Call for PhD Studentships 2025

Notice of the Call

MARCH 14th, 2025

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To advance its mission of fostering a national public policy for advanced training with social relevance and impact, the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) is launching a Call for PhD studentships, in accordance with the provisions of the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI), in their current versions. As in previous editions, the Call is open to all scientific areas and encompasses two application lines: (i) a **regular line of application** – for research conducted within scientific and academic institutions; (ii) a **specific line of application** – for research projects primarily carried out in one or more non-academic institutions, strengthening the connection between doctoral research and the broader economic and social milieu (e.g. business companies, public, social, health, and cultural organisations or other interface institutions).

A total of 1550 PhD studentships (one thousand five hundred and fifty) will be awarded, with up to 550 (five hundred and fifty) allocated to the specific line of application, which aims to develop work plans leading to a doctoral degree in non-academic entities (NAE). These figures are indicative and may be adjusted based on budget availability or the number of eligible applications in each line of application. Additionally, PhD studentships in non-academic settings will be awarded under the FCT-Tenure program, specifically within the non-academic Chairs initiative. All eligible candidates under this specific program who receive a final evaluation score of 3.000 or higher will be awarded a studentship, as stipulated in point 5.2 of the Call for Applications for the FCT Tenure – 1st Edition.

1. APPLICATION

The call is open from **March 17th to 5:00 pm (Lisbon time) April 16th, 2025**.

Applications and supporting documents specified in the RBI and in this Notice of the Call, must be submitted online exclusively through the available application form at https://myfct.fct.pt. Candidates must select the application line they wish to apply for. Applications or any additional information via any other means will not be accepted.

The application process must comply with the provisions of this notice and the associated guidelines published on the Call's webpage, as well as the requirements set forth in the application form. All stags of the process – including submission of applications, evaluation process, preliminary hearing, communication of results, and any claims or appeals - will take place exclusively on the myFCT platform.

Each applicant may **submit only one application, regardless of the chosen application line**. If a candidate submits more than one application, even if across different lines, all applications will be excluded.

Providing false statements or committing acts of plagiarism are also grounds for excluding the application. Further disciplinary measures may also be applied.

2. TYPE, LOCAL AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

PhD studentships are targeted at applicants that are enrolled or fulfil the requirements to enrol in a PhD program to obtain a doctoral degree. As a rule, the duration of the PhD studentships is annual, renewable up to the number of months requested in the application, with a minimum duration of 3 months and a maximum of 48 months. Please note that PhD studentships cannot be renewed or extended under any circumstances once the number of months submitted in the application has been reached.

In a Studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad, the period in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

In applications for Studentships Abroad (exclusive to the regular application line), the evaluation will necessarily consider the demonstration of the lack of the necessary expertise in Portugal, therefore the applicant must consider the possibility of configuring the application as a both in Portugal and abroad studentship.

Regular line of application. The research activities of PhD studentships in this line are developed mainly in an **academic environment,** hence they can be carried out in any academic institution, national or international, including public and private higher education institutions, R&D units, Associated Laboratories, as well as other private non-profit institutions mainly developing R&D activities. 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 in a foreign institution (studentship abroad). In the latter case only if the lack of necessary expertise in Portuguese host institutions or with representation in Portugal is demonstrated.

Specific line of application in a **non-academic environment** – The research activities of PhD students are for the most part carried out in one or more **non-academic institutions,** thus reinforcing a closer relationship between doctoral research in academic and non-academic environments. The non-academic institution should host the studentship holder during a considerable part of the work plan leading to the doctoral degree. All institutions not included in the academic environment as characterized in the regular line of application are considered as non-academic host institutions, e.g. business companies, Collaborative Laboratories, Technology and Innovation Centres, Interface Centres, Public Administration, State Laboratories, hospitals, museums, libraries or other third sector institutions. Doing justice to its rationale, in this line it is mandatory to include in the application at least one national non-academic host institution and one academic host institution (national or foreign), as well as a scientific supervisor from each of these institutions.

Those wishing to apply in the specific line in a non-academic environment can look for potential

hosting opportunities for their research plans in the list of non-academic institutions available here (in continuous updating) and interact directly with the point of contact of each institution in order to prepare the application. The use of this list is optional and does not preclude other eligible institutions that are not listed.

Whenever an institution is classified under more than one status in the context of the national scientific system, its academic typology prevails (e.g., in the case of a R&D unit or Associated Laboratory recognized as a Centre of Technology and Innovation, the status of R&D unit or Associated Laboratory prevails). It is up to the applicant to ensure that this rule is obeyed within the admissibility requirements of the selected line of application.

In the Regular Line of application, it is possible to include in the work plan a period outside the hosting academic institution, in a non-academic institution, up to 6 months.

3. STUDENTSHIP RECIPIENTS

PhD studentships are aimed at applicants that are enrolled or that comply with the requirements to enroll in a PhD program to obtain a doctoral degree, and who intend to develop research activities leading to such degree.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

It is recommended that the candidate carefully reviews the requirements indicated below. Failure to meet any of the requirements **will result in the immediate exclusion of the application (4.1 to 4.3), in a penalty in its evaluation or even in the exclusion due to evaluation impossibility.**

4.1 Applicants' admissibility requirements

The following individuals may apply to this call:

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

To apply for a PhD studentship, it is mandatory:

e. Not to have benefited from any PhD studentship or PhD in Industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
f. Not to hold a doctoral degree.

g. To live in Portugal permanently or habitually, if applying to a both in Portugal and abroad or entirely abroad studentship. This requirement applies to both applicants with Portuguese and foreign citizenship.

4.2 Application's admissibility requirements

It is mandatory to:

a. Associate the applicant's ***Curriculum Vitae*** (CV) from the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform.
b. Submit a **synopsis of the CV**.
c. Submit **the research work plan** and the respective **timeline** (the academic part of a doctoral programme is not considered part of the work plan). This will be the work plan and timeline to be followed after contracting.
d. **Associate the supervisor[1] to the application** with submission of his/her *Curriculum Vitae*; supervisors may submit their CVs either using the **CIÊNCIA**VITAE platform or by uploading a **PDF file**.
e. Indicate: (i) for the regular line application: at least, one **host institution** and one **member of the supervising team affiliated** with it, in the specific field of the application form[2]; (ii) for the specific line of application, at least two host institutions and two members of the supervising team affiliated with them, in the specific field of the application form (see details in 4.3).
f. Associate the **contracting institution[2]** in the respective field on the application form. This must be a Portuguese academic institution with legal capacity to enter into contracts, which may correspond to the academic host institution or the doctoral degree-granting institution. For studentships fully Abroad, or those under the FCT-Tenure Chairs, the contracting institution will be FCT – *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (see section 10 of this notice for further details).
g. In case of a **Both in Portugal and Abroad Studentship**, it is mandatory to indicate in the specific field of the application form, at least, one host institution in Portugal and one foreign host institution and the respective members of the supervising team affiliated with them.
h. In case of a **Studentship Abroad**, it is mandatory to indicate in the specific field of the application form, at least, one foreign host institution and the respective member of the supervising team affiliated with it.
i. Submit **a motivation letter**, by writing it down in in the respective field of the application form.

The documents listed above (a to i) will be considered invalid whenever they present the following (or similar) conditions: i) are submitted in a corrupted file; ii) are submitted in blank.

[1] The role of scientific supervisor does not require specific qualifications and is described in article 5-A of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute.
[2] Institutions not included in the lists available in the application form will have to be created through a Pre-Registration of Institutions on the Portal PCT, which may take up to 2 working days to update.

The application is excluded if any of the mandatory submission documents is missing, unintelligible or considered invalid.

4.3 Additional Application's Admissibility Requirements in the specific line in non-academic settings

Under penalty of non-admission of the application, in the specific line in a non-academic environment, the following requirements are also mandatory:

a. Indicate in the specific field of the application form at least one non-academic host institution with activity in Portugal and a national or foreign academic host institution (studentship in Portugal or both in Portugal and abroad studentship), also safeguarding compliance with paragraph f of point 4.2.
b. Ensure a length of stay of at least 12 months (consecutive or interpolated) in the same non-academic host institution with activity in Portugal.
c. Ensure that the supervision team has at least one supervisor from the academic host institution and one supervisor from the non-academic host institution, ensuring that they are both associated with the application.

Provided that these admissibility requirements are met, other academic or non-academic institutions, either national or foreign, may also integrate the work plan, without restrictions on the period of collaboration, regardless of whether they constitute themselves as host institutions, or if they are included as members of the supervising team.

i) Only in the case of PhD studentships to be awarded within the scope of Non-Academic (NA) Chairs funded under the FCT-Tenure program, associate as scientific supervisor the researcher hired to fill the NA Chair, within the scope of the FCT-Tenure program, and indicate as the academic host institution the Research Unit and/or the institution that submitted that application, and the associated non-academic institution (see point 5.2 of the Call for Applications of the FCT Tenure – 1st Edition). Otherwise, the application will not be admitted. When applying, the reference of the position proposed for funding under FCT-Tenure must be indicated in the appropriate field on the application form (see Application Guide).

4.4 Requirements of Application Elements for Evaluation purposes

For the elements of the application to be scored, they must meet the following requirements:

a. **Academic degree certificates** from national higher education institutions must declare the degree obtained and the final classification. In the case of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions, they must be accompanied by the respective diploma recognition and grade conversion certificate. Failure to submit these documents will result in a score of "0" (zero) in sub-criterion A1-academic career.

b. The **CV synopsis** should clearly and succinctly identify the most relevant elements of the candidate's academic and professional career, such as academic and complementary training, scientific publications and production, communications at conferences, participation and organization of events, awards and other contributions and activities considered relevant for CV assessment.
c. The **motivation letter** must (i) explain the reasons that led the candidate to apply (ii) frame the research plan in the context of the candidate's career development objectives and the applicant's personal ambitions, clearly showing the interest of the proposed research. The expected results of the research in terms of knowledge production, potential for producing wealth and knowledge transfer should be highlighted. The choice of the most representative document should also be justified.
d. The **timeline** must indicate the timing and location of performance of the tasks proposed in the work plan, as well as the main milestones to be achieved, including the expected period for the thesis submission (or the scientific work leading to the doctoral degree) at the university.
e. Submit application in **Portuguese or English**. Documents presented in any other language will not be considered for evaluation purposes. Whenever a supporting document is not originally issued in one of the admissible languages, it is mandatory to present its translation into Portuguese, which will be considered the translation for all purposes, unless a clear discrepancy with the original is detected. However, if a translation of a certificate issued by a foreign higher education institution is presented, it will not be considered for evaluation purposes in the classification of sub-criterion A1 - academic career, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph a of this point.

4.5 Submission of additional information

Although the following items are not admissibility requirements, they are relevant for the application's evaluation:

a. **Declaration of Institutional Support** in case of external institutional collaborations, additional to the proposed host affiliation; this declaration must detail and confirm the planned or already in place cooperation between applicant, supervisor(s) and institution(s).
b. Whenever the work plan includes **ethical questions**, these should be clearly addressed in the respective field of the application form.
c. The **documental proof** of CV information (e.g. proof of papers or articles in press, etc.) may be included in the section of Attachments, in the application form.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

All admissible 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 above three evaluation criteria, with the respective relative weighting of: **criterion A - 30%, criterion B - 40% and criterion C - 30%.**

For **tie-breaking** purposes, the final ranking list will be based on the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order:

(i) Regular line of application: criterion B (Merit of the Work Plan), criterion A (Merit of the Applicant) and criterion C (Merit of the Hosting Conditions).

(ii) Specific line of application: criterion C (Merit of the Hosting Conditions), criterion B (Merit of the Work Plan) and criterion A (Merit of the Applicant)

The final score resulting from the application of formulas specified in this document are 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 less than 5 (five), the value of the third decimal digit shall be upheld.

In any of the application lines, PhD studentships will not be awarded to applications evaluated with a final grade lower than 3.000 points.

The evaluation procedures to be observed by all panels, as well as the evaluation criteria and respective elements, in both lines of application, are set out in the **Evaluation Guide**, to be made available, before the start of the application submission period, on the page dedicated to the Call.

5.1 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. As a result of the changes introduced through Decree-Law no. 15/2024, of January 17, AMIM*s* subject to renewal or re-evaluation are considered valid as long as they are accompanied by proof of application for a medical board to assess incapacity, if it has been presented before the expiration date of the AMIM certificate.

6. EVALUATION PANELS

The process of evaluation is ensured by evaluation panels composed of reputed experts in a set of scientific areas which results from an adaptation of the FOS classification of the Frascati Manual (OECD's revised Field of Science and Technology Classification in the Frascati Manual).

For each evaluation panel, FCT invites one of the members to take the role of chair.

Each application complying with the requirements of admissibility will be evaluated by the corresponding evaluation panel according to the combination of the main scientific area, the secondary scientific area and the subarea selected by the applicant in the application form, in accordance with Annex I of the Evaluation Guide, depending on whether it is the regular or the specific application line.

Applications submitted in the specific line in a non-academic environment are evaluated by five evaluation panels, covering to the following thematic areas: Engineering Sciences and Exact Sciences; Natural and Agricultural Sciences; Health and Life Sciences; Social Sciences and Humanities.

The composition of the evaluation panels is made public at FCT's website before the beginning of the evaluation procedure.

7. RESULTS DISCLOSURE

Evaluation results are disclosed in applicants' personal area of myFCT in https://myfct.fct.pt/, and when final, are made published on the FCT's website dedicated to the Call.

8. 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 following of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA, see *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*).

It should be noted that the contestation in the preliminary hearing cannot be used to submit any documents or information that should have been submitted at the time of the application, including those relating to facts or legal effects that occurred subsequently.

The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. A claim may be filed against the final decision within 15 working days, or,

alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 working days, both counting from the date of the respective notification.

As referred to in point 1 of this Notice, all procedures concerning the preliminary hearing/claim/appeal stages, as well as the disclosure of the respective results, take place exclusively on the myFCT electronic platform, and contestations submitted by any other means or in any other format will not be considered.

9. STARTING DATE OF THE PHD STUDENTSHIP

Approved studentships will begin on the 1st day of the month to be indicated by the candidate in his/her application. The studentship cannot begin before September 1st, 2025, or after August 1st, 2026.

The studentship will be contracted for the period indicated in the application, and under no circumstances may its duration be increased.

In the case of PhD studentships to be awarded within the scope of Non-Academic Chairs funded under the FCT-Tenure program – 1st Edition, they must start while the FCT-Tenure funding lasts.

10. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTSHIP GRANTING

To contract the studentship, the following documents must be submitted by the applicant:

a. Copy of the documents of personal identification, tax number and, if applicable, social security[3];
b. Document of proof of permanent/regular basis residence in Portugal, valid at the studentship starting date. This document is mandatory in case the work plan takes place entirely or partially in foreign institutions, and regardless the applicants' nationality.
c. Copy of the academic degree certificates, if applicable.
d. Document proving enrolment and registration in the 3rd cycle of studies of the higher education institution where the candidate is admitted to a doctorate.
e. Statement by each supervisor declaring the responsibility for the supervision of 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 each of the institution(s) where the work plan will be carried out, guaranteeing the necessary conditions to its successful

[3] 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.

development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI, *Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação*) (template will be made available by FCT).

g. Updated document proving compliance with the exclusivity dedication regime (template will be made available by FCT).

Additionally, for studentships in non-academic settings, the following document must also be submitted:

h. Declaration from the non-academic entity(ies) confirming the number of months in which the studentship holder will develop his/her work plan in that/those institution(s) (template will be made available by FCT).

The studentship granting is also dependent on:

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

It should be noted that the studentship contract implies the contractualization and execution of the work plan according to the submitted application. Changes to the duration of the studentship, the supervising team, the institutional framework, the typology, and the work plan are not allowed, except in clearly exceptional and duly substantiated circumstances, as stated in the present version of article 17 of the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI, *Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação da FCT*).

Failure to submit any of the documents required to complete the grant contracting process within the deadline set out in the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships from the date of communication of the decision to award the studentship (final ranking list), will result in the cancelation of said grant and the closure of the process.

Regarding the PhD studentships in non-academic settings, the absence of at least one non-academic entity with activity in Portugal, where research work is carried out for at least twelve months, consecutive or interpolated, and/or one supervisor in that same entity, also implies the cancelation of the decision to grant the studentship and the closure of the process.

Starting with this edition of the Call, the procedures for contracting and managing PhD studentships have been changed. The above-mentioned responsibilities now lie with the contracting institution specified by the candidate in the application form. The contracting institution – with which FCT will sign a contract – must be Portuguese and correspond to one of the institutions listed in the application. It may be either an academic host institution or the doctoral degree-granting institution (the institution that awards the degree), provided it has the legal capacity to enter into contracts.

The contracting institution must validate the applicants who have designated it as their contracting institution within 10 working days, following the application submission period and before the evaluation process begins. This validation period will be published on the FCT website for this call, so regular consultation is recommended. Applications that are not validated by the designated contracting institution will not be admitted to this Call, making therefore this step essential.

Applications for studentships fully abroad, as well as those within the scope of the FCT-Tenure Non-Academic Chairs, continue to be contracted and managed directly by FCT.

11. PAYMENT AND FUNDING

Subject to the time limits for starting the studentship referred to in section 9 of this Notice, payment of PhD studentships may only take place after verification of all the following:

a. The start date of the work plan underlying the studentship, proven by all those involved.
b. Signing of the contract between FCT, I. P. and the contracting institution explicitly referencing the specific PhD studentship, in the case of studentships that take place entirely or partially in Portugal.
c. Public disclosure of the final ranking list, in the case of studentships that take place entirely abroad or in the case of those awarded within the scope of Non-Academic Chairs (NA) financed within the scope of the FCT-Tenure program, even in cases where the starting date of the studentship was requested for an earlier date.
d. The return of the duly signed studentship contract, which must be returned within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date in which the applicant receives the contract. If this period is exceeded, the contract expires.
e. Whenever the return of the contract occurs on a date after the date on which all the requirements for the execution of the studentship are met and confirmed by all parties involved, the payment will take effect on the starting date of the studentship.

The studentships granted in this call will be financed by FCT using funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, funds from the European Social Fund (ESF), under the Program *Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão* (PDQI), in accordance with the regulatory provisions established for the effect.

12. STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS

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.

All studentship holders benefit from a personal accident insurance for research activities, supported by the respective contracting institution.

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

All studentship holders who do not benefit from any regime of social protection have access to social security by enrolling the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the *Código dos Regimes Contributivos do Sistema Previdencial de Segurança Social* / 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.

13. PAYMENT OF STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

Payments due to the studentship holder are made by the contracting institution via bank transfer to the account indicated by him/her. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first working day of each month.

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

i. If the studentship holder is registered or enrolled in a national institution, the amount is paid by FCT directly to the institution in which, each year, he/she is registered, as proven in the studentship contract or renewal.

ii. In the case when the studentship holder is registered or enrolled in a foreign institution, the amount is paid to the studentship holder, who in turn is responsible for paying to the institution.

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEAWAL

The renewal of the studentship depends on the submission by the studentship holder, 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) concerning the work plan development and the evaluation of the respective activities.

b. Updated document proving compliance with the regime of exclusive dedication.

c. Declaration attesting the enrolment in the PhD program leading to the doctoral degree.

No studentship may be renewed in breach of the maximum duration limit, as provided for in the application, nor for a period that, in total, exceeds 48 months of studentship execution.

No studentship may be renewed after obtaining the doctoral degree.

Failure to submit a request for studentship renewal will result in its expiration.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

It is mandatory that **all R&D activities** carried out by the grantee, directly or indirectly financed by the studentship include the reference to FCT and, when applicable, the European Social Fund (ESF) financing through the program *Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão* (PDQI).

Insignia of FCT, ESF and EU must be included in all documents in the context of the studentship, according to the graphic rules of each financing community program.

As a rule, the dissemination of research results financed under the RBI must comply with the rules of open access to data, publications and other research results in force in the FCT.

In all studentships, and particularly in the case of actions supported by EU financing, namely from the FSE, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by national and EU entities in accordance with the applicable legislation in this matter. Grantees and contracting institutions must provide all the required information, including answering to surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even in the case when the studentship has already ceased. Failure to comply with this duty of collaboration constitutes sufficient grounds for demanding the return of the amounts received.

16. PERSONAL DATA PROCESSING AND PROTECTION

In the context of this call, and regarding the protection of personal data and privacy, the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), approved by the Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, dated April 27, 2016, apply. This regulation governs the protection of natural persons regarding the processing of personal data and the free movement of such data. Since May 25, 2018, the GDPR has been in force, revoking Directive 95/46/EC of October 24, 1995. In addition, Law 58/2019 dated August 8, ensures the implementation of the GDPR in the Portuguese legal framework, together with other applicable national and European legislation.

FCT acts as Controller of the personal data collected in this call. The personal data processing will be used for the Program Management and Funding Instruments.

The FCT data processing adheres to the principles of lawfulness, fairness, transparency and time of storage limitation. The legal basis for such processing, in accordance with Article 6 of the GDPR, lies in points b), c), and e), which stipulate that processing is necessary for the performance and execution of a contract, compliance with legal obligations, and the exercise of public interest tasks conducted by FCT.

Personal data will be transmitted to the PhD studentship's contracting institution, and may be, in whole or in part, transmitted to the structures responsible for the European Union co-financing, and processed for the purpose of assessing the satisfactory fulfilment of milestones and goals, as well as control over the legality and regularity of payments, in order to ensure adequate protection of the financial interests of the European Union and the Portuguese State, such as through the FENIX tool, and its privacy policy, to be consulted at *https://www.fct.pt/en/politica-de-privacidade-e-proteccao-de-dados/*. Personal data may also be processed for the purpose of identifying risks of fraud, conflicts of interest or irregularities, through the ARACHNE tool made available by the European Commission, in accordance with the process and its purpose, further explained here and in the privacy policy, at https://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=25704&langId=en.

The personal data of candidates and beneficiaries may also be used to conduct inquiries, in

particular control surveys, depending on the applicable funding source.

Candidates' personal data may also be used, to a minimum extent, to comply with the FCT's public support advertising obligations.

For detailed information regarding the personal data processing to be performed by FCT within the scope of this call, please consult the Application Guide and the application form itself.

17. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. Therefore, no applicant may be privileged, benefited, harmed, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty. This includes ancestry, age, gender, 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 ruled by this Notice of the Call, by the Evaluation and Application Guides, the RBI (approved by the Regulation no. 950/2019, published in the Series II of the DR, of 16th December, in its current version), by the EBI (approved by the Law no. 40/2004, of 18th of August, in its current version), and by other applicable national and European legislation.

FCT recommends the careful reading of all the documentation supporting the application available on the FCT portal.

19. POINT OF CONTACT

Information about the call should be requested via e-mail at info.bolsas@fct.pt. The email is available from the date the call opens and up to 72 hours before the end of the application deadline. FCT guarantees an answer to all requests for clarification submitted within the deadline indicated above.

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