

Call Notice opened for granting a PhD Research Studentship

The Linking, Landscape, Environment, Agriculture and Food (**LEAF**) Research & Development Unit opens a call for one research PhD grant, hereinafter referred to as Doctoral Research Studentships, in the **scientific areas of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Horticulture and Viticulture subarea (FCT)**, corresponding to the Agronomic Engineering Scientific Area and **Horticulture and Viticulture subarea** of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (ISA), complying with the provisions of the FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The scholarships will be funded by Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol for Financing the Pluriannual Plan for Research Fellowships for PhD Students, signed between FCT and the R&D Unit - LEAF (FCT UID/AGR/04129) based at Instituto Superior de Agronomia of Universidade de Lisboa.

1. APPLICATION

The call is open from **February 19th to 24:00 h (Lisbon time) to March 10th of 2021**.

Applications and supporting documents for the application provided for in this Notice Call for Proposals must be submitted by e-mail to LEAF@isa.ulisboa.pt.

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

The provision of false statements or the performance of plagiarism by the candidates is grounds for cancelling the application without prejudice to the adoption of other measures of a sanctioning nature.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF THE STUDENTSHIPS

The research studentship is intended to finance development of research activities, by the fellow, leading to the award of the academic doctoral degree by Portuguese universities.

The research activities leading to the award of the doctoral academic degree (PhD) will take place at **Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Universidade de Lisboa)**, that will be the host institution for the studentship holder, notwithstanding the work can be carried out in collaboration between more than one institution.

The research activities leading to the PhD degree completion by the studentship holder selected must be part of the **LEAF R&D Unit activity plan, concretised in a Thematic Line Project called Clones4ClimateChange, of the Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Universidade de Lisboa)** and must be developed within the scope of the **Agronomic Engineering Doctoral Program of ISA/ULisboa**.

The work programme may proceed fully or partially in a national institution (studentship in the country or mixed studentship, respectively).

The duration of PhD studentships is annual, renewable up to the maximum number of four years (48 months) and cannot be granted for a period less than 3 consecutive months.

In case of mixed studentship, the work plan period in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. RECIPIENTS

PhD studentships is addressed to candidates that are already enrolled or that comply with the requirements to enrol the Doctorate Program specified under point 2 of this Call Notice and that wish to develop research activities leading to the award of the doctoral degree at LEAF, based at Instituto Superior de Agronomia (Universidade de Lisboa), or at host institutions associated to this R&D Unit.

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 the PhD studentship it is necessary:

- To hold a Master's or a Pre-Bologna 5 years Degree in Agronomic Engineering, Biology or related areas with a minimal final grade of 14;
- To be a citizen permanently and usually living in Portugal, if the work plan of the requested studentship proceeds, partially, in foreign institutions (in case of mixed studentships); 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.

4.2. Application's admissibility requirements

Applications must be accompanied, under penalty of non-admissibility, by the following supporting documents:

- The information contained in the applicant's identity card / citizen's card/ passport;
- Detailed Curriculum Vitae of the candidate;
- Academic Degree Certificate for each degree the candidate hold, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honour declaring that he/she concluded the bachelor's or master's degree by the deadline for the application;
- Registration of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese scale.

Alternatively, the candidate must submit a declaration of honour declaring that he/she has completed the bachelor' or master's degree by the deadline for the application;

- Motivation letter;
- At least two recommendation letters;
- Applicant's declaration of honour declaring that he/she owns previous experience in field or laboratory work, in Biologic or Agronomic Sciences.
- A 3-page bibliographic review (font 12 Times New Roman, one and a half line spacing) on the topic "**Impacts of climate change in viticulture**";

The application and the accompanying documents, including the motivation letter and the technical-scientific review, must be submitted in English. The recommendation letters are the unique exception, being possible to submit them in Portuguese or English.

Regarding the above-mentioned admissibility requirements, it is important to note the following:

- In case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to candidates holding foreign and national academic degrees, Degree and Diploma Recognition and conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale is mandatory.
- The recognition of higher education foreign degrees or diplomas as well as conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese scale may be issued by Public Higher Education Institutions or by the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, only in case of automatic recognition). For getting more information about this, we suggested to consult DGES portal through this link: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.
- Only candidates who have complete the study cycle leading to a Bachelor's (pre-bologna) or Master's degree by the deadline for the application will be considered. If, at the deadline, they do not already owns the degree certificate, a declaration of honour declaring that he/she has completed the bachelor's degree or the master's degree by the deadline for the application, will be admitted for their candidacy. However, the studentship granting is still dependent on the presentation documents of proof of the academic degrees hold by the candidate and that are mandatory for studentship granting.

5. WORKPLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION

The workplan is part of the LEAF's internal project Clones4ClimateChange entitled "*Improving Sustainability In Grape And Wine Production Under Climate Change Scenarios: From Polyclonal Selection To Wine Authenticity*", coordinated by Prof. Elsa Gonçalves and co-coordinated by Prof. Luísa Carvalho (both LEAF/ISA/ULisboa members). The PhD work plan, entitled "Selection of grapevine genotypes for biotic and abiotic stress tolerance" envisages polyclonal selection of genotypes tolerant to abiotic and biotic stress of two Portuguese autochthonous grapevine varieties. For this, phenotyping of these genotypes will be carried out for several ecophysiological, agronomic and oenological traits. After polyclonal selection, the selected genotypes will be characterized in more detail, at molecular and histological level, in order to understand the regulatory mechanisms of tolerance to drought, heat, and powdery and downy mildews. Finally, the PhD student will analyse and integrate all these data from the perspective of grapevine improvement and selection.

The PhD student will be supervised by Profs. Luísa Carvalho, J. Miguel Costa e Elsa Gonçalves, from ISA/ULisboa.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUSES

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation considers Candidate's merit.

All admitted applications must be graded from 0 to 20 in each of these evaluation criteria:

Criterion A – Evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae, weighing 35%;

Criterion B – Evaluation of the Motivation Letter, weighing 15%;

Criterion C – Evaluation of the Reference Letters, weighing 10%;

Criterion D - Evaluation of the bibliographic review, weighing 30%;

Criterion E - Evaluation of the previous experience in field or laboratory work, in Biologic or Agronomic Sciences, weighing 10%.

In order to decide PhD studentships granting, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in each of the five criteria, converted into the following formula:

$$\text{Final score} = (0.35 \times A) + (0.15 \times B) + (0.10 \times C) + (0.30 \times D) + (0.10 \times E)$$

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 A, criterion D, criterion B, criterion E, criterion C.

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

- Candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions can apply and will be evaluated using the same criteria as candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, if they present, in their application, proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of final grade for the Portuguese grading scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- Applicants who do not present the document proving conversion of final grade to the Portuguese classification scale under the terms of the applicable legislation will be scored with the minimal classification in criteria A (0 points).
- In any case, studentship contracts with candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions will only be celebrated upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final classification, as indicated above.

Candidates with a final score below 12 points are not eligible for a studentship.

6.2 Bonuses

Candidates who have authored or co-authored (equally) a scientific article published in an ISI journal will have a bonus of 15% over the final score.

7. EVALUATION

The Evaluation Panel is composed by the following members:

- Prof. Carlos Lopes, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa (Evaluation Panel coordinator)
- Prof. Sara Amâncio, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa
- Prof. Antero Martins, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa
- Prof. Helena Oliveira, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa (Substitute member)
- Prof. Leonor Morais Cecílio, Instituto Superior de Agronomia, Universidade de Lisboa (Substitute member)

Each application will be evaluated by the evaluation panel according to the evaluation criteria disclosed in this call notice and the weightings laid down.

All Evaluation Panel members, including the coordinator, make a commitment to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. During the whole evaluation process, confidentiality is protected and ensured for guaranteeing the independence of the members' opinions.

Evaluation Panel members, including the coordinator, are not advisors or co-supervisors of candidates with applications submitted to this call.

The panel will produce a final evaluation form for each application. In this form, the facts that led to the scores attributed to each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria will be summarised in a clear, coherent and consistent manner, referring explicitly the bonuses considered if applicable.

Meeting minutes of each of the meetings of the evaluation panel will be done (this is of the responsibility of all the Evaluation Committee members). Meeting minutes and annexes must necessarily include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective reasons;
- Methodology adopted by the panel for particular cases;
- Final Evaluation Form of each applicant;
- Provisional ranked list of applicants, including their classification, in descending order according to the final scores, of all the applications evaluated by the panel;
- Declaration of conflict of interest of all Committee members.
If applicable, vote or competences delegation declaration, motivated by justified reasons.

8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE

The result of the evaluation process will be communicated via e-mail to the e-mail address used by the candidate and indicated in 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 have 10 working days to apply their right and dispute the results during the preliminary hearing period, according to Articles no. 121 and the following of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA).

The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of the arguments presented during the preliminary hearing period. Final decision can be claimed within 15 working days or, alternatively, appealed within 30 working days, after the communication of the final results. Applicants who choose to submit a claim should present their arguments to the member of the FCT Board of the Directors with the delegated competence. Applicants who prefer to submit an appeal should present their arguments to the FCT Board of Directors.

10. REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTSHIP GRANTING

The contracts are celebrated directly with FCT.

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

- a) Copy of personal identification document(s) of, tax identification number and, if applicable, social security number;
- b) Copy of the academic degree certificates;
- c) If applicable, presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign academic institutions and conversion of the final classification.
- d) Document proving registration and enrolment in the Doctoral Program referred in this notice.
- e) Supervisor(s) statement accepting the responsibility of supervising the work plan, as established in Article no. 5-A of the Statute for Research Fellowships (Minute template will be provided by FCT);
- f) Document issued by the host institution(s) where the work plan will be carried out, accepting the candidate and guaranteeing the necessary conditions to the successful development of the work plan, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (Minute template will be provided by FCT);
- g) Updated document proving the exclusivity dedication regime (template will be provided by FCT).

The studentship granting is still dependent on:

- The fulfilment of all the requirements laid down in this Notice;
- The results of scientific evaluation;
- The absence of unjustified non-compliance of the studentship holder duties in the scope of previous contract of grants, directly or indirectly, funded by FCT;
- FCT budgetary availability.

The lack of any of the necessary documents to complete the studentship contracting procedure, in the period of 6 months after the communication of the provisional disclosure of the studentship, implies the expiration of the studentship granting as well as the conclusion of the process;

11. FUNDING

Studentships payment will start after returning, by the candidate, of the duly signed contract to FCT, which should happen within the 15 working days from their receipt.

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), according to the respective requirements.

12. STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted to the studentship holders, in the terms of the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The studentship may also include additional allowances, according to the terms referred in the Article no. 18 and the values indicated in the Annex II of RBI.

All the studentship holders benefit of a personal accident insurance related to the research activities, supported by FCT.

All studentship holders who are not beneficiaries of any social protection regime can use the right to social security by acceding to 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 no. 10 of the EBI.

13. PAYMENT OF STUDENTSHIP ALLOWANCE

Payments are done to the studentship holder by bank transfer to the account referred by him/her. The monthly maintenance allowance payment is done at the first working day of each month.

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

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PHD STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

Contract renewal always depends on the submission, by the applicant, of the corresponding request, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, joined to the following documents:

- a) Declaration issued by the supervisor(s) and the host institution(s) including information about the studentship workplan development and the evaluation of the research activities;
- b) Updated document of proof of 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 R&D activities, directly or indirectly financed by the studentship (namely communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as thesis) performed with the allowances provided by the grant must include the reference to FCT and European Social Fund (ESF) through the Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020), Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020) and Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020). Thus, in the documents corresponding to the referred actions the FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU logos will be included, according to the graphic rules of each operational programme.

Divulcation of research results funded in the scope of the RBI must comply with the standards determined by the FCT Open Access Policy including data, scientific publications and other research outcomes.

In the scope of all studentships and, more in particular, in case of European funded actions, namely ESF, monitoring and controlling actions may be performed 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 terminated.

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 may be exempted from any duty on the basis of 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, ethnic origin or ethnicity, 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 Call Notice, by the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships, approved by the Regulation no.950/2019, published in the Series II of the 'Diário da República', of 16th December 2019, by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, approved by the Law no. 40/2004, of 18th August, in its current version, and by any other applicable national and European legislation.