

Call notice for PhD studentships

The Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear (IPFN) of Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa, opens a call to award 3 (three) research grants in the framework of the Advanced Programme in Plasma Science and Engineering (APPLAuSE), hereinafter referred to as PhD Studentships, in the area of Physics and Engineering Physics, complying with the provisions of the Foundation for Science and Technology Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI), and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The studentships will be financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) within the collaboration Protocol for Financing the Multiannual Plan for Scholarships for Doctoral Students, signed between FCT and the R&D Unit Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear, UID/50010/2020.

1. APPLICATION

The call is open from 15 November 2022 to 3 February 2023 at 17h00 (WEST/Lisbon time).

The applications and all the supporting documents described in the present Call Notice, must be submitted in the following link

https://fenix.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/publico/genericApplications.do?method=viewApplicationPeriod&applicationPeriodId=1132849163927571&_request_checksum_=09822d806e7c79a48f7edb9cae4602a62a92c715

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

Providing false statements or committing acts of plagiarism is grounds for exclusion of the application without prejudice to other sanctioning measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

PhD studentship grants are intended to fund the research activities of the studentship holder, carried out to earn an academic doctoral degree at a Portuguese University, with the possibility of a cotutelle with a foreign university, if applicable.

The research activities leading to the doctoral degree will take place at IPFN, under the supervision of one of its integrated members. IPFN will be the host institution for the studentship holders, without prejudice to the work being carried out in collaboration with other national (studentship in the country) or foreign institutions (mixed studentship). The research activities of the selected studentship holders must be included in the activity plan and strategy of IPFN, and carried out within the scope of one of the following Doctoral Programmes:

- PhD programme in Physics, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa
- PhD programme in Engineering Physics, Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa
- PhD programme in Physics, Universidade da Madeira

As a rule, the duration of the PhD studentship is annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months), and a studentship cannot be granted for a period of less than 3 consecutive months. In the case part of the work is done outside IPFN, the work period taking place at another institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. STUDENTSHIP RECIPIENTS

The PhD studentships are intended for applicants enrolled or for applicants who satisfy the necessary requirements to enrol in one of the Doctoral Programmes set out in point 2 of this Call Notice, and who intend to carry out research activities leading to a doctoral degree at IPFN, or at an associated host institution.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

4.1 Applicant's Admissibility Requirements

The following individuals may apply for these studentships:

- National citizens or citizens of other member states of the European Union;
- Citizens of third-party states;
- Stateless individuals;
- Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for the PhD studentship, it is necessary

- To have a bachelor's ("licenciado") or master's degree in Physics, Engineering Physics, or in a related area;
- To habitually and permanently reside in Portugal at the moment of the start of the work period abroad, if the work plan associated with the studentship is partially carried out at foreign institutions (mixed studentships); this condition is applicable to both national and foreign citizens;
- To not have benefited from a PhD studentship, or business PhD studentship, funded directly by FCT, regardless of its duration;
- To not have a PhD degree;

4.2 Application's Admissibility Requirements

It is absolutely necessary, under penalty of not being admitted to the call, to attach the following documents to the application:

- Copy of the identity card/citizenship card/pass;
- *Applicant's Curriculum Vitae*;
- Certificates of all academic degrees held by the candidate specifying the final grades and, if possible, the

grades obtained on all courses taken. Alternatively, a declaration of honour signed by the applicant stating that a first cycle (bachelor), “licenciado” or master’s degree will be concluded before the deadline for application;

- Registration of recognition of the academic degrees awarded by foreign institutions and registration of the conversion of the corresponding classifications to the Portuguese scale or, alternatively, a declaration of honour signed by the applicant stating that the registration for recognition of the foreign academic degrees was requested before the deadline for application;
- A motivation letter;
- Two confidential recommendation letters;
- The application, the letter of motivation and the recommendation letters, must be written in English; the other associated documents must be written in Portuguese or in English.

The following should be noted regarding the above mentioned admissibility requirements:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to guarantee that the principle of equal treatment is used to applicants who hold foreign and national academic degrees, these degrees must be recognized and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese classification scale must be completed or requested until the end of the application period.
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese classification scale can be obtained from any public higher education institution, or from the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, only in case of automatic recognition). Regarding this matter, please consult the DGES portal through the following website: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en>.
- Only applicants who have completed the cycle of studies leading to the bachelor (“licenciado”), 1st cycle or master’s degree by the end of the application period will be admitted. If applicants do not have the certificate of completion of a degree at a national educational institution yet, a declaration of honour from applicants will be accepted stating that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the call by the end of the application period. Granting of the studentship will always be dependent on the presentation of proof of the academic qualifications required to award the studentship.

5. WORKPLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION OF THE STUDENTSHIP

The research activities and scientific supervision of the studentship, to be precisely defined in the Thesis Project in the framework of the APPLAuSE programme, should be aligned with the scope of the strategic plan and research activities of the “Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear” Research Unit.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND COMPENSATION

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation process assesses the applicant’s merit, curriculum and letter of motivation, and his/her performance at an eventual interview, conducted in English either in person or by videoconference.

Applications considered admissible will be evaluated according to a score from 0 to 5 (zero to five) in each of the following evaluation criteria:

- Criterium A – Applicant’s Merit, with a weight of 40%;

Subcriterion A1 – Academic career, (reflecting the academic degree grades), with a weight of 80%; candidates who have finished their higher academic degree (BSc. or MSc.) before 1 June 2021 will be given 0 points in this sub-criterion A1, the other candidates will be evaluated using the following tables:

• Bachelor + Master or Integrated Master		Only Bachelor		Only Master	
Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score
≥18	5,0	≥17	3,5	≥17	3,0
17	4,5	16	3,0	16	2,5
16	4,0	15	2,5	15	2,0
15	3,5	14	2,0	14	1,5
14	3,0	<14	1,5	<14	1,0
<14	2,5				

- Subcriterion A2 – Adequacy of the Academic Degree, with a weight of 20%:

a) Bachelor (“Licenciatura”) or Master’s degree in Physics, Engineering Physics or a related area;

- Criterium B – Curriculum, with a weight of 20%;
 - Subcriterion B1 –Detailed analysis of the Curriculum vitae, scientific publications and experience in the area of the Doctoral Program, with a weight of 50%;
 - Subcriterion B2 –Reference Letters, with a weight of 50%;
- Criterium C – Motivation Letter, with a weight of 20%;
- Criterium D – Interview, either in person or by videoconference, conducted in English, with a weight of 20%, for the applicants whose intermediate classification is above three points. The intermediate classification is computed by the formula:

$$\text{Intermediate classification} = (0,5 \times A) + (0,25 \times B) + (0,25 \times C)$$

- For the final studentship award decision process, the applicants will be ranked according to the following weighted formula that takes into account the criteria A, B, D and C:

$$\text{Final classification} = (0,4 \times A) + (0,2 \times B) + (0,2 \times C) + (0,2 \times D)$$

In the event of a tie in the final rank, the order of the candidates will be determined on the basis of the

classifications obtained in each of the evaluation criteria according to the following order of importance: criterium A, criterium B, criterium D and criterium C.

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

- Applicants with degrees issued by foreign higher education institutions will be assessed using the same criteria as applicants with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, provided they present, in their application, proof of recognition of academic degrees and of the conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese classification scale under the terms of the applicable legislation;
- Applicants with recognized foreign degrees who do not show proof of conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese classification scale will be awarded the minimum classification in the subcriterion A1 (2.5 points for the “Bachelor+Master” case, 1.5 points for the “Only Bachelor” case, and 1.0 points for the “Only Master” case);
- In any case, studentship contracts with applicants having degrees issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final grade, as indicated above.

Applicants whose application is evaluated with a final classification below 3 points are not eligible for the studentships.

6.2 Disability Compensation

Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 90% shall have a bonus of 10% on criterion A – _Merit of the Applicant. Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 60% and under 90%, shall have a bonus of 5% in this criterion. The degree of disability **must** be duly proven by submitting, in the application form, the document Atestado de Incapacidade Multiuso, issued according to the Decree-Law no. 202/96, of 23 of October, in its current version.

7. EVALUATION

The evaluation panel has the following members:

- Bruno Miguel Soares Gonçalves, IPFN, Instituto Superior Técnico (panel coordinator)
- Coordinator of the PhD programmes of the Physics Department of Instituto Superior Técnico
- Luís Paulo da Mota Capitão Lemos Alves, IPFN, Instituto Superior Técnico
- Vasco António Dinis Leitão Guerra, IPFN, Instituto Superior Técnico
- Gonçalo Figueira, IPFN, Instituto Superior Técnico
- Marta Fajardo, IPFN, Instituto Superior Técnico
- Carlos Alberto Nogueira Garcia da Silva, IPFN, Instituto Superior Técnico

The evaluation panel will assess all applications according to the evaluation criteria mentioned in the present Call Notice.

During the evaluation process, all members of the panel, including its coordinator, commit to respect a set of responsibilities, such as the duty of impartiality, of declaration of any conflicts of interest (COI) and of confidentiality. At all stages of the evaluation process, confidentiality is absolutely protected and assured in a way that guarantees the independence of the assessments of the applications.

Members of the panel, including its coordinator, should declare a COI in case they are potential advisors or co-advisors of applicants.

For each application, the panel will produce an evaluation form where, in a clear, coherent and consistent way, the arguments leading to the given classifications for each of the evaluation criteria and subcriteria are presented, and where any eventual compensations are explicitly described.

The panel meetings must produce minutes for which every panel member is responsible.

The minutes and their attachments must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all the members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of the excluded applications and the corresponding justifications;
- Methodology adopted by the panel to handle exceptional cases;
- Final evaluation forms of the applicants;
- Provisional ranking of the evaluated applications, by decreasing order of the final classification;
- COI declarations of the panel members;
- Possible delegations of voting and competences due to justified absence.

8. PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The evaluation results are communicated by email to the email address used by the applicant in the submission or as indicated elsewhere in the application.

9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS, CLAIMS AND APPEALS

After communication of the provisional rankings, the applicants have 10 business days, if they so wish, to give their opinion in the preliminary hearing of the interested parties, according to Articles no. 121 and following the Administrative Procedures Code.

The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of the arguments presented in the preliminary hearing of the interested parties. The final decision may be claimed within 15 business days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 business days, both counted from the respective notification of the results. Applicants who choose to submit a claim must address their arguments to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated competence. Applicants who prefer to submit an appeal must address their arguments to the FCT Board of Directors.

10. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTSHIP GRANTING

Research studentship contracts are signed directly with FCT.

The following documents must be sent, when the studentship is awarded, for the purposes of signing:

- a) Copy of the personal identification, tax and social security, when applicable, document(s)¹;
- b) Copy of the academic degree certificates;
- c) Work plan
- d) Presentation of the registration record for the recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- e) Document proving enrolment in one of the the Doctoral Programmes identified in this Call Notice;
- f) Statement by the supervisor(s) or by the APPLAuSE programme Director assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, pursuant to Article 5-A of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- g) Document proving the applicant's acceptance issued by the institution(s) where the research activities will take place, guaranteeing the conditions necessary for its successful development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties provided in Article 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- h) Document declaring that the work will be carried out under exclusivity regime (an updated template will be made available by FCT).

Granting of the studentship is still dependent on:

- The compliance with the requirements listed in this Call Notice;
- The result of the scientific evaluation;
- The absence of unjustified non-compliance with studentship holder duties under a previous scholarship contract financed, directly or indirectly, by FCT;
- FCT's available budget.

Failure to deliver any of the documents necessary to complete the contracting procedure for the studentship, within 6 months of the date of communication of the conditional decision to award the grant, implies the expiration of the referred grant and the termination of the process.

11. FUNDING

Studentship payment will begin after the applicant returns the signed studentship contract, which should occur within a maximum period of 15 business days from the date received. The studentships granted under this call will be financed by FCT with funds from the State Budget and, whenever eligible, with funds from the European

¹ These documents can be delivered, if the applicant so wishes, in person at the financing institution who will keep the elements relevant for the contract celebration, including the identification document, fiscal and social security numbers, as well as their expiration dates.

Social Fund, to be made available under the PORTUGAL 2020 program, through the Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020), Programme Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020) and Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), according to the respective regulatory provisions established for this purpose.

12. STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

Studentship recipients receive a monthly maintenance allowance, in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI. The studentship may also include additional allowances, according to Article 18 of the RBI and the values indicated in Annex II of the RBI.

All studentship holders will benefit from a personal accident insurance for research activities, supported by FCT. All studentship holders who are not beneficiaries of any social protection regime can use the right to social security through adherence to the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Schemes of the Social Security System. FCT will ensure the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and with the limits provided in Article 10 of the EBI.

13. PAYMENTS OF STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS

Payments due to the studentship holder are made through bank transfer to the respective account identified by the studentship holder. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first business day of each month.

Registration, enrolment, or tuition fees are paid by FCT directly to the national institution where the studentship holder is enrolled in the PhD.

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the studentship always depends on the application submitted by the holder, within 60 business days prior to the renewal start date, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) declaration(s) issued by the supervisor(s) and by the host organization(s) attesting the progress of the studentship holder's work plan and the evaluation of his/her activities;
- b) updated document proving compliance with the exclusivity regime;
- c) document proving renewal of enrolment in the cycle of studies leading to the doctoral degree.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

All R&D activities carried out by the studentship holder, directly or indirectly financed by the studentship grant, namely, all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as thesis, must mention the financial support from FCT and the European Social Fund, namely, the Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (Norte 2020), Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020), Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020). For this purpose, the FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU logos must be included in the documents referring

to these actions, following the rules of each operational program.

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

For all studentships, and in particular in the case of actions supported by European funding, namely from ESF, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by the national and European entities in accordance with the applicable legislation in this matter. Studentship holders must therefore collaborate and provide all of the requested information, which includes answering surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the studentship grant may have 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, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty, namely, due to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, origin or social status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnic or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

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

Lisboa, 27 October 2022