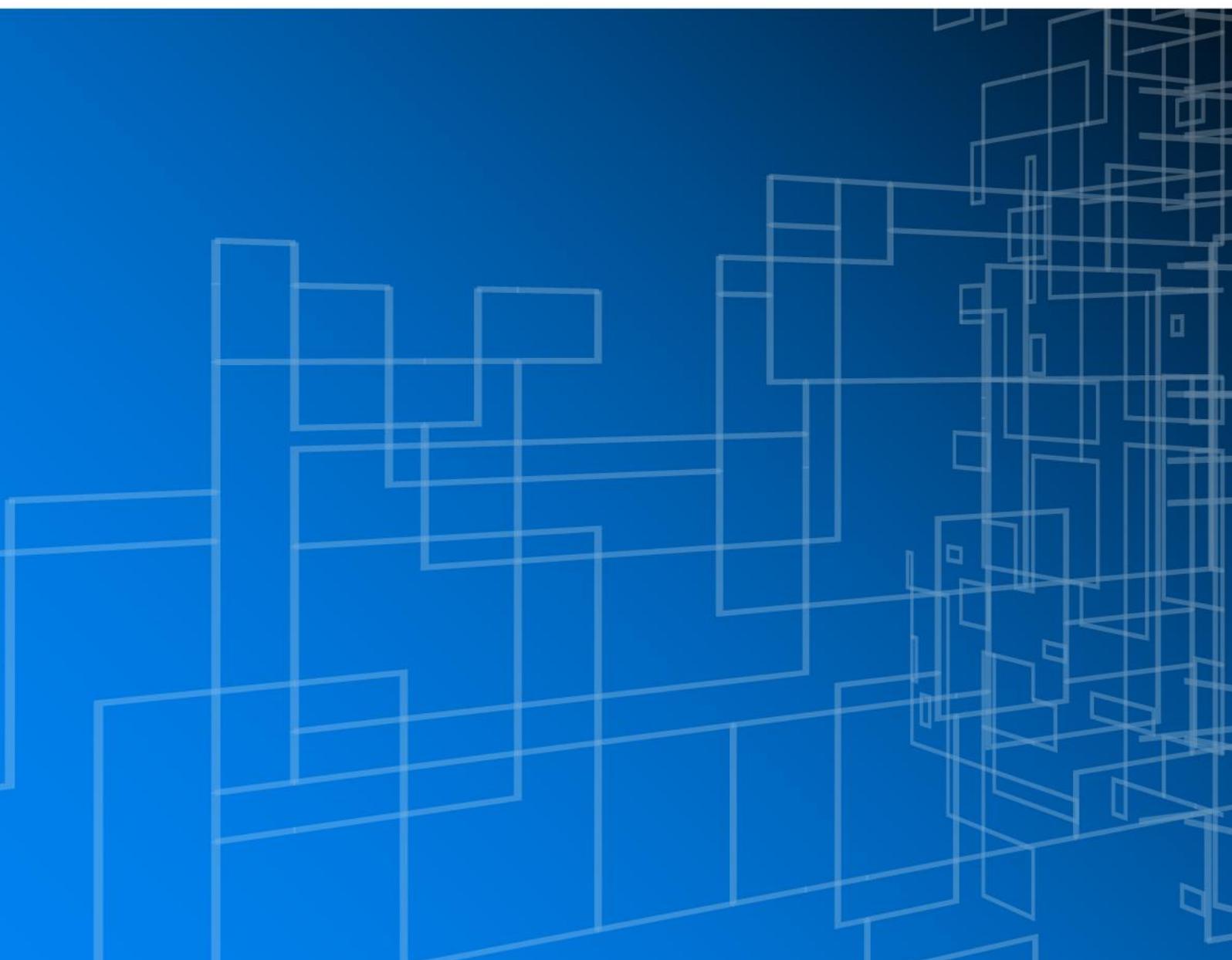


Call for Exploratory Projects in all Scientific Domains 2023

Guide for Peer Reviewers

January 2024



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1. About FCT

FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) is the Portuguese public agency under the responsibility of the Ministry for Science, Technology and Higher Education that supports science, technology, and innovation, in all scientific domains.

FCT's mission is to continuously promote the advancement of knowledge in science and technology in Portugal, following high international standards in quality and competitiveness, and encourage its dissemination and contribution to society and to economic growth.

FCT pursues its mission by funding, through competitive calls with peer review, fellowships, studentships and research contracts for scientists, research projects, research centres and infrastructures. FCT ensures Portugal's participation in international scientific organisations, fosters the participation of the scientific community in international projects and promotes knowledge transfer between Research and Development (R&D) centres and industry. Working closely with international organisations, FCT coordinates public policy for the Information and Knowledge Society in Portugal and ensures the development of national scientific computing resources.

The results of FCT accomplishments are, the outcome of the work carried out by individual scientists, research groups and institutions funded by FCT.

2. Call for Exploratory Projects in all Scientific Domains 2023

The consolidation and reinforcement of the National System of Science and Technology (NSST) constitute a priority of the national policy for science and technology. It aims at increasing the national and international competitiveness of science and technology and its contribution to innovation and transfer of knowledge and at complying to the global aspirations defined in *Agenda 2030: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. In this context, it is particularly relevant the promotion and strengthening of the scientific and technological institutions through the participation of research teams in Projects.

Considering these goals, FCT launches the Call for **Exploratory Research Projects (PeX)**, which aims at funding scientific or technological research projects in all scientific domains that are intended to explore ideas or concepts with high level of originality and/or ground-breaking potential.

The **beneficiary entities** can only apply **individually** and must be a legal entity belonging to the non-business entities of the R&D System, namely: higher education institutions, their institutes, and R&D units; state, international or associated laboratories with a head office in Portugal; non-profit private institutions whose main object is R&D activity, including **Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab)** and **Centres for Technology and Innovation (CTI)**; other non-profit public and private institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

For this call, 20 million euros of national state budget are available to fund research projects that must meet the following requirements:

- The maximum duration of the grant is **18 months** (extendable for 6 months, if justified);
- The maximum funding for project is **50.000,00** euros.

All proposals, written in English, are submitted online via <https://myfct.fct.pt/> web platform (detailed information in Annex I).

The **Principal Investigator (PI)** is responsible for selecting, from the provided list (OECD's Revised Field of Science and Technology – FOS, adapted to the call), the set of **main scientific domain, area and subarea** which best classify their proposal, and must indicate up to four keywords that most accurately reflect the objectives and content of the proposed project. The scientific domain, area and subarea selection **determines the corresponding evaluation panel**, listed in Annex II. **Applications' transfer to a different panel is not allowed.**

The call is open from 22 December 2023 to 1 March 2024.

The support to be granted is non-refundable, applying the simplified cost option in the Lump Sum mode. The contribution is paid on presentation of evidence and results demonstrating the effective implementation of the approved project under the contractual terms.

Each applicant can only submit one application as PI.

A **maximum of up to 4 Core CVs** can be presented: for the **PI** and **3 other team members** (researchers considered as more relevant for the project).

Evaluators should **only** use the **PI Narrative CV** and the **Team CV Synopsis** to assess the scientific merit of the team. Any detailed information provided in the attached CIENCIAVITAE CVs is to be used as a complement.

3. Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of the application will focus on the relevance and quality of following criteria:

- A. Scientific merit (A1) and innovative nature (A2) of the project from an international standpoint – **40%**;
- B. Scientific merit of the PI and the research team (B1), including the impact of project execution in developing the PI's career and/or research (B2) – **35%**;
- C. Feasibility of the workplan and the expected indicators (C1), as well as the budget adequacy (C2) – **25%**.

3.1 Criterion A (40%)

This criterion aims to assess the scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international standpoint, considering two sub-criteria:

- A1 – Scientific merit of the project (50%)
- A2 – Innovative nature of the proposal (50%)

A1 – Scientific merit of the project (50%)

This sub-criterion is intended to evaluate the scientific merit of the proposal, considering the following dimensions, in an integrated manner:

- Relevance and clear identification of the project objectives and challenges addressed based on the state-of-the-art.
- Potential contribution of the research project to the advancement of knowledge.
- Potential impact of the project's outcomes on the economic, technological, and societal dimensions.

A2 – Innovative nature of the proposal (50%)

The sub-criterion A2 aims to assess the innovative nature of the proposal, considering the following aspects:

- Originality of the project proposed and **breakthrough potential beyond the current state-of-the-art** (e.g., novel concepts or development between or across disciplines).
- Methodological innovation and replication potential.

3.2 Criterion B (35%)

The criterion B evaluates the scientific merit of the Principal Investigator and the research team, analysing their curricula in an integrated way and valuing the quality of their research achievements, and analyses the relevance of the project execution for the PI's career, through 2 sub-criteria:

- B1 – Scientific merit of the Principal Investigator and the research team (60%)
- B2 – Impact of project execution for PI's career progression and/or research (40%)

According to the FCT's commitment to The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment, as set out by the Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), evaluation panels are advised not to use metrics as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual outputs and applicant's contributions.

When assessing this criterion, the evaluation panel should also consider the information provided by the applicant in terms of their quality, relevance, and impact, rather than in a quantitative way and its specificities in terms of the scientific area(s) and subarea(s) of each application.

B1 – Scientific merit of the Principal Investigator and the research team (60%)

Sub-criterion B1 aims at assessing the scientific merit of the Principal Investigator, his/her contributions to science and society, and the research team profile by focusing on the information provided in the Narrative CV and Team CV synopsis fields (the CIÊNCIAVITAE CV, written in English, should only be used to confirm the information provided in those fields), considering the following parameters:

- Career profile of the PI (education, key qualifications, professional path and periods of leave from research, such as parental leave, long-term absence due to illness, volunteering, etc.).
- Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge, including publications, key data sets, software, intellectual property (patents, licences, trademarks, copyrights, novel assays and reagents), conference presentations, research and policy publications, or other scientific, technological, cultural or artistic achievements.
- Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams, including project participation, leadership or management, supervision of students, collaborative initiatives, and team support.
- Contributions to the research community and the broader society.
- Scientific experience, productivity and skills of the research team to adequately execute the proposed project in its specific area, **focusing on the last 5 years of activities**, and considering the team's configuration and the availability and commitment of its members.

B2 – Impact of project execution for PI's career progression and/or research (40%)

The sub-criterion B2 focus on how **this grant is timely for the PI** and the impact of the proposal in his/her career and/or research path, considering the following:

- The PI's current career stage.
- The PI's current research lines and path, and the degree of novelty regarding other previous challenges addressed by the PI.
- Timeliness and career development potential in areas such as scientific production and dissemination, team and project leadership, engagement of students/young researchers, and the ability to enable future research and to attract funding or other resources.

3.3 Criterion C (25%)

This criterion is intended to evaluate the feasibility of the project considering the adequacy of its several dimensions, including the proposed objectives, team, resources, and budget to achieve the expected outputs, divided into two sub-criteria:

- C1 – Feasibility of the work plan and proposed indicators (50%)
- C2 – Budget adequacy (50%)

C1 – Feasibility of the work plan and proposed indicators (50%)

Sub-criterion C1 assess the feasibility of the project considering the proposed objectives and expected outcomes, taking into account the following:

- Feasibility of the research project, considering the theoretical framework, the proposed research methodology and innovation, particularly its planned tasks and deliverables.
- Clear identification of the proposed activities and timelines, institutional and management resources of the Principal Contractor, and PI's and team members commitment to the project.
- Valuation of the potential of the predicted indicators (e.g., publications, communications, reports, seminars and conferences organization, patents, etc.).
- If applicable, analysis of the risks associated, including ethical issues, to the different stages of the project should be considered, with special focus on the identified critical points and the corresponding contingency plan.

C2 – Budget adequacy (50%)

Sub-criterion C2 intends to analyse the reasonability of estimated costs associated to each task of the project considering:

- The adequacy and consistency of the estimated costs (Lump Sum) to accomplish the objectives.

4. Scoring System

The scoring system uses a **9-point scale, using 0.1 increments**. The maximum score is 9 and the minimum is 1, as presented in Table I.

Table I – Qualitative descriptors associated to the 9-point scale

Evaluation	Score	Strengths & Weaknesses
Excellent	9	Exceptionally strong with no weaknesses
Very good	8	Very strong with some negligible weaknesses
	7	Strong with some minor weaknesses
Good	6	Some strengths with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Some strengths but with at least one moderate weakness
Adequate	4	Few strengths with several minor weaknesses
	3	Few strengths and major weaknesses
Poor	2	Very few strengths and serious weaknesses
	1	Cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information

The Merit of the Project (MP) is given by:

$$MP = 0.40 (0.50 \cdot A1 + 0.50 \cdot A2) + 0.35 (0.60 \cdot B1 + 0.40 \cdot B2) + 0.25 (0.50 \cdot C1 + 0.50 \cdot C2)$$

Criteria A, B and C are scored using a 9-point scale system (1 – minimum; 9 – maximum) with **decimal numbers**. The final score of MP is rounded to two-decimal places.

In cases where the information provided in the application does not allow a sustained score for a specific evaluation criterion, a score of 1.0 (one) will be assigned.

For a proposal to be eligible for funding, the following **minimum score** is required:

- **MP ≥ 5.00 points**

The **eligible applications will be ranked** by the evaluation panel **by decreasing order** of the **MP score**.

In case of ties (projects with the same MP score), the **ratings assigned to sub-criteria A2, B1, A1, B2, C1 and C2** will be used **sequentially and by decreasing order** to provide the final ranking of the projects.

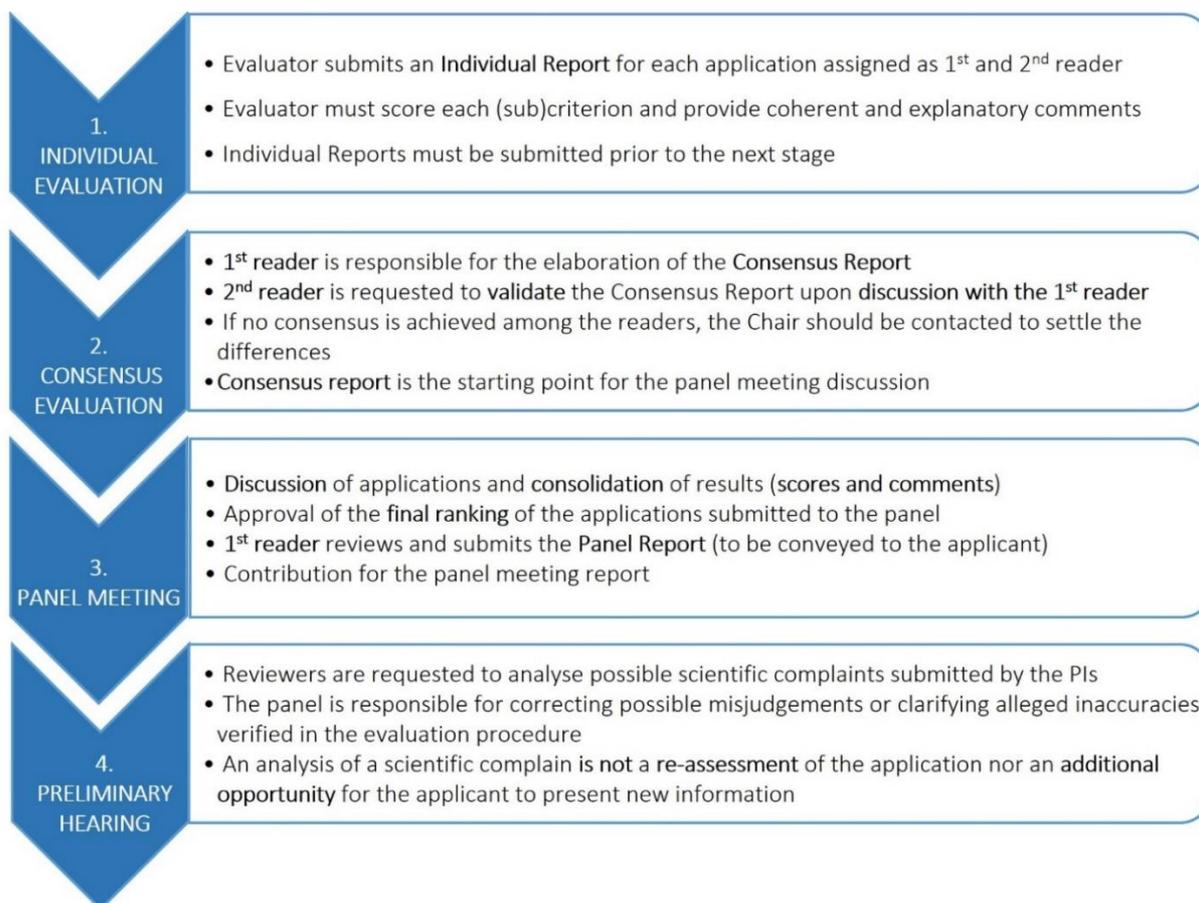
5. Evaluation Process

5.1 Constitution of the Evaluation Panel

- The evaluation panel is constituted by experts affiliated with foreign institutions, independent and of recognized merit, considering the number and the scientific areas of the applications, an adequate gender balance and a fair geographic and institutional distribution of evaluators.
- The panel has a **Chair** who is **responsible for the following tasks**:
 - Ensure that the evaluation process is carried out transparently, independently and fairly.
 - Assign each application to two panel members (1st and 2nd readers), considering any declared **Conflict of Interest (Col)**, as well as the **matching of scientific expertise** within the topic of the application.
 - Keep the evaluation process within the defined timeframe and contact panel members in case of any delay.
 - Support the FCT team with the resolution of any Col identified during the evaluation process.
 - If necessary, assist FCT with the constitution of the panel by suggesting possible reviewers to be invited.
 - Suggest external reviewers to be invited by FCT to provide an assessment of an application, whenever a specific expertise is not covered by the panel.
 - Assure the quality of the reviewers' reports (particularly the Consensus and the Panel Reports) and alert them whenever not complying with the following: comments should be coherent with scores, considering the descriptors of the scoring system (see section 4), provide substantive arguments and identify both strengths and weaknesses for each evaluation (sub)criterion.
 - Moderate the Panel Meeting.
 - Prepare the panel meeting report that should address work methodology, conflicts of interest and final ranking.
 - Coordinate the support to be given to FCT and panel members during the period of preliminary hearings, if necessary.
- Depending on the panel's dimension and/or on broad spectra of subareas, a Co-Chair may be designated to assist the panel Chair.

5.2 Evaluation Stages

The evaluation process comprises **4 stages**:



5.3 Evaluation Timeline

The evaluation timeline is established by FCT's Board of Directors and conveyed to the evaluation panel Chair and members. The date of the final videoconference panel meeting of the panel is established in advance by FCT.

5.4 Feedback to be communicated to applicants

All the reviewers should comply with the following additional guidelines in the elaboration of the evaluation reports.

Each report must include:

- Score and comments for each evaluation criteria, including strengths and weaknesses.
- A comment on the proposed budget; suggested changes in the budget must be justified.
- A comment concerning ethical issues, if applicable.
- Confidential comments to the evaluation panel and /or FCT, if necessary.

Comments must:

- Be coherent with the scores considering the descriptors presented in Table I (section 4).
- Be clear and consistent, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the application for each (sub)criterion.
- Use dispassionate and analytical language, avoiding dismissive statements about the applicant, the proposed science, or the scientific field.
- Be impeccably polite.
- Address the proposed work plan and not the work the reviewers consider should have been planned.

Comments must not:

- Give a description or a summary of the application.
- Make use of the first person or equivalent: "I think..." or "This reviewer finds..."; alternatively, panel members are advised to use expressions such as "The panel ..." or "It is considered...".
- Ask questions, as the applicant will not be able to answer them.
- Provide recommendations or advice for improving the application.
- Have contradicting statements.
- Mention quantitative details that can easily originate factual mistakes.

The quality of the comments to be communicated to the applicants is of paramount importance to the evaluation process, therefore being a crucial task of the evaluation panel.

6. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

6.1 Confidentiality Statement

The confidentiality of written applications must be fully protected. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are asked not to copy, quote or otherwise use material contained in the applications. All reviewers are requested to accept a statement of confidentiality relative to the contents of the project applications and to the results of the evaluation.

Within the context of the call, a set of personal data are collected and the information regarding this are provided to the data supplier for compliance with the principles established in Regulation EU 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, 2016 (GDPR) and the 58/2019 Law from August 8, in the Application Guide.

6.2 Conflict of Interest (Col)

Disqualifying Conflict of Interest

With the present Call

Researchers are hindered to participate as Chair, Co-Chair, Panel member or External reviewer if they:

1. Have submitted any application as PI.
2. Have first-degree relationships, domestic partnership or are married with a PI of an application.

In a specific Panel

Researchers are hindered to participate as Chair, Co-Chair, Panel member or External reviewer in a panel in which they:

1. Participate in an application as team member or consultant.
2. Have first-degree relationships, domestic partnership or are married with a team member or consultant of an application.

With an application

Panel members cannot evaluate nor participate in the panel meeting discussion of an application in the following circumstances:

1. Personal or financial interest in the application's success.
2. Current or planned close scientific cooperation.
3. Research cooperation within the last three years before the opening date of the call, *e.g.*, joint publications.
4. Dependent employment relationship or supervisory relationship (*e.g.*, supervisor-student relationship up to and including the postdoctoral stage) within the three years before the opening date of the call.
5. Affiliation or pending transfer to any of the departments or research centres involved in the project.
6. Researchers who are active in a council or similar supervisory or advisory board of the applying institutions are excluded from participating in the review and decision-making process for applications involving these institutions.

Potential Conflict of Interest

The panel member should notify FCT and clarify if he/she is able to perform an unbiased evaluation or if the conflict should rather be considered as disqualifying. A potential conflict of interest exists in the following circumstances:

7. Relationships other than first-degree, marriage or domestic partnership; other personal ties or conflicts.
8. Participation in university bodies other than those listed under no. 6, *e.g.*, in scientific advisory committees in the research environment.
9. Preparation of an application or implementation of a project with a closely related research topic (competition).
10. Participating in an on-going scientific or inter-personal conflict with the applicant(s).

In case a conflict of interest is detected during the evaluation process, the reviewer is required to inform the panel Chair and the FCT team of this situation, so that the application may be swiftly reassigned. Depending on its nature, this information will be presented in the panel meeting report.

Annex I – Components of the Application

Applications must be written in English and are submitted online via a dedicated FCT Web Platform ([MyFCT](#)).

Multiple applications of the same project are not allowed. New applications grounded on a previous project should contain substantial modification and update.

Each application comprises the following sections:

General Data

Project Description

- Project Title (PT/EN) (**max. 255 characters**)
- Project acronym (**max. 15 characters**)
- Keywords (PT/EN) (**max. 4 keywords**)
- Main scientific area (Scientific Domain / Scientific Area / Scientific subarea)
- Timetable (start date and duration)

Institutions

Principal contractor

- Institution
- Research unit (**max. 3**)
- Institution description and its competencies for the development of the project (**max. 1500 characters**)

Collaborative Institutions

- Country
- Institution Name
- Institution description and its competencies for the development of the project (**max. 1500 characters**)

Research team

Principal Investigator

- Ciência ID
- Name
- Institution to which the PI is associated in the scope of the research project
- *Curriculum Vitae* (CIÊNCIAVITAE platform)

PI Narrative CV

- Career profile (**max. 2000 characters**)
- Contributions to Science and Society:
 - Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge (**max. 2000 characters**)
 - Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams (**max. 3000 characters**)

- Contributions to the research community and the broader society (**max. 3000 characters**)
- Selected outputs and/or activities (**max. 2500 characters**)
- Why would this grant be timely for me at this point in my career path and/or in my research? (**max. 3000 characters**)

Members

- Name / Ciência ID
- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project
- Role
- CV

Hirings (if applicable)

- Type
- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project

Consultants (if applicable)

- Name / Ciência ID
- CV
- Framework of consultant's participation (**max. 1000 characters**)

Team CV Synopsis (**max. 6000 characters**)

- Research team CV synopsis – *Provides the framework and skills of the research team and their coherence with the proposed work plan. It should focus on the last 5 years of effective scientific activity of the research team, indicating the most relevant scientific achievements of the research team and demonstrating its competence and skills in the area of the proposed project.*

Work plan

Abstract

- Abstract in Portuguese (**max. 5000 characters**)
- Abstract in English (**max. 5000 characters**)
- Abstract for publication (PT/EN), if different (**max. 5000 characters**)

State of the art and Objectives (**max. 6000 characters**)

Research plan and methods

- Research plan and methods (**max. 10000 characters**)
- Identify whether the work plan requires advanced computer resources to be provided by FCT (Y/N)
- Identify whether the work plan requires space in a research data repository to be provided by the FCT (Y/N)

Bibliographic references (max. 10000 characters)

Past publications (the most representative 5 publications of the team's work under this proposal)

- Order
- Publication (max. 600 characters)
- URL

Tasks

- Task denomination (max. 150 characters)
- Task description and expected results (max. 4000 characters)
- Assigned to
- Person*month
- Start date
- Duration (months)
- Deliverables and delivery dates (max. 2500 characters)
- Budgets:
 - Overall cost justification of the task (max. 2500 characters)
 - Amount requested for the task

Project timeline and management

- Milestones list
 - Denomination
 - Milestone description (max. 300 characters)
 - Tasks
 - Date
- Timeline (attached file)
- Management (max. 3000 characters)

Ethical issues (if applicable)

Ethical Issues (when applicable) are properly identified and addressed, according to the Ethics Self-Assessment Guide

- Are there Ethics Issues identified in this project?
- Select the ethical declarations you consider appropriate (if applicable)
- Justification (if applicable) (max. 3000 characters)

2030 Agenda

- Framework of the application for the United Nations SDG 2030 Agenda (up to 3 SDG)
- Framework justification (max. 3000 characters)

Other projects

List of the submitted proposals or approved projects (led by PI) through peer-review and initiated in the last 5 years (concluded or running projects)

- Project reference
- PI in actual application
- Project status

- Project title (in English)
- Principal contractor
- Funding entity
- Total funding
- Start date
- Duration (months)
- Relation with the current proposal – *list of the main objectives of the project that you consider relevant for this application (max. 2000 characters)*

Attachments

If needed, the PI may attach the following documents to the proposal: **support letters, formulas, schemes, diagrams, graphs or images**. No other documents than the ones previously mentioned should be considered in this section.

Indicators

Expected output indicators

- Description

Dissemination

- Dissemination actions of the scientific activity planned in the project (max. 3000 characters)

Budget (for detailed information about each item see Annex III)

Principal contractor

- Item
- Rationale for requested funding (max. 3000 characters)
- Year

Funding plan

- Global budget (automatic filling)
- Funding Plan (automatic filling)

Statement of Commitment of PI

Validate and submit

Annex II – Evaluation Panels

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea
Mathematics	Mathematics	Pure Mathematics
		Applied Mathematics
		Statistics and Probability
		Other Subareas of Mathematics
Computer and Information Sciences and Informatics	Computer and Information Sciences	Computer Sciences
		Information Sciences
		Bioinformatics
		Informatics
Physics	Physical Sciences	Atomic, Molecular and Chemical Physics
		Condensed Matter Physics
		Particles Physics
		Nuclear Physics
		Fluids and Plasma Physics
		Optics
		Acoustics
		Astronomy
Other Subareas of Physical Sciences		
Chemistry	Chemical Sciences	Organic Chemistry
		Inorganic Chemistry
		Physical Chemistry
		Polymer Science
		Electrochemistry
		Colloid Chemistry
		Analytical Chemistry
		Nuclear Chemistry
		Other Subareas of Chemical Sciences
	Basic Medicine	Medicinal Chemistry
Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering
		Architecture Engineering
		Construction Engineering
		Transport Engineering
		Municipal and Structural Engineering

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
		Robotics
		Automation and Control Systems
		Communication Engineering and Systems
		Telecommunications
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Systems	Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering
		Applied Mechanics
		Thermodynamics
		Aerospace Engineering
		Nuclear Engineering
		Audio Engineering and Reliability Analysis
		Engineering Systems
	Renewable Energies	
	Environmental Engineering	Marine Engineering
		Sea Vessels
Ocean Engineering		
Chemical Engineering	Chemical Engineering	Chemical Engineering
Materials Engineering	Materials Engineering	Chemical Process Engineering
		Materials Engineering
		Ceramics
		Coating and Films
		Composites
Paper and Wood		
Textiles		

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	
Bioengineering and Biotechnology	Medical Engineering	Medical Engineering	
		Medical Laboratory Technology	
	Industrial Biotechnology	Industrial Biotechnology	
		Bioprocessing Technologies, Biocatalysis and Fermentation	
		Bioproducts, Biomaterials, Bioplastics, Biofuels, Bio-derived Bulk and Fine Chemicals and Bio-derived Novel Materials	
	Medical Biotechnology	Health-related Biotechnology	
		Technologies - Manipulation of Cells, Tissues, Organs or the Whole Organisms	
		Technologies - Identification of the Functioning of DNA, Proteins and Enzymes and its relation with the Disease	
		Biomaterials	
		Medical Biotechnology related Ethics	
	Nanotechnology	Nanotechnology	Nanomaterials
			Nanoprocesses
Nano-Optics and Nanophotonics			
Modelling at Nanoscale			
Earth Sciences and Engineering	Environmental Engineering	Geological Engineering	
		Geotechnics	
		Petroleum Engineering, Energy and Fuels	
		Remote Sensing	
		Mining and Mineral Processing	
	Earth and Related Environmental Sciences	Geosciences, Multidisciplinary	
		Mineralogy	
		Paleontology	
		Geochemistry	
		Physical Geography	
		Geology	
		Volcanology	
		Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences	
		Climatic Research	
		Oceanography, Hydrology and Water Resources	
		Geophysics	

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea
Environmental Sciences	Earth and Related Environmental Sciences	Environmental Sciences
Environmental Biotechnology and Engineering	Environmental Engineering	Environmental Engineering
	Environmental Biotechnology	Environmental Biotechnology
		Bioremediation, Diagnostic Biotechnologies (DNA Chips and Biosensing Devices) in Environmental Management
		Environmental Biotechnology related Ethics
Biological Sciences	Biological Sciences	Plant Sciences and Botany
		Zoology, Ornithology, Entomology
		Marine Biology, Freshwater Biology and Limnology
		Ecology
		Biodiversity Conservation
		Biology
		Evolutionary Biology
		Behavioral Sciences Biology
		Mycology
Other Biological Topics		
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Agriculture
		Forestry
		Fishery
		Soil Science
		Horticulture and Viticulture
		Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Plant Protection

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea	
Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Agro-Food Biotechnology	Animal and Dairy Science	Animal and Dairy Science	
		Husbandry	
		Pets	
	Veterinary Science	Veterinary Science	
	Agricultural Biotechnology	Agricultural Biotechnology	Agricultural Biotechnology and Food Biotechnology
			GM Technology (Crops and Livestock) and Livestock Cloning
			Marker Assisted Selection
Diagnostics			
Other Engineering and Technologies	Other Engineering and Technologies	Biomass Feedstock Production Technologies, Biopharming	
		Agricultural Biotechnology related Ethics	
Experimental Biology and Biochemistry	Biological Sciences	Food and Beverages	
		Cell Biology	
		Biochemistry	
		Biochemical Research Methods	
		Biophysics	
		Genetics and Heredity	
		Reproductive Biology	
		Developmental Biology	
		Microbiology	
Molecular Biology			
Neurosciences	Basic Medicine	Neurosciences	
Basic Medicine	Basic Medicine	Anatomy and Morphology	
		Human Genetics	
		Pharmacology and Pharmacy	
		Toxicology	
		Physiology	
		Pathology	
		Oncobiology	
		Other Subareas of Basic Medicine	

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea
Clinical Medicine, Immunology and Infection	Basic Medicine	Immunology
	Health Sciences	Tropical Medicine
		Parasitology
		Infectious Diseases
		Andrology
		Obstetrics and Gynecology
		Pediatrics
		Cardiac and Cardiovascular Systems
		Peripheral Vascular Disease
		Hematology
		Respiratory Systems
		Critical Care Medicine and Emergency Medicine
		Anaesthesiology
		Orthopaedics
		Surgery
		Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging
		Transplantation
		Dentistry, Oral Surgery and Medicine
	Clinical Medicine	Dermatology and Venereal Diseases
		Allergy
		Rheumatology
		Endocrinology and Metabolism
		Gastroenterology and Hepatology
		Urology and Nephrology
		Oncology
		Ophthalmology
		Otorhinolaryngology
		Psychiatry
		Clinical Neurology
		Geriatrics and Gerontology
		General and Internal Medicine
	Other Clinical Medicine Subjects	
Integrative and Complementary Medicine		
Biological Sciences	Virology	
Other Medical Sciences	Forensic Science	

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea
Health and Sport Sciences	Health Sciences	Health Care Sciences and Services
		Health Policy and Services
		Nursing
		Nutrition, Dietetics
		Public and Environmental Health
		Epidemiology
		Occupational Health
		Sport and Fitness Sciences
		Social Biomedical Sciences
		Medical Ethics
		Substance Abuse
Psychology	Psychology	Psychology (including Human-Machine relations) Psychology, Special (including Therapy for Learning, Speech, Hearing, Visual and other Physical and Mental Disabilities)
Economics and Business	Economics and Business	Economics, Econometrics
		Industrial Relations
		Business and Management
Educational Sciences	Educational Sciences	Education, General (including Training, Pedagogy, Didactics)
		Education, Special (to Gifted Persons, those with Learning Disabilities)
Sociology	Sociology	Sociology
		Demography
		Anthropology
		Ethnology
		Social topics (Women's and Gender Studies; Social Issues; Family Studies, Social Work)
Law and Political Science	Law	Law, Criminology, Penology
		Other Subareas of Law
	Political Science	Political Science
		Public Administration
		Organisation Theory

Evaluation Panel	Scientific Area	Scientific Subarea
Social and Economic Geography	Social and Economic Geography	Environmental Sciences (Social Aspects)
		Cultural and Economic Geography
		Urban Studies (Planning and Development)
		Transport Planning and Social Aspects of Transport
		Other Subareas of Social and Economic Geography
Media and Communication	Media and Communications	Journalism
		Information Science (Social Aspects)
		Library Science
		Media and Socio-Cultural Communication
		Other Subareas of Media and Communications
History and Archaeology	History and Archaeology	History
		Archaeology
		History of Science and Technology
Languages and Literature	Languages and Literature	General Language Studies
		Specific Languages
		General Literature Studies
		Literary Theory
		Specific Literatures
		Linguistics
Philosophy	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	Philosophy
		Ethics
		Theology
		Religious Studies
Arts	Arts	Arts
		Design and Architecture
		Performing Arts Studies (Musicology, Theatre Science, Dramaturgy)
		Folklore Studies
		Studies on Film, Radio and Television
		Art History
		Other Subareas of Arts

Annex III – Budget

Budget rationale for requested funding (max. 3000 characters / item) – the following items are eligible for funding:

a) Direct costs:

i. **Human resources rationale:**

Expenses with **Human Resources** dedicated or related to the development of R&D activities related to the project execution in all mandatory components by the applicable labour legislation, including charges with grant holders directly supported by the beneficiaries;

- With regard to employment contracts, human resources expenses are based on the costs incurred in carrying out the project, based on the monthly base salary declared for the social protection of the worker, which may be increased by the mandatory social food allowance and occupational accident insurance under legally defined terms. The basic salary shall be the set of all remunerations of a permanent nature subject to taxation and declared for the purpose of social protection of the worker;
- The research fellowships are tendered and contracted by the beneficiary entities in the context of the supported projects, which must comply with the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, in its present version) and FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships.

ii. **Missions**, expenses with travel, accommodation, registration fees, etc., in Portugal and abroad, and directly attributable to the project.

iii. **Scientific and technical tools and equipment** (acquisition or amortization) indispensable to the project if used within the project during their useful lifetime.

iv. **Subcontracts**, directly related to the project scientific task's execution.

v. **Patent registration**, expenses related to the national and foreign record of **patents, copyrights, usefulness models and drawings, national models or brands** when related to other forms of intellectual protection, namely rates, research to the status of the technique and consulting expenses.

vi. **Demonstration, Promotion and Publication**, expenses with the **demonstration, promotion and disclosure of the project's outputs**, namely dissemination fees within the fulfilment and pursuant to national policies of open access.

vii. **Adaptation of buildings and facilities**, when essential to the development of the project, namely for environmental and security reasons.

- viii. **Acquisition of other goods and services** directly related to the project's execution, including costs with consultants that do not establish subcontracts.

- b) **Indirect costs (overheads)**, with a flat rate of 25% of eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting. The percentage bound in this item is automatically checked by the submission tool. Applications cannot be locked if this condition is not verified.

For the present Call, the **non-eligible costs** are the ones stated in the art. 9 of the [FCT Projects Regulation](#) in this current version.

Salaries of public servants are not funded under this call.

PORTUGUESE TO ENGLISH TRANSLATION AND EXPLANATIONS

Agregação = Aggregation. This is an academic title. It attests:

- i.) the quality of the academic, professional, scientific and pedagogical curriculum;
- ii.) the capacity to carry out research supervision;
- iii.) the capability to coordinate and carry out independent research work, issued to PhD holders with a research and academic path, after a public exam by a jury involving discussion of the CV, of a submitted curricular proposal and the presentation and discussion of a lecture.

Doutoramento = PhD, doctoral degree

Mestrado = Master's degree

Licenciatura = BA (3, 4 or 5 years graduate course)

Bolsa = Grant, fellowship

Bolseiro = Grant holder, fellow

BII = Bolsas de Iniciação à Investigação = Research Initiation Grants

- Research Initiation Grants are intended for students enrolled in a Higher Professional Education, a 1st cycle of a Higher Education institution, an Integrated Master or Master to initiate their scientific training, within research projects to be developed in national institutions;
- These grants are also aimed at holders of a graduate degree, enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree, integrated in an educational project of a higher education institution developed individually or jointly in their institutes or R&D units;
- These grants have a minimum duration of three months and may be renewable up to a maximum of one year.

BI = Bolsas de Investigação = Research Grants

- Research grants are intended for students enrolled in an Integrated Master, Master or Doctoral degree, for obtaining the respective scientific academic degree, through the development of scientific training integrated or not in R&D projects;
- These grants are also aimed at holders of a graduate degree or master, enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree, integrated in an educational project of a higher education institution developed individually or jointly in their institutes or R&D units;
- These grants are, in principle, one year in length, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months;

- The grants may be renewable for additional periods up to:
 - One year, for grants awarded to graduated degree or master holders enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree;
 - Two years, for grants awarded to students enrolled in master's courses;
 - Four years, for grants awarded to students enrolled in doctoral degrees;
 - These grants may be national, mixed (in Portugal and abroad) or abroad, depending if the work plan occurs exclusively, partially or not at all in national institutions;
 - For mixed research grants, the work plan performed in a foreign institution may not exceed 2 years.

BIPD= Bolsas de Investigação Pós-Doutoral = Postdoctoral Research Grants

- Postdoctoral Research Grants are intended for doctoral degree holders for the development of R&D activities;
- BIPDs are temporally restricted in order to stimulate the scientific employment and the use of researcher contracts as a rule instrument for their hiring, as well as to promote the development, in National Scientific and Technological System entities, of careers aiming at scientific research;
- BIPDs may only be granted provided that the following requirements are cumulatively met:
 - The doctoral degree has been obtained in the last three years before the submission date of the application grant;
 - The postdoctoral research is carried out in a host entity different than the one in which the research work was done to achieve the doctoral degree;
 - The research activities do not require post-doctoral experience;
 - The research activities have a development and execution period equal or less than three years.
- These grants are, in principle, one year in length, renewable for up to a total of three years, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months;
- Once the contract grant is finished, a new contract grant cannot be settled between the same host entity and the same fellow.

