

## CALL OPENING FOR 1 PHD SCHOLARSHIP

The Earth Sciences Institute (herein named by ICT), pole of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Porto, opens a call for granting **one** PhD scholarships, in Geosciences/Geology area, complying with the provisions of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The Scholarship will be funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) under the scope of Collaboration Protocol for the Multiannual Financing Plan of Research Scholarships for PhD Students, between FCT and the I&D Research Unit ICT – Instituto de Ciências da Terra (UIDP/04683/2020).

### 1. APPLICATION

The call is open from the **1<sup>st</sup> of July 2022 through 23.59 pm** (Lisbon time) of **14<sup>th</sup> July 2022 (10 working days)**.

Applications, and the supporting documents described in this notice, must be sent by email to [ict.bolsasdout2020@fc.up.pt](mailto:ict.bolsasdout2020@fc.up.pt), [ict.porto@fc.up.pt](mailto:ict.porto@fc.up.pt) with CC to [hsantov@fc.up.pt](mailto:hsantov@fc.up.pt) e [fmnoronh@fc.up.pt](mailto:fmnoronh@fc.up.pt) and with the subject 'Application to PhD Scholarships - ICT - UIDP/04683/2020'.

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

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

## **2. SCIENTIFIC AREA:** Geosciences/Geology

### **3. TYPE AND DURATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP**

PhD scholarship is intended to fund research activities leading to a doctoral degree in Portuguese universities. The research activities leading to the doctoral degree will take place at the I&D Research Unit ICT, pole of University of Porto, which will be the host institution, although the work may be carried out in collaboration with more than one institution.

The research activities leading to the doctoral degree of the scholarship holders must fit into the plan of activities and strategy of the I&D Research Unit ICT, pole of University of Porto, and must be developed within the Geoscience PhD Program of Faculty of Sciences of University of Porto.

The research plan may take place in full or partially in a national institution (in-country scholarship).

The duration of the fellowship is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months), and no fellowship may be awarded for a period of less than 3 consecutive months.

### **4. RECIPIENT**

The PhD Scholarship is intended for candidates enrolled or candidates who meet the conditions necessary for enrollment in the PhD Program listed in point 3 of this Notice and who intend to develop research activities at the ICT, pole of University of Porto, leading to the award of the academic degree of doctor at the University of Porto.

### **5. ADMISSIBILITY**

#### **5.1 Applicant's admissibility requirements**

The following are eligible to apply to this competition:

- National citizens or citizens of other Member States of the European Union;
- Non-EU citizens;
- Stateless persons;
- Citizens benefiting from the status of political refugee.

To apply for the PhD scholarship it is necessary to:

- Have a degree or master's in Geology or in areas considered to be related.
- Possess an academic and scientific curriculum considered suitable by the jury to carry out research activities at the ICT pole the University of Porto leading to obtaining the academic degree of doctor at the University of Porto.
- To reside permanently and habitually in Portugal if the work plan associated with the grant is partially carried out in foreign institutions (mixed grants), a requirement applicable to both Portuguese and foreign citizens.
- Not to have benefited from a PhD scholarship or a Enterprise PhD Scholarship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not hold a doctoral degree.

## **5.2 Application's admissibility requirements**

It is essential that the candidate, under penalty of not being admitted to the competition, attaches the following documents to the application:

- a) Curriculum vitae.
- b) Qualification certificates and a detailed description of the candidate's academic background.
- c) Research project to be developed within the scope of the PhD.
- d) Motivation letter.
- e) Record of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and record of the conversion of the respective final classification into the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, declaration of honour by the candidate that he has obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to a master's degree by the application deadline.
- f) To write the application and all the documents associated with it, including the letter of motivation and the research project, in Portuguese or in English.
- g) Other supporting documents considered relevant.

Regarding the above admissibility requirements, the following should be noted:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to ensure the application of the principle of equal treatment to applicants holding foreign and national academic degrees, the recognition of those degrees and the conversion of the respective final classification into the Portuguese classification scale is mandatory.
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final classification into the Portuguese classification scale may be requested in any public higher education institution, or in the Directorate General of Higher Education (DGES, only in the case of automatic recognition). Regarding this matter, we suggest

consulting the DGES portal through the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

- Applicants will only be admitted if they have completed the cycle of studies leading to the degree of master until the application deadline. In case candidates do not yet have the certificate of degree completion, a declaration of honour will be accepted that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition by the application deadline. The conception of the scholarship is always dependent on the presentation of the proof of the academic qualifications required for the awarding of the scholarship.

## **6. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION**

The **work plan** must be written in Portuguese or English, and must include the following sections:

- Summary (150 words)
- State of the art (500 words)
- Plan and methods (1000 words)
- References (maximum 30)
- Timeline

The work plan of the research project should be prepared by the candidate and will be based on the topic of his/her preference to be selected from the list indicated below that has been proposed by ICT researchers:

- Circular economy, environmental benefits of secondary resources utilization as a source of critical elements (Bruno Valentim (ICT – Porto pole); Teresa Valente (ICT –Minho pole))

- P-T-X conditions of formation of scheelites from skarns and quartz veins from "Douro Scheelite Belt" (Northern Portugal) (Alexandra Guedes (ICT – Porto pole); Pedro Nogueira (ICT – Évora pole))
- Quartzodiorite of Arouca: multidimensional characterisation of a magmatic body, from outcrop to 3D model (Cláudia Cruz, Helena Sant'Ovaia (ICT –Porto pole); Pedro Nogueira (ICT- Évora pole))
- Geological and structural modelling of Sb mineralisation at the Valongo Anticlinal (Alexandre Lima (ICT – Porto pole); Noel Moreira (ICT- Évora pole))

## **7. EVALUATION CRITERIA**

The evaluation considers the merit of the candidate (MC), the merit of the work plan (WP) and the motivation letter (ML).

### **Criterion A - Merit of the Candidate (MC), with a weight of 40%;**

Sub-criterion A1 - Academic curriculum, with a weight of 20%.

Sub-criterion A2 - Scientific and/or professional curriculum, with a weight of 20%.

The score for sub-criterion A1 is calculated based on the final classifications that appear in the academic degree certificates submitted by the candidate in the application form: i) Undergraduate Degree + Master's Degree/Integrated Master's Degree; ii) Undergraduate Degree only; or iii) Master's Degree only, according to Table 1.

Table 1

Undergraduate Degree + Master's Degree/Integrated Master's Degree (300-360 ECTS)		Undergraduate Degree only (180 ECTS)		Master's Degree only (90- 120ECTS)	
Classification	Score Sub- criterion A1	Classification	Score Sub- criterion A1	Classification	Score Sub- criterion A1
> = 18	200	> = 18	200	> = 18	200
17	180	17	180	17	180
16	160	16	160	16	160
15	140	15	140	15	140
14	120	14	120	14	120
< = 14	100	< = 14	100	< = 14	100

**Note:** the classification to be considered is the one appearing in the respective degree certificates submitted for application. In the case of qualifications certificates whose final classification is presented with decimal places, it will be rounded up to the unit following the rule below: when the decimal place is equal or higher than 5, it will be rounded up; when the decimal place is lower than 5, the value will be maintained. In the case of the calculation of the simple arithmetic average between the bachelor's degree and the master's degree, the grades on the certificates will be considered (even if they have decimal points) and the rounding will be done after obtaining the result of such average.

**Criterion B - Work Plan Merit (WP), with a weight of 50%.**

Sub-criterion B1 - Update and scientific quality of the State of the Art, with a weight of 15%.

Sub-criterion B2 - Form of presentation of the formulated questions and working hypothesis, with a weight of 15%.

Sub-criterion B3 - Clarity, adequacy and relevance of the methodologies described in the work plan; and the connection between the proposed tasks and the defined objectives, with a weight of 10%.

Sub-criterion B4 - Project feasibility within the defined timeframe, clear identification of non-compliance risks and adequacy of the project mitigation strategy, with a weight of 10%.

**Criterion C - Motivation letter (ML), with a weight of 10%.**

The **candidate's assessment (CA)** will result from the weighting of the partial classifications in each item according to the expression:

$$\mathbf{CA = criterion A (MC) + criterion B (WP) + criterion C (ML)}$$

Admissible applications will be scored on a scale of **(0 to 200)**.

If the selection board deems it convenient, an individual **interview** may be held for the two best candidates, ranked in CA, according to criteria A, B and C.

If the jury decides to hold an individual interview, the candidates will be reordered according to their **final classification (FC)** obtained as a weighted average with the following weights:



classification (CA) previously obtained in criteria A, B and C (with the weights already mentioned): 80% and interview (E): 20%.

This will result in the ordered list with the final classification (**FC**) according to the expression

$$CF = CA + E$$

**Important notice for applicants with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions:**

- Applicants with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated with the same criteria as applicants with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, provided that they present, in application, proof of recognition of the academic degrees and of the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- Applicants with recognized foreign degrees who do not present proof of the conversion of the final classification into the Portuguese classification scale will be assessed with the minimum classification (50 points) in sub-criterion (A1).
- In any case, scholarship contracts with applicants with diplomas issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of the proof of recognition of the academic degrees and conversion of the final classification, as indicated above.

Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final mark **of less than 100 points are not eligible for a scholarship.**

## **8. EVALUATION**

The evaluation panel of the candidates is composed of the following elements:

- **Presidente:** Fernando Manuel Pereira de Noronha (Professor Emérito, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto)

- **Members:**

- 1st member: Maria Elisa Preto Gomes (Professora Catedrática, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro)
- 2nd member: Eduardo Anselmo Ferreira da Silva (Professor Catedrático, Universidade de Aveiro)

- **Alternate members:**

- Ana Cláudia Moreira Teodoro (Professora Associada com Agregação, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto)
- Maria dos Anjos Ribeiro (Professora Associada, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto)

The evaluation panel will assess the applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this opening notice, weighing the assessment elements.

All panel members, including the President, establish a commitment to respect a set of essential responsibilities in the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. At all moments of the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and assured to guarantee the independence of all produced reports.

For each application, the panel will produce a final evaluation sheet where the arguments that led to the classifications attributed to each of the evaluation criteria are presented in a clear, coherent, and consistent manner.

The minutes of the evaluation panel meetings shall be produced under the responsibility of all its members.

The minutes and their annexes must include the following information

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel.
- Identification of all excluded applications and the reasons for exclusion.
- Final evaluation sheet for each candidate.
- Provisional ranking and seriation list of the candidates, in descending order of the final ranking, of all the applications evaluated by the panel.
- Conflicting interests declarations of all the panel members.
  - Possible delegation of vote and powers due to justified absence.

## **9. RESULTS DISCLOSURE**

The evaluation results are communicated to the e-mail address used by the candidate to submit the application.

## **10. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY HEARINGS AND COMPLAINTS**

After notification of the provisional list of the results of the evaluation, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, make their comments during a prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code.

The final decision will be issued after the analysis of the statements presented during the prior hearing of interested parties. A complaint may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or alternatively an appeal may be lodged within 30 working days, both counting from the respective notification. Candidates who choose to file a complaint must address their

appeal to the member of the FCT Board of Directors with delegated authority. Candidates who choose to file an appeal must address their appeal to the FCT Board of Directors.

## **11. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENSHIP GRANTING**

The PhD scholarship contracts are signed directly with FCT. Unless agreed between the candidate and the host institution, the scholarships must start between September 1st and November 30th, 2022.

The following documents must be submitted, when the grant is awarded, for contractuate purposes:

- a) Copy of the civil, fiscal and, when applicable, social security identification document(s); (The availability of these documents may be substituted, at the option of the candidate, by their presentation in person at the financing entity, which will keep the elements contained in them that are relevant for the validity and execution of the contract, including the civil, tax and social security identification numbers, as well as the validity of the respective documents).
- b) Copy of the academic qualifications certificates;
- c) Submission of the record of recognition of the foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- d) Research plan;
- e) Document proving enrolment and registration in of the the Doctoral Programmes identified in the present Notice;
- f) Statement from the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for the supervision of the work plan, under the terms of article 5-A of the Research Grant Holder Statute (draft of the statement to be made available by FCT);

- g) Document proving acceptance of the applicant by the institution where the research activities will take place, guaranteeing the necessary conditions for the proper development of the research activities, as well as fulfillment of the duties established in article 13 of the Research Grant Holder Statute (draft statement to be made available by FCT);
- h) Up-to-date document proving compliance with the regime of exclusive dedication (draft statement to be made available by FCT).

The award of the grant is also subject to

- fulfilment of the requirements set out in this Announcement of the Call;
- the result of the scientific evaluation;
- the absence of unjustified non-compliance with the duties of the grant recipient under a previous grant contract funded directly or indirectly by FCT;
- FCT budget availability.

Failure to submit any of the documents needed to complete the grant contract process within 6 months of the date of communication of the decision to award the grant conditionally will result in the expiration of the grant and the termination of the process.

## **12. FUNDING**

Payment of the grants will begin upon return by the applicants of the duly signed grant contract, which must occur within a maximum of 15 working days from the date of receipt.

The scholarship awarded under this call will be financially supported by FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under the PORTUGAL2020 programme, namely through the Regional Operational Programme of the North (NORTE 2020), the Regional Operational Programme of the Centre

(Centro 2020) and the Regional Operational Programme of the Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), according to the regulations established for this purpose.

### **13. STRUCTURE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP**

The scholarship holder will receive a monthly stipend under the terms of the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The scholarship may also include other components, under the terms set forth in article 18 of the BPR and in the amounts provided for in Annex II.

All scholarships holders will benefit from a personal accident insurance for research activities, supported by FCT.

A scholarship holder who is not covered by any social protection system is entitled to social security by joining the “voluntary social insurance” system, under the terms of the Social Security Contributions Code.

### **14. PAYMENT OF SCHOLARSHIP STIPEND**

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

Registration, enrolment, or tuition fees components are pay directly by FCT to the national institution where the scholarship holder has enrolled or registered in a 3<sup>rd</sup> Cycle of Studies.

## **15. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PhD STUDENTSHIP RENEAWAL**

The renewal of the scholarship always depends on a request submitted by the scholarship holder within the 60 working days prior to the renewal starting date, accompanied by the following documents

- a) evaluation report issued by the supervisor/s and the host institution/s on the progress and the activities conducted by the scholarship holder;
- b) up-to-date document proving compliance with exclusive dedication rule;
- c) document proving renewal of enrolment in the cycle of studies leading to a 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 scholarship, 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 scholarships, 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. Scholarship holders must therefore collaborate and provide all the required information, including answering to surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the scholarship might have already ceased.

#### **17. NON-DISCRIMINATION ACCESS POLICY**

FCT promotes 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**

Regulation no. 950/2019, published in 16th December (by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute from FCT), Regulation no. 66/2018, published in 16th August (Legal Regime for Recognition of Higher Education Degrees and Diplomas awarded by Foreign Higher Education Institutions).