

Notice of the Call

Call for Portugal Space PhD Grants on Earth Observation – 2021

July 2021

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The Portuguese Space Agency - Portugal Space opens a Call for granting a maximum of **4** (four) Earth Observation related PhD grants (BD), hereafter referred to as PhD Research Grants, in the area of Earth Observation, complying with the provisions of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The grants will be financed by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol for the Funding of the Pluriannual Research Grant Plan for PhD Students, signed between the FCT and the Portuguese Space Agency - Portugal Space.

1. APPLICATION

The call is open from **July 21st 2021** to 23:59H (Lisbon time) of **September 12th 2021**.

Applications, and all the supporting documents described in the RBI and in this Notice of the Call, must be submitted online using the available application form at the Open Space Innovation Platform – OSIP platform (<https://ideas.esa.int>), under the “Call for Ideas on Earth Observation – Portugal Space PhD Scholarships”. Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

All the application procedures, including submission, evaluation, results communication, preliminary hearings, claims and/or appeals, and contract establishment are performed online.

Each applicant may submit one application only, under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted.

Providing false declarations or committing acts of plagiarism by applicants leads to the exclusion of the application without prejudice of taking other corrective and punitive disciplinary measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

Aiming to support advanced training, PhD studentships will be granted to applicants that fulfil the requirements to join a study cycle that allows to obtain a PhD degree and that wish to develop research work that allows obtaining that degree.

The research work may be carried out in any environment of production and dissemination of knowledge, national or international, including higher education institutions, R&D units, Associated Laboratories, Collaborative Laboratories, Interface Centers, State Laboratories and other public research institutions, other Public Administration entities or private non-profit institutions developing R&D activities, companies

acknowledged for their scientific and technology interest or consortia that includes any of the mentioned institutions.

The work plan must be developed entirely or partially in a national institution (studentship in Portugal or both in Portugal and abroad, respectively).

As a rule, the duration of PhD studentships is annual, renewable up to the maximum number of months requested upon application and cannot be granted for a period less than 3 consecutive months neither more than four years (48 months).

In case of a studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad, the work plan period in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. RECIPIENTS

Portugal Space PhD Space related grants are aimed at applicants enrolled or that comply with the requirements to enroll for PhD Space related studies and who wish to carry out research towards this degree.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

4.1 Applicants' admissibility requirements

The following citizens may apply to this call:

- National citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union;
- Third-party states citizens;
- Stateless individuals;
- Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD studentship it is necessary:

6. To permanently and regularly reside in Portugal, by the starting date of the work plan period abroad, in case the work plan of the requested studentship proceeds, partially, in a foreign institution (in case of an abroad studentship); this requirement is applicable to both national and foreign citizens.
- Not to have benefited from a PhD or a PhD in industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
 - Not to hold a PhD degree

4.2 Application's admissibility requirements

It is mandatory, under penalty of non-admissibility to the call:

- a) To submit an updated version of your **Curriculum Vitae (CV)** with a maximum of 4 (four) pages, under penalty of exclusion, and an emphasis on the relevant aspects for this application;
- b) To submit a **detailed description of the work plan** (the academic component of a doctoral programme is not considered part of the work plan);
- c) To submit the supervisor(s) CV (PDF file) with a maximum of 4 (four) pages, under penalty of exclusion, and an emphasis on the relevant aspects for this application;
- d) To submit **one motivation letter**, explaining the reasons for their application, presenting their academic/professional career path and how it is related to the work plan, if applicable; in case of also presenting the document or achievement considered the most representative, applicants should also explain this option in the motivation letter;
- e) To submit **2 different recommendation letters**, signed by the respective issuer; these letters should include the academic and/or professional context relationship of the candidate with its referee and should also specify that are related with this call, with letters from the candidate's supervisor(s) not being accepted; for example, recommendation letters may refer to the applicant's maturity and career path adequacy related to the proposed work plan;
- f) To present/prepare and submit the application and all related documents, including motivation and recommendation letters, in **Portuguese** or in **English**.

4.3 Information of Optional submission

The following elements are relevant, however optional, in the application form in the OSIP platform:

- a) **Applicant's ORCID** code. The ORCID record is recommended but does not replace the submission of your updated CV in the OSIP platform for proposal effects;
- b) **ORCID code of the scientific supervisor and co-supervisor(s)**, if applicable; the identification of the ORCID code does not replace the upload of the CV in a PDF file;
- c) **Academic degree certificates**, - although, if not presented, the assessment of the Merit of the Applicant (see point 6.2) will be affected accordingly – mandatorily specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all the courses taken, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor testifying that the candidate has concluded the undergraduate or master's degree by the application deadline;
- d) **The most representative document of applicant's scientific/professional path** as, for example, a scientific publication, conference communication, scientific report or master thesis; proof of scientific or professional achievement, performances or artistic creations; only documents written in **Portuguese** or **English** will be considered; academic degree certificates, CVs or documents illustrating applicant's career path should not be submitted in this field;
- e) **Timeline**, a diagram specifying the milestones and respective tasks proposed in the work plan;
- f) **Supporting letter**, in case of external institutional collaborations, additional to the host affiliation, confirming the planned or established cooperation between applicant, supervisor(s) and affiliation institution(s).

5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC ORIENTATION OF THE STUDENTSHIP

Work plans should be focused on the specific Space-related areas described in the respective campaign on the OSIP platform. The scientific orientation of the candidate's work plan should be consistent with the topic of the call and, more specifically, with the subject addressed in the proposed work plan.

This PhD grant call targets the area of Earth Observation including the following topics:

- Smart space systems: technological developments for satellite EO constellations, autonomous exploration (for example, knowing when to capture images from space), etc.
- Use of EO satellite data and AI for application development (timelapse evolution and measurements, automatic -unsupervised and supervised- classifications, etc).
- EO and AI in support of the sustainable development goals and climate change impacts assessment, mitigation and adaptation.

Portugal's goal to further expand its downstream sector as well as its ambition to develop, build and maintain the next generation of satellites and a small satellite constellation is aligned with the change of paradigm and emergence of New Space, bringing new opportunities for small and medium sized countries through the utilization of the increasing amount of space data available for the development of applications. Nowadays, existent technology enables not only space exploration for its discovery, but also for the utilization of space solutions to help solve Earth economy problems, which, in turn, promotes further development of space technology.

Space-based technologies and services have a broad network of downstream activities as they provide more and more opportunities due to the private investments in the sector. The implementation of large constellations of interconnected satellites with multiple and integrated applications, allows acting in domains such as Earth observation (EO), satellite navigation and communications.

The data collected from satellites – big data from space or space data – after being properly handled and analyzed, is a source of information with numerous applications. Possible uses of space data include real-time retrieval of Earth surface parameters that allows, for example, maritime surveillance by monitoring activities such as piracy or illegal fishing. Thus, developing advanced EO methods and improving analytical frameworks for big data from space are an essential step to enable the use of space data, to convert it into relevant information and potentiate its applications.

Smart space systems have been making possible to know the universe in a more efficient way and to improve the general quality of the data gathered, so that more relevant information is delivered. This happens through the use of artificial intelligence (AI) that allows observing Earth from space and capturing data when justified. AI can be an essential asset in the analysis of the Earth and space data: given the amount of records to be analysed. AI already allows the findings of new potential mineral deposits targets, quantifying the biomass deforested in a time period, estimating the construction variation in a city through time, monitoring changes in remote places on

Earth – reducing its time and personnel needed in the field –, etc. All this is now possible due to AI recognition of small patterns and details that would hardly be noticeable otherwise.

To invest in the scientific production/research and technology development in the most varied areas related to space technology is to participate in the process of increasing general quality of life, as space is gaining ground in people’s everyday life, The relation of space technology with social concerns becomes even more evident and pertinent when space-related services are leveraged to help achieve United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), contributing to an increase in the quality of life of a significant portion of the world's population. Goals such as Zero Hunger (Goal 2) or Clean Water and Sanitation (Goal 6), amongst others, can be supported by using EO data originated from satellite services for purposes such as monitoring agricultural land and providing information for optimal management of crops (e.g., water and fertilizer needs or harvest time) and water resources (e.g. reservoir levels monitoring). Other examples include forest monitoring (e.g., deforestation activities) (Goal 15), ocean monitoring and resources management (Goal 14) and mapping of pollution levels which would all contribute to the climate action (Goal 13).

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The first selection will be made based on the novelty of the idea.

6.1 Criterion 0 – Novelty

For evaluation purposes, the novelty of the proposal will be addressed according to the following definition of the concept:

1. The proposal needs to address a not yet described or tested, but feasible and theoretically working embodiment.
2. The proposal has to identify the features that makes it new.
3. The proposal should be compared to prior activities and published state of the art.

All admitted applications must be graded from zero (0.00, minimum) to five (5.00, maximum) in Criterion 0. Applications with a novelty below 3.75 will not be eligible for a scholarship.

Once the selection of the novelty has been performed the more extensive selection based on three criteria will be performed. All admitted applications must be graded from zero (0.00, minimum) to five (5.00, maximum) in each of the three evaluation criteria:

Criterion A – Merit of the Applicant;

Criterion B – Merit of the Work Plan;

Criterion C – Merit of the Hosting Conditions.

In order to decide the conditional granting of the PhD studentships, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in the three criteria, following the relative weighting of: **35%** Merit of the Applicant (A); **35%** Merit of the Work Plan (B); **30%** Merit of the Hosting Conditions (C), converted into the following formula:

$$\text{Final grade} = (0,35 \times A) + (0,35 \times B) + (0,30 \times C)$$

For tiebreaking purposes, the final ranking list will be based on the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order: criterion B (Merit of the Work Plan), criterion A (Merit of the Applicant), and criterion C (Merit of the Hosting Conditions).

Grades in any of the evaluation criteria shall be awarded with two decimal digits. Values resulting from the application of formulas shall be rounded to the two decimal digits using the following rule: when the third decimal digit is equal to or greater than 5 (five) it shall be rounded in excess; if lesser, the value of the third decimal digit shall be upheld.

Applicants whose **application is scored with a final grade lower than 3.75 are not eligible** for studentship granting.

6.2 Criterion A – Merit of the Applicant

The criterion A, Merit of the Applicant, which has a 35% relative weight to the final score, is evaluated based on three sub-criteria:

- A1. **Academic career** (reflecting the academic degree grades), with a relative weight of **40%** in the Merit of the Applicant;
- A2. **Personal curriculum** (reflecting the scientific and professional career, and academic career, when applicable), with a relative weight of **50%** in the Merit of the Applicant;
- A3. **Motivation letter**, with a relative weight of **10%** in the Merit of the Applicant.

The score awarded to criterion A is calculated applying the following formula:

$$\text{Criterion A} = (0,4 \times A1) + (0,5 \times A2) + (0,1 \times A3)$$

5.1.1 Sub-criterion A1 – Academic Career

The academic career sub-criterion is calculated according to the **final classification stated in the academic degree certificate, submitted** in the application form: i) Undergraduate + Master / Integrated Master; ii) Undergraduate degree only; or iii) Master degree only, following Table 1.

Table 1. Reference table to score the sub-criterion A1 – Academic career

<u>Undergraduate + Master degrees</u> (pre- or post-Bologna) or <u>Integrated Master degree (300-360 ECTS)</u>		<u>Undergraduate degree (180 ECTS)</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)		<u>Master degree (90-120 ECTS)</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)	
Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score
≥ 18	5.0	≥ 17	3.5	≥ 17	3.0
17	4.5	16	3.0	16	2.5
16	4.0	15	2.5	15	2.0
15	3.5	14	2.0	14	1.5
14	3.0	<14	1.5	< 14	1.0
<14	2.5				

Note: to calculate the score of sub-criterion A1, the prevailing grade is the one stated in the respective degree certificate(s). Certificate final grades presented with decimal digits shall be rounded to the third decimal digit using the following rule: when the fourth decimal digit is equal to or greater than 5 (five) it shall be rounded in excess; if lesser, the value of the third decimal digit shall be upheld. To calculate the arithmetic average between the undergraduate and master degrees' grades, the original grades indicated in the certificates (even if presented with decimal digits) shall be considered, rounding only the final grade average.

IMPORTANT: in case no academic degree certificate is submitted, the sub-criterion A1 will be scored zero (A1 = 0).

In order to apply the scoring system presented in Table 1 is mandatory to submit, in the application form, the following documents:

- **Academic degree certificates, mandatorily indicating the final grade** and, if possible, the final classification of the disciplines completed, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor testifying that the candidate has concluded the undergraduate or master degree by the end of the application period, specifying the final classification. Applicants with post-Bologna education shall present both 1st and 2nd study cycles academic degree certificates or an integrated master certificate, while applicants with pre-Bologna education should present the undergraduate and/or master degree certificates.
- In case of **foreign academic degrees**, and to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to applicants with national and foreign academic degrees, **it is mandatory to submit the recognition** of such degrees and **the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale**.

The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas, and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, can be issued by a Portuguese public higher education institution, or by the Directorate General for Higher Education (Direção Geral do Ensino Superior, DGES) in case of automatic recognition.

Portugal Space and FCT suggest visiting <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374>.

For the application of **Table 1**, the following must be considered:

- a) The final grade average of “undergraduate + master” degrees, in a pre- or post-Bologna academic path, is the result of the simple arithmetic average of the final grade obtained in the 1st cycle (180 ECTS)/undergraduate

degree and the final grade obtained in the 2nd cycle (90-120 ECTS)/master degree, by applying the following formula:

$$\text{Final score average (Undergraduate + Master degrees)} = \frac{(\text{1st cycle final grade (undergraduate degree)} + \text{2nd cycle final grade (master degree)})}{2}$$

- b) In case of integrated master degrees whose institutions do not issue separate certificates for 1st and 2nd cycles' final grades, the final grade indicated in the degree certificate should be considered (300-360 ECTS).
- c) When both integrated master degree certificate (300-360 ECTS) and a pre-Bologna or 2nd cycle degree certificate are presented, the final grade of **the integrated master degree is the one to be considered**.
- d) If only an undergraduate or master degree certificate is submitted, the corresponding scoring system should be applied according to the respective columns in Table 1.
- e) When applicants submit **more than one equivalent undergraduate and/or master degree certificate** (with equivalent number of ECTS), the evaluation panel has to decide which of the equivalent academic degree is more adequate to the work plan and must thus be used to calculate the score of the academic career sub-criterion (A1). For instance, if an applicant submits an undergraduate degree certificate and more than one master certificate, the panel should consider the master's degree that is most suitable for the development of the work plan. However, if an applicant present both an integrated master and a 2nd cycle degree certificates (without an undergraduate degree or a 1st cycle of studies), the panel must consider the integrated master's degree to calculate the academic career score, as previously indicated. The evaluation panel should consider the alternative submitted degree(s) in the assessment of sub-criterion A2, valuing applicant's personal curriculum. In any case, the criteria used by the panel must be explained in the respective evaluation reports and in the panel meeting report.
- f) To calculate sub-criterion A1, in cases of certificates stating qualitative grades only (as pre-Bologna degree certificates, for example), the respective grade should be converted according to Table 2. The calculation of the final grade average (undergraduate + master) should then be used to determine A1 final score through the application of Table 1.

Table 2: Table for conversion of qualitative grades

Qualitative grade	Converted grade
Excellent Very Good with Distinction Praise and Distinction <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	18
Very Good Approved with Distinction Good with Distinction <i>Cum Laude</i>	16
Good Approved / Approved by Unanimity	14
Sufficient	12

The **minimum grade of zero (A1 = 0) will be scored to sub-criterion A1 in any case that is not included in Table**

1. Some examples are described below:

- a) When **no certificate is submitted, in the application form**, neither undergraduate nor master's degree certificates (national or foreign);
- b) When both national undergraduate and master certificates **do not state the respective final grade** (neither quantitative nor qualitative);
- c) When both foreign undergraduate and master certificates **are not recognised nor the final grades converted to the Portuguese grading scale.**

5.1.2 Sub-criterion A2 – Personal Curriculum

The assessment of applicants' personal curriculum should be performed in a holistic way, from a global vision of the merit of their scientific and professional career. In this analysis, the panel should consider the academic results that were not included in the calculation of the sub-criterion A1 – Academic career (only if the academic degree certificates were submitted in the application form and, in case of foreign academic degrees, the respective recognition/equivalence), and the several dimensions of the curriculum that may demonstrate a relevant personal, scientific and professional career. Recommendation letters (documents of mandatory submission) should also be considered. The panel should also evaluate the quality of the document or artistic achievement presented by the applicant as being the most representative and relevant of her/his scientific or professional career.

The grade scored to this sub-criterion should therefore translate a global and integrated view of applicant's personal curriculum and should be described in a clear, detailed and consisted way.

5.1.3 Sub-criterion A3 – Motivation letter

The classification of this sub-criterion should consider the clear identification of applicant's motivation to submit the application and the maturity to develop the proposed scientific work plan. In case the applicant submits her/his most representative document, the panel should analyse applicant's explanation for her/his choice.

5.1.4 Disability Bonuses

Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 90% shall have a bonus of 20% on criterion A – Merit of the Applicant. Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 60% and under 90%, shall have a bonus of 10% in this criterion. The degree of disability **should be duly proven** by submitting, in the application form, the document *Atestado de Incapacidade Multiuso*, issued according to the Decree-Law no. 202/96, of 23 of October, in its current version.

6.3 Criterion B – Merit of the Work Plan

The Merit of the Work Plan criterion has a relative weight of 35% and takes into consideration the following three sub-criteria:

- B1 – Justified relevance of the object of study;
- B2 – Scientific quality of the state of the art and the methodology of the work plan;
- B3 – Feasibility of the work plan.

For sub-criterion B1, the evaluation should be based on the clear definition of aims and research questions focusing on the innovation involved and the potential contribution of the research project to the knowledge and progress of science and technology.

The assessment of sub-criterion B2 should be based on the relevance of the state of the art and the proposed research methodology, considering the clarity, consistency and coherence, in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

For sub-criterion B3, evaluation should be based on the adequacy of methodologies to the tasks and aims proposed in the work plan and the respective planned deadlines as the total period expected to complete the project. If applicable, the risk assessment analysis should also be presented, by identifying the most critical points and the corresponding contingency measures to be adopted.

The presentation of a timeline should also be considered, as well as additional and optional information related to the work plan such as schemes, formulas or figures. Applicants may also optionally submit a letter of support showing the cooperation between all the participants in order to better analyse the work plan feasibility.

6.4 Criterion C – Merit of the Hosting Conditions

The merit of the hosting conditions, which has relative weight of 30%, is evaluated taking into consideration three sub-criteria:

- C1 – The scientific merit and experience of the supervisor(s) in the scientific field of the application, and the respective adequacy to supervise the PhD candidate;
- C2 – Quality and adequacy of the host institution(s);
- C3 – Applicant’s demonstration of their motives to choose the supervising team, including both supervisor(s) and host institution(s).

The evaluation of these sub-criteria should be integrated, considering the supervisor(s) associated CV and the means available at the host institution(s) mentioned along the application form and applicant’s demonstration, in the respective field of the form, on the adequacy of supervising conditions should also be considered in order to guarantee the accomplishment of the proposed work plan.

Applications that present more than one host institution should clearly indicate the tasks performed in each institution. Similarly, in case of applications proposing one or two co-supervisors, the role of each one should

be explained in order to analyse the relevance of their participation in the development and feasibility of the work plan.

When applying to a Studentship **both in Portugal and abroad** (whose work plan is partially carried out in a foreign institution), it is mandatory to identify the foreign affiliation institution(s), and to associate the respective foreign supervisor/co-supervisor, affiliated to that/those institution(s). If no foreign host institution(s) and supervisor/co-supervisor in this/these institution(s) is/are indicated, **the application will be automatically converted into an application to a PhD studentship in the country**, being evaluated and financed accordingly.

At least one of the supervisors must be a fully active researcher holding a PhD (and this information should be clearly indicated in their CV). In case the applicant describes, in any of the fields of the application form, the collaboration of a (co)supervisor whose CV is not submitted with the application, their participation should not be considered in the evaluation; the panel should only analyse the CV of supervisor, and co-supervisor, if applicable, whose CV and declaration were confirmed to be submitted.

7. EVALUATION

The evaluation panel will analyse applications considering the above evaluation criteria.

The identification of the members of the evaluation panel will be made public in Portugal Space's website and in the corresponding OSIP campaign page (<https://ideas.esa.int>) during the applications submission period.

All members of the evaluation panel, including the chair, are committed to a number of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest (COI) and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

Members of the evaluation panel, including the chair, may not be supervisors or co-supervisors to candidates with applications submitted to the call.

For each application, a final evaluation sheet will be produced by the evaluation panel, where there are clearly, coherently and consistently presented the arguments that led to the classifications attributed to each of the evaluation criteria and sub criteria, explaining also, if appropriate, any bonuses awarded.

The evaluation meetings shall have minutes, of the responsibility of all the evaluation panel members.

The reports and their annexes must include the following information:

- a) Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- b) Identification of all excluded applications and respective justification, if applicable;
- c) Methodology adopted for cases considered particular, if applicable;
- d) Final Evaluation Sheets for each candidate;
- e) Provisional ranking list and ranking in descending order of all applications evaluated by the panel;
- f) COI statements from all members of the evaluation panel;
- g) Any delegation of vote and powers by reason of justified absence, if applicable.

8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE

Evaluation results will be communicated to the email address provided by the candidates in the application form, as well as in Portugal Space website.

9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, CLAIMS AND APPEALS

Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants who have an unfavourable provisional decision may use their right to dispute it during the preliminary hearing phase, which takes place within 10 working days, according to Articles no. 121 and the following of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA).

The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. Final decision can be claimed within 15 working days or, alternatively, appealed within 30 working days, after the communication of the final results, respectively. Applicants who choose to submit a complaint must address their pronouncement to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated competence. Applicants who choose to submit an appeal must address it to the FCT Board of Directors.

10. STARTING DATE OF THE PHD STUDENTSHIP

The studentships will start at the 1st day of the month indicated by the applicant during the granting procedure, that must occur within six months of the date of notification of the approval decision.

11. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTSHIP GRANTING

The following documents are of mandatory submission, upon conditional granting of the studentship for purposes of contracting thereof:

- a) Copy of the documents of personal identification, tax number and, if applicable, social security¹;
- b) Document of proof of permanent and usual residence in Portugal, if applicable, valid at the studentship starting date. In case the work plan of the requested studentship is held, entirely or partially, in foreign

¹ The presentation of these documents may optionally be substituted by the in-person presentation in the funding agency, which will keep all the elements needed for the validation and execution of the contract, including the numbers of personal identification, taxation and social security, as well as the respective dates of expiry.

institutions, applicants, independently of their nationality, will have to present, upon contracting, the document of proof of permanent and usual residence in Portugal;

- c) Copy of the academic degree certificates, if applicable;
- d) Document proving the acceptance and registration in the 3rd study cycle from the educational offer in the higher education institution that will grant the academic degree;
- e) Work plan;
- f) Supervisor(s) statement declaring to coordinate the work plan, as established in Article no. 5-A of the Statute for Research Fellowships (template will be made available by FCT);
- g) Institutional document supporting the applicant, issued by the institution(s) where the work plan will be carried out, guaranteeing the necessary conditions to its successful development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- h) Updated document proving the exclusivity dedication regime (template will be made available by FCT).

The studentship granting is still dependent on:

- iii) The fulfilment of all the requirements listed in this Notice of the Call;
- iv) The results of scientific evaluation;
- v) The absence of unjustified non-compliance of the fellowship holder during previous directly or indirectly FCT funded fellowships;
- vi) FCT available budget.

The lack of any of the necessary documents to complete the contracting procedure implies the expiration of the studentship granting and conclusion of the process; applicants have up to 6 months after the disclosure of the provisional granting to present all of the listed documents.

12. FUNDING

Studentships payment will start after the signed contract is returned to FCT, which should happen within the 15 working days after its delivery.

The studentships granted in this call will be financed by FCT using the State Budget fund and, whenever eligible, using the European Social Fund (ESF), under the PORTUGAL2020 programme, in particular, under *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020)*, *Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020)* and *Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020)*, or others that may be approved, according to the respective requirements.

13. STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted according to the table in Annex I of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, available here: <https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/127238533>

The studentship may also include additional allowances, according to Annex II the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, available here: <https://dre.pt/application/conteudo/127238533>

All the studentship holders have a personal accident insurance related to the research activities, which FCT will support.

All studentship holders who are not beneficiaries of any social protection regime can use the right to social security through the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Scheme of the Social Security System. FCT will ensure the charges resulting from contributions under the legal terms and limits foreseen in article 10 of EBI.

14. PAYMENT OF STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

Payments due to the studentship holder are made by bank transfer to the respective indicated account. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first working day of each month.

Registration, enrolment or tuition fees components are paid by FCT directly to the institution where the studentship holder is enrolled in the doctoral program;

15. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the studentship always depends on applicant's submission, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, of the following documents:

- a) Declaration issued by the supervisor(s) and by the host institution(s) attesting the work plan development and the evaluation of the respective activities;
- b) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) Declaration demonstrating the enrolment renewal in the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree.

16. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

All the R&D activities carried out by the grantee, directly or indirectly financed by the studentship, namely, communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as thesis, must include the reference to FCT and European Social Fund (ESF) financing. In particular, these references should mention the following operational programmes *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020)*, *Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020)* and *Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020)*. Insignia of FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU must therefore be included in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational programme.

The disclosure of research results funded according to the RBI provisions must comply with the open access guidelines, publications and other research results in accordance with FCT rules.

For all the studentships, in particular in case of European funded actions, namely the ESF, may be performed monitoring and controlling actions by national or European entities according to the applicable legislation. Grantees must therefore collaborate and provide all the required information, including answering to surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the studentship might have already ceased.

17. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

FCT and Portugal Space promote a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty. This includes ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

18. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The present call is governed by this Notice of the Call, the FCT Regulation of Research Fellowships, approved by the Regulation no. 950/2019, published in the Series II of the DR, of 16th December, by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, approved by the Law no. 40/2004, of 18th of August, in its current version, and by other applicable national and European legislation.