



**STIMULUS OF SCIENTIFIC EMPLOYMENT, INDIVIDUAL
SUPPORT CALL (CEEC IND)**

8th EDITION

APPLICATION GUIDE

December 2025

This **Application Guide** is intended to support researchers through the application process to the 8th edition of the Call for the Stimulus of Scientific Employment, Individual Support (CEEC IND - 8th Edition) and help them preparing and submitting a successful application.

The Guide draws on information available on the [Call's webpage](#) at the FCT website, namely the legal documents setting the rules and conditions for this Call: the Regulation for Scientific Employment (REC) and the Call for applications (*Aviso de Abertura*), both available only in Portuguese. An English summary of the information contained in the Call for applications is available [here](#).

The current Call will be open between December 15, 2025, and January 29, 2026. The period for the Hiring Institutions to confirm their support of applications is between January 30 and February 13, 2026.

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1. PRIOR TO SUBMISSION

1.1 Who may submit an application?

PhD holders of any nationality, or stateless, with a background in any scientific area who wish to carry on scientific research or technological development activity in Portugal may apply for this Call, with a proposal of scientific research activities, as long as they do not hold a work contract for undetermined period with any institution of the Portuguese System of Science and Technology.

Applicants who obtained a Final Score lower than 5 in the previous edition of the Stimulus of Scientific Employment, Individual Support Call (CEEC IND) are inhibited from applying for the current edition.

Applications to this Call are submitted individually. However, applicants will need the commitment from the Host Institution, as well as from the Institution that legally represents it, if applicable (the Hiring Institution), to support the application and celebrate the work contract in case they are selected for funding. This commitment is confirmed when the **Host Institution associates itself with an application**. In this edition of the Call, the Host Institution is also required to submit a support statement in English, which will be available to the Evaluation Panel.

1.2 Registration

Applications will be submitted on the [myFCT website](#).

Before you log into the myFCT, you need to be registered on the CIÊNCIA ID platform, that generates your CIÊNCIA ID credentials: www.ciencia-id.pt

The CIÊNCIA ID platform also allows you to create and edit your “**CIÊNCIAVITAE**”, containing the applicant’s full research track record.

1.3 What you should know before applying to this Call

Applicants whose application is scored with a **Final Score lower than 5 will be inhibited from applying in the next edition** of the Stimulus of Scientific Employment, Individual Support Call.

1.3.1 The Call for Applications and its legal framework

Before starting your application, make sure you are well informed about the rules governing this Call by reading the [supporting documents](#).

The terms of admissibility, as well as the rules and requirements of the different phases of the application process, are set forth in the following documents:

- **Evaluation Guide** for the CEEC IND - 8th Edition, which establishes the general terms for evaluation under which funding may be granted;
- **The Scientific Employment Regulation** (*Regulamento do Emprego Científico*), which establishes the general terms under which funding may be granted, in its current version (published on October 12, 2023);
- **The Call for applications** (*Aviso de Abertura*) for the CEEC IND - 8th Edition;
- **The Decree-Law No. 57/2016**, of August 29, in its current form (modified by Law No. 57/2017, of July 24), that establishes the legal framework for the hiring of PhD holders.

1.3.2 General Recommendations

- The application should be **written entirely in English** to allow the assessment by the respective international Evaluation Panel. Applications submitted in a different language will be considered non-assessable.
- Prepare your application in a careful and timely manner.
- Read carefully the instructions provided in this Guide and in the Evaluation Guide. Make sure that you have read through all the documents available on the FCT website regarding this Call.
- Learn about the structure of the application form before you begin filling it in, so that you have an idea of what is being asked for, and to allow yourself time to gather all the information required for submission.
- Carefully choose the keywords that best characterise your application. This is relevant in the context of the evaluation process.
- Do not assume that the rules and the application form for submission of applications to this Call are the same as those used by other funding Agencies or other FCT programmes, nor as those from previous editions of the CEEC IND.

- You should plan and complete your application process as early as possible. Only in this way you can ensure that FCT will be able to provide you the best possible assistance you may need.
- Pay attention to the myFCT error messages and proceed accordingly. The system provides information for each error that it detects when you proceed to validation and submission of application. It is much faster to interpret the error messages than to contact FCT. Do not wait until the last minute to make corrections in your application.
- The association of the Host Institution where you wish to develop your research will be required. This includes the acceptance of the commitment statement and a support statement (in English) detailing additional favourable conditions for the development of your research plan and your career. Simultaneously, your Host Institution will be confirming that they are aware of the content of your application.

False statements, acts of plagiarism and submission of research plans identical to other applicants shall lead to the exclusion of the application, regardless the stage at which they are detected.

1.3.3 How to direct questions to FCT

Questions and information requests about this Call, including questions regarding the contents of the application form and technical aspects of the website, should be addressed to info.ec@fct.pt. Make sure you have read all the available information before emailing FCT.

Note that FCT does not guarantee that emails received during the last two working days of the Call, or to a different email address, will be answered.

1.3.4 How to write a successful application

A successful application will convince the Panel of experts from your field of science that you and your research ideas deserve to be funded. You should clearly present them with your:

- Narrative CV – describe in detail your scientific path, activities and contributions (to Science and to Society) as a researcher.

- Research Plan – indicate which areas of knowledge you want to explore. Describe this plan in broader terms than you would do for a research project. Focus on the main lines of research you envisage to explore and how you plan to explore them, which outcomes you expect, and how it will fit in your Host Institution’s strategy.
- Career Development Plan – present a clear and coherent vision for the future of your career in research.

Read the **Evaluation Guide** to understand how the application will be evaluated and make sure that you have addressed the crucial points.

2. SUBMISSION OF THE APPLICATION

Each applicant can only submit one application.

To start your application on the myFCT platform, you will need to declare that you **do not** have a legal employment relationship for an open ended/undetermined period (*contrato sem termo* or *contrato por tempo indeterminado*) with any institution of the Portuguese System of Science and Technology, namely Research Centres, National Laboratories (*Laboratórios do Estado*), Associate Laboratories, Collaborative Laboratories, Technology Interface Centres, Science and Technology Infrastructures and Science and Technology Consortiums and Networks, whose object or content may include scientific research activities.

2.1 Overview of the Application form

The application form is organised into six sections, containing mandatory and optional fields. The sections of the form are the following:

1. Personal information

Applicant (information automatically imported from your CIÊNCIA ID profile, except the ORCID ID, which is imported from your myFCT profile)

Name

Email

Gender

Birthdate

Nationality

Identification Card Type

Identification Card Number

ORCID ID (optional)

CIÊNCIA VITAE

Permissions and upload

PhD Degree

- Completion date
- PhD graduation country
- PhD graduation institution
- Upload of the PhD certificate
- Upload of Degree recognition in Portugal (optional)

Disability degree

- Degree of disability (optional)
- Upload proof of your disability degree

2. Application General Information

General Description

- Research contract level
- Title of the research plan
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Main Scientific Area
- Secondary Scientific Area
- Subarea
- Evaluation panel
- Current institution (optional)

Interruption of scientific activity (optional and only applicable for eligibility in what concerns the Junior level)

Maternity

- Number of days of interruption
- Upload of the document certifying the interruption

Paternity

- Number of days of interruption
- Upload of the document certifying the interruption

Serious illness

Number of days of interruption

Upload of the document certifying the interruption

Opposed Reviewers (optional, max. 3)

Reviewer's name

Reviewer's institution

Justification

3. Narrative CV

Career profile

Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge

Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams

Contributions to the research community and the broader society

Further details on up to five scientific activities and contributions

4. Research Plan

Background

Research plan and methods

Expected outcomes

References

Ethical issues (If applicable)

2030 Agenda

United Nations [2030 Agenda](#) goals (max. 2)

Compliance with the goals of the 2030 Agenda

5. Career development plan

Career development plan

6. Host institution

Selection of the Host Institution

Selection of the Hiring Institution

Description of the host conditions

Integration of the research plan into the host institution's strategy

Application Validation and Submission

2.2 Guidelines for filling in the Application form

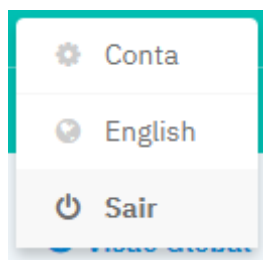
In this section you will find a more detailed description of the contents required in each section of the application form.

Whenever “Optional” or “If applicable” are not mentioned next to a section, it means that it is of mandatory response.

Most of the fields in the form have limited number of characters. Note that **only plain text is allowed** and any other form of presenting information, such as links, will be disregarded for evaluation purposes, except for DOIs.

When you access this menu for the first time after initiating your application, the reference code for the application is automatically generated. This will be FCT's unique identification code for the application until all sections are completed, and for all subsequent phases of the Call.

You should start by choosing the language for interaction with the platform (Portuguese or English). This tool is available from the top right corner of the screen, as shown below. By default, the platform language is Portuguese, so all the error and warning messages will be in Portuguese if you have not switched it to English. However, **the application should be entirely written in English** to allow the assessment by international Evaluation Panels.



Updates to the application are not saved automatically. Save every update to avoid losing information or select the “next” button on the application form.

The various sections can be accessed from the menu list on the left-hand side.

2.2.1 Personal Information

Applicant

This section corresponds to the applicant's personal data. All fields are directly imported from your CIÊNCIA ID account: Name; Email address; Gender; Birthdate; Nationality; Identification card type; Identification card number.

Update your CIÊNCIA ID in case you wish to change any personal data.

The ORCID ID can be filled in at the applicant’s myFCT profile, and it will also be imported into this section of the application.

CIÊNCIA VITAE

Fully update your **CIÊNCIAVITAE**, in English, prior to attaching it to the application. The **CIÊNCIAVITAE CV will only be used by the Evaluation Panel as a means of confirmation of the information provided in your application, namely in the Narrative CV section.**

Before associating your **CIÊNCIAVITAE** to the application, you need to give permission for FCT to access it. By granting this permission the subsets of your **CIÊNCIAVITAE** marked as Public and Semi-public access levels will become available to FCT. Subsets kept at a private access level will not be available. Please check the [CIÊNCIAVITAE Guide](#) (available in Portuguese and in English) for additional information.

The button 'Give FCT access' is visible from the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** menu. When this button is selected, the system opens the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** platform. Once you return to the myFCT application form, this button becomes inactive.



→ Give FCT access

By clicking 'Obtain CV (CienciaVitae)' a PDF of selected elements of your **CIÊNCIAVITAE** will be immediately associated with your application.



+ Obtain CV (CIÊNCIAVITAE)

When the process of obtaining the CV is finished, the file becomes available on the application form through a link indicating the date and time of the uploaded **CIÊNCIAVITAE**.

You should check your **CIÊNCIAVITAE** PDF file and confirm that all the imported information is correct.

Any updates to your CV will necessarily imply selecting 'Get CV (CiênciaVitae)' again. This means that updates to the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** contents must be made through the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** platform. If you make updates after uploading your **CIÊNCIAVITAE** to your application, you must associate it to the application again, by removing the previous document and then repeating the steps for adding the new version.

Please note that the responsibility of accuracy, rigor and truth of the contents of your **CIÊNCIAVITAE** lies on you.

PhD Degree

Completion date

Indicate the exact date in which you have concluded your PhD (dd-mm-yyyy). This date will determine to which level you can apply (see below the section Research contract level).

PhD graduation country

Select the country where you obtained your PhD from the drop-down menu.

PhD graduation institution

Select the institution where you obtained your PhD from the drop-down menu.

If the institution is not in this list, please add it by completing the fields below:

- Institution
- City

Upload of the PhD certificate

It is mandatory to upload the PhD certificate with the date of completion. If it is not possible to present it at the time of the application, you may submit a statement from the Institution that awarded you the PhD degree confirming its achievement and the respective date of completion. This information on the date of PhD completion is essential for the validation of your application.

The PhD certificate will be necessary at the contracting stage.

Upload of the Degree recognition in Portugal

If you obtained the PhD outside Portugal, it is mandatory to have it formally recognised in Portugal. In order to comply with what is foreseen in the Portuguese legislation concerning the recognition of foreign qualifications, all the rights inherent to PhD degrees granted by foreign higher education institutions are duly recognised to the holders of these degrees, subject to the presentation of proof of recognition of PhD degrees requested to the Vice-Chancellor of a public Portuguese University, to the Head of a public Polytechnic Institute or to the Director-General for Higher Education (process regulated by Decree Law No. 66/2018, of August 16).

If you do not hold a document attesting that your PhD is recognised in Portugal, your application will be conditionally accepted. In case of your application being recommended for funding, you must present the recognition of your PhD degree in Portugal when signing the contract with your Host Institution.

Disability degree (if applicable)

The quota system for the employment of people with disabilities with a degree of incapacity of 60% or higher, is laid down in the current version of Decree-Law 29/2001, of February 3, which determines the number of positions reserved for applicants with those degrees of incapacity.

Degree of disability

Upload proof of your disability degree

If you wish to be considered under the quota for incapacity degree equal to or greater than 60% you must upload the Declaration of Disability.

2.2.2 Application General Information

General Description

Research contract level

From the drop-down menu indicate which of the two levels you are applying for:

- **Junior researcher:** PhD holders for 5 or less years¹, with limited post-doctoral research experience in the scientific area of the application;
- **Assistant researcher:** PhD holders with a relevant *curriculum* in the scientific area of the application;

Title of the research plan (max. 255 characters)

The title should be brief, informative, understandable to a reader with a general scientific background and suitable for public dissemination.

Abstract (max. 3000 characters)

¹ Note that to apply to the Junior level your PhD must have been concluded between 30/01/2021 and 29/01/2026, except if you had interruptions of your scientific activity due to maternity/paternity leave and/or serious illness.

The Abstract, which should summarize your research plan, will be used by FCT for public dissemination. Take this information into account when preparing the summary of your application.

Keywords (max. 5)

The keywords are likely to be used in the peer-review process and should accurately reflect the scientific content of your research plan. This is particularly important for interdisciplinary applications.

Main and Secondary Scientific Areas and respective Subareas » Evaluation Panel

Choose the main and secondary scientific areas and the corresponding subarea more related to the topic of your research plan. The secondary scientific area and subsequent subarea depend on the initial choice of the main scientific area. The subarea may be chosen from the list or manually added (choosing the option “Other”), but this option should be used **only after you have verified that the subarea you want to mention is not in any of the scientific areas listed.**

The name of the Evaluation Panel that will be assessing your application will automatically be shown according to your choices of scientific area and subarea. The complete list of scientific areas and Evaluation Panels is available on Appendix II.

Are you currently affiliated with any institution?

Indicate if you are currently affiliated with an Institution or not. If yes, please indicate the Country and the name of that Institution.

Current Institution Country (if applicable)

Select the country from the drop-down menu.

Current Institution (if applicable)

Indicate the institution you are currently affiliated to.

Interruption of scientific activity (Optional and only applicable for eligibility to the Junior level)

According to the terms of this Call, when counting the years after having obtained a PhD degree, the career interruptions that can be considered for eligibility purposes of applying to the Junior Researcher level are the following:

- i) Maternity: the number of years after obtaining the PhD is reduced in 18 months per child (before or after PhD completion), proved by birth certificate(s) or any other official document that relates the mother and the child(ren).
- ii) Paternity: the number of years after obtaining the PhD is reduced for the period of the paternity leave taken per child as defined in the legislation (before or after PhD completion). You must submit an official document certifying the period of leave, with the start and end dates for each leave period. An official document proving the parental leave benefits can also be accepted (with starting and ending dates).
- iii) Serious illness: to be considered for eligibility purposes, the period of this interruption must be longer than ninety days, and to have happened after PhD completion. You must submit an official document certifying the reason and period of interruption, with starting and ending dates, for each interruption.

All these circumstances need to be properly documented and shall not result in a cumulative reduction of more than 4 years and 6 months.

Maternity

You should select this option if you have interrupted your scientific activity due to maternity leave (you must introduce one interruption per child).

Number of days of interruption

This field is filled in automatically with 18 months per maternity leave (540 days) for eligibility purposes.

Upload the proof of interruption

Paternity

You should select this option if you have interrupted your scientific activity due to paternity leave (you must introduce one interruption per child).

Number of days of interruption

Please indicate the number of days of this interruption for eligibility purposes.

Upload the proof of interruption

Serious illness

You should select this option if you have interrupted your scientific activity due to serious illness.

Number of days of interruption

Please indicate the number of days of this interruption for eligibility purposes.

Upload the proof of interruption

Opposed Reviewers (optional)

You may name up to three experts **with international affiliation** that you want to exclude from assessing your application. For each one, you will have to indicate the name, Institution, and the reason for such request (scientific competition, personal conflicts, or other motives).

The application will not be assessed by the indicated opposed reviewer(s).

2.2.3 Narrative CV

The evaluation of your scientific path and outcomes, under the Merit of the Applicant (Criterion A), will be solely focused on the information in this section of the application. The information provided here can be confirmed, if necessary, by the Evaluation Panel in the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** attachment. Make sure that the information provided in the **CIÊNCIAVITAE** is consistent with the one provided in the Narrative CV. In case of discrepancies, the prevailing information is that contained in the Narrative CV.

The model of Narrative CV used in this Call is similar to that adopted by FCT for other funding instruments.

Writing a clear and informative *curriculum*, detailing your activities and contributions, is crucial for preparing a successful application.

The applicant's narrative CV comprises **five sub-sections**:

- i) Career profile;
- ii) Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge;
- iii) Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams;
- iv) Contributions to the research community and the broader society;
- v) Further details on up to five scientific activities and contributions.

Any false declarations in this or other sections of the application determine the exclusion from the Call, as mentioned in the Call for applications (*Aviso de Abertura*). This includes misleading statements regarding your role or contribution to a given activity or output.

Applicants are strongly advised to not use metrics. As part of the FCT's commitment to *The Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment*, as set out by the [Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment \(CoARA\)](#), Evaluation Panels are advised not to use metrics as a surrogate measure of the quality of individual outputs and applicant's contributions. Additionally, according to Decree Law 57/2016,² which rules the hiring of PhD holders for research, evaluation criteria should ["not adopt merely quantitative procedures, based on indicators, in counting publications, or in calculating their cumulative impact factors"]. Therefore, the assessment of the Merit of the Applicant will encompass a diverse range of research activities, focusing on the quality and impact of your individual research contributions and outputs. The assessment of the Merit of the Applicant criterion by the Evaluation Panels **will not be based on a quantitative approach**.

² Article 5, point 4, paragraph b, "*Não adotar procedimentos meramente quantitativos, baseados em indicadores, na contagem de publicações, ou no cálculo dos seus fatores de impacto cumulativo*".

Career profile (max. 4000 characters)

This section intends to inform the Evaluation Panel about your profile and research trajectory. Your scientific and curricular path should be written in a narrative form describing your trajectory as researcher and informing reviewers as much as possible about your education and training and your research experience, skills and profile.

You may include in this section:

- Information on your education, namely the PhD degree;
- Details on your professional experience, including international experience;
- Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed research plan. In this context, you should refer to relevant research experience, scientific production and activity beyond the last five years, to provide the Evaluation Panel with sufficient context information on your research profile and path, as well as on your abilities and skills to carry out your research plan;
- If applicable, you may also specify any periods of leave from research, such as parental leaves, long-term absence due to illness, periods of work in industry, secondments, volunteering or other non-research activities. **Mention how long each interruption lasted**, and how these interruption(s) or unconventional path and/or gap(s) in your research career has/have impacted your activity, **to be clearly understood by the Evaluation Panel**.

In the following sections of the Narrative CV, you should describe your activities and contributions to science, to the scientific community and to the broader society **in the last five years** (February 2021- January 2026). Exceptions to this time frame apply to researchers who have interrupted their scientific activity due to parental leave and/or serious illness in the last five years. In those cases, the period under evaluation can be extended according to the career break(s) mentioned in the Career profile section.

To better inform the Evaluation Panel on the relevance of your contributions, when including ‘what’ those are, also consider ‘how’ or ‘why’ they are relevant or important, the roles you played in them, who has benefitted from your outputs/achievements, and how.

Contributions to the generation of new ideas, tools, methodologies or knowledge

(max. 5000 characters)

Some examples of the activities and contributions you may refer to in this section are: publications, key data sets, software, intellectual property (patents, licences, trademarks, copyrights, novel assays and reagents), conference presentations and proceedings, research and policy publications, or other scientific, technological, cultural or artistic achievements. You can also mention any awards you have received in recognition of your contributions to the generation of knowledge.

Regarding publications, **only published work should be referred**, since the Evaluation Panel will not consider work in progress nor submitted manuscripts.

Do not mention journal impact factors, citation metrics or other scientific performance metrics.

Contributions to the development of individuals and/or research teams (max. 2000 characters)

You may refer here to activities and contributions to the development of individuals or teams, such as project participations, leadership or management, collaborative contributions, team support, teaching activities, workshops or summer schools, the supervision and mentoring of students. You can also detail your role in past and ongoing funded projects (as PI, team member or other; period of funding; funding amount), as well as the management of science, technology and innovation programmes or projects, and involvement in collaborations/networks from the institution to the international level.

Contributions to the research community and the broader society (max. 3000 characters)

You may refer here to activities and contributions to the research community and the broader society, such as editing, reviewing, refereeing, participation in evaluation processes (as Panel Chair, Panel member or Expert reviewer) of funding applications, organisation of events that have benefited the research community, or improved research culture, societal engagement, transfer and dissemination of knowledge (to

the public, private or non-profit sectors or to the public in general), outreach activities, and other types of engagement with the broader society.

Further details on up to five scientific activities and contributions (max. 1000 characters each)

Provide further details on a maximum of five scientific activities or contributions mentioned in the previous sections that best illustrate your research work during the last 5 years. For each one, **indicate the role you played in it**, and explain its relevance in your career path and **how it has impacted** a) the advancement of knowledge in the respective scientific area, and/or, if applicable, b) the research community or the broader society.

Each field must correspond solely to one specific activity or output (one publication, project, patent or any other type of activity), **not a group of activities or outputs**.

Whenever outputs have a DOI, please include it. Additionally, in case of peer-review articles, **indicate your position and role in the list of authors**. The Panel will only consider published and accomplished achievements.

2.2.4 Research Plan

Before writing your research plan familiarize yourself with the information on the Evaluation Guide specifying the assessment of the Merit of the Research and Career Development Plans (Criterion B).

Present your research plan within the time frame of the research work contract and considering your scientific goals (that should be explained in your career development plan). Your research plan should outline the areas of knowledge and the major scientific questions you plan to explore, how you plan to explore them, and which outcomes you expect.

Additionally, in the Host Institution section, you will be able to describe how the proposed research plan is aligned with your Host Institution's strategy.

The proposed research plan should be organised for the period of three years covered by the FCT funding for the research contract.

The research plan comprises the following sub-sections:

Background (max. 3000 characters)

You should provide an overview of your research field, including the state of the art, references to your previous work, and explain the innovative nature of your research plan.

Research plan and methods (max. 7000 characters)

The research plan should reveal which areas of knowledge you want to explore and identify the major scientific questions you wish to address, for a maximum period of 3 years. Focus on the main lines of research you envisage to explore, including hypotheses and the specific objectives that will be used to address the hypotheses. Also describe how you plan to test and explore your scientific questions, namely the methodologies and techniques you intend to use, and if you plan to engage scientific collaborations. Refer the relevance of your research plan in the context of national and/or international scientific community considering the current state of the art. You should also consider possible limitations regarding the planned methodologies and propose alternative approaches by including a risk mitigation strategy, if applicable.

Expected outcomes (max. 2000 characters)

Refer to the expected outcomes and impact of your research plan, including any societal impact, either economic, social, cultural or other, as well as planned scientific dissemination activities.

References (max. 3000 characters)

List the references cited in the application.

Ethical issues (If applicable; max. 2000 characters)

Identify possible ethical issues related with the research plan activities and results and explain how they will be addressed. **Use the [Ethics Self-assessment Guide](#)** to identify possible ethical issues.

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals – 2030 Agenda (max. of 2)

Select up to two of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (2030 Agenda), according to the subject of your research plan. All information about the UN Sustainable Development Goals is available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>.

Compliance with the goals of the 2030 Agenda

Present a brief explanation of the research plan's alignment with the selected sustainable development goal(s) of the UN 2030 Agenda.

The information from the last two sections will not be available for the Evaluation Panels since this is not under evaluation.

2.2.5 Career development plan

The information in this section will be assessed by the Evaluation Panels in the context of the Merit of the Research and Career Development Plans (Criterion B), according to the Evaluation Guide.

Career development plan (max. 4000 characters)

The career development plan should clarify the drivers for your application. You should include here the expected career goals, and how the research plan relates to your future career, including the impact of the expected outcomes of your research plan on your career development and how those will contribute to (further) consolidate your career as an independent researcher. You should also describe your plans to maintain and/or establish national and international collaborations, as well as mentoring of students and researchers, and how they relate to your career goals.

2.2.6 Host Institution

The Hosting conditions and the integration of the applicant's research plan into the Host Institution's strategy will be assessed by the Evaluation Panels in the context of the Merit of the Research and Career Development Plans (Criterion B), as described in the Evaluation Guide.

The Host Institution can be an R&D Unit funded by the Pluriannual Programme of FCT, an Associate Laboratory or a National Laboratory (*Laboratórios do Estado*).

For Host Institutions without legal personality, contracts will be signed by the Institution with legal personality that represents the Host Institution. It is the responsibility of the Host Institution to designate the Hiring Institution (*Instituição Contratante*) that will sign the funding contract with FCT (*Contrato-Programa*) and the work contract with the researcher.

Select the Host Institution

To add a Host Institution, you can start by typing the first few letters of the Institution's name (in Portuguese) and then select the desired Institution from those available on the drop-down menu.

If you cannot find your Host Institution on the menu, confirm with your Institution's contact point the Institution's full name on the FCT database before contacting FCT.

Please note that your application will only be considered for evaluation if the Host Institution or Hiring Institution (if applicable) confirms its association to the application from **January 30 to February 13, 2026, at 5:00pm** (Lisbon time).

Selection of the Hiring Institution (if applicable)

Select the Hiring Institution among the possibilities listed according to the Host Institution selected in the previous question.

Description of the host conditions (max. 800 characters)

You should specify the conditions that are or will be made available at the Host Institution (expertise and resources) to support the development of the proposed research plan.

Integration of the research plan into the host institution's strategy (max. 800 characters)

Explain to the Evaluation Panel how the proposed research plan, the expected results and your career perspectives fit into the overall research strategy and mission of the Host Institution.

All the contents of your application, including this section, will be made available to the Host Institution and the Hiring Institution (if applicable) at the moment of association with your application.

2.3 Application validation and submission

The submission of the application is preceded by an automatic verification that validates the application and checks for errors. Please note that this verification process is only possible when you get to the 'Validate and Submit' menu. Should you have any errors, the submission will not go forward.

After the application is completed, you must agree with following statements:

-
- I hereby declare that I have read and understood the content of all the documents regulating the call.
 - I hereby declare that the information contained in the application form and attached documents is true, and I am aware that providing false declarations or committing acts of plagiarism determines the exclusion from the call.

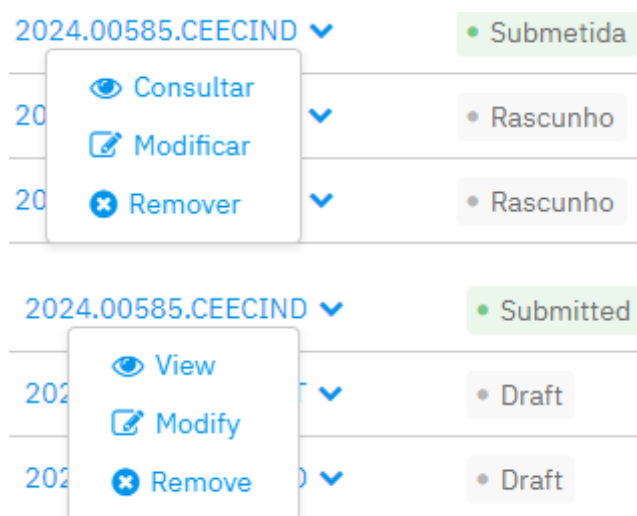
Then click on "Validate and Submit" to validate the entire application.

When no errors are detected, you will be asked to confirm that you wish to submit the application.

If there are errors, a list of detected errors is generated on the application form showing the section(s) and field(s) where they occur, along with a brief description of the problem.

During the application period, from **December 15, 2025, until January 29, 2026, at 5:00pm (Lisbon time)**, you can reopen, edit and resubmit the application as many times as you want.

To reopen the application, go to Applications, select the reference and edit (see the image below). You must finish by resubmitting the application to replace the former version by the new one.



It is the applicant's responsibility to submit the proposal on time. **Note that only the applications submitted within the deadline will be admitted.**

After the application deadline you will no longer be allowed to make further changes to the application. It will only be possible to consult it on the overview mode.

The application submission will generate an automatic confirmation email to the applicant.

The Hiring Institution will also receive a notification when the application period closes.

2.4 Application overview

The overview of the application displays the contents of the application fields in a single window, which includes the files attached to the application form.

A PDF file with all the information submitted in the application form will be available for downloading after the closure of the Call.

3. ASSOCIATION OF THE INSTITUTION(S)

After the submission of the application, the Host Institution and/or the Hiring Institution (if applicable) shall confirm its association with your application and its support to the applicant's research plan by accessing a designated area at the **myFCT**.

3.1 Commitment Statement of the Institution(s)

When associating themselves to a specific application, the Host Institution and the Hiring Institution (if applicable) will have to confirm in the myFCT that:

- a) They are aware of the Regulation of Scientific Employment;
- b) They are aware of the contents of the application, namely the proposed research plan;
- c) They guarantee scientific and technical autonomy to the applicant;
- d) The sufficient conditions for carrying out the research plan already exist, or will be made available to the applicant, should the application be funded.

This is the complete text, in Portuguese, that both Institution(s) have to accept when associating themselves to a specific application:

“A instituição de acolhimento e a instituição outorgante do contrato-programa declaram que:

- *tomaram conhecimento do articulado constante do Regulamento de Emprego Científico (REC, regulamento nº 607-A/2017 de 22 de novembro, na sua redação atual, i.e. alterado e republicado pelo Regulamento n.º 1083/2023, de 12 de outubro de 2023);*
- *tomaram conhecimento do conteúdo da candidatura, nomeadamente do plano de investigação proposto;*
- *se associam à candidatura acima referida, garantindo ao investigador a autonomia científica e técnica para a realização do plano de investigação;*
- *reúnem as condições necessárias e suficientes para a boa execução do plano de investigação científica proposto.”*

3.2 Support statement of the Host Institution

This statement will be available to the Evaluation Panel in the context of the assessment of the Research and Career Development Plans (Criterion B).

Here, the Host Institution must provide, in English, further information on any additional favourable conditions made available for the execution of the applicant's research plan, as well as any favourable conditions for the applicant to achieve their career development goals, as laid out in the career development plan.

Applications without institutional association confirmation by 5:00pm February 13, 2026, **will not be admitted to the Call.**

APPENDIX I – APPLICATION SECTIONS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEWERS

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Applicant

Name

Gender

Nationality

ORCID

CIÊNCIA VITAE

CIÊNCIA VITAE (pdf file)

PhD Degree

Completion date

PhD graduation country

PhD graduation institution

APPLICATION GENERAL INFORMATION

General Description

Research contract level

Title of the research plan (max. 255 characters)

Abstract (max. 3000 characters)

Keywords (max. 5)

Current Institution

Main Scientific Area

Secondary Scientific Area

Subarea

Evaluation Panel

NARRATIVE CV

- Career profile (max. 4000 characters)
- 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. 2000 characters)
- Contributions to the research community and the broader society (max. 3000 characters)
- Further details on up to five scientific activities and contributions (max. 1000 characters each)

RESEARCH PLAN

- Background (max. 3000 characters)
- Research plan and methods (max. 7000 characters)
- Expected outcomes (max. 2000 characters)
- References (max. 3000 characters)
- Ethical issues (If applicable, max. 2000 characters)

CAREER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

- Career development plan (max. 4000 characters)

HOST INSTITUTION

- Identification of the host institution
- Description of the host conditions (max. 800 characters)
- Integration of the research plan into the host institution's strategy (max. 800 characters)
- Support statement of the host institution

APPENDIX II – MAIN AND SECONDARY SCIENTIFIC AREAS, CORRESPONDING SUBAREAS AND EVALUATION PANELS

This Appendix lists the main and secondary scientific areas, and the corresponding subareas, adapted from the OECD’s revised Field of Science and Technology Classification - FOS, as well as the respective Evaluation Panels.

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Exact Sciences	Mathematics	Pure Mathematics	Mathematics
		Applied Mathematics	
		Statistics and Probability	
		Mathematics – Other (please specify)	
	Computer and information sciences	Computer Sciences	Computer and Information Sciences
		Information Sciences	
		Bioinformatics	
		Informatics	
		Computer and Information Sciences – Other (please specify)	
	Physical Sciences	Atomic, Molecular and Chemical Physics	Physical Sciences
		Condensed Matter Physics	
		Particles Physics	
		Nuclear Physics	
		Fluids and Plasma Physics	
		Optics	
		Acoustics	
		Astronomy	
		Physical Sciences – Other (please specify)	
	Chemical Sciences	Organic Chemistry	Chemical Sciences
		Inorganic Chemistry	
		Physical Chemistry	
		Polymer Science	
		Electrochemistry	
		Colloid Chemistry	
		Analytical Chemistry	
		Nuclear Chemistry	
		Medicinal Chemistry	
	Chemical Sciences – Other (please specify)		

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Natural Sciences	Earth and Environmental Sciences	Geosciences, Multidisciplinary	Earth Sciences
		Mineralogy	
		Palaeontology	
		Geochemistry	
		Geophysics	
		Geology	
		Physical Geography	
		Volcanology	
		Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences	
		Oceanography	
		Hydrology and Water Resources	
		Earth Sciences – Other (please specify)	
		Climatic Research	Environmental Sciences
		Climate Change	
		Environmental Management	
		Ecotoxicology	
		Environmental Monitoring and Impact	
		Natural Resources and Sustainability	
		Waste Management and Valorisation	
		Water and pollution	
Environmental Sciences – Other (please specify)			

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Natural Sciences	Biological Sciences	Cell Biology	Experimental Biology and Biochemistry
		Biochemistry	
		Biochemical Research Methods	
		Microbiology	
		Molecular Biology	
		Biophysics	
		Genetics and Heredity	
		Reproductive Biology	
		Virology	
		Developmental Biology	
		Experimental Biology and Biochemistry – Other (please specify)	
	Biological Sciences	Plant Sciences and Botany	Biological Sciences
		Zoology, Ornithology, Entomology	
		Marine Biology, Freshwater Biology and Limnology	
		Ecology	
		Biodiversity Conservation	
		Biology (Theoretical, Mathematical)	
		Evolutionary Biology	
		Behavioural Sciences Biology	
		Mycology	
Biological Sciences – Other (please specify)			

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Engineering and Technology	Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering	Civil Engineering
		Architecture Engineering	
		Construction Engineering	
		Transport Engineering	
		Municipal and Structural Engineering	
		Civil Engineering – Other (please specify)	
	Electrical Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Information Engineering	Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering
		Robotics	
		Automation and Control Systems	
		Communication Engineering and Systems	
		Telecommunications	
		Computer Hardware and Architecture	
		Electrical, Electronic and Information Engineering – Other (please specify)	
	Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering	Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Systems
		Applied Mechanics	
		Thermodynamics	
		Aerospace Engineering	
		Nuclear Engineering	
		Audio Engineering and Reliability Analysis	
		Engineering Systems	
Renewable Energies			
Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Systems – Other (please specify)			
Chemical Engineering	Chemical Engineering	Chemical Engineering	
	Chemical Process Engineering		
	Chemical Engineering – Other (please specify)		
Materials Engineering	Materials Engineering	Materials Engineering and Nanotechnology	
	Ceramics		
	Coating and Films		
	Composites		
	Paper and Wood		
	Textiles		
	Materials Engineering – Other (please specify)		

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Engineering and Technology	Medical Engineering	Medical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering	Medical Engineering and Biotechnology
		Laboratory Technology	
		Medical Engineering – Other (please specify)	
	Environmental Engineering	Environmental Engineering	Environmental Engineering and Environmental and Industrial Biotechnology
		Geotechnics	
		Petroleum Engineering, Energy and Fuels	
		Remote Sensing	
		Mining and Mineral Processing	
		Geological Engineering	
		Marine Engineering, Sea Vessels	
		Ocean Engineering	
		Environmental Engineering – Other (please specify)	
	Environmental Biotechnology	Environmental Biotechnology	Environmental Engineering and Environmental and Industrial Biotechnology
		Bioremediation, Diagnostic Biotechnologies (DNA Chips and Biosensing Devices) in Environmental Management	
		Environmental Biotechnology related Ethics	
		Environmental Biotechnology – Other (please specify)	
	Industrial Biotechnology	Industrial Biotechnology	Environmental Engineering and Environmental and Industrial Biotechnology
		Bioprocessing Technologies, Biocatalysis and Fermentation	
		Bioproducts, Biomaterials, Bioplastics, Biofuels, Bio-derived Bulk and Fine Chemicals and Bio-derived Novel Materials	
		Industrial Biotechnology – Other (please specify)	
Nanotechnology	Nanomaterials	Materials Engineering and Nanotechnology	
	Nanoprocesses		
	Nano-Optics and Nanophotonics		
	Modelling at Nanoscale		
	Nanotechnology – Other (please specify)		

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Medical and Health Sciences	Basic Medicine	Anatomy and Morphology	Basic and Clinical Medicine
		Human Genetics	
		Immunology	
		Neurosciences	
		Pharmacology	
		Toxicology	
		Physiology	
		Pathology	
		Oncobiology	
		Basic Medicine – Other (please specify)	

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Medical and Health Sciences	Clinical Medicine	Andrology	Basic and Clinical Medicine
		Obstetrics and Gynaecology	
		Paediatrics	
		Cardiac and Cardiovascular System	
		Peripheral Vascular Disease	
		Haematology	
		Respiratory Systems	
		Critical Care Medicine and Emergency Medicine	
		Anaesthesiology	
		Orthopaedics	
		Surgery	
		Radiology, Nuclear Medicine and Medical Imaging	
		Transplantation	
		Dentistry, Oral Surgery and Medicine	
		Dermatology	
		Infectious Diseases	
		Allergology	
		Rheumatology	
		Endocrinology and Metabolism	
		Gastroenterology and Hepatology	
		Urology and Nephrology	
		Oncology	
		Ophthalmology	
	Otorhinolaryngology		
	Psychiatry		
	Clinical Neurology		
	Geriatrics and Gerontology		
General and Family Medicine			
Internal Medicine			
Integrative and Complementary Medicine			
Clinical Medicine – Other (please specify)			
Health Sciences	Tropical Medicine		
	Parasitology		

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel	
Medical and Health Sciences	Health Sciences	Health Care and Services	Health Sciences	
		Health Services and Policies		
		Nursing		
		Nutrition, Dietetics		
		Public Health and Environmental Health		
		Epidemiology		
		Occupational Health		
		Sport and Fitness Sciences		
		Social Biomedical Sciences		
		Medical Ethics		
		Addiction		
		Health Sciences – Other (please specify)		
	Medical Biotechnology	Medical Biotechnology	Health-related Biotechnology	Medical Engineering and Biotechnology
			Technologies involving the Manipulation of Cells, Tissues, Organs or the Whole Organisms	
			Gene-based Diagnose and Therapies	
			Biomaterials	
			Medical Biotechnology related Ethics	
	Medical Biotechnology – Other (please specify)			

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Agricultural Sciences	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Agriculture	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
		Forestry	
		Fisheries	
		Soil Science	
		Horticulture and Viticulture	
		Agronomy, Plant Breeding and Plant Protection	
		Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries – Other (please specify)	
	Animal and Dairy Science	Animal and Dairy Science	Animal and Veterinary Sciences and Agrifood Biotechnology
		Husbandry	
		Pets	
		Animal and Dairy Science – Other (please specify)	
	Veterinary Science	Veterinary Science	
		Veterinary Science – Other (please specify)	
	Agricultural Biotechnology	Agricultural Biotechnology and Food Biotechnology	
		GM Technology (crops and livestock) and Livestock Cloning	
		Marker Assisted Selection	
		Diagnostics	
		Biomass Feedstock Production Technologies, Biopharming	
		Agricultural Biotechnology related Ethics	
Agricultural Biotechnology – Other (please specify)			

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Social Sciences	Psychology	Criminal Psychology	Psychology
		Social and Organizational Psychology	
		Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology	
		Clinical Psychology	
		Psychology of Development and Learning	
		Educational Psychology	
		Community and Health Psychology	
		Psychology – Other (please specify)	
	Economics and Business	Economics	Economics and Business
		Business and Management	
		Economics and Business – Other (please specify)	
	Educational Sciences	General Education (including Training, Pedagogy, Didactics)	Educational Sciences
		Special Education (to gifted persons, those with learning disabilities)	
		Educational Sciences – Other (please specify)	
	Sociology	Sociology	Sociology
		Demography	
		Social topics (women's and gender studies, social issues, family studies, social work)	
		Sociology – Other (please specify)	
	Anthropology	Anthropology	Anthropology
Ethnology			
Anthropology – Other (please specify)			

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel	
Social Sciences	Law	Public Law	Law and Political Science	
		Criminal Law		
		Private Law		
		European and International Law		
		Human Rights		
		Law – Other (please specify)		
	Political Sciences	Political Science		
		Military Science		
		Compared Politics		
		Political Theory		
		International Relations		
		Public Policy		
		European Studies		
		Political Sciences – Other (please specify)		
	Social and Economic Geography	Environmental Sciences (social aspects)		Social and Economic Geography
		Cultural and Economic Geography		
		Urban Studies (planning and development)		
		Transport Planning and Social Aspects of Transport		
Social and Economic Geography – Other (please specify)				
Media and Communications	Journalism and Media	Media and Communications		
	Documental and Information Sciences			
	Media and Communications – Other (please specify)			

Main Scientific Area	Secondary Scientific Area	Subarea	Evaluation Panel
Humanities	History and Archaeology	Ancient History	History
		Medieval History	
		Modern History	
		Contemporary History	
		History of Science and Technology	
		History – Other (please specify)	
		Prehistory and Archaeology	Prehistory and Archaeology
		Prehistory and Archaeology – Other (please specify)	
	Languages and Literature	Literature	Languages and Literature
		Portuguese Studies	
		Romanic Studies	
		Anglophone Studies	
		Classical Studies	
		Asian and African Studies	
		Germanic Studies	
		Linguistics	
		Languages and Literature – Other (please specify)	
	Philosophy, Ethics and Religion	Epistemology in Philosophy of Science	Philosophy
		Metaphysics and Philosophical Anthropology	
		Philosophy of Art	
Logic			
History of Philosophy			
Ethics and Political Philosophy			
Theology and Religion Philosophy			
Philosophy, Ethics and Religion – Other (please specify)			
Arts	Fine Arts	Arts	
	Musicology		
	Visual Performative Arts (Cinema, Television, Drama, Dance, etc)		
	Art History		
	Conservation and Restauration		
	Museology		
	Arts – Other (please specify)		
	Architecture	Architecture, Urbanism, Design and Cultural Heritage	
	Urbanism		
	Design		
	Cultural Heritage		
	Architecture, Urbanism, Design and Cultural Heritage – Other (please specify)		

