Rules of the Santander Funding Competition for Research Projects within the scope of the

Strategic Areas of the University of Coimbra

The University of Coimbra (UC), with the support of Banco Santander Totta, promotes interdisciplinary scientific research activities, developed by multidisciplinary teams, responding to complex scientific issues and societal challenges. The present call aims to support doctoral candidates to develop their research at the UC in order to create or strengthen collaborative, relevant and/or emerging lines of research.

Article 1
Overview and Objectives

1. The competition "Seed Projects for Interdisciplinary Scientific Research" is promoted by the UC through the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research (hereinafter, IIIUC), under the UC Strategic Areas (hereinafter, AEUCs) responding to complex scientific issues and societal challenges, contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations Agenda 2030.

2. This call aims to fund interdisciplinary projects led by multidisciplinary teams of researchers integrated in the R&D Units or other structures of the University of Coimbra Group (UC Group), capable of generating relevant knowledge within the AEUCs. (https://www.uc.pt/iii/areas_estrategicas).

Article 2
Applicants' Eligibility

1. Research teams with researchers from R&D Units or other structures belonging to the UC Group may apply for funding.

2. Researchers who have won awards in the two previous editions of this call may not apply as Principal Investigators (PIs) in this edition.

3. The possible involvement of institutions outside the UC Group, as partners in the project, does not confer on them the quality of funding beneficiary.

Article 3

Principal Investigator and Project Research Team

1. Project teams shall be led by a Principal Investigator (PI), who must be a member of an R&D Unit of the UC Group and hold a doctoral degree after the 1st of January 2012.

2. The project team must include researchers from at least two R&D Units of the UC Group, from different scientific areas. The classification of the R&D Units of the UC Group by scientific area is in line with that specified by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology and may be viewed here.

3. The team cannot include members of the PI's PhD thesis advisory team or members of the jury of this edition of the competition.

4. The project team composition must comply with the principles detailed in the UC Plan for Equality, Equity and Diversity 2019-2023, namely with regard to gender and diversity.

Article 4

Project Funding

1. The maximum limit of funding to be allocated to each research project is twenty thousand euros.

2. A total funding of 100 thousand euros is foreseen for this competition, sponsored by Santander Universities.

3. The financial execution of the research projects submitted must be completed by the 31st of December 2022. The scientific implementation of the project may take place beyond that date.

4. The jury reserves the right not to award funding to a Strategic Area if it considers that none of the applications submitted is of adequate quality or meets the objectives of this call.

5. In addition to the financing foreseen in the previous numbers, up to a maximum amount of 20 thousand euros, the IIIUC provides support to the teams in the process of preparing their applications, namely:

    i) Information session for the preparation of the proposal;

    ii) Mapping of researchers in order to promote the interdisciplinarity of the project;

    iii) Coaching for the evaluation interview;

iv) Support to the communication plan in order to include dissemination activities with different audiences.

Article 5
Applications Process

1. The application to the present call consists of a research project proposal, which should include the following information:

 1.1. Title;

 1.2. Identification of the PI and all team members, including name, nationality, contacts (e-mail, cell phone), R&D Unit, ORCID, *CiênciaVitae*;

 1.3. Presentation of the team, including a description of the experience and contribution of each member to the implementation of the project;

 1.4. Identification and contact details of collaborators or partner institutions and relevance for their involvement in the project;

 1.5. Main strategic area and subcore strategic areas;

 1.6. Abstract (up to 1,500 characters);

 1.7. Objetives (up to 1,500 characters);

 1.8. State of the Art (up to 3,000 characters)

 1.9. Work plan and tasks (up to 6,000 characters);

 1.10. Timeline of the scientific component of the project;

 1.11. Expected results and impact (up to 1,500 characters);

 1.12. Budget organised by headings (in accordance with article 11 of this regulation);

 1.13. Identification and explanation of the United Nations SDGs to which the project responds;

 1.14. Communication plan and dissemination of results (up to 250 words).

2. Applications may be submitted in Portuguese or English.

3. Applications shall be submitted by filling in the specific form, available [here](#).

4. Documents may only be attached to the application in Digital Portable Document Format (pdf).

5. The PIs and the other members of the project team are responsible for the originality of the proposal submitted, guarantee its authorship, and assume all responsibility arising from possible claims by third parties regarding copyright and related rights, industrial property rights or personality rights. They also declare that the project proposal has no other source of external funding.

Article 6

Ethics and Scientific Integrity

The project proposal aforementioned must ensure the ethical principles and integrity of the scientific research activities mentioned in the following paragraphs:

1. Protection of participants, particularly people, and with special attention when minors are involved, as well as animals or biological material of human or animal origin regarding moral and ethical values;
2. Access to and availability of participants' data;
3. Adequacy of experimental procedures;
4. Rigour, honesty and transparency in the disclosure of results;
5. Prevention of access to and misuse of data and research results;
6. Adequacy of the work and risk plan in the case of activities carried out in third countries;
7. Environmental protection.

Article 7

Equal Opportunity and Non-Discrimination Policy

The UC promotes a policy of non-discrimination, diversity and equal opportunity, so that no candidate may be privileged, benefited, hindered or deprived of any right.

Article 8

Jury and Evaluation

1. The evaluation of the applications is carried out by a Jury appointed by the Rector of the UC (Annex I).

2. The members of the jury are distributed among 5 evaluation panels, each one of them ensuring the representativeness of the scientific areas of each Strategic Area.

3. The Competition Jury is composed of a variable number of members, at least five for each AEUC.

4. The methodology for selecting and ranking applications is as follows:

4.1. Evaluation phase of the submitted written Project Proposal:

The evaluation process focuses on the Project Merit (PM), based on the following criteria:

A. Scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international perspective;

B. Impact of the project, considering the interdisciplinarity, contribution and alignment with the UC Strategic Areas, namely with Horizon Europe themes;

C. Feasibility of the work programme and budget reasonability;

D. Scientific merit and potential of the Principal Investigator;

E. Scientific merit and diversity of the research team;

The seriation of applications is obtained through the following weighting factors:

$$PM= 0.45 * A + 0.1* B + 0.1 C + 0.25* D + 0.1* E$$

The criteria will be evaluated on a scale from 1 to 10 (whole numbers), and the result of the PM will be rounded to the hundredths. The 5 projects with the highest score in the PM, which must be equal to or greater than 8, will move on to the phase of presentation and discussion of the project by the PI.

The jury may decide that no project is selected for this phase.

4.2. Phase of presentation and discussion of the project by the PI

The jury conducts an evaluation interview, which includes a short presentation of the proposal (up to 5 minutes) by the PI, to obtain additional and more detailed information about the project, the vision of the PI, and the competences considered essential for the implementation of the project.

Article 9

Impediments and Conflict of interests of the Jury members

The jury members:

1. May not participate in any of the project teams in the competition.

2. They must refuse to participate in the evaluation of projects where they are or could foreseeably be in a situation of conflict of interest, specifically:

   a. Having published scientific work with the PI in the three years prior to the opening date of the application period;

   b. Having an ongoing scientific collaboration with the PI;

   c. Having a family relationship with the PI or any member of the team;

   d. Having a scientific or personal conflict with the PI or any member of the team;

   e. Being in any other situation that may raise doubts, to himself/herself or to a third party, either to the PI or to an external entity, as to his/her capacity to impartially assess the application.

Article 10

Final Report

The PI of the project(s) approved under the terms of the previous article shall submit, up to 6 months after the end of the project's execution, a final report containing the most relevant results and the dissemination activities to the general public.

Article 11

Eligibility of expenditure

In order to determine the total eligible cost of an application, the following costs shall be eligible for research and development activities:

   1. Purchase of goods and services;

2. Purchase of equipment and software;

3. Missions.

Article 12

Competition Deadlines

1. Applications run from the 31st of January to the 28th of February 2022, until 5pm.

2. The evaluation phase of applications by the selection board will take place from the 3rd to the 25th of March 2022.

3. Interviews will be held from the 30th of March to the 5th of April, 2022.

4. The PI will be notified of the final results by e-mail within 30 working days after the application submission deadline. A public award ceremony will be held at a suitable date.

5. The financial execution of the project must be completed by 31 December 2022. Exceptionally, the scientific execution period of the project may extend into 2023.

Annex I

Jury Members

<u>President of the Jury</u>

Cláudia Margarida Gonçalves Cavadas

Jury Members – <u>Pannels of Strategic Areas of the University of Coimbra</u>

<u>Health</u>

Alexandrina Ferreira Mendes

Ana Luísa Carvalho

Ana Luísa Santos

Ana Maria Botelho Teixeira

Henrique Girão

Bruno Cecílio de Sousa

João José Oliveira Malva

Jorge Filipe Sousa Varanda Preces Ferreira

Jorge Albuquerque Almeida

José Augusto Mendes Ferreira

Lino da Silva Ferreira

Maria Teresa Cruz Rosete

Paula Alexandra Silva

Paulo Pereira de Carvalho

Sílvia Alves Barbeiro

<u>Climate, Energy and Mobility</u>

Adélia de Jesus Nobre Nunes

Adélio Rodrigo Gaspar

Álvaro Jorge da Maia Seco

Aníbal Traça de Carvalho Almeida

António José Pais Antunes

Domingos Xavier Filomeno Carlos Viegas

Fernanda Paula Marques Oliveira

Helena Maria dos Santos Gervásio

Luís Miguel Cândido Dias

Oxana Anatolievna Tchepel

Natural Resources, Agrifood and Environment

Alcides José Sousa Castilho Pereira

Ana Marta dos Santos Mendes Gonçalves

Angelina Lopes Simões Pena

Carlos Manuel Freire Cavaleiro

Cristina Maria Leal Canhoto

Fausto Miguel Cereja Seixas Freire

Helena Maria de Oliveira Freitas

Hermínio José Cipriano de Sousa

João Carlos de Sousa Marques

Maria Alexandra Sousa Aragão

Maria Dulce Alves Freire

Paula Maria Vasconcelos Morais

Paulo Gama Mota

Paulo Rocha

Digital, Industry and Space

Alexandre Carlos Morgado Correia

Ernesto Jorge Fernandes Costa

João Manuel de Morais Barros Fernandes

Jorge Fernando Jordão Coelho

Marco Paulo Seabra dos Reis

Maria do Carmo Raposo de Medeiros

Maria Goreti Ferreira Sales

Maria Teresa Vieira

Marta Cardoso Oliveira

Nuno Peixinho Miguel

Susana Aires de Sousa

Heritage, Culture and Inclusive Society

Carmen Isabel Leal Soares

João Gouveia Monteiro

José António Oliveira Martins

José Manuel Aroso Linhares

Manuel José de Freitas Portela

Maria Isabel Ferraz Festas

Maria da Conceição Lopes

Maria Paula Meneses

Óscar Gonçalves

Paulo Jorge Marques Peixoto

Walter Rossa Ferreira da Silva