

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

JANUARY 2026



**Note to All Readers:**

This Guide is designed primarily to support peer reviewers in their evaluation process, FCT makes it publicly available to ensure transparency and to help applicants understand how their proposals will be assessed. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the evaluation criteria and guidelines described herein.

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## 1. About FCT

FCT (Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia) is the Portuguese public agency under the responsibility of the Ministry for Education, Science and Innovation that supports science, technology, and innovation, in all scientific domains.

FCT's mission is to drive the advancement of knowledge in science and technology in Portugal, following high international standards in quality and competitiveness. It aims to foster the dissemination of knowledge, promoting its impact on society and its contribution to the economic growth.

FCT pursues its mission by funding fellowships, studentships and research contracts for scientists, research projects, research centres and infrastructures, through competitive and peer-reviewed calls. FCT secures Portugal's participation in international scientific organisations, fosters the participation of the scientific community in global projects and promotes knowledge transfer between Research and Development (R&D) centres and industry. In close collaboration with international organisations, FCT also coordinates public policy for the Information and Knowledge Society in Portugal and ensures the development of national scientific computing resources.

The outcomes of FCT accomplishments are reflected in the work carried out by individual scientists, research groups and institutions funded by FCT.

## 2. 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects under the UT Austin Portugal Program

The **2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects Under the UT Austin Portugal Program** 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.

The 2025 Call for Exploratory Research Projects (ERPs) is part of Phase IV (2025–2030) of the UT Austin Portugal Program which builds on its legacy and leverage Portugal’s strategic geopolitical position in the Euro-Atlantic region, Phase IV of the UT Austin Portugal aligns with the priorities of the European Union’s Horizon Europe framework and addresses global challenges through its research agenda, particularly those where Portugal is most actively engaged, with the goal of reinforcing and amplifying the national position and impact within European agendas.

Proposed projects must aim to stimulate and promote Portugal’s international competitiveness through Science and Technology (S&T).

The proposals should be high-risk/high-reward and show promise and a strategy for significant future expansion of the project's goals. ERPs are aimed at formulating and launching the basis for longer-term projects, *i.e.*, they will not be required to achieve, within their scope, the fully developed and ambitious results that will be typical of longer-term projects. However, the proposals must be very concrete on the activities and outcomes that the consortium proposes to carry out and achieve within the ERPs scope and clearly link them to its longer-term objectives. The ERPs should value impact, *e.g.*, by building systems that address real-world problems beyond just research 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 the challenges and subtopics 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](#).

The **beneficiary entities** can apply **individually** (by one eligible beneficiary only) **or in “co-promotion”** (by two or more eligible beneficiaries) and must be a legal entity belonging to the non-business entities of the R&I System, namely: higher education institutions, their institutes, and R&D units; state, international or associated laboratories with a head office in Portugal; non-profit private institutions whose main object is R&D activity, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLab) and Centres for Technology and Innovation (CTI); other non-profit public and private institutions developing or participating in scientific research activities.

The submitted proposals must include one or more Portuguese research institutions and at least one partner at UT Austin. Also, under this Call, proposals in the area of Advanced Computing may be led by a Principal Investigator (PI) affiliated with the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC), provided that they meet the eligibility status set forth in the call Announcement.

The project consortium may include, on the Portuguese side, collaborative institutions, i.e., companies and other similar entities, that may wish to invest in the exploratory research project and whose participation is likely to bring relevant expertise to the project. However, such entities will not be funded under this call.

The maximum duration of the grant is 12 months (renewable for 3 months, if justified) and the maximum funding for project is 50.000,00 euros, from the € 400,000 (four hundred thousand euros) of national state budget available for this Call.

The support to be granted is non-refundable, applying the simplified cost option in the Lump Sum funding scheme. The contribution is paid upon submission of evidence and results demonstrating the effective implementation of the approved project under the contractual terms.

**All proposals, written in English,** are submitted online via [myFCT](#) web platform (detailed information in Annex I).

The call is ruled by the [FCT Projects Regulations](#), and the [Announcement for Proposal Submissions](#), that outlines the applications' requirements, budget allocation and evaluation criteria.

Additionally, FCT has prepared an Application Guide to assist the Principal Investigator (PI) by providing guidance for the preparation and submission of a successful application

The call is open from **23 December 2025 until 10 February 2026 at 5 p.m. (Lisbon time)**.

**Each applicant can only submit one application as PI.**

A **maximum of up to 4 Core CVs** can be presented: for the **PI** and **3 other team members** (researchers considered as more relevant for the project).

Evaluators should **only** use the **PI Narrative CV** and the **Team CV Synopsis** to assess the scientific merit of the team. Any detailed information provided in the attached CIENCIAVITAE CVs is to be used as a complement. The synopsis should focus on the last 5 effective years of scientific activity.

### 3. Evaluation Criteria

Although this call will fund only the highest-ranked Portuguese teams, reviewers are asked to assess proposals at the level of the full consortium. Evaluations should consider the scientific quality, complementarity, and coherence of the teams from both sides (Portugal and UT Austin), as well as the consortium's collective capacity to achieve the proposed objectives. The Portuguese component should therefore be evaluated in the context of its role and added value within the overall project. The evaluation of the application will focus on the relevance and quality of following criteria:

- A.** Scientific merit and novelty of the project from an international standpoint and alignment with the objectives of the UT Austin Portugal Program and the challenges of the scientific area where it falls under - **40%**;
- B.** Scientific merit of the PI and the research team - **20%**;
- C.** Feasibility of the work program (including its planning) and the expected indicators, as well as the budget adequacy. - **20%**;
- D.** Potential social and economic impact of the research work and contribution towards relevant Portuguese research and innovation agendas - **20%**.

#### 3.1 Criterion A (40%)

This criterion aims to assess the scientific merit and innovative nature of the project from an international standpoint, considering:

- Relevance and originality of the project proposed (based on the state-of-the-art in a determined scientific area and previous work done by the proposing team);
- Thematic alignment of the proposal with the Exploratory Research Projects topics as outlined in the Project Areas' section described above;
- Portuguese research and innovation agendas;
- Adequacy of the methodology adopted for carrying out the project;
- Expected results and their contribution to scientific and technological knowledge;
- Expected joint publications; venues and submission dates;
- Contribution towards promoting and disseminating science and technology;
- Production of knowledge deemed beneficial to society or a business sector.

## GENERAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION A

When evaluating Criterion A, reviewers should consider the following aspects, including but not limited to:

- Assess the proposal's scientific merit and innovative character in comparison with global best practices and ensure that the scientific quality is consistent with internationally accepted standards, noting that this does not imply that all projects must demonstrate international impact.
- Evaluate the originality of concepts, methodological innovation, and breakthrough potential of the proposed research.
- Articulation with the Program's priority areas, potential for impact, and the capacity to generate value for Portugal and for the UT Austin Portugal ecosystem should be duly valued.
- Assess the originality of the proposed concepts and approaches, rather than viewing them as merely incremental extensions of existing work. Highly ambitious objectives are valued, but they should be grounded in solid scientific rationale and demonstrate genuine breakthrough potential to redefine the state-of-the-art knowledge. Recognize conceptual, methodological, applied, interdisciplinary innovations, and assess replicability of the proposed work.

### 3.2 Criterion B (20%)

The criterion B evaluates the scientific merit of the Principal Investigator (PI) and the research team, analysing their curricula in an integrated way and valuing the quality of their research achievements, attending to:

- Career profile of the PI and the rest of the team;
- Abilities and skills to adequately execute the proposed project (team configuration, PI's qualifications);
- Teams' relevant scientific publications;
- Ability to involve young researchers in training;
- Level of commitment of any companies participating in the project (if applicable).

## GENERAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION B

According to 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.

When assessing this criterion, the evaluation panel should consider the following aspects, among others:

- **Focus on quality over quantity:** Evaluate the relevance, impact, and quality of research outputs rather than counting publications or citations.

- **Value diverse contributions and career paths:** Acknowledge varied career trajectories, including career breaks, and transitions. Take into account contributions beyond traditional publications (e.g., datasets, software, open science practices, mentoring, public engagement).
- **Assess contextually:** Consider the career stage, research environment, and available resources when evaluating the PI and team contributions.

### 3.3 Criterion C (20%)

This criterion is intended to evaluate the feasibility of the project considering the adequacy of its several dimensions, including the proposed objectives, team, resources, and budget to achieve the expected outputs. It should be considered:

- The organization of the project in terms of the proposed objectives and resources (duration, equipment, size of the team, institutional and management resources, articulation of the research plan between Portugal and Austin teams);
- Institutional resources of the proposing and participating entities (technical-scientific, organizational and managerial resources and, when appropriate, co-funding capacity on the part of potentially involved companies);
- Valuation of the potential of the predicted indicators (e.g., publications, communications, reports, seminars and conferences organization, patents, etc.);
- The adequacy and consistency of the estimated costs (Lump Sum) to accomplish the objectives.

#### GENERAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION C

When evaluating feasibility, assess whether the work plan clearly defines the coordination between Portuguese and UTA teams, with realistic timelines that account for cross-Atlantic collaboration.

Under the Lump Sum model, reviewers should consider the following aspects, without being limited to:

- **Lump Sum model and task structure:** In the Lump Sum funding model, payments are based on task completion, as evidenced by the deliverables. Ensure that each task is associated with clearly defined, tangible deliverables, appropriately distributed across the project timeline.
- **Budget adequacy and coherence:** Assess whether the proposed budget is adequate, proportionate, and capable of achieving the project objectives. Cost estimates must be reasonable, justified at the task level, and coherent with the scientific methodology. Check that the budget, work plan, and resource allocation are aligned with project objectives, and that ambitious projects (valued under Criterion A) remain feasible in terms of planning, timelines, and resources. Evaluation panel may recommend adjustments if costs are insufficient or excessive. Note that indirect costs are fixed at 25% of eligible direct costs.

### 3.4 Criterion D (20%)

The criterion D evaluates the potential social and economic impact of the research work and contribution towards relevant Portuguese research and innovation agendas, attending to:

- The potential to leverage R&D results further and beyond the ERP project's scope (also including through engagement with prospective exploitation partners, other stakeholders, users and/or society; fundraising), leading to technologies with a relevant social and economic impact;
- The potential to leverage synergies with flagship projects and initiatives at both the national and EU levels, thereby contributing to the scaling up of relevant results and the efficient use of funding.

#### GENERAL ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES FOR CRITERION D

This criterion assesses the potential future impact and valorisation pathways of the proposed research. Reviewers should interpret this in a prospective and proportional manner, consistent with the exploratory nature of the call.

- Assess the relevance of the proposed pathways for social, economic, or societal impact, considering the project's scope, maturity, and exploratory character.
- Potential synergies with national or EU flagship initiatives should be understood as forward-looking opportunities. Reviewers should not require demonstrated internationalization or prior involvement in national or EU flagship initiatives and should value proposals whose impact pathways are primarily national or long-term.

#### Additional considerations:

- For detailed information related to budget and human resources please consult Annexes II and III.
- **Ethics Assessment (when applicable):** Reviewers must ensure that the applicant has identified and adequately addressed all relevant ethics issues. Highlight any ethics issues that have not been identified or have been inadequately addressed by the applicant. For projects requiring ethics approvals (e.g., ethics committee approvals, animal welfare authorizations, data protection notifications), assess whether the work plan includes realistic timelines for obtaining these approvals, as approval processes often take longer than expected and research cannot commence without them. Note that supporting documents (informed consent forms, copies of approvals, authorizations) are only required after project approval if requested by FCT.

The **assessment guidelines** for Criteria A, B, C and D are **illustrative** and **not exhaustive**. Evaluation panel should exercise their expert judgment and may consider additional relevant aspects appropriate to the specific proposals under review.



## 4. Scoring System

The Merit of the Project (MP) is given by:

$$MP = 0.4 A + 0.2 B + 0.2 C + 0.2 D$$

The scoring system uses a **9-point scale, using 0.1 increments**. The maximum score is 9 and the minimum is 1, as presented in Table I. The final score of MP is rounded to two-decimal places.

Table I – Qualitative descriptors associated to the 9-point scale

Evaluation	Score	Strengths & Weaknesses
Excellent	9	Exceptionally strong with no weaknesses
Very good	8	Very strong with some negligible weaknesses
	7	Strong with some minor weaknesses
Good	6	Some strengths with numerous minor weaknesses
	5	Some strengths but with at least one moderate weakness
Adequate	4	Few strengths with several minor weaknesses
	3	Few strengths and major weaknesses
Poor	2	Very few strengths and serious weaknesses
	1	Cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information

In cases where the information provided in the application does not allow for evaluating a given criterion, then the respective criterion will receive a score of 1.0 (one).

For a proposal to be eligible for funding, a **minimum score of MP equal to or higher than 6.00 (MP ≥ 6.00)** is required.

**Eligible applications will be ranked** by the evaluation panel following these criteria:

- i) For each thematic area, one eligible application with the highest score (MP) will be selected for funding, if it has an MP higher than 6.00.
- ii) The remaining applications to be funded will be selected exclusively in descending order of score (MP), up to the available budget limit.
- iii) In case of ties (projects with the same MP score), the ratings assigned to criteria A, B, C and D will be used sequentially and by decreasing order to provide the final ranking of the projects.

## 5. Evaluation Process

### 5.1 Constitution of the Evaluation Panel

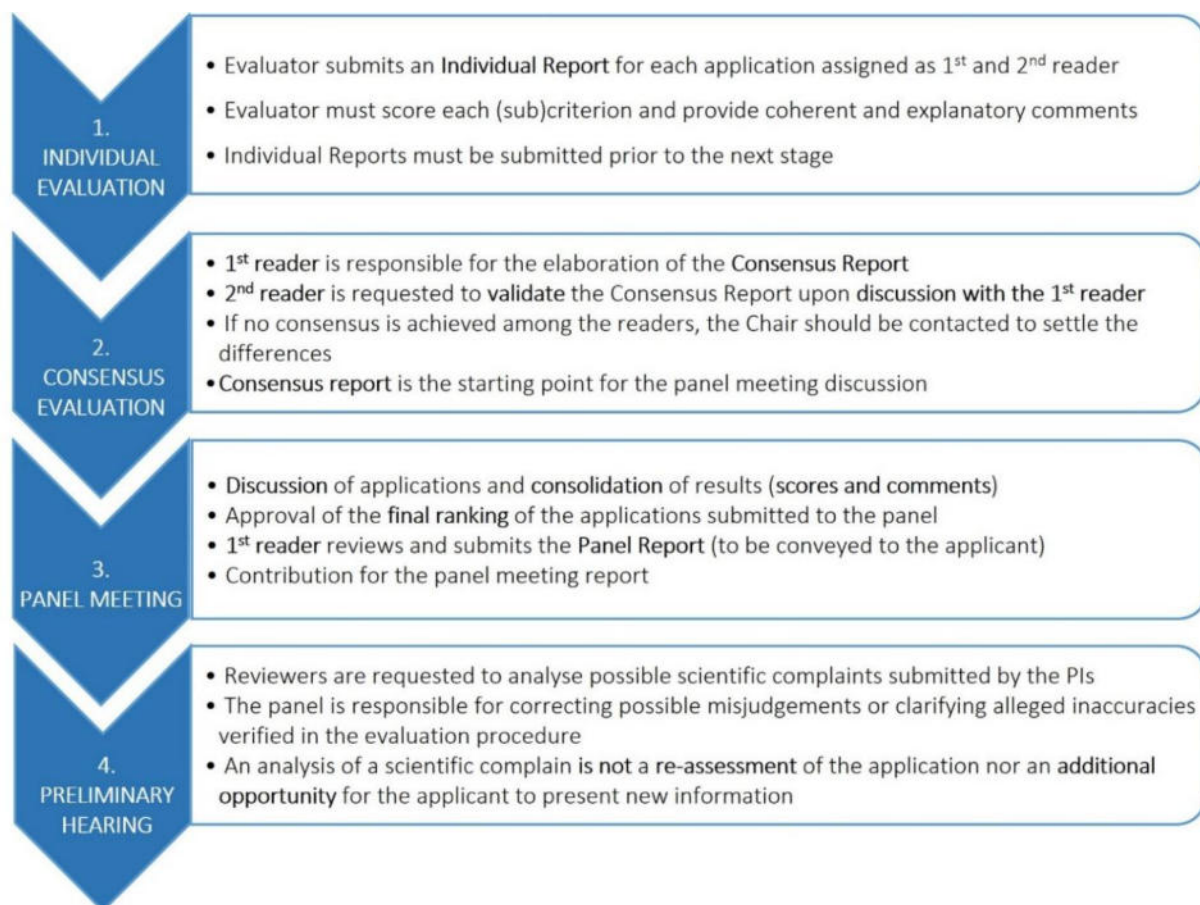
The evaluation panel consists of experts affiliated with foreign institutions, who are independent and have recognized merit. The panel's composition considers the number and the scientific subjects of the applications, ensuring an adequate gender balance and a fair geographic and institutional distribution of evaluators.

The panel has a **Chair** who is **responsible for the following tasks**:

- Ensure that the evaluation process is conducted transparently, independently and fairly.
- Assign each application to two panel members (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> readers), considering the **match of scientific expertise** within the research subject of the application, as well as any declared **Conflict of Interest (CoI)**.
- Ensure the evaluation process adheres to the defined timeframe and promptly inform panel members of any delay.
- Support the FCT team with the resolution of any CoI identified during the evaluation process.
- If needed, assist FCT with the constitution of the panel by suggesting possible reviewers to be invited.
- Recommend external reviewers to be invited by FCT to assess an application, whenever a specific expertise is not adequately represented within the panel.
- Assure the reviewers' reports quality, particularly for the Consensus and Panel Reports, and alert them whenever needed; comments should be coherent with scores, considering the descriptors of the scoring system (see section 4), provide substantive arguments and identify both strengths and weaknesses for each evaluation criterion.
- Moderate the Panel Meeting.
- Prepare the panel meeting report that should address work methodology, conflicts of interest and final ranking.
- Coordinate the support provided to FCT and panel members during the preliminary hearings period, if necessary.

### 5.2 Evaluation Stages

The evaluation process comprises **4 stages**:



### 5.3 Evaluation Timeline

The evaluation timeline is established by FCT's Board of Directors and conveyed to the evaluation panel Chair and members. The date of the final videoconference panel meeting of the panel is established in advance by FCT.

### 5.4 Feedback to be communicated to applicants

All reviewers must comply with the following additional guidelines when preparing the evaluation reports.

**Each report must include:**

- Score and comments for each evaluation criterion, including strengths and weaknesses.
- A **detailed assessment of the proposed lump sum budget**, verifying that the estimated costs are adequate, reasonable, and strictly aligned with the activities and deliverables described in the work plan tasks. Any suggested budgetary adjustments must be rigorously justified
- A comment concerning ethical issues, if applicable.
- Confidential comments to the evaluation panel and/or FCT, if necessary.

### Comments must:

- Be **coherent with the scores** considering the descriptors presented in Table I (section 4).
- Be clear and consistent, highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the application for each criterion.
- Use dispassionate and analytical language, avoiding dismissive statements about the applicant, the proposed science, or the scientific field.
- Be impeccably polite.
- Address the proposed work plan and not the work the reviewers consider should have been planned.

### Comments must not:

- Provide a description or a summary of the application.
- Use of the **first person or equivalent**: "*I think...*" or "*This reviewer finds...*"; alternatively, panel members are advised to use expressions such as "**The panel ...**" or "It is considered...".
- **Ask questions**, as the applicant will not be able to answer them.
- Provide recommendations or advice for improving the application.
- Have contradicting statements.
- **Mention quantitative details** that can easily originate factual mistakes.

The quality of the comments to be communicated to the applicants is of paramount importance to the evaluation process, therefore being a crucial task of the evaluation panel.

## 6. Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest

### 6.1 Confidentiality Statement

The privacy and confidentiality must be fully protected and ensured at all times during the evaluation process. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are asked not to copy, quote or otherwise use material contained in the applications. All reviewers are requested to accept a statement of confidentiality relative to the contents of the project applications and to the results of the evaluation. All reviewers involved in the evaluation are also asked to be bound to the Terms of Reference.

Within the context of the call, a set of personal data are collected and the information regarding this are provided to the data supplier for compliance with the principles established in Regulation EU 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of April 27, 2016 (GDPR) and the 58/2019 Law from August 8, in the Application Guide.

### 6.2 Disqualifying Conflict of Interest (Col)

#### 6.2.1. With the present Call

Researchers are hindered to participate as Chair, Panel member or External reviewer if they:

- I. Have submitted any application as PI, team member or consultant.
- II. Have first-degree relationships, domestic partnership or are married with a PI of an application.

#### 6.2.2. With an application

Panel members cannot evaluate nor participate in the panel meeting discussion of an application in the following circumstances:

- I. Personal or financial interest in the application's success.
- II. Current or planned close scientific cooperation.
- III. Research cooperation within the last three years before the opening date of the call, *e.g.*, joint publications.
- IV. Dependent employment relationship or supervisory relationship (*e.g.*, supervisor-student relationship up to and including the postdoctoral stage) within the three years before the opening date of the call.
- V. Affiliation or pending transfer to any of the departments or research centres involved in the project.

- VI. Researchers who are active in a council or similar supervisory or advisory board of the applying institutions are excluded from participating in the review and decision-making process for applications involving these institutions.

### 6.3 Potential Conflict of Interest (CoI)

The panel member should notify FCT and clarify if they are able to perform an unbiased evaluation or if the conflict should rather be considered as disqualifying. A potential conflict of interest exists in the following circumstances:

- I. Relationships other than first-degree, marriage or domestic partnership; other personal ties or conflicts.
- II. Participation in university bodies other than those listed under no. 6, e.g., in scientific advisory committees in the research environment.
- III. Preparation of an application or implementation of a project with a closely related research topic (competition).
- IV. Participating in an on-going scientific or inter-personal conflict with the applicant(s).

In case a conflict of interest is detected during the evaluation process, the reviewer is required to inform the panel Chair and the FCT team of this situation, so that the application may be swiftly reassigned. Depending on its nature, this information will be presented in the panel meeting report.

## Annex I – Components of the Application

Applications must be fully written in English and 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 – Budget

**Budget justification for the requested funding per task (max. 2500characters/ task)** – the following items are eligible for funding:

**a) Direct costs:**

**i. Human resources rationale:**

Expenses with **Human Resources** dedicated or related to the development of R&D activities related to the project execution in all mandatory components by the applicable labour legislation, including charges with grant holders directly supported by the beneficiaries;

- With regard to employment contracts, human resources expenses are based on the costs incurred in carrying out the project, based on the monthly base salary declared for the social protection of the worker, which may be increased by the mandatory social food allowance and occupational accident insurance under legally defined terms. The basic salary shall be the set of all remunerations of a permanent nature subject to taxation and declared for the purpose of social protection of the worker;
- The research fellowships are tendered and contracted by the beneficiary entities in the context of the supported projects, which must comply with the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, in its present version) and FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships.

- ii. **Missions**, expenses with travel, accommodation, registration fees, etc., in Portugal and abroad, and directly attributable to the project.
- iii. **Scientific and technical tools and equipment** (acquisition or amortization) indispensable to the project if used within the project during their useful lifetime.
- iv. **Patent registration**, expenses related to the national and foreign record of **patents, copyrights, usefulness models and drawings, national models or brands** when related to other forms of intellectual protection, namely rates, research to the status of the technique and consulting expenses.
- v. **Demonstration, Promotion and Publication**, expenses with the **demonstration, promotion and disclosure of the project's outputs**, namely dissemination fees within the fulfilment and pursuant to national policies of open access.
- vi. **Adaptation of buildings and facilities**, when essential to the development of the project, namely for environmental and security reasons.
- vii. **Acquisition of other goods and services** directly related to the project's execution, including costs with consultants that do not establish subcontracts.

- b) Indirect costs (overheads)**, with a flat rate of 25% of eligible direct costs, excluding subcontracting. The percentage bound in this item is automatically checked by the submission tool. Applications cannot be locked if this condition is not verified.

For the present Call, the **non-eligible costs** are the ones stated in the art. 9 of the [FCT Projects Regulation](#) in this current version.

**Salaries of public servants are not funded under this call.**

## Annex III - Portuguese to English Translation and explanations

**Agregação** = Aggregation. This is an academic title. It attests:

- i.) the quality of the academic, professional, scientific and pedagogical *curriculum*;
- ii.) the capacity to carry out research supervision;
- iii.) the capability to coordinate and carry out independent research work, issued to PhD holders with a research and academic path, after a public exam by a jury involving discussion of the CV, of a submitted curricular proposal and the presentation and discussion of a lecture.

**Doutoramento** = PhD, doctoral degree

**Mestrado** = Master's degree

**Licenciatura** = BA (3, 4 or 5 years graduate course)

**Bolsa** = Grant, fellowship

**Bolseiro** = Grant holder, fellow

**BII** = Bolsas de Iniciação à Investigação = Research Initiation Grants

- Research Initiation Grants are intended for students enrolled in a Higher Professional Education, a 1<sup>st</sup> cycle of a Higher Education institution, an Integrated Master or Master to initiate their scientific training, within research projects to be developed in national institutions;
- These grants are also aimed at holders of a graduate degree, enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree, integrated in an educational project of a higher education institution developed individually or jointly in their institutes or R&D units;
- These grants have a minimum duration of three months and may be renewable up to a maximum of one year.

**BI** = Bolsas de Investigação = Research Grants

- Research grants are intended for students enrolled in an Integrated Master, Master or Doctoral degree, for obtaining the respective scientific academic degree, through the development of scientific training integrated or not in R&D projects;
- These grants are also aimed at holders of a graduate degree or master, enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree, integrated in an educational project of a higher education institution developed individually or jointly in their institutes or R&D units;
- These grants are, in principle, one year in length, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months;
- The grants may be renewable for additional periods up to:
  - One year, for grants awarded to graduated degree or master holders enrolled in courses that do not award an academic degree;

- Two years, for grants awarded to students enrolled in master's courses;
- Four years, for grants awarded to students enrolled in doctoral degrees;
- These grants may be national, mixed (in Portugal and abroad) or abroad, depending if the work plan occurs exclusively, partially or not at all in national institutions;
- For mixed research grants, the work plan performed in a foreign institution may not exceed 2 years.

**BIPD = Bolsas de Investigação Pós-Doutoral = Postdoctoral Research Grants**

- Postdoctoral Research Grants are intended for doctoral degree holders for the development of R&D activities;
- BIPDs are temporally restricted in order to stimulate the scientific employment and the use of researcher contracts as a rule instrument for their hiring, as well as to promote the development, in National Scientific and Technological System entities, of careers aiming at scientific research;
- BIPDs may only be granted provided that the following requirements are cumulatively met:
  - The doctoral degree has been obtained in the last three years before the submission date of the application grant;
  - The postdoctoral research is carried out in a host entity different than the one in which the research work was done to achieve the doctoral degree;
  - The research activities do not require post-doctoral experience;
  - The research activities have a development and execution period equal or less than three years.
- These grants are, in principle, one year in length, renewable for up to a total of three years, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months;

Once the contract grant is finished, a new contract grant cannot be settled between the same host entity and the same fellow.



**fct**

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