

NOTICE OF THE CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE AWARD OF 1 (ONE) RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN A DOCTORAL PROGRAM, WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT “HEALTHY SOIL TO PERMANENT CROPS LIVING LABS” (LIVINGSOILL) (PROJECT NO. 101157502), CURRENTLY UNDERWAY AT THE FACULTY OF ARTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PORTO.

This notice is open of 1 (one) research scholarship for PhD students to develop R&D activities within the scope of the project “Healthy Soil to Permanent Crops Living Labs” (LivingSoiLL), Project No. 101157502, funded by the European Union through the Horizon Europe Program, currently underway at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto, under the following conditions:

1. Scientific field: Physical Geography/Natural Hazards/Geosciences.

2. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

Research Fellowship Holder Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18, in its current version; University of Porto Research Scholarship Regulations – approved by Regulation No. 184/2021, published in the Diário da República, 2nd Series, No. 43, of March 3; Legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions and the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA), approved by Decree-Law No. 4/2015, of January 7.

3. Admission Requirements, to be documented:

All individuals holding the following requirements may apply for this studentship, pending the submission of the corresponding documents:

- a) Hold a Master's degree in the areas of Physical Geography or Geosciences;
- b) Be a student enrolled in a Doctoral program in Geography at the University of Porto with content related to risk modeling in a GIS environment (to be verified by the time of hiring).;

4. Preferential conditions:

- a) Basic knowledge of programming (Python, R, C++, others) and advanced knowledge in GIS and spatial modeling of hydrological and/or geomorphological processes;
- b) Experience in managing environmental databases;
- c) Fieldwork experience in natural processes;
- d) Proficiency in English (oral and written communication), evidenced by certification;
- e) Availability to be away from the area of residence during fieldwork and experimental monitoring (must be referenced in the Motivation Letter)..

5. Work plan:

The main activities to be carried out by the grantee within the scope of the scholarship include:

- a) Scenario modeling of precipitation climate models;
- b) Fieldwork for the installation and monitoring of climatological, hydrological, and geomorphological data, inventories of soil water erosion forms, and slope instability processes;
- c) Data processing and development of laboratory models;
- d) Spatial modeling in GIS of soil water erosion processes and slope movements;
- e) Participation in national and international conferences to disseminate the project's results;
- f) Preparation and submission of scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals.

6. Workplace:

The work will be carried out at the Physical Geography Laboratory of the Department of Geography of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto or in other places necessary for the execution of the work plan, accompanied by the research team formed by professors Carlos Valdir de Meneses Bateira, Susana da Silva Pereira and Gabriela Narcizo de Lima.

7. Scholarship duration:

The scholarship will have a duration of 12 (twelve) months, starting on October 1, 2024 and ending on September 30, 2025, on an exclusive basis, and may be renewed according to institutional needs, up to a limit of 36 months for the execution of the work plan and financial availability, and may in no case exceed the limits defined in Regulation no. 184/2021 for the type of scholarship in question.

8. Monthly maintenance allowance:

8.1. The monthly maintenance allowance for the studentships is € 1.259,64, in accordance with Annex I of the University of Porto's Research Studentships Regulations, updated by Rectorial Order no. GR04/02/2024 of 14 February 2024, which amends the value of the University of Porto's research studentships for the year 2024.

8.2 Payment will be made by the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto by bank transfer. In addition to this allowance, the grant holder will be covered by personal accident insurance.

8.3 The studentships holder can join the Voluntary Social Insurance Scheme (valid for a scholarship contract of six months or more), which is optional (not compulsory) and the reimbursement corresponds to the 1st step of the contribution base.

9. Selection methods:

9.1 Curriculum Evaluation (CE), evaluation of the Research Project (RP), and, if the jury deems it necessary, may be complemented by a Selection Interview (SI) with the top three candidates in CE and RP.

The final score will be calculated using the following formula: $(0.4 \times CE) + (0.4 \times RP) + (0.2 \times SI)$. If the selection interview is not conducted, the final score will correspond to the score obtained in CE and RP. Candidates will be graded on a scale of 0-20 points

9.2. Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale from 0 (zero) to 20 (twenty) points for each of the following evaluation criteria.

9.3. Candidates who receive a score equal to or lower than 9.5 points will be excluded during the CE phase:

9.4. The following are criteria and weighting factors for the **Curriculum Evaluation** (CE):

- I. Average grade obtained in the courses of the attended master's program (**15%**);
- II. Knowledge and experiences based on work carried out in the related themes below (**60%**):
 - a) Basic knowledge of Programming (Python, R, C++, others) and advanced knowledge in GIS and spatial modeling of hydrological and/or geomorphological processes;
 - b) Experience in environmental database management;
 - c) Fieldwork experience in natural processes;
 - d) Proven proficiency in the English language (spoken and written), evidenced by certification;
- III. Final grade of the master's program (**15%**);
- IV. Motivation Letter - Availability to be away from the area of residence during fieldwork and experimental monitoring (**10%**).

9.5. The following are the criteria and weighting factors for **evaluating the Research Project (RP)**:

- i. Starting questions/objectives (10%);
- ii. State of the art on the subject (40%);
- iii. Data and methods to be applied (30%)
- iv. List of bibliographical references (20%).

9.6. The evaluation factors for the **Selection Interview**, if conducted, will be:

- i. Prospects for the candidate's scientific career (20%);
- ii. Framework of the proposed Research Project (PI) to be developed in the project (80%).

9.7. Candidates who score 9.5 points or less in the FC will be excluded from the competition.

9.8. The final ranking list will be drawn up on the basis of the results of the final ranking.

9.9. This competition is exclusively intended to fill the specified vacancies. If one or more candidates fail to demonstrate the profile required to carry out the work plan described within the scope of this funding, the jury reserves the right not to award the contested position(s).

10. Composition of the Selection Jury:

The evaluation panel for the candidates consists of the following members:

- President: Professor Carlos Valdir de Meneses Bateira, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto.
- Member: Professor Susana da Silva Pereira, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto;
- Member: Professor Gabriela Narcizo de Lima, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto.

The panel assessing the candidates is made up of the following alternates:

- Member: Professor Helena Cristina Fernandes Ferreira Madureira, Ph.D., Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto;
- Member: Professor Laura Maria Pinheiro de Machado Soares, Ph.D., Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto.

11. Notification/Publication of Results:

11.1. Candidates will be notified of the evaluation phase(s) of the applications that are sent to them by email, to the address they provide for this purpose, with a delivery notification receipt.

11.2. Notifications are made by email, in accordance with articles 112, paragraph 1, subparagraph c) and 113, paragraph 5, of the Administrative Procedure Code.

11.3. In accordance with the provisions of article 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code, after being notified, candidates have 10 working days to submit written comments.

12. Application Submission Method and Deadline:

12.1. The competition is open for **until July 22th, 2024 (23h:59 - Lisbon)** from the publication of this notice (closing at 11:59 PM local time on the final submission date).

12.2. Applications must be submitted on the FLUP website at the following address: https://sigarra.up.pt/flup/en/cnt_cand_geral.concursos_list (**Ref^a 2024/34, Pr. 143**), accompanied by the following mandatory presentation documents:

- a) Curriculum vitae of the candidate, including: identification; academic background; professional experience; participation in scientific events (with or without presentations); participation in research projects; publications; other relevant elements for the evaluation of the application;
- b) Motivation letter;
- c) Declaration of eligibility (attached);
- d) Certificate of academic qualification held (Master's degree), specifying the final grade and the grades obtained in all completed subjects. If the supporting documents for foreign degree holders do not include the final grade of the degree required in the Notice with the respective grade converted to the Portuguese grading scale, the jury will consider that the candidate has the minimum grade required for obtaining the degree in Portugal, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of article 16 of Regulation No. 184/2021 of the University of Porto;
- e) Proof of recognition of the degree, if obtained from a foreign Higher Education Institution (to be submitted by the time of hiring). Candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated under the same criteria as candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, provided that they submit, with their application, proof of the recognition of academic degrees and the conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale in accordance with applicable legislation;
- f) Proof of enrollment in the PhD program in Geography at the University of Porto (UP) as indicated in section 3, paragraph b) of this Notice (to be submitted by the time of hiring), or a declaration of honor certifying that you meet the enrollment conditions and will submit proof of enrollment by the time of hiring. In accordance with paragraph 5 of article 22 of Regulation 184/2021, "Failure to submit the required documentation within 30 days after the date of communication of the conditional award of the scholarship will result in the expiration of said award;
- g) Research Project on a topic relevant to the LivingSoiLL project, including the following points:
Starting points/objectives (max. 500 words); State of the art on the topic (max. 1000 words); Data and methods to be applied (max. 1000 words); List of bibliographical references (max. 10 references);
- h) Documentary evidence of the preference conditions listed in point 4 of this Notice (if applicable);

- 12.3.** The application and all associated documents may be written in either Portuguese or English.
- 12.4.** Documents can be integrated into folders with a compressed format (zip, rar, 7z). However, it is necessary to take into account the system's upload limit, which is set at a maximum of 720MB per compressed file or folder. Each application can submit several compressed files or folders, each with a limit of 720 MB, and the total number of compressed files/folders submitted is not limited.
- 12.5.** For the purpose of evaluating applications, documents accessible via links will not be considered, and their submission on the contest platform (Sigarra) is mandatory.
- 12.6.** The documents mentioned in section 12.2. should preferably be submitted in PDF format.
- 12.7.** Failure to meet the deadline for submitting the application, failure to submit, or submission outside the deadline of the documents mentioned in items a) to d), f), and g) of section 12.2. will result in the exclusion of the application.
- 12.8.** The failure to submit, within the application deadline, proof of recognition of the foreign degree or diploma and conversion of the grade to the Portuguese grading scale (if applicable) mentioned in item e) of section 12.2. of this Notice, if the application is considered admissible, will result in the jury considering in the curriculum evaluation phase that the candidate has the minimum grade required for obtaining the degree in Portugal, in accordance with paragraph 2 of article 16 of Regulation No. 184/2021 of the University of Porto.
- 12.9.** The failure to submit the documents mentioned in items e) and h) of section 12.2. does not result in the exclusion of the application.

13. Reserve list:

Based on the final ranking list, a reserve list will be formed, which may be activated in case of withdrawal and/or non-submission of the required documentation by the selected individual(s). The highest authority of the Faculty reserves the right to call upon the next candidate(s) and so on until the vacancy(ies) is filled, whenever deemed appropriate and at the discretion of the Faculty. This reserve list may be activated for up to 12 (twelve) months from the date of approval of the final ranking list.

14. Non-discrimination and equal access policy:

The University of Porto actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no applicant may be privileged, benefited, disadvantaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the grounds of, in particular, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.



STATEMENT

(for the purpose of applying for a Research Studentship)

For the purposes of complying with the provisions of paragraphs 2 and 3 of article 10 of the University of Porto's Research Scholarship Regulations, I hereby declare that:

- I have not entered into any Research Studentship contract to date under the Research Studentship Statute;
- To date, I have entered into the following EBI Research Studentship agreements:

| Scholarship Typology | Start Date | End Date | Contracting Entity |
|----------------------|------------|----------|--------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

I further declare that I meet the conditions of eligibility to join this studentship, as required under the terms of the aforementioned regulation.

As it is true, I sign this declaration.

Date: ____/____/____

Signature
