

DATA PROTECTION

# 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program

DECEMBER 2025



## Data Protection

In the context of the Exploratory Research Project Call under the UTA Portugal Program, personal data are collected and processed in compliance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 (General Data Protection Regulation – “GDPR”), as well as with Law No. 58/2019 of 8 August, which ensures the implementation of the GDPR in the Portuguese legal framework.

The Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT) acts as the funding body for the projects and is responsible for launching, evaluating, deciding on, and managing the funding processes. For these purposes, FCT acts as the data controller with regard to the personal data collected and processed under this call, in accordance with the GDPR.

Within the framework of the UTA Portugal Program, FCT maintains a cooperation agreement with the University of Texas at Austin (UTA), under which actions related to the promotion of the call and the definition of its strategic lines are articulated. The processing of personal data in the context of this call is, however, determined and managed exclusively by FCT, in accordance with its legal and public interest tasks.

FCT has appointed a Data Protection Officer (DPO), who may be contacted for all matters related to the processing of personal data via the email address [dpo@fct.pt](mailto:dpo@fct.pt).

Personal data are collected and processed exclusively for the purposes of managing the call and the funding program, including the receipt and analysis of applications, scientific evaluation, contracting, monitoring and control of project implementation, as well as the dissemination and valorisation of project results.

The processing of personal data is lawful as it is necessary for compliance with legal obligations and for the performance of tasks carried out in the public interest vested in FCT, pursuant to Article 6(1)(c) and (e) of the GDPR and the legislation applicable to the public funding of scientific research.

Personal data are collected in the context of this call:

- a) Directly from the data subjects, through application forms and the electronic platforms used by FCT, namely the myFCT platform, as well as other institutional platforms such as CIÊNCIA ID and CIÊNCIAVITAE, which centralise curricular and institutional information relevant for managing the process.
- b) Indirectly, through data provided by applicant and beneficiary entities regarding the principal investigators and members of their research teams.

The personal data processed in this context include:

- a) Categories of data subjects: legal and administrative representatives of applicant and beneficiary entities, principal investigators, members of research teams, as well as national and international reviewers involved in the evaluation processes.
- b) Categories of personal data: identification and contact data, academic and professional data, curricular information, institutional and financial data relevant to the application, evaluation and project implementation processes. In exceptional and duly justified situations, special categories

of data may be processed, namely in the context of project implementation, in accordance with applicable legislation.

The sharing of personal data occurs only when strictly necessary to pursue the purposes identified above. For this purpose, certain data and reports may be communicated to the University of Texas at Austin (UTA), as an institutional partner of FCT, exclusively for the purposes of verifying the institutional eligibility of the UTA Principal Investigator and the eligibility of the costs foreseen for the U.S.-based research team. UTA does not participate in the evaluation, decision-making or funding of the projects, and the shared data may not be used for any other purposes.

Where applicable, this sharing of personal data may involve an international transfer of data to the United States of America. Such transfer is carried out in compliance with Chapter V of the GDPR, on the basis of the European Commission's adequacy decision regarding the EU-US Data Privacy Framework, to which the University of Texas at Austin (UTA) is certified, thereby ensuring an adequate level of protection for the personal data transferred.

Personal data will be retained for the period strictly necessary to fulfil the purposes associated with the management of the call and the funding program, in accordance with the legal, regulatory and archiving obligations applicable to FCT. Thereafter, personal data may be retained for purposes of archiving in the public interest, scientific or historical research, or statistical purposes, in compliance with the GDPR and applicable legislation and with due respect for the principle of data minimisation.

Data subjects have the right to request from FCT access to their personal data, as well as their rectification, erasure or restriction of processing, in accordance with the GDPR, and, where applicable, the right to data portability. Data subjects also have the right to lodge a complaint with the Portuguese Data Protection Authority (CNPd), through the contacts available at [www.cnpd.pt](http://www.cnpd.pt).

For further information on how FCT processes personal data, please consult the Privacy and Data Protection Policy in force, available at <https://www.fct.pt/politica-de-privacidade/>.



**fct**

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