

## OPENING NOTICE OF A PHD STUDENTSHIP

### Reference: Enfermagem-T4EU

The Rector of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Prof. Dr. Isabel Capelo Gil, hereby announces the opening of a call for applications for two (2) PhD Studentship, designated as a Research Fellowship for PhD Student, in the area of Health Sciences and Nursing, under the terms of FCT's Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The studentships will be funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol for Funding of the Pluriannual Program of Research Fellowships for PhD Students, signed between FCT and Universidade Católica Portuguesa as part of the Transform4Europe alliance.

#### 1. APPLICATION

The call is open between 07/05/2026 and 27/05/2026 until 23:59 (Lisbon time).

The applications and the supporting documents as specified in the Opening Call must be submitted by e-mail to [saude.sede@ucp.pt](mailto:saude.sede@ucp.pt).

Each candidate is allowed to submit one application, under the penalty of cancelling all the submitted applications.

The provision of false statements or acts of plagiarism by candidates shall constitute grounds for the cancellation of their application, without prejudice to the imposition of other disciplinary measures.

#### 2. TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

The research fellowships for PhD students are intended to fund the research activities undertaken by the grant holder in order to obtain a PhD at Portuguese universities, namely the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

The research activities leading to a PhD degree will take place at Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS), which will act as the host institution for the grant holders, although the research may be carried out in collaboration with more than one institution, particularly within the framework of the Transform4Europe alliance.

The research activities leading to a PhD degree to the selected studentship holders must be in line with the research centre's work plan and strategy, and must be carried out within the framework of the following PhD programmes:

- Doctoral Programme in Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences/ Universidade Católica Portuguesa;

The work plan may be developed entirely or partially in a national institution (studentship in Portugal or both in Portugal and abroad, respectively).

Studentships are generally awarded on an annual basis and are renewable for up to a maximum of four years (48 months); however, a studentship may not be awarded for a period of less than three consecutive months.

Regarding the studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad, the work plan taking pace in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

### 3. STUDENTSHIP RECIPIENTS

PhD studentships are aimed at applicants that are enrolled or that comply with the requirements to enroll in a PhD program to obtain a doctoral degree from the list in section 2 of the call, and who intend to develop research activities leading to such degree at Centre for Interdisciplinary Research in Health (CIIS), or in the associated host institutions.

### 4. ADMISSIBILITY

#### 4.1. Applicant's admissibility requirements

The following individuals may apply to this call:

- Portuguese citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union.
- Citizens from third-party states.
- Stateless individuals.
- Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD studentship, it is mandatory:

- To live in Portugal permanently or habitually at the time of the beginning of the work plan abroad, if the proposed work plan includes a period at a foreign institution (studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad). This requirement applies to both applicants with Portuguese and foreign citizenship.
- Not to have benefited from any PhD studentship or PhD in Industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not to hold a doctoral degree.

#### 4.2. Application admissibility requirements

The application and all its elements must be presented either in Portuguese or in English.

It is essential to submit the following documents along with the application, under the penalty of not being eligible to be admitted:

- Elements of the identification card/ citizen's card/passport.
- Curriculum vitae.
- Registration of recognition of the academic degree awarded by a foreign higher education institution, preferably with the registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale to guarantee eligibility in this call for application or, in alternatively, a declaration of honour from the candidate about how

- they have obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to the bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application period.
- Copy of the certificate(s) of qualifications conferring academic degree in the terms requested in the notice, which contain the final classifications obtained in all the subjects or, alternatively, a declaration of honour from the candidate in which they have concluded the bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application period.
  - Letter of motivation.
  - Research proposal and work plan (maximum 20.000 characters, no spaces/4000 words).
  - Recommendation Letter.

Regarding the admissibility requirements above, it is noted that:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to ensure that the principle of equal treatment is applied to candidates holding both foreign and national academic qualifications, it is mandatory for such qualifications to be recognised and for the corresponding final grade to be converted to the Portuguese grading scale.
- The recognition of foreign academic qualifications and diplomas, as well as the conversion of final grades to the Portuguese grading scale, may be requested at any public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, in the case of automatic recognition only). For further information on this matter, please consult the DGES website at the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.
- Only candidates who have completed the course of study leading to a bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application deadline will be considered. If they do not yet hold a certificate of completion, a sworn statement from the candidates confirming that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition by the end of the application deadline will be accepted. The award of the studentship is subject to the submission, at the time of contract signing, of proof of academic qualifications.

## 5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION FOR STUDENTSHIPS

Candidates must submit an original research proposal that falls within one of the research projects associated with one of the CIIS's scientific areas.

The proposal must demonstrate the scientific relevance of the proposed research, as well as its alignment with the centre's research priorities and with international developments in the field.

Within the scope of this call, research proposals that contribute to the following are particularly encouraged:

- Advanced Nursing, namely:
  - Innovation in evidence-based nursing care.

- Patient safety and quality of healthcare.
- Active ageing and long-term care.
- Health promotion and disease prevention.
- Integration of digital technologies into clinical practice.
- History of Nursing
- Nursing Education
- Nursing Ethics

Projects must demonstrate the potential for a significant scientific contribution to the field of nursing and alignment with the strategic internationalization objectives of CIIS and the Transform4Europe alliance.

The research proposal must include, in particular:

- a. A background to the research topic and its scientific relevance within the field of nursing.
- b. Objectives and research questions.
- c. Methodological approach and theoretical framework.
- d. A review of the current state of the art, identifying the main debates, authors and theoretical currents relevant to the research topic (considered a distinguishing feature).
- e. A detailed description of the planned data collection methods (e.g. interviews, questionnaires, document analysis, clinical observation or health databases).
- f. A description of the data analysis plan, including qualitative or quantitative analytical techniques appropriate to the study design.
- g. Identification of potential methodological limitations of the study and planned strategies for their mitigation.
- h. Plan for scientific publications, including an indication of relevant international or national journals to which the applicant intends to submit research results.
- i. Planned participation in scientific events, namely national and international conferences, congresses or seminars relevant to the development and dissemination of the research.
- j. Integration into scientific networks and academic associations, specifying scientific societies, research groups or international associations relevant to the project's field.
- k. Work schedule, setting out the different phases of the research throughout the grant period (up to 48 months).
- l. Internationalization strategy, indicating any periods of research at foreign institutions, and particularly the planned period of mobility at the partner institution associated with the project, as well as the relevance of such mobility to the development of the research.
- m. Scientific dissemination plan, covering publications, conference presentations and other forms of academic dissemination.
- n. Indication of the level of proficiency in English.
- o. Identification of the expected scientific, clinical or social impact of the research.

Plans for periods of academic mobility at international institutions, particularly at universities that are partners in the Transform4Europe alliance, will be appreciated.

The research proposal must demonstrate scientific coherence, feasibility in terms of timeframe, and the potential to contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of Nursing and Health Sciences, as well as the PhD candidate's integration into the scientific activities of CIIS and into international research networks.

## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUSES

### 6.1. Evaluation Criteria

The candidates' final classification shall be presented on a scale of 0 to 100.

The following criteria will be considered:

#### A. Candidate's Merit: 40%

It assesses the candidate's academic and research background.

Subcriteria:

##### A1. Academic classification of the degrees obtained (20%):

This includes the final average mark for the bachelor's and/or master's degree, duly converted to the Portuguese grading scale where applicable.

##### A2: Scientific and Academic CV (20%):

This includes, amongst other elements:

- Scientific output.
- Participation in research projects.
- Participation in conferences.
- Research experience relevant to the proposed project.

#### B. Quality of the research project: 40%

It assesses the scientific merit and feasibility of the research proposal submitted.

The following factors, amongst others, will be taken into account:

- Scientific relevance of the topic.
- Clarity of the objectives and research questions.
- Methodological appropriateness.
- Feasibility of the work plan.
- Alignment with the research centre's scientific field.

#### C. Motivation and suitability for the doctoral programme: 20%

It assesses:

- The motivation letter.

- Alignment between the candidate’s background, the proposed project and the PhD programme;
- The potential for the candidate’s scientific development.

Final Classification:

The final classification (FC) will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$FC = (A \times 0,4) + (B \times 0,4) + (C \times 0,2)$$

Where:

A corresponds to the classification obtained in Criterion A

B corresponds to the classification obtained in Criterion B

C corresponds to the classification obtained in Criterion C

**Tie-Breaking Criteria:**

In the event of a tie in the final ranking, candidates will be ranked according to the following order of priority:

1. score for Criterion B – Quality of the research project
2. score for Criterion A – Candidate’s merit
3. score for Criterion C – Motivation and suitability for the programme

**Minimum classification:**

Applicants whose application is awarded a final mark of **less than 70 points** are not eligible for a studentship.

The jury reserves the right not to select any candidate if it considers that none of the candidates has the required profile.

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

Applicants with degrees issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated using the same criteria as applicants with degrees issued by Portuguese institutions, provided they submit, as part of their application, proof of recognition of their academic degrees and of the conversion of their final grade to the Portuguese grading scale in accordance with applicable legislation.

Candidates with recognized foreign degrees who do not submit proof of the conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale will be evaluated with the minimum classification of 50 points in the criteria qualitative grading on the Portuguese scale. They will be assessed according to a qualitative equivalence scale and, for assessment purposes, will be awarded the minimum grade corresponding to the ‘pass with conditions’ level.

In any case, studentship contracts with candidates holding degrees issued by foreign institutions will only be entered into upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final grade, as indicated above.

### 6.2. Bonus

A bonus of up to 5 points may be awarded to candidates who demonstrate:

- Up to 2 points for relevant International experience to the research project (e.g. academic mobility or participation in international projects).
- Up to 2 points for scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals (e.g. Scopus or Web of Science).
- Up to 1 point for proven participation in competitive research projects.

The final score, including eventual bonuses, will not exceed 100 points.

## 7. EVALUATION

The evaluation panel is composed of the following members:

President: Prof. Dr. Ana Mineiro; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Full Members: Prof. Dr. Paulo Alves; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa; Prof. Dr. João Apóstolo; School of Nursing/University of Coimbra; Prof. Dr. Sílvia Caldeira; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa; and Prof. Dr. Constança Festas; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Substitutes: Prof. Dr. Amélia Simões Figueiredo; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa; Prof. Dr. Sérgio Deodato; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa; Prof. Dr. Zaida Charepe; Faculty of Health Sciences and Nursing/Universidade Católica Portuguesa; and Prof. Dr. João Lindo Simões; School of Health/University of Aveiro.

The evaluation panel will review the applications according to the evaluation criteria as presented in the call.

All members of the panel, including the coordinator, will adhere to a set of responsibilities that are essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, and confidentiality. At all stages of the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions issued.

For each application, the panel shall produce a final evaluation report setting out, in a clear, coherent and consistent manner, the reasons behind the scores awarded for each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria.

Minutes of the evaluation panel's meeting shall be drawn up 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 each exclusion, where applicable.
- Methodology adopted by the panel for cases considered to be special, where applicable.
- Final Evaluation Forms for each candidate.
- Provisional list of the ranking and order of candidates, in descending order of final score, of all applications assessed by the panel.
- Conflict of Interest declarations from all members of the panel.
- Any delegations of vote and powers due to justified absence, where applicable.

## **8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE**

The evaluation results will be disclosed via e-mail to the address presented by the candidate on their application.

## **9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, CLAIMS AND APPEALS**

Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants 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 following of the Administrative Procedure Code. The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. A claim may be filed against the final decision within 15 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 working days, both counting from the date of the respective notification. Candidates who choose to file a complaint should address it to the member of the FCT Executive Board with delegated authority. Candidates who choose to file an appeal should address it to the FCT Executive Board.

## **10. STUDENTSHIP AWARD REQUIREMENTS**

Research scholarship contracts are directly entered into with the FCT.

The following documents must be submitted, upon the eventual granting of the scholarship, for the purpose of contractualization:

- a) Copy of identification documents, including civil, tax, and, when applicable, social security documents.
- b) Copies of academic degree certificates held.
- c) Presentation of the recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of their final grades to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable.
- d) Work plan.
- e) Document proving enrollment in and registration for the identified Doctoral Program in this Call.

- f) Declaration from the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Fellow Statute (declaration template provided by the FCT).
- g) Document proving the candidate's acceptance by the institution where the research activities will take place, ensuring the necessary conditions for its successful development, as well as compliance with the duties set forth in Article 13 of the Research Fellow Statute (declaration template provided by the FCT).
- h) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (declaration template provided by the FCT).

The granting of the studentship is also subject to:

- Compliance with the requirements set forth in this Opening Notice.
- The result of the scientific evaluation.
- The absence of unjustified non-compliance with the fellow's duties under a previous scholarship contract funded, directly or indirectly, by the FCT.
- The budget availability of the FCT.

Failure to submit any of the necessary documents to complete the scholarship contractualization process within 6 months from the date of communication of the conditional granting decision of the scholarship will result in the expiration of the aforementioned grant and the closure of the process.

## 11. FUNDING

The payment of studentships will commence after the candidates return the duly signed studentship contract, which must be done within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date of its receipt.

The studentships awarded under this competition will be funded by the FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under the Programa Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão (PDQI), in accordance with the regulations established for this purpose.

## 12. STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS

Fellows are granted 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 for the amounts set out in its Annex II.

All fellows are covered by personal accident insurance for research activities, funded by the FCT. All fellows who are not covered by any social protection scheme can ensure the exercise of their social security rights by joining the voluntary social security scheme, in accordance with the Code

of Contributory Regimes of the Social Security Previdencial System, with the FCT bearing the costs resulting from the contributions, under the terms and within the limits provided for in Article 10 of the EBI.

### **13. PAYMENT OF STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS**

Payments due to the fellow are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the fellow. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first working day of each month. Payments for registration, enrollment, or tuition fees are made by FCT directly to the institution where the fellow is enrolled or registered in the doctoral program.

### **14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL**

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

- a) Opinions issued by the supervisor(s) and the hosting entity(ies) regarding the supervision of the fellow's work and the evaluation of their activities.
- b) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime.
- c) Document proving the renewal of enrollment in the doctoral degree program.

### **15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING**

All research and development activities directly or indirectly funded by the grant, namely all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided by the grant, must mention the financial support of the FCT and the European Social Fund, namely through the Programa Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão (PDQI).

For this purpose, the insignia of FCT, the MCTES, the ESF and the EU must be inscribed on the documents relating to these actions, in accordance with the graphic standards of the community support program.

The dissemination of research results funded under the RBI must comply with the open access rules from FCT for data, publications and other research results force.

For all grants, and in particular in the case of actions supported by community funding, notably from the ESF, monitoring and control measures may be carried out by national and EU bodies in accordance with the relevant legislation, and grant recipients are obliged to cooperate and provide the requested information, which includes participating in surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even after the grant has ended.

### **16. POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS**

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, and no candidate can be privileged, favored, disadvantaged, or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty based on, among other factors, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic

illness, nationality, ethnic or racial origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, and union membership

#### **17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS**

The competition is governed by this Opening Notice, the FCT Research Fellowships Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in Series II of the Official Gazette on December 16, 2019, in its current version; the Research Fellow Statute approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18, in its current version, and other applicable national and community legislation

#### **18. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

[saude.sede@ucp.pt](mailto:saude.sede@ucp.pt)

CADOS – Católica Doctoral School

[cados@ucp.pt](mailto:cados@ucp.pt)