to the address provided by the candidates in the application form.

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9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants may request a preliminary hearing with the interested parties, under the terms of Articles no. 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedures (CPA).

The final decision will be announced after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. Following the final decision, the applicant can file a formal complaint within 15 working days or, alternatively, file an appeal within 30 working days, counting after the communication of the final results.

Applicants who choose to file a complaint should address their request to the member of the FCT Board of the Directors with the delegated competence. Applicants who choose to file an appeal must address their request to the FCT Board of Directors.

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10. REQUIREMENTS TO AWARD THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The research scholarship contracts are signed directly with FCT.

The following documents are mandatory, upon conditional awarding of the scholarship for the purposes of contract preparation:

- a) Copy of the document(s) of personal identification, tax number and, if applicable, social security;¹
- b) Copy of the academic degree certificates held by the applicant;
- c) Recognition of the academic degrees obtained abroad and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable;
- d) Document proving acceptance and enrolment in one of the Doctoral Programmes identified in the present Call for Applications;

¹ Instead of providing these documents, the candidate may opt to present them in person at the financing body, which will store the data contained in them that are relevant for the validity and execution of the contract, including the civil, tax and social security identification numbers, as well as the validity of the respective documents.

- e) Statement from the supervisor(s) declaring their acceptance to coordinate and supervise the work plan, as established in Article no. 5-A of the Statute for Research Fellowships (template will be made available by FCT);
- f) Institutional document supporting the applicant, issued by the institution where the work plan will be carried out, guaranteeing the necessary conditions to its successful development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- g) Updated document proving the exclusive dedication regime (template will be made available by FCT);
- h) Work Plan.

The granting of the scholarship is still dependent on:

- The fulfilment of all the requirements listed in this Call for Applications;
- The results of the scientific evaluation;
- The absence of unjustified non-compliance of the fellowship holder during previous directly or indirectly funded FCT fellowships;
- The FCT's available budget.

The lack of any of the necessary documents to complete the contracting procedure implies the expiration of the scholarship granting and conclusion of the process; applicants have up to 6 months after the disclosure of the provisional granting to present all of the documents listed.

11. FUNDING

Scholarship payment will start after the signed contract is returned to FCT, which should happen within 15 working days after its delivery.

The scholarships granted in this call will be financed by FCT with funds from the State 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 this purpose.

12. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted to the fellows in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The scholarship may also include additional allowances, according to RBI's Article no. 18 and the

values indicated in its Annex II.

All the scholarship holders have a personal accident insurance related to the research activities, which FCT will support.

All scholarship holders who are not beneficiaries of any social protection regime have the right to register for social security through the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Scheme of the Social Security System. FCT will ensure the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and the limits provided in Article no. 10 of the EBI.

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13. PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

Payments due to the scholarship holder are made by bank transfer to the bank account indicated.

The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first working day of each month.

Registration, enrolment and tuition fees are paid directly by FCT to the national institution where the scholarship holder has enrolled or is registered in a 3rd Cycle of Studies/PhD Programme.

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14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PhD SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the scholarship always depends upon the applicant's request, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, which must include the following documents:

- a) Declaration(s) issued by the supervisor(s) and by the host institution(s) attesting the work plan development and the evaluation of the respective activities;
- b) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) Declaration proving enrolment renewal in the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

In all R&D activities directly or indirectly financed by the scholarship, in particular in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided for in the scholarship, the mention of financial support from FCT and the European Social Fund, through, inter alia, the Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion Program (PDQI) should be expressed. For this purpose, the insignia of FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU logos should be entered in the documents relating to these actions, in accordance with the graphic standards of the Community support program.

The disclosure of research results funded according to the RBI provisions must comply with the open access guidelines, publications and other research results in accordance with FCT rules.

In all scholarship, and in particular in the case of actions supported by Community funding, in particular the ESF, follow-up and control actions may be carried out by national and Community

bodies in accordance with applicable legislation in this area, with the scholarship holders supporting the obligation to collaborate and provide the requested information, which covers the carrying out of surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even if the scholarship has already ceased.

16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty, due to ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The present call is governed by the FCT Regulations for Research Fellowships approved by the Regulation no. 950/2019 (published in the Series II of the DR, of 16th December), by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (approved by Law no. 40/2004, of 18th of August, in its current version), and by other applicable national and European legislation.