

Notice of the Call

Maria de Sousa Call for PhD Studentships – 2022

SEAGULL – Seeking Epidemiological and Virological Answers

May 2022

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The Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT), in collaboration with the Agência de Investigação Clínica e Inovação Biomédica (AICIB), opens a Call for granting 10 (ten) PhD studentships complying with the provisions of the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI), according to the respective current versions. The number of grants to be awarded is indicative and may be revised according to budget availability.

1. SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CALL

The call Maria de Sousa Call for PhD Studentships – 2022 SEAGULL – Seeking Epidemiological and Virological Answers is focused on the development of knowledge to create the skills required to answer to virologic phenomena, including pandemics, and that may translate into efficient prevention measures, better healthcare and an effective support to citizens.

The Call will support applications in any scientific field that contribute to the following objectives and areas of knowledge:

1. Epidemiology and risk factors for infection, and severe illness caused by the virus;
2. Human-animal interaction, mechanisms of resistance and inter-species transmission of the virus, and the risk of pandemics;
3. Prevention and preparedness strategies for new viral epidemics, including vaccines;
4. Innovative approaches, including new methods and new technologies, for viral disease diagnosis;
5. Characterization of the viral infection mechanisms;
6. Characterization of the host's immune, cellular and serological, response to infection by the virus, impact of age and comorbidities;
7. Development of new therapies and new therapeutic approaches, including life support and personal protection equipment to fight viral diseases;
8. Effects of viral infection on maternal and new-born health;
9. Psychological impact and behavioural changes associated with epidemics or pandemics of virological origin.

2. APPLICATION

The call is open from **September 1st to 5:00 pm (Lisbon time) September 29th 2022**.

Applications, and all the supporting documents described in the RBI and in this Notice of the Call, can only be submitted online using the available application form at <https://myfct.fct.pt>. Applications, or any additional information, submitted by other means will not be accepted.

All the application procedures, including submission, evaluation, results communication, preliminary hearings, claims, appeals, and contract establishment are exclusively performed online, in the MyFCT platform.

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

Providing false declarations or committing acts of plagiarism by applicants leads to the exclusion of the application without prejudice of taking other corrective and punitive disciplinary measures.

3. TYPE, LOCAL AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

PhD studentships are granted to applicants that fulfil the requirements to join a study cycle that allows to obtain a PhD degree and that wish to develop research work in the topics of the call that allows obtaining that degree.

The research activities may be carried out in any environment of production and dissemination of knowledge, national or international, including higher education institutions, R&D units, Associated Laboratories, Collaborative Laboratories, Technology and Innovation Centres, Technological Interface Centres, State Laboratories and other public research institutions, hospitals and healthcare units, other Public Administration entities or private non-profit institutions developing R&D activities.

Similarly, companies acknowledged for their scientific interest or consortia that include any of the aforementioned institutions will be considered as host institutions.

Of note, research activities may be performed in collaboration with different host institutions, public or private, including companies and Public Administration, promoting institutional cooperation, as well as transdisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity.

The work plan may be developed entirely or partially in a national institution (studentship in Portugal or both in Portugal and abroad, respectively), or fully proceed in a foreign institution (studentship abroad); in the latter case, it is necessary to clearly explain the reasons why the work plan will be exclusively performed abroad.

As a rule, the duration of PhD studentships is annual, renewable up to the maximum number of months requested upon application and cannot be granted for a period less than 3 consecutive months neither more than 48 months.

In case of a studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad, the work plan period in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

4. RECIPIENTS

PhD studentships are aimed at applicants enrolled or that comply with the requirements to enrol for PhD studies and who wish to carry out research towards this degree.

5. ADMISSIBILITY

5.1 Applicants' admissibility requirements

The following citizens may apply to this call:

- a) National citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union;
- b) Third-party states citizens;
- c) Stateless individuals;
- d) Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD studentship it is necessary:

- e) To be a citizen permanently and usually living in Portugal, in case the work plan of the requested studentship proceeds, entirely or partially, in foreign institutions (in case of both in Portugal and abroad or exclusively abroad studentships); this requirement is applicable to both national and foreign citizens;
- f) Not to have benefited from a PhD or a PhD in industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration;
- g) Not to hold a doctoral degree.

5.2 Application's admissibility requirements

It is mandatory, under penalty of non-admissibility:

- a) To associate an updated version of your **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**, using the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** platform;
- b) To write a **synopsis of your CV**, clearly and succinctly identifying the most relevant elements of your academic and professional career, such as academic and complementary training, scientific publications, communications at conferences, participation and organization of events, awards and other situations considered relevant for the CV assessment;
- c) To submit a **detailed description of the work plan** (the academic component of a doctoral programme is not considered part of the work plan);
- d) To ensure that the **supervisor confirms her/his association** to the application and submits her/his CV using the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** platform or by uploading a **PDF file**;
- e) To indicate, at least **one** and maximum **N+1 host institutions**, where N is the number of associated

- supervisors, and, therefore, each application cannot exceed the number of 4 host institutions;
- f) To write **one motivation letter**, in the respective field of the application form, explaining the reasons for her/his application, presenting her/his academic/professional career path and how it is related to the work plan, if applicable; in this field the choice of the most representative document should also be mentioned and justified;
 - g) To present the **most representative document of the applicant's scientific/professional path**; this document may be, for example, a scientific publication, a communication in a conference, a poster presentation, a scientific report or master thesis, proof of scientific or professional achievements, a performance or artistic creation; of note, academic degree certificates, CVs or documents illustrating applicant's career path should not be submitted in this field, nor compilations of diverse documents as there are specific fields for that information in the form;
 - h) To submit **two different recommendation letters**, clearly identifying the respective issuer. These letters should be signed and include the academic and/or professional context relationship of the candidate with the referee and should also specify that are related with this specific call; supervising acceptance letters should not be used as recommendation letters; for evaluation purposes, recommendation letters beyond the defined number (two) or without any identification of their issuer will not be considered;
 - i) To present a **timeline**, showing the scheduling of the tasks proposed in the work plan, as well as the main milestones to be achieved, including the thesis submission (or the scientific work leading to the doctoral degree) at the university;
 - j) To present the application in **Portuguese** or in **English**. Documents presented in a different language, rather than Portuguese or English, will not be considered for evaluation purposes.

The documents listed in the above paragraphs will be considered invalid if: i) submitted in a corrupted file, ii) blank, iii) the same file is submitted twice (*e.g.*, recommendation letters field). **The application will not be admitted if any of the mandatory submission documents is considered invalid.**

5.3 Submission of additional information

Although the following elements do not constitute admissibility requirements, they are relevant for application's evaluation, namely:

- a) **Applicant's ORCID code**; the ORCID record in **CIÊNCIAVITAE** is recommended but does not replace the association of your updated CV in this platform;
- b) **ORCID code of the supervisor(s)**; the identification of the ORCID code does not replace filling in and updating the CV in **CIÊNCIAVITAE** or uploading the CV in a PDF file;
- c) **Academic degree certificates of the degree obtained indicating the final grade**; of note that, if not presented, the assessment of the Merit of the Applicant (see point 6.1) will be affected accordingly;

- d) **Letter of support**, in case of external institutional collaborations, additional to the proposed host affiliation, confirming the planned or established cooperation between applicant, supervisor(s) and institution(s);
- e) Whenever the work plan includes **ethical questions**, these should be clearly addressed in the respective field of the application form;
- f) The **documental proof** of CV information (for example, the proof of papers in press, etc.) may be included in the section of Attachments, in the application form.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All admitted applications must be graded from zero (0.000, minimum) to five (5.000, maximum) in each of the three evaluation criteria:

Criterion A – Merit of the Applicant;

Criterion B – Merit of the Work Plan;

Criterion C – Merit of the Hosting Conditions.

Applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in the three criteria, following the relative weighting of: **40%** Merit of the Applicant (A); **40%** Merit of the Work Plan (B); **20%** Merit of the Hosting Conditions (C), converted into the following formula:

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

For tiebreaking purposes, the final ranking list will be based on the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order: criterion A (Merit of the Applicant), criterion B (Merit of the Work Plan) and criterion C (Merit of the Hosting Conditions).

Grades in any of the evaluation criteria shall be awarded with three decimal digits. Values resulting from the application of formulas shall be rounded to the third decimal digit using the following rule: when the fourth decimal digit is equal to or greater than 5 (five) it shall be rounded in excess; if lesser, the value of the third decimal digit shall be upheld.

Applicants whose **application is scored with a final grade lower than 3.000 are not eligible** for studentship granting.

6.1 Criterion A – Merit of the Applicant

The criterion A, Merit of the Applicant, which has a 40% relative weight to the final score, is evaluated based on two sub-criteria:

- A1. **Academic career** (reflecting the academic degree grades, for which the respective certificates have been submitted in the application), with a relative weight of **50%** in the Merit of the Applicant;

A2. **Personal curriculum** (reflecting the scientific and professional career, and academic career, when applicable, and applicant’s motivation to pursue this study cycle), with a relative weight of **50%** in the Merit of the Applicant.

The score awarded to criterion A is calculated applying the following formula:

$$\text{Criterion A} = (0,5 \times A1) + (0,5 \times A2)$$

6.1.1 Sub-criterion A1 – Academic Career

The academic career sub-criterion is calculated according to the **final classification stated in the academic degree certificate, submitted** in the application form, according to Table 1: i) Graduate + Master / Integrated Master; ii) Graduate degree only; or iii) Master degree only. Although it is not mandatory to submit degree certificates for the admission to the call, **documental evidence of the classifications obtained in the academic degrees is mandatory for the evaluation of the sub-criterion A1.**

Table 1 – Reference table to score the sub-criterion A1 – Academic career

<u>Graduate + Master degrees</u> (pre- or post-Bologna) or <u>Integrated Master degree</u> (300-360 ECTS)		<u>Graduate degree (180 ECTS)</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)		<u>Master degree (90-120 ECTS)</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)	
Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 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				

To calculate the score of sub-criterion A1, the prevailing grade is the one stated in the respective degree certificate(s). Certificate **final grades presented with decimal digits** shall be rounded to the third decimal digit using the following rule: when the fourth decimal digit is equal to or greater than 5 (five) it shall be rounded in excess; if lesser, the value of the third decimal digit shall be upheld. To calculate the arithmetic average between the graduate and master degrees’ grades, the original grades indicated in the certificates (even if presented with decimal digits) shall be considered, rounding only the final grade average. If the degree certificate simultaneously shows, both the rounded and the decimal grades, the rounded grade shall be used.

In case no valid academic degree certificate is submitted, the sub-criterion A1 will be scored zero (A1 = 0).

6.1.1.1 Documents of mandatory submission to apply Table 1 scores

To apply the scoring system presented in Table 1 it is mandatory to submit the following documents in the application form:

- a) **Academic degree certificates, indicating the final grade** and, if possible, the final classification of the disciplines completed. Applicants with post-Bologna education shall present both 1st and 2nd study cycles academic degree certificates or an integrated master certificate, while applicants with pre-Bologna education should present the graduate and/or master degree certificates. It should be noted that a certificate of curricular units does not substitute the submission of a degree certificate including the degree's final grade required to the sub-criterion A1 calculation.
- b) In case of **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**, to guarantee the principle of equal treatment to applicants with national and foreign academic degrees.

Additionally, and whenever possible, the following documents should also be presented:

- c) The **Diploma Supplement** of the presented degree certificates;
- d) In the case of specific recognition, together with the original degree certificate and accompanied by the respective legal document of degree recognition and conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese grading scale, the corresponding **Jury Report** appointed for the act. It should be noted that this is a complementary document and its submission does not replace the submission of the degree recognition certificate issued by the Directorate General for Higher Education (*Direção Geral do Ensino Superior*, DGES) or by a Portuguese public higher education institution.

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 (DGES). FCT suggests visiting the DGES portal at <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en>.

6.1.1.2 Additional considerations for the application of the scores established in Table 1

In addition to the presentation of the documents indicated in the previous point, the following will be considered when scoring sub-criterion A1:

- a) The final grade average of “graduate + master” degrees, in a pre- or post-Bologna academic path, is the result of the simple arithmetic average of the final grade obtained in the 1st cycle (180 ECTS)/graduate degree and the final grade obtained in the 2nd cycle (90-120 ECTS)/master degree, by applying the following formula:

$$\text{Final score average (graduate + master degrees)} = \frac{\text{1st cycle final grade (graduate degree)} + \text{2nd cycle final grade (master)}}{2}$$

- b) In case of integrated master degrees whose institutions issue global certificates, the final grade indicated in

- the degree certificate should be considered (300-360 ECTS). In case of integrated masters in which the 1st and 2nd cycle certificates are issued separately, the final average will be calculated as indicated in paragraph a) or, when available, the diploma supplement will be consulted to verify the final classification of the degree and number of credits (ECTS) to which it refers to.
- c) When both integrated master degree certificate (300-360 ECTS) and a pre-Bologna or 2nd cycle degree certificate are presented, the final grade of **the integrated master degree is the one to be considered**.
 - d) If only a graduate or master degree certificate is submitted, the corresponding scoring system should be applied according to the respective columns in Table 1.
 - e) When applicants submit **more than one equivalent graduate and/or master degree certificate** (with equivalent number of ECTS), the evaluation panel has to decide which of the equivalent academic degree is more adequate to the work plan and must thus be used to calculate the score of the academic career sub-criterion (A1). For instance, if an applicant submits a graduate degree certificate and more than one master certificate, the panel should consider the master's degree that is most suitable for the development of the work plan. However, if an applicant presents both an integrated master and a 2nd cycle degree certificates (without a graduate degree or a 1st cycle of studies), the panel must consider the integrated master's degree to calculate the academic career score, as previously indicated. The evaluation panel should consider the alternative submitted degree(s) in the assessment of sub-criterion A2, valuing applicant's personal curriculum. In any case, this must be explained in the respective evaluation reports.
 - f) To calculate sub-criterion A1, in cases of certificates stating qualitative grades only (as pre-Bologna degree certificates, for example), the respective grade should be converted according to Table 2. The calculation of the final grade average (graduate + master) should then be used to determine A1 final score through the application of Table 1.
 - g) Table 2 will not be used to convert qualitative scores of degrees obtained abroad that do not present the respective proof to the Portuguese grading scale.

Table 2 – Table for conversion of qualitative grades

Qualitative grade	Converted grade
Excellent Very Good with Distinction Praise and Distinction <i>Magna Cum Laude / Summa Cum Laude</i>	18
Very Good Approved with Distinction Good with Distinction <i>Cum Laude</i>	16
Good Approved / Approved by Unanimity	14
Sufficient	12

The **minimum grade of zero (A1 = 0)** will be scored to sub-criterion A1 in any case that is not included in Table 1. Some examples are described below:

- i. When **no certificate is submitted, in the application form**, neither graduate nor master's degree certificates (national or foreign);
- ii. When both national graduate and master certificates **do not state the respective final grade** (neither quantitative nor qualitative);
- iii. When both foreign graduate and master certificates **are not recognized, nor the final grades converted to the Portuguese grading scale**.

6.1.2 Sub-criterion A2 – Personal Curriculum

The assessment of sub-criterion A2 is performed by analysing and pondering the applicant's curriculum in an integrated way, considering the merit of their academic, scientific, professional and civic paths, according to the submitted CV (information available in the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** and CV synopsis). In this analysis, the panel considers the academic results that were not included in the calculation of the sub-criterion A1 – Academic career (only if the respective certificates are presented in the application form, in case of an academic degrees), and the various dimensions of the curriculum that may demonstrate a relevant personal, scientific and professional career.

In the evaluation of this sub-criterion the **motivation letter** is also considered, namely the clarity with which the candidate identifies the reasons underlying her/his application, including, for example, the choice of the proposed work plan and of the most representative document, and the scientific maturity shown, as well as letters of recommendation and the most representative document of the applicant's scientific/professional path, elements of mandatory submission. Regarding the **letters of recommendation**, the skills identified by the references selected by the applicant are evaluated. Similarly, the quality of the **most representative document** will be assessed and its choice should be justified in the motivation letter.

The grade scored to this sub-criterion should therefore translate a global and integrated view of applicant's personal curriculum.

6.1.3 Disability Bonuses

Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 90% shall have a bonus of 20% 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 10% in this criterion. The degree of disability **should be duly proven** by submitting, in the application form, the document *Atestado Médico de Incapacidade Multiuso (AMIM)*, issued according to the Decree-Law no. 202/96, of 23 of October, in its current version.

6.2 Criterion B – Merit of the Work Plan

The Merit of the Work Plan criterion has a relative weight of 40%, and is evaluated in an integrated and transversal manner, assessing the quality, originality and relevance of the work plan in all of its dimensions, in the following three sub-criteria:

B1 – Justified relevance of the object of study;

B2 – Scientific quality of the state of the art and the methodology of the work plan;

B3 – Feasibility of the work plan.

For **sub-criterion B1**, the evaluation is based on the clear definition of aims and research questions, as well as the originality and the potential contribution of the research project to the knowledge and progress of science and technology and, when applicable, its social impact.

The assessment of **sub-criterion B2** is based on the quality of the state of the art and the proposed research methodology, considering the clarity, consistency, and coherence, in accordance with internationally accepted standards, and the originality of the work plan to be developed.

For **sub-criterion B3**, evaluation is based on the adequacy of methodologies to the tasks and aims proposed in the work plan and the respective planned deadlines as the total period expected to complete the project. The submission of the thesis, or of the scientific work leading to the doctoral degree, at the university, must be included in the timeline. If applicable, the risk assessment presented is also analysed, by identifying the most critical points and the corresponding contingency measures to be adopted.

The presentation of a **timeline**, of **mandatory** submission, is also considered, as well as additional and optional information related to the work plan such as schemes, formulas, or figures illustrating preliminary data.

If appropriate, applicants may also submit a **letter of support** (do not misunderstand with recommendation letters); although optional, this element is relevant to demonstrate the planned cooperation between all the entities/researchers besides the identified host institutions/supervisors, in order to better analyse the work plan feasibility.

Whenever the work plan's scientific area, methodology or results include **ethical questions**, these should be clearly identified and justified (in the respective field of the application form), explaining how they will be addressed. To help identifying these questions, the ethics self-assessment guide should be consulted (Ethics Guide, available at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/mariadesousa2022.phtml.en>).

6.3 Criterion C – Merit of the Hosting Conditions

The merit of the hosting conditions, which has relative weight of 20%, is evaluated taking into consideration two sub-criteria:

C1 – The scientific merit and experience of the supervisor(s) in the scientific field of the application, and the respective adequacy to supervise the PhD candidate;

C2 – Applicant’s demonstration of her/his motives to choose the supervising team and host institution(s), as well as their adequacy for the work plan.

The evaluation of these sub-criteria is performed in an integrated way, considering the following:

- a) The supervisor(s) associated CV;
- b) The means available at the host institution(s) mentioned throughout the application form;
- c) The applicant’s demonstration, in the respective field of the form, on the adequacy of the supervising team and the host institution(s) to guarantee the accomplishment of the proposed work plan.

Applications that present **more than one host institution** should clearly indicate the tasks performed in each institution.

When **two or more supervisors** are proposed, the role of each one should be clearly explained, highlighting the **relevance of each one’s participation and complementarity** for the development and feasibility of the work plan.

When applying to a Studentship **both in Portugal and abroad** (whose work plan is partially carried out in a foreign institution), it is **mandatory** to identify the foreign affiliation institution(s), and **to associate the respective foreign supervisor/co-supervisor**, affiliated to that/those institution(s). If no foreign host institution(s) and supervisor/co-supervisor in this/these institution(s) is/are indicated, **the application will be automatically converted into an application to a PhD studentship in the country**, being evaluated and financed accordingly. In case of a **PhD Studentship abroad**, only the applications whose **host institution(s) is/are abroad** can be considered. In this case, an additional justification is required, explaining the reasons why the research activities should be exclusively performed abroad, without the participation of any national entity.

It should be noted that at least **one of the associated supervisors must hold a PhD**, and this information should be indicated in the respective CV.

The collaboration of supervisors not associated to the application will not be considered in the evaluation, even if they are referred in the application form.

7. EVALUATION

FCT, in collaboration with AICIB, will designate the evaluation panel, composed by experts whose experience and scientific merit is acknowledged, specialized in the scientific fields of the call. The work developed by the evaluation panel is coordinated, by FCT invitation, by one or two of its members, who has the responsibility to guarantee that the evaluation exercise is conducted with transparency, independence, and equity. The constitution of the evaluation panel will be made public at FCT’s webpage before the beginning of the evaluation procedure.

The evaluation panel will analyse applications considering the evaluation criteria disclosed in the Notice of the Call, considering all the appreciation elements.

All the evaluation panels should follow the evaluation procedure available in Annex I – Evaluation Guide – of this

Notice of the Call, which is fully reproduced here for all purposes and may be consulted at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/mariadesousa2022.phtml.en> or at <https://myfct.fct.pt>.

8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE

Evaluation results are disclosed in applicants' personal area of MyFCT in <https://myfct.fct.pt/>; results communication will also be disclosed at FCT's website:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/mariadesousa2022.phtml.en>.

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

Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants who have an unfavourable provisional decision may use their right to dispute it during the preliminary hearing phase, which takes place within 10 working days, according to Articles no. 121 and the following of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA).

The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. Final decision can be claimed within 15 working days or, alternatively, appealed within 30 working days, after the communication date of the final results, respectively.

10. STARTING DATE OF THE PHD STUDENTSHIP

The studentships will start at the 1st day of the month indicated by the applicant during the granting procedure, that must occur between **November 1st 2022** and **October 1st 2023**.

11. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTSHIP GRANTING

The following documents are of mandatory submission for the studentship contract:

- a) Copy of the documents of personal identification, tax number and, if applicable, social security¹;
- b) Document of proof of permanent and usual residence in Portugal, if applicable, valid at the studentship starting date. In case the work plan of the requested studentship is held, entirely or partially, in foreign institutions, applicants, independently of their nationality, will have to present, upon contracting, the document of proof of permanent and usual residence in Portugal;

¹ The presentation of these documents may optionally be substituted by the in-person presentation in the funding agency, which will keep all the elements needed for the validation and execution of the contract, including the numbers of personal identification, taxation and social security, as well as the respective dates of expiry.

- c) Copy of the academic degree certificates, if applicable;
- d) Document proving the acceptance and registration in the 3rd study cycle from the educational offer in the higher education institution that will grant the academic degree;
- e) Supervisor(s) statement declaring to coordinate the work plan, as established in Article no. 5-A of the Statute for Research Fellowships (template will be made available by FCT);
- f) Institutional document supporting the applicant, issued by the institution(s) where the work plan will be carried out, guaranteeing the necessary conditions to its successful development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- g) Updated document proving the exclusivity dedication regime (template will be made available by FCT).

The studentship granting is still dependent on:

- i. The fulfilment of all the requirements listed in this Notice of the Call;
- ii. The results of scientific evaluation;
- iii. The absence of unjustified non-compliance of the fellowship holder during previous directly or indirectly FCT funded fellowships;
- iv. FCT available budget.

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

12. FUNDING

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

The studentships granted in this call will be financed by FCT using the State Budget fund and, whenever eligible, using the European Social Fund (ESF), under the PORTUGAL2020 programme, namely, under *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020)*, *Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020)* and *Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020)*, or any other funding schemes that might be approved, according to the respective requirements.

13. STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted to the studentship holder, the amount of which varies according to whether the activities are carried out in the country or abroad, in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The studentship may also include additional allowances, according to RBI's Article no. 18 and the values indicated in its Annex II.

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

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

14. PAYMENT OF STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

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

Registration, enrolment or tuition fees components are paid as follows:

- i. In case the studentship holder has enrolled in a national institution, FCT will directly pay to that institution;
- ii. In case the studentship holder has enrolled in a foreign institution, the grantee is the responsible for its payment to that institution.

15. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the studentship always depends on applicant's submission, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, of the following documents:

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

16. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

All the R&D activities carried out by the grantee, directly or indirectly financed by the studentship, namely, communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as thesis, must include the reference to FCT and, when applicable, the European Social Fund (ESF) financing. In particular, these references should mention the following operational programmes *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020)*, *Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020)* and *Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020)*, or additional funding schemes that might be approved. Insignia of FCT, ESF and EU must therefore be included in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational programme.

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

For all the studentships, in particular in case of European funded actions, namely the ESF, may be performed monitoring and controlling actions by national or European entities according to the applicable legislation. Grantees must therefore collaborate and provide all the required information, including answering to surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the studentship might have already ceased.

17. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

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

18. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

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

FCT also recommends the careful reading of all the documentation supporting the application, namely, the Application Guide and the Evaluation Guide, available at FCT website at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/mariadesousa2022.phtml.en> or at the MyFCT portal: <https://myfct.fct.pt>.

19. CONTACT POINT

Information about the call should be requested through the e-mail address: info.bolsas@fct.pt.

Annex I

Evaluation Guide

(Mentioned in point 7. of this Notice of the Call)

Maria de Sousa Call for PhD Studentships – 2022

SEAGULL - Seeking Epidemiological and Virological Answers