ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Research Fellowship for Students Enrolled in a 2nd Cycle - 2 vacancies

03/ECUM/CMAT/2025 – CTEAM

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of (number) grant(s) of (type) within the scope of the R&D project (project title/name of the R&D institution), (reference), financed by national funds through (entity financing entity) or co-financed by (financing entity), under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Mathematics, Statistics and Probability

Recipient category: Students enrolled in a 2nd cycle program in the fields of Mathematics, Computer Science, or Statistics.

a) **Degree courses:** Research grants (BI) are intended for R&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated master's degree or a master's degree.
b) **Non-conferring degrees courses:** They may also be intended for R&D activities by graduates or masters enrolled in non-academic degree courses.

Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- The applicants may apply without prior registration in the course for which the fellowship is open. The requirement to enroll in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be verified on the date of contracting the fellowship;
- Only fellowships whose selected applicants present a valid proof of enrollment in a degree course or non-academic degree course will be contracted, according to the type of the fellowship, indicating, respectively, the academic year or its duration (star and term).

Profile: The candidate must have a profile that aligns with the research activities planned for the research project they are applying for:

a) Solid knowledge of Statistics, Statistical Modeling, and Data Analysis.
b) Experience in using statistical programming tools, preferably R.
c) Familiarity with survival analysis, multistate models, and/or censored/truncated data will be valued.

Candidate admissibility requirements:

a) Hold a Bachelor's degree, Master's degree, or be enrolled in an Integrated Master's or Master's program in areas such as Natural Sciences, Computer Science, Statistics, Applied Mathematics, or related fields.
b) Possess experience in research or relevant activities related to the project's area, such as data analysis, statistical modeling, or software development.
c) Have solid knowledge of statistical programming (preferably in R).

d) Provide proof of academic qualifications completed by the application deadline, including those resulting from academic degree recognition processes.

e) Preferred factors: familiarity with survival analysis, multistate models, and/or censored/truncated data will be valued.

Admissibility requirements:

- It is essential, under penalty of not being admitted to the competition, to attach the following documents to the application:
- The candidate's curriculum vitae;
- Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honor that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice by the application deadline (not applicable to research initiation grants);
- For degrees obtained abroad, the record of recognition of the academic degrees and record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale must be presented, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor (not applicable to research initiation grants);

Applicants eligibility: Applicants must comply with the eligibility conditions laid down in article 9 of the Research Grants Regulation of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (2019).

Workplan and objectives to be achieved:

In survival analysis, researchers aim to model and analyze the time until specific events occur, such as disease progression or the onset of a clinical condition. Often, the available data are incomplete due to censoring (when the event of interest is not observed during the follow-up period) and/or truncation (when only individuals with events within a specific interval are included). These types of data present significant statistical challenges, requiring advanced methodologies for their analysis.

The literature provides solutions to address some of these limitations, but there are critical gaps, particularly in the case of interval-censored, truncated, or informatively censored data. This project aims to address these gaps by applying and developing innovative methods for the analysis of survival data, both univariate and multivariate, and multistate models.

The work will include:
i) Study and analysis of real cohorts, including the Lisbon Cohort of Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and the Portuguese Community Screening Network Project, which provide valuable data for developing predictive models and evaluating epidemiological trends.
ii) Development and enhancement of computational tools for the analysis of censored and/or truncated data, focusing on nonparametric methodologies and robust estimates of transition probabilities in multistate models.

Objectives:
To address open methodological and practical issues in survival data analysis, fostering significant advancements in the field and contributing to the application of these methods in epidemiological and public health studies.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellowship Holder Statutes, approved by Law nº 40/2004 of August 18, in its current version published by Decree-Law nº 123/2019 of august 28;

Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in "Diário da República", 2nd serie, nº 119, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021 and Regulation of Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the (*name of the host institution | UOEI*) of University of Minho), located in the (*location of the host institution where the physical activities will be carried out*), under the scientific supervision of the Professor/Doctor (name and category).

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 12 months, with a provisional starting date on the march of 2025.

Amount of the research grant: The value stipend (Monthly Maintenance Allowance) is 990,98/per month, in accordance with the stipends values published by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT I.P.) in the country (Annex I – Monthly Stipends Values for the maintenance allowances of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships) and Annex II of the Regulation of Scientific Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in "Diário da República", 2nd serie, nº 119, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, according to the applicable regulation.

Payment is made on the 23st of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contratualization process.

Other components of the research grant: (define the other components of the research grants, in accordance with the nº 5 of the article 18º of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, nº 950/2019 of 16-12-2019 or article 21º of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), accordingly with the regulations applicable).

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security (Social Security contributions), corresponding to the 1st level of discounts *(for research grants with a total duration 6 months or higher)* and personal accident insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The grantee will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel:

President: Luís Filipe Meira Machado, Full Professor at the Department of Mathematics, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Effective Members:

Carla Maria Gonçalves de Macedo Moreira, Integrated Member of the Centre of Mathematics, University of Minho.

Gustavo Domingos da Costa Coelho Soutinho, Guest Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics, School of Sciences, University of Minho.

Substitute Members:

Soraia Alexandra Gonçalves Pereira, Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics, School of Sciences, University of Minho.
Marta Susana Ribeiro Ferreira, Assistant Professor at the Department of Mathematics and member of CMAT, University of Minho.

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 1 to 5 values:

A. Applicant Merit - AM - (70%):

A1: Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 50%;

A2: Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of

30%;

A3: Motivation letter and/or recommendation letter, with a weighting of 20%.

The merit classification (AM) of the applicant's merit with the achieved through the following formula:

$$AM = (A1×0,5) + (A2×0,3) + (A3×0,2)$$

Candidates classified in the first 5 (five) positions, who obtain a minimum classification of 3.5 in the AM, will be admitted to the Interview phase, the Jury proceeding to the evaluation of the following sub-criteria

B. Interview – ENT (30%):

B1: interpersonal skills (30%);

B2: Demonstrated knowledge in the area (40%);

B3: Motivation (30%).

The Jury also decided to proceed with the evaluation of the Interview, according to the following levels:

- High – 5 values;
- Good – 4 values;
- Sufficient – 3 values;
- Reduced – 2 values;
- Insufficient – 1 value.

The Interview classification (ENT) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$ENT=(B1×0,3) + (B2×0,4) + (B3×0,3)$$

The final classification (CF) of Candidate Merit (MC) and Interview (ENT) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$CF=(AM×0,7) + (ENT×0,3)$$

The academic degrees and diplomas documents, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions are not mandatory in the application phase, being replaced by a declaration of honor of the candidate with the contents of academic results. The documents of academic qualification or respective recognition will be required in the contracting phase and must attest facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be consider. If the documents proving the ownership of the academic degree and diploma, or the respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path, which can change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship won't be contracted.

Notes: Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the selection panel will assign "0" in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

Disclosure of results: The evaluation results project, based in the selection panel minutes, will be send to the applicants by email, in accordance with article 12 of the FCT's RBI (FCT funding) | article 13 of UMinho's RBIC (other funding subject to UMinho regulations).

If case of unfavourable results, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to comment, if desired, in a prior hearing to interested parties, pursuant to articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (DL nº 4 / 2015 of January 7th).

(The hearing of the interested parties, if excluded, should be justified accordingly with article 124º of CPA)

Complaint and appeal procedures: The final results of the evaluation will be published through an ordered list (*alphabetically, by final grade obtained*), posted in a visible and public place of the host unit, as well as by email to all applicants, enclosing for that purpose, the minutes of the jury deliberations.

The selected candidate must inform its willingness to accept the grant, in writing. In case of rejection, the fellowship will be awarded to the next candidate in the ordered list of applicants.

The final decision can be contested within 15 working days, by sending to the President of the jury the corresponding claim. Interested parties may also submit an optional hierarchical appeal, addressed to the Pro-Rector for Scientific Projects and Research Management, Professor Doctor Sandra Paiva.

Constitution of a selection reserve list: The applicants ranked in the next positions on the ordered list will be included in a selection reserve list, which can be used until 31/12/2025.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open for a period of 10 working days from the date of publication on the Euraxess portal.

Applications must be formalized by sending an application letter with the following documents: curriculum vitae; qualifications certificate or declaration of the applicant; motivation letter; statement proving that meets the conditions for the grant typology, according to the application requirements; other documents important to the evaluation process).

Applications must be sent by email to para bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt, indicating the reference of the call **03/ECUM/CMAT/2025 – CTEAM.**. Applications submitted by other means will not be accepted.

Fellowship contractualization: The fellowship will be attributed by signing a fellowship contract between the University of Minho and the fellow, accordingly with the contract minute (annex IV of the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, nº 119*, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021, as indicated in 2.4 of the FCT document: "[Rules for Granting and Management of Grants within the scope of R&D projects, including infrastructure projects, the multi-annual financing program for R&D units and other FCT financing instruments (Version 2021)](#)".

The contract may only be concluded after all the documentation required is collected, which must take place within a maximum period of 6 months.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the scholarship contract. Once received, the fellow must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days.

The activities under the fellowship contract can only began after proper authorization by the contracting entity.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other causes provided the fellowship regulations (FCT and UMinho) and in the Statute of the Research Fellow, the fellowship ends with the completion of the work plan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed.

At the end of the fellowship, the grantee is obliged to present a Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the scientific advisor, within 30 days after the end of the scholarship.

The **final report** must be prepared in accordance with Annex I of the Scientific Research Fellowships Regulation of the University of Minho (RBIC), published in *Diário da República, 2nd Série, nº 119*, through dispatch nº 6524/2020 of 22-06-2020, ratified by ratification declaration nº 447/2021 of 22-06-2021.

Declaration of Honor

Academic qualifications

I, (full name), candidate for the vacancy for the award of a Research Fellowship, within the scope of the project 'Complex Time-to-Event Analysis: Multistate Models and Cohort-Based Studies', published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference 03/ECUM/CMAT/2025 – CTEAM, declare on my honor that I have completed the academic degree of (academic degree), qualifying for the type of scholarship in the competition, namely the course (designation), by the (University conferring the degree), on the date XX/XX/XXXX, with a final average of XXXXX values on the YY scale.

As it is not possible for me to present proof of qualifications until the end of the competition, I declare that I undertake to present the aforementioned certificate at the conclusion of the scholarship contract, in the event that I am selected for the vacancy in the competition.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

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(full name)

Declaration of Honor

I, (full name), bearer of identification document number (XXXX), candidate for a Research Fellowship, within the scope of the project 'Complex Time-to-Event Analysis: Multistate Models and Cohort-Based Studies', published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference 03/ECUM/CMAT/2025 – CTEAM, declare on my honor that (I have not received any research grants to date / I have received the following research grants) under the Research Grant Holder Statute.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

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(full name)