Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia

APPLICATION GUIDE

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

DECEMBER 2025

UTAustin Portugal

This **Application Guide** is intended to support the Principal Investigator (PI) throughout the application process to the 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program, and to help them prepare and submit a successful application. This Guide is based on the information available on the Call's webpage, particularly the legal documents that define its rules and conditions, including: the Announcement for Proposal Submissions, the Terms of Reference and the FCT Projects Regulations in its current version.

On the FCT 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program webpage, the PI also finds the Guide for Peer Reviewers, the Ethics Self-Assessment Guide, the CIÊNCIAVITAE Guide, the Methodology for Applying Simplified Costs – Lump Sums, the Data Protection document and a section of FAQs

The period of application submission for the current Call is from **23 December 2025 to 10 February 2026, 5 p.m. (Lisbon time).**

1. 2025 Call for Exploratory Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program

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 while complying with the global aspirations defined in *Agenda 2030: United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*. In this context, it is particularly relevant the promotion and strengthen the scientific and technological institutions through the participation of research teams in Projects.

This Call has been designed to help teams of researchers from non-corporate entities of the National Scientific and Technology System (NSTS) and The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) come together to conduct joint exploratory research activities in the leading scientific areas of the UT Austin Portugal Program.

Proposed projects must aim to stimulate and promote Portugal's international competitiveness through Science and Technology (S&T), focusing on the opportunities provided by the data economy as a driver of growth and change.

Submitted proposals must configure groundbreaking, high-risk/high-reward projects with a potential for further expansion. Although exploratory research projects (ERPs) are not expected to achieve, during their standard time frame, the sort of results typical of longer projects, submitted proposals must be able to clearly frame the outcomes they should deliver in 12 months and link them to long-term goals for full value realization.

The ERPs should value impact, i.e., propose potential solutions to real-world problems, thereby going beyond the production of scientific papers.

Considering the above-mentioned goals, FCT is launching the **2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects Under the UT Austin Portugal Program** to fund applications in the following areas:

a) Advanced Computing;
b) Clean Energy;
c) Nanotechnologies;
d) Space-Earth Technologies.

A detailed description of these challenges and topics related to each scientific area is provided in the Terms of Reference for the 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program (Phase IV). All proposals must adhere to the requirements outlined therein and in the Announcement for proposals submission.

2. Understanding Lump Sum Funding

2.1. What is Lump Sum Funding?

Under this Lump Sum approach, funding is based on estimated costs of project tasks rather than on actual expenditure.

The Lump Sum model operates on the following fundamental principles:

- **Budget based on estimated costs:** The proposal budget must include realistic estimates of the resources needed to carry out the work plan, in line with the Principal Investigator (PI) institution's usual accounting practices.
- **Payment linked to task completion:** The contribution is paid upon presentation of evidence and results that demonstrate the effective completion of the project as contractually agreed.
- **Simplified reporting:** The PI does not need to maintain detailed financial records or provide receipts to justify expenses to FCT (although internal institutional requirements may apply).

Costs incurred for the action do **not** have to be **documented**. However, beneficiaries remain subject to the accounting rules under the applicable national law.

2.2. Guidelines for Preparing a Lump Sum Proposal

When preparing the proposal under the Lump Sum model, the PI should:

1. **Estimate costs realistically**: The budget should reflect realistic and actual expenses, follow the institution's standard accounting practices, and comply with FCT eligibility criteria (Articles 8 and 9 of the FCT Projects Regulation). While designing the budget, the PI should assess the amount of work and other resources needed for each project activity. For projects in co-promotion, this assessment can serve as the basis for the consortium to agree on the distribution of funds among partners.
2. **Justify the budget per task:** For each task, the PI must include a clear and transparent explanation of how the estimated amount was calculated.
3. **Define tasks and deliverables carefully: T**he PI should ensure that work plan details tasks, explicitly linked to clear and tangible deliverables. A deliverable may be produced by a single task or result from multiple related tasks. Deliverables are the tangible outputs (reports, datasets, prototypes, publications, etc.) that demonstrate the work was carried out as planned.
4. **Link tasks to deliverables:** The Grant Agreement will specify the tasks, deliverables, milestones, and indicators. When preparing the work plan, the PI should clearly establish which deliverables each task will produce or contribute to. Task completion is verified through deliverables, outputs, result indicators, and supporting evidence documented in project reports. The final payment is calculated based on the individual completion rate of each task. FCT does not require detailed financial records or receipts; payment depends on demonstrating that the contracted tasks and deliverables were achieved as planned.
5. **Include overhead costs:** Indirect costs are calculated as a fixed rate of 25% of all estimated eligible direct costs.

3. Prior to Submission

3.1 Who may apply

Applications must be submitted by research consortia involving at least one Applicant from an eligible Portuguese research institution (Principal Investigator); and at least one Applicant from The University of Texas at Austin (who must be a tenured or tenure-track faculty member or be a full-time senior researcher from the Texas Advanced Computing Center, with a PI status)

The Principal Investigator (PI) may be a national, foreign, or stateless researcher who meet the following requirements:

- Have physical allocation to the project.
- Hold a doctoral degree by the application deadline, with supporting documentation to be submitted during the contractualization phase.
- **Should have an employment contract or grant contract with the Principal Contractor.** In the absence of such a link, at the time of the Acceptance Document, a written agreement between the parties must be submitted, according to point c) of item 1 of article no. 6 of FCT Projects Regulation, in which all the institutions must be localized in Portugal.

Additional eligibility requirements for researchers:

- A researcher may submit **only one application as PI** in this call.
- The PI can participate as a team member in **no more than one other application** in this call.
- Each researcher (who is not the PI of an application) can only participate as team member in a **maximum of 2 applications** in the present call.
- **PIs of projects with rejected final scientific reports** due to reasons attributable to the applicant, within the two years prior to the opening date of this call, are not eligible to apply.
- The PI in a situation of unjustified non-fulfilment of the regulatory requirements regarding the presentation of reports on scientific execution of projects concluded and financed through FCT and in which they acted as PI.

Eligibility requirements for applications:

- Applications that have been selected for funding by FCT or other funding agencies will not be accepted.
- Multiple applications for the same project will not be accepted:
    - In the present call.
    - In different calls for proposals that overlap in the period for receiving applications.
    - In the case of applications to calls with different thematic scopes and which take place during different application periods, the recommendation for funding in one of them implies the exclusion from the decision process for the others.

  “Multiple applications” are proposals that fully or partially share the work plan.

- Related applications, from the same team, submitted to FCT or other funding agencies must be declared in the application.
- **Applications submitted, whether fully or partially, in any language other than English** will not be considered**.**
- Applicants providing false declarations or committing plagiarism in the application will be excluded from the Call.

The members of the UT Austin Portugal Program governance structure (Program Board, External Review Committee, Board of Directors and Executive Team) are not allowed to participate as PI, team members or consultants

3.2 Principal Contractor

The following non-business Portuguese entities of the R&I are individual beneficiaries:

- Higher education institutions, their institutes and R&D units.
- State, international or associated Laboratories with head office in Portugal.
- Non-profit private institutions whose main objective is R&D activities, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab) and Centres for Technology and Innovation (CTI).
- Other non-profit private and public institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

3.3 What should the applicant know before applying to this call

Before starting an application, the applicant should, make sure to be well informed on the rules governing this Call, by reading the supporting documents. The eligibility criteria, along with the rules and requirements for the various phases of the application process, are outlined in the following documents:

- **FCT Projects Regulation** in its current version, which establishes the general terms under which funding may be granted.
- **Announcement for Proposal Submissions** for the 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects (ERPs) under the UT Austin Portugal Program, which specifies the conditions of this Call.
- **Guide for Peer Reviewers** for the 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects (ERPs) under the UT Austin Portugal Program, which establishes the terms for evaluation under which funding may be granted.
- **Methodology for Applying Simplified Costs – Lump Sums**, for budget definition purposes.
- **Terms of reference** for the 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program

FCT also provides the following guides, which must be carefully reviewed:

- The **Ethics Self-Assessment Guide.**
- The **CIÊNCIAVITAE Guide.**
- The **Data Protection** document.

The members of the UT Austin Portugal Program governance structure (Governing Board, External Review Committee, Board of Directors and Executive Team) are not allowed to participate as PI, team members or consultants

3.4 How to register on myFCT platform

The application must be submitted through the myFCT platform, and applicants should use their CIÊNCIA ID login credentials to access it. Applicants who are not yet registered on the CIÊNCIA ID platform must create a CIÊNCIA ID identifier at www.ciencia-id.pt.
For any queries regarding the creation and/or use of CIÊNCIA ID, they should contact suporte@ciencia-id.pt.

Additionally, applicants must complete and update CIÊNCIAVITAE CV, which will also be included in the application. The CIÊNCIAVITAE must be written in English, as the International Evaluation Panel will not be able to consult documents in other languages.
Further guidance can be found in the CIÊNCIAVITAE guide available on the call's webpage. For any queries regarding CIÊNCIAVITAE, they should contact info@cienciavitae.pt.

3.5 General Recommendations

The applicant should:

- Prepare the application carefully and in a timely manner.
- Read the instructions provided in this Guide and in the Application form thoroughly.
- Familiarize with the structure of the Application form before beginning to fill it out. Review all sections in advance to understand what is required and to allow sufficient time to gather all the necessary information for submission.
- Ensure that all the institutions to be included in the application are available on the Application form. If an institution is not listed, it must be added via the *Registration of Institutions form* on the Portal de Ciência e Tecnologia (available only in Portuguese). **It may take up to two working days** for a new institution to appear on the list after the form is submitted.
- Contact in advance the researchers to be included in the team and ask them to register on the CIÊNCIA ID platform. Then request their email address used for CIÊNCIA ID registration and use it for their association to the application.
- Ensure that an **up-to-date** version of **CIÊNCIAVITAE CV in English** of **all members of the Portuguese research team** (including the PI and core elements) **is available** to be included in the application form**.**

- Ensure that **all necessary information from the U.S. counterparty is obtained** in a timely manner, so that all attachments can be submitted and the application can proceed within the required timeframe.
- Ensure that that members of the UT Austin research team obtain a CiênciaID and register on CIÊNCIAVITAE (completion of the curriculum vitae is not required).
- Ensure that members of the UT Austin research team confirm their participation in the application
- Verify that **each institution selected** in the application form **has an associated team member.**
- Understand **the Lump Sum funding methodology** before preparing the budget (see Chapter 2).
- **Prepare a realistic and well-justified budget.** Evaluators will assess whether the budget is appropriate, reasonable, and aligned with the project's objectives, methodology, and resource needs.
- Certify that the URL addresses of bibliographical references or other relevant materials remain active throughout the decision-making process.
- Gather in a timely manner and verify that all mandatory attachments are submitted.
- Do not assume that the application form and submission rules are the same as those used in other FCT calls or by other funding agencies.
- Avoid waiting until the **last minute to validate and correct the application**. There is a myFCT validation process designed to detect possible errors in your application, which may require corrections and additional time. **Be sure to repeat this validation process regularly**.
- Plan and complete the application process as early as possible. This will ensure that FCT can provide the best possible assistance.
- Visit the FCT website regularly for updated information regarding the Call.

3.6 Additional recommendations for writing a successful application

Applicants should ensure that:

- Their proposals are accurately assigned to the appropriate scientific area (among the 4 availabe at this call), as incorrect classification may result in evaluation by reviewers whose expertise does not align with the topics addressed.
- Write the application in a way that convinces the panel of experts that the proposed ideas are worthy of funding.
- It is important to clearly describe the institutions involved in the project, highlighting their relevant expertise and contributions to the project’s development.
- Remember that the application reflects a commitment, not only from the Principal Investigator, but also from the entire research team.
- Be realistic in terms of expectations, and ensure that, if the proposal is approved, the research team can execute the project as outlined in the application.
- Carefully read the Guide for Peer Reviewers to understand how the application will be evaluated, ensuring that the application addresses those key evaluation points.
- Avoid repeating the same text or full paragraphs in different sections

3.7 How to direct questions to FCT or UT Austin Portugal

Any clarifications from FCT, including questions about FCT's applicable regulations, the application form and technical issues on the myFCT website, should be requested exclusively at concursoprojetos@fct.pt

FCT cannot guarantee that emails received during the last two working days of this Call's submission period will be answered.

For matchmaking support, i.e., to help find a suitable research partner at UT Austin, can be contacted the UT Austin Portugal office at UT (Marco Bravo:bravo@austin.utexas.edu)

For scientific inquiries, they should contact the UT Austin Portugal office in Portugal at research@utaustinportugal.org.

4. Submission of the Application

The Application form is organized in eight sections. The sections are:

- General Data
- Institutions
- Research Team
- Work Plan
- Indicators
- Budget
- Statement of Commitment
- Validate and Submit

The detailed structure of the Application form, including all the fields and their respective character limits, is available in Annex I. The following subsections of the guide provide a detailed description of each of the eight sections that comprise the application form and provide the most relevant information on how to fill in each field. Many of the fields on the form have a character limit.

We recommend that the PI regularly click on "Validate and Submit" while completing the application. This will help identify and correct any errors - marked with the symbol ⚠ - in a timely manner.

4.1 Guidelines for filling in the Application form

The following sections of this Guide provide a detailed description of the information required in each part of the Application Form. Many fields have character limits, and only plain text or attachments are allowed. Any other means of presenting additional information (such as links for Dropbox or Google Drive) will be disregarded for evaluation purposes.

Once the application is created on the myFCT platform, a reference code is automatically generated (in the format YEAR.NUMBER.CALLTYPE; e.g. 2025.0001.UTA). This will be FCT's unique identification code for the application throughout the Call.

The various sections of the Application form can be accessed from the left-hand side menu bar.

4.1.1 General Data

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In this section of the form, the project is identified by filling in the following fields:

- **Project title:** the title of the research project should be concise and succinct, understandable to a reader with a general scientific background, and suitable for public dissemination.
- **Project acronym:** assign an acronym for the identification of the project.

- **Keywords**: list up to **4 keywords**. The keywords are likely to be used in the peer-review process of the application and should accurately reflect its scientific content. This is particularly important for interdisciplinary applications. A repetition of the words contained in the title must be avoided.
- **Main scientific area (Scientific Domain / Scientific Area / Scientific sub-Area):** the scientific domain / areas and subareas should be chosen from the available options, starting with the main scientific domain.
- **Timetable (start date and duration):** indicate the expected start date of the project in day-month-year format. The project shall have a maximum duration of **12 months**, renewable for a maximum of 3 months, in duly justified cases.
  This indicative start date may be adjusted for projects recommended for funding during the acceptance term signing phase; but it cannot exceed 90 consecutive days from the date of decision notification.

4.1.2 Institutions

This section identifies the institutions involved in the project, both from an administrative and financial management perspective and in terms of scientific execution and it's divided into the following sections:

- Principal Contractor
- Participating Institutions
- Collaborative Institutions

Each Institution indicated in the application must have an associated team member.

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PRINCIPAL CONTRACTOR

The **Principal Contracto**r is the **beneficiary entity** that leads the project and serves as the intermediary with the FCT on behalf of all partners. In approved projects, the Principal Contractor will receive all payments and then transfer the corresponding amounts to partner institutions.

The Principal Contractor must be based in national territory and must have a Tax Identification Number (NIPC). The designation used to apply for the call is the exact designation associated with NIPC.

The Principal Contractor must be one of the beneficiaries' institutions described in section 3.2.

The **Research Unit** field, associated with the Principal Contractor, is mandatory and allow the PI to identify which research units are involved in the project execution. A maximum of 3 research units can be added to the Principal Contractor. If the Principal Contractor is not associated with any Research Unit, the principal contractor should be re-entered in this field.

In this section, a description of the Principal Contractor and its competencies for the development of the project may be provided. The Evaluation Panel will consider this information when assessing the adequacy of the host institution's conditions, including technical/scientific capabilities and organizational management., and, when appropriate, co-funding capacity by companies

PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

Participating institutions must be based in the national territory, have a Tax Identification Number (NIPC) and an associated budget.

The **Research Unit** field, associated with the Participating Institutions, is mandatory and allow the PI to identify which research units are involved in the execution of the project. A maximum of 3 research units can be added to the participating institutions. If the Participating Institution is not associated with any Research Unit, the participating Institution should be re-entered in this field.

This section also includes a description of the Participating Institutions and its competencies relevant to project development. The Evaluation Panel will consider this information when assessing the adequacy of the institution's conditions, including technical/scientific capabilities and organizational management.

COLLABORATIVE INSTITUTIONS

Collaborative Institutions are those involved in the project, including foreign institutions, without an associated budget.

The UT Austin must be registered in FCT's electronic submission system as a *collaborative institution.*

If any **beneficiary institution or research unit** is not **listed**, it must be added in the Institutions Pre-Registration form on the Portal de Ciência e Tecnologia. It may take up to two business days to update the list.

In this section, the PI must clearly justify the participation of collaborative institutions (namely the UT Austin) within the work plan of the proposal. Evaluators will assess collaborative institutions based on the following aspects: scientific contribution, integration in the work plan, added value and collaboration arrangements.

4.1.3 Research Team

The research team comprises the PI and other team members who are directly involved in the tasks and activities of the proposed project.

The PI is responsible for overseeing the acceptance process for team members and consultants by monitoring their status and the availability of their CVs as required. The following status should be checked:

Invitation accepted

Awaiting confirmation

Invitation declined

Any team member or consultant, who does not agree to participate in the project**, should be removed** from the form by the PI to enable the application submission.

Each researcher can only have one CIÊNCIAVITAE imported into myFCT in the same call. Therefore, if the researcher participates in several applications in the same call, once one of the applications is submitted, they will no longer be able to select the 'Get CIÊNCIAVITAE CV' button.

The Research Team item is divided into the following sections:

- Principal Investigator
- PI narrative CV
- Members
- Hirings
- Consultant
- Team CV synopsis

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

The PI's data (name, role, and CiênciaID) is automatically filled in. The PI must complete the following details regarding their participation in the project:

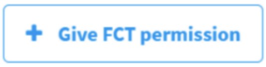
- Institution to which the PI is associated.
- PhD completion date.
- CIENCIAVITAE permissions and upload.

The PI must hold a PhD degree by the closing date of the call.

The PI's CV in the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform must be created or updated before it is linked to the application for the Call. **It should be entirely in English**.

Permission for FCT to access the PI's CIÊNCIAVITAE CV must be granted before associating it with the application. By providing this permission, **FCT will access the Public and Semi-public sections of the PI's CV**. Private sections will not be available for evaluation. Further details are available in the CIÊNCIAVITAE Guide.

The “**Give FCT permission”** button appears in the CIÊNCIAVITAE menu. When clicked, this button opens the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform. Upon returning to the Application form, the button will appear inactive.



The PI must ensure that FCT has access to the contents of each section by setting the privacy level to Public or Semi-public.

By selecting ‘Get CIÊNCIAVITAE CV’, **the CV will be immediately linked to the Application form (**in PDF format)**.** When the CV upload process is complete, a link to the associated CV PDF file, with the upload date and time, will appear on the Application form.

The PI should **review** their **CIÊNCIAVITAE CV PDF file** to ensure all information is accurate and updated.

Any updates to the PI’s CV require re-selecting “Get CIÊNCIAVITAE CV”. **Updates must be made on the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform itself**. To link the updated CV to the application, it is necessary to remove the previously uploaded document and select “Get CIÊNCIAVITAE CV” again.

All the content of the CIÊNCIAVITAE is exclusively the PI’s responsibility.
The CIÊNCIAVITAE CV will be used by the reviewers **only to confirm the information** provided in the PI Narrative CV.

PI NARRATIVE CV

The PI Narrative CV is designed to support a comprehensive evaluation of a diverse range of research achievements, emphasizing the quality and impact of individual research outputs and contributions, rather than relying on metrics as a proxy for quality. This means that applicants are strongly advised to avoid mentioning metrics, such as journal impact factors, journal quartiles or research performance indexes.

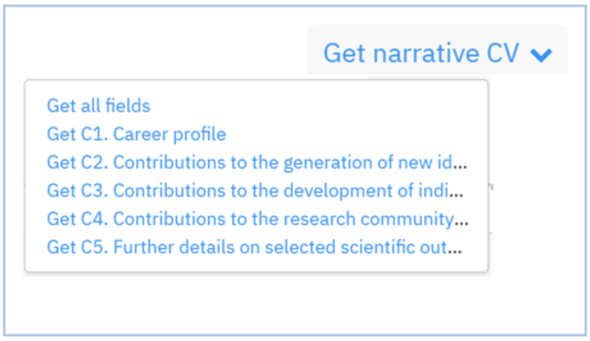
The PI's narrative CV includes the following sections:

1. Career Profile
2. Contributions to Science and Society
    - i. Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge
    - ii. Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams
    - iii. Contributions to the research community and the broader society
    - iv. Further details on selected scientific outputs and/or activities

The **PI narrative CV** can be **completed** either directly in the **myFCT application form,** or on the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** platform (**narrative** tab) and subsequently imported. In any case, the PI's narrative CV should be written considering the specific context of this Call.

To import the narrative CV from the CIÊNCIAVITAE into myFCT application form, the PI should:

1. Click on the "**Get narrative CV**" (see figure below).
2. Choose to import sections 1 (Career Profile) and 2 (Contributions to Science and Society) together by selecting "**Get all fields**", or import specific subsections individually.
3. Review and edit the imported text in the application form as needed.



The following sections provide guidance on the information and content that PIs are expected to include in each part of the narrative CV.

1. Career Profile

The PI should provide a summary of their educational background (including PhD completion year), key qualifications, and employment history. If applicable, could being include details on any career interruptions, such as parental leave, long-term illness, industry work, secondments, volunteer work, or other non-research activities. It could be described how these interruptions, or unconventional career paths, or gaps have influenced their research activity.

2. Contributions to Science and Society

In the following sub-sections the PI can provide relevant examples of contributions in relation to their career stage and specific scientific area. This section is structured to accommodate various researcher profiles and career stages across different scientific fields. The PI may refer to the guidelines below and select contribution types that most effectively and comprehensively represent their researcher profile and achievements.

i. **Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge:** this section should describe how the PI has contributed to generating new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge, highlighting the relevance and impact of these contributions. Examples can include publications, key data sets, software, intellectual property (*e.g.*, patents, licenses, trademarks, copyrights), conference presentations and proceedings, and research or policy publications, as well as other scientific, technological, cultural, or artistic achievements. Any awards received in recognition of contributions to knowledge generation may also be included. To better inform the Evaluation Panel about the significance of these contributions, the PI should not only specify what these contributions are but also explain how and why they are important, the role they played, and who benefited from these outputs or achievements. It should be avoided citing publication metrics, such as impact factors, or research performance metrics[1].

ii. **Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams:** this section should highlight how the PI's expertise has helped develop individuals and/or research teams. This can include participation in projects, leadership or management roles, collaborative contributions, and team support. Relevant activities may involve teaching, workshops, or summer schools (for undergraduates, graduates, and post-grads, as well as junior colleagues), as well as supervision, mentoring, and contributions to the success of teams or advancement of colleagues. The PI should also detail their role in past and ongoing funded projects, as well as management of science, technology, and innovation programs experience. Additionally, this section can showcase the PI's involvement in collaborations and networks at both organizational and international levels.

iii. **Contributions to the research community and the broader society:** the PI may include activities that demonstrate their commitment to advancing the research community and engaging with broader society. This includes contributions to outreach and engagement efforts within the research community, such as editing, reviewing, refereeing, evaluating applications, and organizing events that have positively impacted the research community or improved research culture. Societal engagement, knowledge transfer, dissemination of knowledge, outreach activities, and other forms of engagement with the public, private, or non-profit sectors should also be highlighted.

iv. **Further details on selected scientific outputs and/or activities**: should be provides additional and detailed information on a **maximum of five scientific outputs and/or activities that best represent the PI's research career and experience**. For each one, the PI should specify their role and its impact on advancing knowledge in the relevant scientific area. Contributions from the previous sections can also be included. If available, the DOI for each output, must be added.

The PI **must avoid repetitive information** in the different fields of the **PI narrative CV section** and focus on the relevant information for the development of the presented application, considering mainly the last **5 effective years of scientific activity**.

[1] Research performance metrics include, but are not limited to, h-index, H-index, i10-index, G-index, HG-index, Q2-index, AR-index, M-quotient, M-index, W-index, E-index, A-index.

MEMBERS

Team members must be linked to the application by providing their email address. For each team member, including UT Austin research team, the PI must include the following information:

- Email
- Institution to which the team member is associated in the scope of the research project

The UT Austin research team must be registered by the PI in Portugal in FCT's electronic submission system.

Up to three additional core CVs may be included in the application. The PI is automatically designated as core CV.

Each team member, including UT Austin research team, is required to confirm their participation in the application and associate their CIÊNCIAVITAE CV within their myFCT area. The completion of the CIêNCIAVITAE CV for UT Austin research team is not required, though.

Each institution selected in the application form should have a corresponding team member associated with it.

HIRINGS

In this section, additional human resources (contracts and scholarships) needed to carry out the project should be indicated. New hirings should be detailed in the application by filling in the following fields:

- Type;
- Institution to which the hiring is associated in the scope of the research project

CONSULTANTS

Internationally renowned experts in the project's scientific areas who will provide consulting services should be identified. Please, complete the following fields in the application:

- Email
- Framework of consultant´s participation

As required to team members also consultants should confirm their participation in the application and associate their CIÊNCIAVITAE CV or a PDF file with their CV (maximum 4 MB) in their myFCT personal area.

Whenever a team member or consultant is added to the application, an email will be sent requesting confirmation of their association.

Team CV synopsis

In this field, the PI must present a synopsis of the Research Team's CV, focused on the **experience and competence** of the group to execute the project. The team's **scientific activities and key achievements** over the last **5 active years** must be highlighted, demonstrating their expertise and the relevance of their research outputs (e.g., publications, datasets, software, patents) to the project's specific focus area.

The synopsis must justify the **structure and configuration of the team**, clearly evidencing the **complementarity of skills**, balance of roles, and adequacy of its size. It is crucial to unequivocally demonstrate how **each member's profile and expertise align with the specific tasks** assigned to them in the work plan, as well as their level of **commitment and availability** for project execution.

The PI should also detail the team's ability to **engage and develop researchers in training** (including master's students, PhD candidates, and early-career researchers). Furthermore, the synopsis should emphasize the **track record of collaboration** among team members and with external partners, including the team's **degree of internationalization**, when relevant to the project's scope and objectives.

Note on Character Limit: Given the 10,000-character limit, the PI must be highly **selective and strategic. I**t is essential to focus on the detailed justification of the **members most critical** to the project's success and group the remaining members by competence and function to ensure that all evaluation points are addressed. The **CIÊNCIAVITAE CV** of each team member will be used by the reviewers **only to verify** the details provided in this team CV synopsis.

4.1.4 Work Plan

The following suggestions provide guidance on structuring the description of the research plan. The PI is responsible for organizing the structure, which should be tailored to suit the project's scientific subject or interdisciplinary nature. The research plan should be designed for a 12-month period.

The work plan is divided into the following sections:

- Abstract
- State of the art and objectives
- Research plan and methods
- Bibliographic references
- Past publications
- Tasks
- Project timeline and management
- Ethical issues
- 2030 Agenda
- Other projects
- Attachments
- Computing and data

ABSTRACT

In this section, a summary of the proposal should be provided in both **Portuguese** and **English**, covering an analysis of the state of the art, key objectives, the knowledge and skills available within the team, the strategy and methodologies to be used, and an outline of the project's novelty and expected results.

The PI must specify whether the abstract used by FCT for **public dissemination** will be the same as the one provided earlier. If, for **confidentiality reasons**, the abstract for publication differs, the PI should select the option "**Abstract for publication different?"**. The content of this field remains the PI's responsibility.

STATE OF ART AND OBJECTIVES

In this section, the PI must present an overview of their research field, outlining the current state of the art within the area and detailing how the proposed research is both groundbreaking and potentially impactful. Relevant references to the PI's previous work should also be included. The PI should address the following key questions:

- To what extent does the proposed research **address significant and relevant challenges**?
- How **ambitious are the objectives, and to what degree do they go beyond the current state of the art** (*e.g.*, introducing novel concepts, approaches, or fostering advancements between or across disciplines)?
- What is the potential contribution of the research project to the advancement of knowledge, and what is the potential impact of the project's outcomes on the economic, technological, and societal dimensions?

RESEARCH PLAN AND METHODS

In this section, the PI should describe the proposed research plan and the methodologies to be used, focusing on the following questions:

- To what extent is the outlined **scientific approach feasible,** bearing in mind the originality and/or groundbreaking potential of the proposal?
- How suitable are the **proposed research methodology and working arrangements** for achieving the project's goals?
- How well are the timelines, resources, and PI´s commitment aligned with and justified for the successful execution of the project?
- Which **contingency measures** can the PI anticipate addressing potential bottlenecks in the primary plan?

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

References cited in the state of the art and in the research plan and methods should be listed in this section, with a cross-referencing style chosen by the PI, namely: APA, MLA or Chicago.

Each reference should include the following information: title; authors' names in the order in which they appear in the publication; name of the book or journal; editorial data, if applicable; volume number; page numbers; year of publication. If the publications are available electronically, the PI can add their URL, although this is not mandatory.

Bibliographical references are not limited to the PI and team members' publications.

PAST PUBLICATIONS

It should be included **five key publications** (articles, books or monographs published or accepted for publication), authored or co-authored by the PI and the team members, that are significant for demonstrating the project's scientific quality. A preferred bibliographic citation style as APA, MLA or Chicago should be selected.

The publication in the list can be reorder by clicking ⋮ and dragging it to the desired position.

Evaluators can easily access these 5 publications by providing complete URLs. The PI is responsible for keeping these links active throughout the decision-making process.

TASKS

For each project task, the PI should provide the following details:

- **Task denomination:** a concise and self-explanatory title for the task
- **Task description and expected results:**
    - **Activities**: a list description of **all activities** to be carried out, ensuring they are presented comprehensively and specifically. **Task acceptance is based on demonstrating that activities were executed, not on achieving positive results**.
    - **Methodologies**: an explanation on **how** the work will be executed (protocols, techniques, approaches).
    - **Deliverables link**: Identification of the deliverables that each task will produce or contribute to. *(Detailed descriptions go in the Deliverables List section below).*
    - **Task dependencies**: an explanation of how each task connects to others and how its outputs enable subsequent work..
    - **Team & resources**: a detailed description of each partner's role and a justification of the human and material resources required to execute the activities.
    - **Expected outcomes**: a description of the anticipated results. *(Negative or unexpected scientific results do not affect task acceptance if the planned work was properly executed)*
- **Assigned team member(s):** identification of the team member(s) associated with each task. **All team members** (hired or to be hired), including those without associated costs, **must be allocated to at least one task.**

- **Person*month:** the value obtained by multiplying the percentage of each person's dedication to the task by the duration of the task in months.

  Examples:

  - 1 person at 50% for 6 months = 3 person*month
  - 1 person at 30% for 6 months = 1,8 person*month
  - 1 person at 50% for 15 days = 0,25 person*month

- **Start date** and task **duration** (in months) must be indicated.

- **Budgets:** After assigning team members to each task and defining the start date and duration, the system will open the budget section with two separate tabs, in which the PI should**:**

  - **Task costs:** Allocate funding amounts to each budget item configured for the call, organized by beneficiary institution. For each cost item, enter the appropriate amounts based on the resources required to complete the task.

    Note: Indirect costs (overheads) will be automatically calculated at 25% of all eligible direct costs. Building and facility adaptation expenses are limited to a maximum of 10% of total eligible project costs.

  - **Costs justification:** Provide a detailed narrative justification for the budget amounts requested in each budget item to complete the task. The explanation should clarify why these resources are necessary for this specific task and how they relate to its objectives and expected results. It should also demonstrate that the costs are reasonable and appropriate.

  Once all task information is completed and saved, the system will display two overview tabs:

  - **List:** a summary table providing an overview of all tasks, including task number, task designation/duration, assigned team members, and person*months. This table allows the PI to:
    - Edit each task individually.
    - Remove tasks as needed.
    - Reorder tasks by clicking on ⋮ and moving the task to the desired position.

  - **Costs**: Displays a consolidated view of the budget requested for each task, organized by institution. This overview enables the PI to review the distribution of costs across all tasks and institution(s) involved.

*The **global budget** for all tasks is continuously displayed on the right-hand side of the application form for the PI's reference.*

The application must include tasks planned for the entire duration of the project, **ensuring that there are no gaps without designed activities**.

The budget amounts allocated to each task will automatically populate the Budget section (4.1.6), including the Principal Contractor, Participating Institutions and Funding Plan tables.

Although the UT Austin team will be funded by the by the Program's office at UT, not by FCT, the budget amounts allocated to each task must be provided as a pdf attachment.

PROJECT TIMELINE AND MANAGEMENT

In this section, the PI should present the list of deliverables, the list of milestones, the timeline and the description of the management structure of the proposal.

- **Deliverables list**

  In this section the PI should include deliverables that will demonstrate task completion. Include only deliverables that are essential for project monitoring and work completion. A deliverable may be produced by a single task or result from multiple related tasks.

  Under the Lump Sum funding, payment is based on work completion demonstrated through deliverables, not on research success or financial records.

  For detailed information on how deliverables relate to the payment structure, please refer to Chapter 2 - Understanding Lump Sum Funding.

  In this section, for each deliverable the PI should, provide:

  - **Deliverable:** Select the appropriate category from the dropdown menu. The available deliverable types are:

    - ➢ **Report:** Documents or reports on specific activities or results.
      Examples: Scientific reports, technical reports, feasibility studies, survey results, literature reviews, analysis reports, progress summaries, benchmarking studies, ethics compliance documentation, security protocols and reports.
    - ➢ **Data Management Plan:** Plan describing how research data will be handled during and after the project.
      Examples: Initial Data Management Plan (DMP), updated DMP reflecting project evolution and final data management strategy.
    - ➢ **Demonstrator:** Physical or digital prototypes, pilots, demonstrators, or proof-of-concept implementations.
      Examples: Working prototypes, pilot installations, demonstrator systems, test platforms, experimental setups and field campaigns, scale models and proof-of-concept demonstrations.
    - ➢ **Dissemination/Communication:** Materials and activities related to project dissemination and communication, and scientific publications.
      Examples: Journal articles, conference papers, project website, press releases, promotional videos, infographics, conference presentations, workshop materials, social media campaigns, policy briefs and exhibition materials.

- ➢ **Dataset:** Research data, databases, or collections of data produced by the project. *Examples:* Experimental datasets, survey data, databases, microdata collections, annotated corpora, measurement data, genomic sequences and imaging datasets.
- ➢ **Other:** Any other research outputs not covered by the above categories. *Examples*: Software applications, algorithms, computational models, simulation tools, technical diagrams, cell lines, biological samples, chemical compounds, new methodologies, analytical tools and patents filings.

- **Deliverable description:** Provide a brief description of what will be delivered, including its purpose and content, and how is related to each task.

- **Tasks:** Select the task(s) associated with each deliverable.

As deliverables are created, they will appear in a summary table. The PI can edit or remove each deliverable at any time by accessing the table.

- **Milestones list**

  A milestone represents a specific date by which an objective is expected to be achieved, a phase completed, or a result obtained. In this section, for each milestone the PI should:

  - **Denomination:** Provide a concise and self-explanatory title for the milestone.

  - **Milestone description:** Detail a description of what can be demonstrated or reported on that date, including the specific objective achieved, phase completed, or result obtained.

  - **Tasks:** Select the task(s) associated with each milestone.

  - **Date:** Specify when the milestone will be reached.

  The **number of milestones is limited to 6**. The PI should focus on key project achievements that mark significant progress points.

  As milestones are created, they will appear in a summary table. The PI can edit or remove each milestone at any time by accessing the table.

  Milestones help track project progress and ensure alignment with the planned timeline. They provide visibility into the achievement of major objectives throughout the project lifecycle.

- **Timeline**

  A timeline description of the project should be created. It is recommended the use of the spreadsheet available in both MS Excel and ODF formats. Once completed, it should be converted to PDF format and uploaded as **Timeline.pdf**.

  When filling in the timeline, the PI must indicate the following information:

  - o **Participant(s) involved in the task,** PI and/or team members**.**

- **Institution responsible for the task,** the acronym of the institution responsible for the task.
- **Additional Institution(s) involved in the task (if applicable)**, the acronyms of the other institutions involved in the task.

The PI should **add a mark** in the timeline for **each milestone (M)** and **deliverable (D)**, when applicable, as shown in the Timeline template.

A description should be added to the timeline indicating the meaning of the acronyms used.

The timeline must include the main tasks either for both national entities and the UT Austin team.

- **Management**

  In this section, the PI should outline the project management structure that will be implemented. This should include details on the coordination among participants, the planned meetings, and the reporting structure. The proposed management structure should be tailored to the project's size and consider the involvement of participants from different research units.

ETHICAL ISSUES

The PI indicates whether any ethical issues have been identified in the project. If applicable, they select the ethical statements considered most appropriate and provide a brief justification for their selection. The PI should describe the national and European regulations, as well as the best practices to be followed during the development of the project, regarding those ethical issues. The available options are described in the *Ethics Self-Assessment Guide*.

If the project requires ethics approvals (e.g., from ethics committees or animal welfare authorities), the PI should ensure that the work plan accounts sufficient time to obtain such approvals, as these procedures often take longer than expected and research activities cannot begin without them.

Evaluators will assess whether ethical issues have been appropriately addressed and whether the proposed timeline for obtaining approvals is realistic.

2030 AGENDA

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda, adopted by nearly all countries under the United Nations framework, outline global priorities and aspirations for sustainable development by 2030. These goals aim to mobilize worldwide efforts towards a set of common objectives that enhance the quality of life for all current and future citizens. In this section, the PI should identify **one to three** of the 17 SDGs from the United Nations 2030 Agenda.

OTHER PROJECTS

Projects approved through peer review, **led by the PI** and **started within the last 5 years**, whether they are completed or in progress should be listed. Additionally, it should be detailed all projects led by the PI, submitted and in undergoing peer review.

For FCT-funded projects:

Once the PI selects the project, all fields will be automatically populated, except for the field titled "Please list the main objectives of the project that you consider relevant for this application".

For projects not funded by FCT, or those submitted and currently under evaluation:

The following elements must be completed:

- <u>Add project</u>
    - Project reference: reference as specified in the funding contract
    - Project status: indicate whether the project is still just an "Application" or if it is "In Progress" or "Completed"
    - Project title
    - Principal contractor
- <u>Funding</u>
    - Funding entity
    - Total Funding (requested funding, for for submitted projects)
- <u>Timetable</u>
    - Start date (an estimative, for for submitted projects)
    - Duration (months)
- <u>Relation with the current proposal</u>: For funded projects, should be provided a detailed list of results achieved, including any systems or prototypes developed, patents obtained, and academic degrees earned by students who participated in the project, among other relevant outcomes. For submitted projects under evaluation, should be outlined how these projects relate to the current proposal. In both cases, the PI should indicate how the project connects to the research team and the research goals associated with the present proposal.

ATTACHMENTS

In this field, the PI must add:

- A 2-page CV of the UT Austin Principal Investigator (3MB)
- A compilation of other members of the UT Austin research team CV. (7MB)

- A statement from the PI at UT Austin confirming that he/she will be the PI at the American counterpart and that he/she holds a tenure-track faculty appointment at the same university (3MB)
  - In the case of proposals led by PIs at the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC), the statement must indicate that the PI is a full-time senior researcher with PI status;
- A one-page document describing how the proposed project aligns with flagship projects at both national and EU levels (3MB)
- File with budget for the UT Austin team (3MB)

If necessary, the PI may attach additional documents such as formulas, schemes, diagrams, graphics, images, and support letters. **No other document types will be accepted in this section.** The authorized formats are **PDF, JPEG** and **PNG**.

COMPUTING AND DATA

Funded projects can have access to advanced computer resources and research data repositories provided by FCT without further scientific evaluation. This includes computing time in FCT's two supercomputers, Deucalion and MareNostrum 5. To this end, FCT requests applicants to answer some additional questions:

- **Advanced computing**

  In this section, the PI should answer the following question(s):

  i. **The work plan requires advanced computer resources to be provided by FCT?** If yes, two additional questions must be answered:

     a) *Do you have previous experience with High Performance Computing?* If yes, the PI should describe the previous experience with Performance Computing, indicating the computational platforms used.

     b) *Which of the following amounts of resources (per year) is suitable for your project?* The PI should choose one of the three available options and justify the request in the respective box.

- **Research data**

  In this section, the PI should answer the following question(s):

  i. **You will be generating or collecting research data in the context of your project?** If yes, an additional question must be answered:

     a) *The work plan requires access to a research data repository provided by FCT?* If yes and if the project will be selected for funding, the beneficiary will have to submit a Research Data Management Plan to FCT within six months of the funding's start date, according to the model provided by FCT. Access to the service will be evaluated based on the shared information.

4.1.5 Indicators

Expected Output Indicators

The expected outputs give visibility to the research developed during the project. These outputs should be realistic and achievable and include publications, communications, reports, organization of seminars, advanced training and and other relevant activities. These indicators will be used to evaluate how well the final results align with those anticipated in the application.

Dissemination

In the "Dissemination" field, should be provided a description of the plan for disseminating results and promoting both knowledge and scientific dissemination, as well as the approach for knowledge transfer. Dissemination outputs should be included in the expected indicators and may encompass actions aimed at fostering scientific culture, promoting and sharing knowledge, technical and scientific publications, conferences, seminars, forums, and initiatives targeting specific sectors or audiences.

4.1.6 Budget

This call uses the Lump Sum funding methodology (Simplified Costs - Fixed Amounts), as outlined in point 4 of the Announcement for Proposal Submissions and in accordance with the FCT Projects Regulation.

The budget tables in this section consolidate all resources detailed in the Work Plan tasks and display:

- Total direct personnel costs.
- Total direct non-personnel costs (equipment, missions, etc.).
- Indirect costs (automatically calculated as 25% of all eligible direct costs).

The PI should review the global budget to ensure:

- All costs are correctly distributed across items.
- The total budget aligns with the project objectives and scope.
- Any necessary adjustments are made at the task level (in the Work Plan section).

Under the Lump Sum model, evaluators will assess whether the resources proposed are appropriate and adequate for the planned activities, whether the budget is reasonable and non-excessive, and whether the costs are consistent with the scientific objectives and methodology.

Principal contractor

This section displays the budget breakdown for the Principal Contractor, organized by budget item. All values are automatically populated from the task-level budgets entered in the Work Plan section.

Participating Institutions

This section displays the budget breakdown for each Participating Institution, organized by budget item. All values are automatically populated from the task-level budgets entered in the Work Plan section.

Funding plan

This section presents the project's Global Budget and Funding Plan tables, which are automatically populated based on all task-level budgets. The tables display:

- Total budget by cost item.
- Funding Plan.

All **budget amounts** are **automatically** calculated from the **Work Plan tasks**. To make any changes, select the relevant **budget item** to navigate back to the corresponding task(s) in section 4.1.4 and update the budgets at the **task level**.

4.1.7 Statement of Commitment

The Declaration of Commitment by the PI includes the mandatory agreement of the principal researcher, which can be accepted by marking the following check box:

☑ I acknowledge and agree with the terms set out in this statement of commitment

4.1.8 Validate and Submit

After completing the application, the PI should click on "Validate and Submit". If any errors are detected in the application form, a list of the issues will be automatically generated, including a brief description of the problem and the section of the form that requires correction.

The presence of errors will prevent the submission of the application.

Once the call closes, the PI will no longer have access to the form; however, it will still be possible to access the “Overview" of the submitted application, using a PDF Reader software.

5. After the Submission of the Application

5.1 Statement of Commitment from the Principal Contractor

The Statement of Commitment of the Principal Contractor will be available on myFCT for approval by the **head of the institution or their designated representative** after the deadline for submitting applications and until **17 February 2026 at 5:00 p.m. (Lisbon time)**, as stipulated in the Announcement for Proposal Submissions.
The agreement with the Statement of Commitment must be submitted in myFCT by using the CIÊNCIA ID credentials of the person(s) to whom the authority has been delegated. The delegation of authority can be managed through the Portal de Ciência e Tecnologia (PCT).

5.2 Delegation of Access in the PCT

The creation of the user group and the delegation of authority to these users for agreeing with the Statement of Commitment of the Principal Contractor are managed in the PCT through the following steps:

- **1st step** – Log in using the credentials of the **Institutional Collective User[2].**
- **2nd step** – Add users to the Administrators Group using their association keys.
- **3rd step** – Create the user group responsible for confirming the Statement of Commitment for the applications and delegate the respective access. This step must be performed by one of the individual users of the Administrators Group, who should:
  a) Create the Group, accessing the "User Group" menu and entering the desired name for the group.
  b) Once the group is created, access it and click on "Edit" to add users, using their email or CIÊNCIA ID.
  c) In the "Access Permissions" menu, select the option "Project Call - statement commitment".
  d) After accepting the "Terms and Conditions" (image below), change the permissions to "Totals (inc. Locking)"


TERMOS & CONDIÇÕES

1 – A Instituição proponente, à qual foram atribuídas credenciais de acesso à plataforma "Portal de Ciência e Tecnologia", é responsável por garantir a confidencialidade de todos os dados e informações que lhe venham a ser disponibilizados, em virtude da utilização da referida plataforma, bem como não revelar a ninguém, sem prévio consentimento por escrito da FCT, quaisquer informações que não sejam do domínio público relacionadas com as suas atividades, planos, dados, operações, resultados de investigações, bem como as metodologias usadas.

2 – A Instituição proponente é igualmente responsável por gerir os acessos à plataforma feitos pelo seu pessoal, ao qual lhe impõe as exigências referidas supra, podendo vir a ser responsabilizada por eventuais danos causados na plataforma, em consequência da conduta, dolosa ou negligente, do seu pessoal.

3 – Em caso de acesso à plataforma, em nome da instituição proponente, ou do seu pessoal, por estranhos, incumbe à referida instituição o ónus de participar tal ocorrência à equipa técnica da FCT, responsável por gerir a plataforma.

☐ Tomei conhecimento e concordo com os termos acima enunciados.

Confirmar Cancelar

.

[2] In case the institution does not have the credentials of the Collective User, it should be requested to credenciais@fct.pt.

More details are provided in the Access Delegation Manual available on the PCT under the "Help"» "Support Documents" section.

5.3 Acceptance of Applications in myFCT

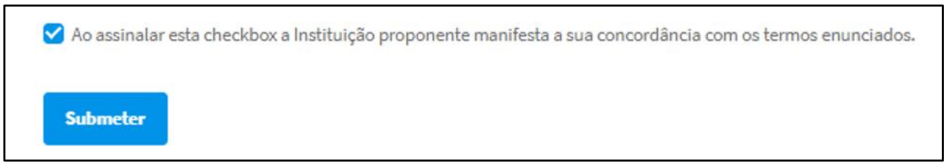
The agreement with the Statement of Commitment of the Principal Contractor is completed on myFCT by users to whom the respective competencies have been delegated, using their CIÊNCIA ID credentials.

The "**Institutions**" » "**Ongoing Calls**" menu provides **access** to the **list of applications in which the institution participates** in R&D Project calls, whether as a principal contractor or as a participating institution.
Only the Principal Contractor is required to express agreement with the terms outlined in the Statement of Commitment on myFCT. The Principal Contractor must also ensure that the other entities within the proposed project consortium fulfil the obligations set forth in the Statement of Commitment.

For each application listed, the Principal Contractor has access to the following:

- Overview of the application: a simplified version containing public information, accessible by clicking on the application reference.
- Summary of the application / Statement of Commitment: available only when the institution is the principal contractor, accessible by clicking on "Acceptance".

It is mandatory for the Principal Contractor to agree with the terms of the Declaration of Commitment. To this end, the Principal Contractor must check the box at the end of the Statement of Commitment of each application and click on "Submit":



After the Principal Contractor accepts the Statement of Commitment, the following confirmation will appear in the "Overview" of the application, accessible to both the Institution and the PI:

Instituição Proponente (Principal Contractor)

Aceite por XXX em dd.mm.AAAA – hh:mm em nome de [Instituição] por delegação de competências dos responsáveis da instituição.

Annex I – Application Form Structure and Character Limit

Applications must be written in English and are submitted through the MyFCT platform.

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

1. General Data

1.1 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 sub-Area
- Timetable (start date and duration)

2. Institutions

2.1 Principal contractor

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

2.2 Participating Institutions

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

2.3 Collaborative Institutions

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

3. Research Team

3.1 Principal Investigator

- Institution to which you are associated in the scope of the research project
- PhD completion date
- CIENCIAVITAE permissions and upload

3.2 PI narrative CV

- Career profile **(max. 4000 characters)**
- Contributions to Science and Society:
  - Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies, or knowledge **(max. 5000 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)**
  - Further details on selected outputs and/or activities **(max. 5000 characters)**

3.3 Members

- Email
- Institutions to which you are associated in the scope of the research project

3.4 Hirings

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

3.5 Consultants

- Email
- Framework of consultant´s participation **(max. 1000 characters)**

3.6 Team CV synopsis

- Research team CV synopsis (**max. 10000 characters)**

4. WORK PLAN

4.1 Abstract

- Abstract in Portuguese **(max. 5000 characters)**
- Abstract in English **(max. 5000 characters)**
- Abstract for publication different? **(max. 5000 characters)**

4.2 State of the art and Objectives

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

4.3 Research plan and methods

- Research plan and methods **(max. 10000 characters)**

4.4 Bibliographic references

- Bibliographic references **(max. 10000 characters)**

4.5 Past publications

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

4.6 Tasks

- Task denomination **(max. 150 characters)**
- Task description and expected results **(max. 4000 characters)**
- Assigned to
- Person*month
- Start date
- Duration (months)

- Budgets:
  - Task costs
  - Cost justification of the task **(max. 2500 characters)**

4.7 Project timeline and management

- Deliverables List (add deliverable)
  - Deliverable
  - Deliverable description **(max. 800 characters)**
  - Tasks
- Milestones List (add Milestone)
  - Denomination
  - Milestone description **(max. 300 characters)**
  - Tasks
  - Date
- Timeline
- Management
  - Description of the management structure **(max. 3000 characters)**

4.8 Ethical issues

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

4.9 2030 Agenda

- Framework of the application for the United Nations SDG 2030 Agenda **(max. 3 SDG)**

4.10 Other projects

- Add project
  - Project reference
  - Project status
  - Project title (in English)
  - Principal contractor
  - Funding
    - Funding entity
    - Total funding
  - Timetable
    - Start date
    - Duration (months)
  - Relation with the current proposal
    - State the main objectives considered relevant for the application being submitted to the present R&D Projects Call **(max. 2000 characters)**

4.11 Attachments

- Documents upload (if applicable)

4.12 Computing and data

- Advanced computing
  - The work plan requires advanced computer resources to be provided by FCT?
  - Do you have previous experience with High Performance Computing? (if applicable)
  - Refer previously used computational platforms (if applicable, **max. 400 characters**)

  - Which of the following amounts of resources (per year) is suitable for your project? (if applicable)
  - Brief justification for the requested computational resources (if applicable, **max. 400 characters**)
- Research data
  - You will be generating or collecting research data in the context of your project?
  - The work plan requires access to a research data repository provided by FCT? (if applicable)

5. INDICATORS

- Expected output indicators
- Dissemination
  - Indicate the dissemination actions of the scientific activity planned in the project (**max. 3000 characters)**

6. BUDGET

6.1 Principal contractor

- Budget (automatic filling)

6.2 Participating institutions

- Budget (automatic filling)

6.3 Funding plan

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

7. STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

8. VALIDATE AND SUBMIT

Annex II – 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**.

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.

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/

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