

Notice of the Call for a PhD Research Studentship

The Universidade do Minho (UMinho) opens a call for the attribution of 1 (one) research studentship, from now on designated by PhD Research Studentship, in the area of Mathematics, in accordance with the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and with the Research Fellowship Statute (EBI).

The studentship will be funded by FCT under the Collaboration Protocol for the Pluriannual Funding Plan for Research Studentships for Doctoral Students, signed between FCT and the R&D Unit UI/00013/2021, Centro de Matemática (CMAT).

1. PRESENTATION OF THE CALL

The call is open from July 1st to 5:00 pm (Lisbon time) July 16th, 2021.

The applications and supporting documents must be submitted, obligatorily, by email to the addresses bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt and candidaturas@cmat.uminho.pt, with the reference CMAT_BID_NameSurnameCandidate.

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

The provision of false declarations or the carrying out of acts of plagiarism by the candidates leads to the exclusion of the application, without prejudice to the adoption of other sanction measures.

2. STUDENTSHIP TYPE AND DURATION

The PhD Research Studenthip is intended to finance the realization, by the studentship holder, of research activities leading to the attainment of an academic doctorate degree in Portuguese universities. The research activities leading to the attainment of the academic degree of Doctor will take place at CMAT, which will be the R&D Unit hosting the studentship holder, without prejudice to the work being carried out in collaboration with other institutions.

The research activities leading to the achievement of the academic degree of doctor of the selected studentship holder must be in accordance with the CMAT activity plan and strategy and must be developed within the scope of the Doctoral Program in Applied Mathematics (MAP-PDMA), of the Universities of Minho, Aveiro and Porto (<https://map-pdma.up.pt/>).

The duration of the studentship is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48

months), and studentships cannot be awarded for a period of less than 3 consecutive months.

3. STUDENTSHIP RECIPIENTS

The PhD Research Studentship is aimed at registered candidates or candidates who meet the necessary conditions to enroll in the MAP-PDMA and who wish to develop research activities at CMAT, leading to the attainment of the academic degree of Doctor.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

4.1 Candidate's Admissibility Requirements

The following citizens may apply to this call:

- National citizens or citizens of other Member States of the European Union;
- Citizens of third States;
- Stateless individuals;
- Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for the PhD Research Studentship it is necessary to:

- Residing permanently and regularly in Portugal at the start date of the work plan period abroad, if the work plan proposed for the studentship includes a period in foreign institutions (mixed studentships), a requirement applicable both to national citizens and to foreign citizens
- Not having benefited from a doctoral fellowship or doctoral fellowship in companies directly financed by the FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not holding a PhD degree.

4.2 Application Admissibility Requirements

It is essential, under penalty of non-admission to the Call, to attach the following documents to the application:

- Elements of identity card/citizen card/passport;
- Candidate's *curriculum vitae*;
- Certificates of academic degrees and detailed description of the candidate's academic path;

- Research project, with a maximum of three pages, in accordance with the research objectives of CMAT and to be developed during the doctoral programme under the supervision of an integrated member of CMAT;
- Motivation letter, where the candidate must explain his/her academic background and the reasons for his/her application;
- Two recommendation letters by recognized professors or researchers in Mathematics, sent directly by them by email to the addresses bolsas@ecum.uminho.pt and candidaturas@cmat.uminho.pt, with the subject CMAT_BID_NameSurnameCandidate;
- The application and all related documents, including motivation and recommendation letters, must be written either in Portuguese or in English.

5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC ORIENTATION OF THE STUDENTSHIPS

The work plan, which will be based on the research project submitted by the candidate, and the scientific supervision of the studentship must fit into CMAT's strategic plan and guidelines within the scope of its research activities ([http://www.cmat.uminho .pt](http://www.cmat.uminho.pt)).

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 Evaluation criteria

The evaluation takes into account the candidate's merit and the research project.

Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale from 0 to 200 in each of the following evaluation criteria:

- **Criterion A - Candidate Merit, with a weight of 60%**

In this criterion, the merit and the ability of the candidate for both the Doctoral Program in Applied Mathematics (MAP-PDMA) and the proposed research project will be evaluated, based on the curriculum vitae and recommendation letters.

- **Criterion B - Research Project, with a weight of 40%**

In this criterion, the merit of the research project submitted will be evaluated, as well as the motivation letter, in which the path and the reasons of the choice of the research topic submitted must be explained by the candidate.

- **Criterion C – Interview**

If the jury considers convenient, an individual interview (possibly using a video conference system) may be made to the eight best-ranked candidates after applying criteria A and B.

For the purposes of the decision on the granting of the PhD Research Studentship, candidates will be ranked according to the Curriculum Classification (CC), given by the weighted average translated by the following formula:

$$(CC) = 0,6 \times A + 0,4 \times B.$$

Applicants with (CC) less than 140 will not be eligible for the PhD Research Studentship.

For candidates with (CC) equal to or greater than 140, if an interview takes place, the Final Classification (CF) will be given by the formula

$$(CF) = 0,8 \times (AC) + 0,2 \times C.$$

If there is no interview, the Final Classification will coincide with the Curriculum Classification.

For tie-breaking purposes, the ranking of candidates will be based on the classifications given to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence: criterion A, criterion B, criterion C.

7. EVALUATION

The candidates' evaluation panel is composed by the following elements:

- Coordinator: Lisa Maria de Freitas Santos, CMAT, Universidade do Minho;
- Effective member: Ana Jacinta Pereira da Costa Soares, CMAT, Universidade do Minho;
- Effective member: José Pedro Miranda Mourão Patrício CMAT, Universidade do Minho;
- Substitute member: Ana Cristina Castro Ferreira, CMAT, Universidade do Minho.
- Substitute member: Carolina Paula Baptista Ribeiro, CMAT, Universidade do Minho.

The evaluation panel will analyse the applications according to the evaluation criteria disclosed in this Notice of Opening of the Call, weighting all the appreciation elements.

All the evaluation panel members, including the coordinator, commit to respecting a set of responsibilities essential to the assessment process, such as the duties of impartiality, confidentiality and the declaration of any potential conflict of interest (CDI) and confidentiality. During the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the

independence of all opinions produced.

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

Minutes of the evaluation panel meetings will be produced, under the responsibility of all its members. The minutes and their attachments must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all evaluation panel members;
- Identification of all excluded applications and their respective reasons;
- Methodology adopted by the panel for cases considered to be particular;
- Final Evaluation Sheets for each candidate;
- Provisional ranking and ranking list of candidates, in descending order of the final ranking, of all applications evaluated by the panel;
- CDI statements from all panel members;
- Possible delegations of votes and roles due to excused absence.

8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE

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

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 during a prior hearing of interested parties. Final decision can be claimed within 15 working days, or, alternatively, appealed within 30 working days, after the communication of the final results, respectively. Candidates who choose to submit a complaint must address their statement to the member of the Board of Directors of the FCT with delegated competence. Candidates who choose to present an

appeal must address the same to the FCT Board of Directors.

10. STUDENTSHIP GRANT REQUIREMENTS

Research fellowship contracts are signed directly with the FCT.

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 security;
- b) Copy of the academic degree certificates held;
- c) Work plan;
- d) Document proving acceptance and registration in the Doctoral Program in Applied Mathematics of the Universities of Minho, Aveiro and Porto;
- e) Supervisor(s) statement declaring to coordinate the work plan, pursuant to article 5-A of the Research Fellowship Statute (template will be made available by the FCT);
- f) 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);
- g) Updated document proving the exclusivity dedication regime (template will be made available by the FCT).

The studentship granting is still dependent on:

- The fulfilment of all the requirements listed in this Notice of the Call;
- The results of the scientific evaluation;
- the absence of unjustified non-compliance of the fellowship holder during previous directly or indirectly FCT funded fellowship;
- 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.

11. FUNDING

Studentships payment will start after returning the signed contract 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), in accordance with the regulatory provisions established for this purpose.

12. STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS

Studentship holders are allocated a monthly maintenance allowance in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The studentship may also include other components, under the terms set out in article 18 of the RBI and the values indicated for in its Annex II.

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

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 terms and with the limits provided in article 10 of the RBI.

13. 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. Payments for the registration, enrolment or tuition fees are paid directly by the FCT directly to the national institution where the studentship holder is enrolled in the PhD.

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the studentship always depends on an applicant's submission, within 60 working days

prior to the start date of the renewal, 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.

15. 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.

16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL 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.

17. 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.