

Call Notice for Doctoral Grant

Scientific area: African studies

Summary:

The Center for International Studies (CEI-Iscte) opens a competition for the award of 1 (one) doctoral grant, hereinafter referred to as Doctoral Grant, in the area of African Studies, under the FCT Research Scholarship Regulation (RBI) and the Research Fellow Statute (EBI).

The Doctoral Grant will be funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) under the Multiannual Collaboration Protocol for Financing the Research Scholarship Plans for PhD Students, celebrated between the FCT and the R&I Unit Centre of International Studies (CEI-Iscte), reference UIDP/03122/2020.

1. Application

The competition is open between April 4th, 2022 and April 15th 2022 at 23.59h.

Applications and supporting documents must be submitted by email to doutoramentos.cei@icte-iul.pt with the subject: BD_ doctoral program_candidate name .

Each applicant may submit only one application, under the penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted. The provision of false declarations constitutes ground for the cancellation of the application, without prejudice of the adoption of other sanctions.

2. Type and duration of grant

The doctoral grant is intended to finance the realisation, by the grantee, of research activities leading to obtaining a PhD academic degree in Portuguese universities.

The research activities leading to obtaining the PhD will take place in the Center for International Studies (CEI-Iscte) of Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon, which will be the grantee's host institution, without prejudice of the possibility of work being carried out in collaboration with more than one institution.

Research activities leading to the attainment of the PhD should be included in the activity plan and strategy of the Centre for International Studies (CEI-Iscte) and should be developed within the following Doctoral Program:

- Doctoral program in African Studies at Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

The work plan may take place in whole or in part in another national or foreign institution (national grant or mixed scholarship, respectively). The duration of the scholarship is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months) and may not be granted for a period of less than 3 consecutive months. In the case of a mixed grant, work in a foreign institution may not exceed 24 months.

3. Grant Recipients

The Doctoral Grant is intended for applicants who meet the conditions necessary to enroll in the Doctoral Program specified in point 2 of this Notice, and who wish to develop research activities leading to obtaining a PhD in the

Centre for International Studies (CEI-Iscte), or in associated host institutions.

4. Eligibility

4.1 Eligibility criteria

Applicants may be:

- Citizens of Portugal or other Member States of the European Union;
- Citizens of third countries;
- Stateless persons;
- Political refugees.

To apply for the Doctoral Grant , it is necessary to:

- Permanently reside in Portugal, or habitually, if the work plan associated with the scholarship takes place, in part, in foreign institutions (mixed scholarships), a requirement that is applicable to both Portuguese and foreign citizens.

Further, applicants cannot have already benefited from a doctoral grant or a doctoral grant in enterprise directly funded by FCT, independently of its duration, and cannot have already obtained a doctoral degree.

4.2 Requirements for applicants' eligibility

Applications must include the following documents:

- Copy of national ID card/Passport;
- Detailed CV;
- Certificates of the obtained academic degrees, specifying the final grade (mandatory), and if possible, the grades obtained in every course, or alternatively, a declaration on the honour of the applicant saying that they have concluded their undergraduate or master's degree before the application deadline of the present call;
- In case of foreign academic degrees, applicants must submit the recognition of such degrees and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, or alternatively, a declaration on the honour saying that they have obtained the recognition in Portugal for their undergraduate or master's degree before the application deadline of the present call;
- Motivation letter;
- Letters of recommendation (optional, maximum 2);
- Detailed work plan and schedule;
- Collaboration plan with the CEI-Iscte.

All application materials and all documents associated with it, including letters of motivation and recommendation, must be in Portuguese or English.

With regards to the eligibility criteria mentioned above, please bear in mind the following

- In case of foreign academic degrees, and to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to applicants with national and foreign academic degrees, it is mandatory to submit the recognition of such degrees and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale.
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas, and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, can be issued by a Portuguese public higher education institution, or by the Directorate General for Higher Education (Direção Geral do Ensino Superior, DGES) in case of automatic recognition. For further information, please visit the DGES portal at <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en>.
- Eligible candidates must have concluded their undergraduate or master's degrees until the application deadline of the present call. If applicants do not yet have a certificate proving the conclusion of their academic degree, a declaration on the applicant's honour saying that they have concluded their undergraduate or master's degree before the application deadline of the present call will be accepted. In any case, the grant can only be awarded after the applicant presents a valid certificate of their academic degrees.

5. Work plan and scientific supervision

The work plan submitted must follow the norms contained in the FCT Doctoral Research Scholarship Competition, namely including:

- Title of the work;
- Designation of the doctoral program to be attended under the application;
- Four keywords that best identify the content of the work plan;
- Indication of the United Nations 2030 Agenda Objectives framing the work plan (available at <https://ciencia.iscte-iul.pt/sustainable-development-goals>);
- Adequacy of the supervisor(s) and host institution (300 words);
- Summary (150 words);
- Literature review (500 words);
- Description (1000 words);
- Alignment of the proposal with the priority lines of investigation of CEI-Iscte (300 words);
- Expected results (200 words);
- Schedule;
- References (maximum 30).

6. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation takes into account the quality of the work plan, the merit of the candidate, the merit of the supervision, the collaboration plan with the activity developed by CEI-Iscte, and an interview. Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale of 0 to 100 on each of the following evaluation criteria:

Criterion A - Quality of the work plan, with a weight of 35%:

Subcriterion A1 – Relevant and updated literature review, with a weight of 12.5%;

Subcriterion A2 - Quality and feasibility of the methodology, with a weight of 12.5%;

Subcriterion A3 - Expected results, with a weight of 5%;

Subcriterion A4 - Alignment with the priority research lines of CEI-Iscte, with a weight of 5%.

Criterion B - Merit of the candidate, with a weight of 30%:

Subcriterion B1 - Academic degrees obtained, with a weight of 10%.

Subcriterion B2 - Publications with scientific evaluation, with a weight of 10%;

Subcriterion B3 - Participation in funded research projects, with a weight of 5%;

Subcriterion B4 - Professional experience aligned with the research theme, with a weight of 3%;

Subcriterion B5 - Other scientific activities, with a weight of 2%.

Criterion C - Merit of the supervision, with a weight of 5%:

Subcriterion C1 - Alignment of the theme with the work and curriculum of the supervisor, with a weight of 5%.

Criterion D - Plan of collaboration with the activity led by CEI-Iscte, with a weight of 10%:

Subcriterion D1 - Co-organization of scientific events, with a weight of 4%;

Subcriterion D2 - Dissemination activities, with a weight of 3%;

Subcriterion D3 – Participation in networks and international collaborations, with a weight of 3%.

Criterion E - Interview, with a weight of 20%:

Subcriterion E1 - Motivation and organization, with a weight of 5%;

Subcriterion E2 - Knowledge of the proposed work theme, with a weight of 5%;

Subcriterion E3 - Knowledge of the scientific methodology, with a weight of 5%;

Subcriterion E4 - Communication skills, with a weight of 5%.

Applicants shall be ordered according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the five criteria, translated by the following formula:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (0,35 \times A) + (0,30 \times B) + (0,05 \times C) + (0,10 \times D) + (0,20 \times E)$$

7. Evaluation

The evaluation panel of applications consists of the following members :

- Doctor Ana Lúcia Sá, assistant professor (panel coordinator)
- Doctor Luís Nuno Rodrigues, full professor
- Doctor Edalina Sanches, invited assistant professor.

In the event of a conflict of interest of a member of the effective jury, they shall be replaced by one of the alternate members:

- Doctor Helena Carvalho, full professor
- Doctor Pedro Seabra, integrated researcher.

The evaluation panel shall assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria set out in this Call. All panel members, including the coordinator, commit to respect a set of responsibilities essential to 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 assured in order to ensure the independence of all opinions produced.

Panel members, including the panel coordinator, may not be involved in the evaluation of applications in which they are named as supervisors or co-supervisors, being replaced in the evaluation of those by an alternate member.

For each application, a final evaluation form shall be produced by the panel in which, in a clear, consistent and consistent manner, the arguments leading to the classifications assigned to each of the evaluation criteria and subcriteria are presented.

Minutes of the panel meetings shall be produced at the responsibility of all its members. The minutes and annexes must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of all applications excluded with respective reasoning;
- Final evaluation forms for each candidate;
- Provisional list of classification and serialisation of candidates, in descending order of the final classification, of all applications evaluated by the panel;
- Conflict of interest statements of all panel members;
- Any voting delegations and powers of attorney in case of justified absences.

8. Publication of results

The results of the evaluation are communicated via e-mail to the email address used by the applicant to submit the application/indicated in the application.

9. Review and appeal procedures

After communication of the provisional list of the results of the evaluation, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to, willingly, request a review of the preliminary results, in accordance with Articles 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure. The final decision shall be given after the analysis of any review requests.

An appeal may be lodged within 15-30 working days, counting from the date of publication of results. This appeal must be addressed to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated competence.

10. Requirements for awarding of the grant

The grant contracts are signed directly with the FCT.

The following documents must be provided, following the award of the grant, in order to proceed with the grant contract:

- Copy of ID document, fiscal identification document, and when applicable, social security document;
- Copy of certificates for all academic degrees;
- Submission of the recognition of foreign degrees and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable;
- Project proposal (work plan);
- Document proving enrolment in the doctoral program mentioned above;
- Declaration of the supervisor(s), taking responsibility for the work plan supervision;
- Document of the institution hosting the fellow, accepting to host them and ensuring all the material conditions for the good development of the research work plan;
- Document proving that the grantee complies with the exclusive dedication regimen, as required by FCT.

Failure to submit the necessary documents to complete the grant contract within 6 months after the communication of the preliminary results will void the grant award.

The Grant is also dependent on:

- Compliance with the requirements set out in this Notice;
- The results of scientific evaluations;
- Non-unjustified non-compliance with the obligations of the grantee under a previous scholarship contract financed, directly or indirectly, by FCT;
- Financial capacity of the FCT.

11. Payment

The payment of the scholarship will start after the candidate returns the duly signed scholarship contract, which must occur within a maximum of 15 working days from the date of its receipt.

The grant allocated under this competition will be financed by the FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under PORTUGAL2020, through, inter alia, the Northern Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2020), the Regional Operational Programme of the Centre (Centre 2020) and the Alentejo Regional Operational Programme (Alentejo 2020), in accordance with the regulatory provisions laid down for this purpose.

12. Grant components

A monthly maintenance allowance is awarded at the grantee in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI (<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>), with a value of 1,144.64€. The grant may also include other components, in accordance with Article 18 of the RBI and the amounts provided for in Annex II.

All grantees receive personal accident insurance in relation to research activities.

All grantees who are not covered by any social protection scheme may exercise the right to social security by adhering to the voluntary social insurance scheme, in accordance with the Code of Contributory Schemes of the Social Security System, with ISCTE being responsible for charges resulting from those contributions, in accordance with Article 10th of the EBI.

13. Payments of grant components

Payments due to the grantee are made, on the first business day of the month, by bank transfer to the details provided by the grantee.

Payments of the components of registrations, enrollment or tuition fees are made by the FCT directly to the national institution where the grantee is enrolled for his doctoral program.

14. Terms and conditions for Grant renewal

The renewal of the doctoral grant depends on an application to be submitted by the grantee, within 60 working days prior to the date of the renewal, accompanied by the following documents:

- Declaration of the supervisor(s) and host institution(s) with regards to the completion of the work plan with an evaluation of its activities;
- Updated declaration of compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- Document proving the renewal of the registration in the cycle of studies leading to doctoral degree.

15. Information and publicity of granted financing

All R&D activities directly or indirectly financed by the grant, including all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided for in the grant, must expressly mention the financial support from the FCT and the European Social Fund, including the Northern Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2020), the Regional Operational Program of the Centre (Centre 2020) and the Alentejo Regional Operational Programme (Alentejo 2020). For this purpose, the insignia of FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU shall be entered in the documents relating to these actions, in accordance with the graphic standards of each operational program.

The dissemination of research results shall comply with the rules of open access to data, publications and other research results in force in the FCT.

All grants, and in particular in the case of actions supported by EU, namely the ESF, may be subjected to follow-up and control activities by national and EU bodies in accordance with applicable legislation, and grantees are required to collaborate and provide any requested information, including surveys and evaluation studies, even past the end of the grant.

16. Non-discrimination and equal access policy

The FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so no candidate may be privileged, benefited, impaired or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty, because of their ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

17. Legal framework

The current competition is governed by this Notice Call, by the FCT Research Scholarship Regulations, approved by Regulation no. 950/2019, published in the II Series of the DR of December 16, 2019, by the Statute of the Research Fellow approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current drafting, and by other applicable national and European legislation.

Number of places available: 1

Type of contract: Other

Country: Portugal

Location: Lisboa

Host institution: CEI-Iscte

Application deadline: April 15th 2022