

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2024-0535)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the INESC TEC LA funded by National Funds through FCT - Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., project reference LA/P/0063/2020.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Initiation Grant (BII)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Industrial engineering

Area of Work: Artificial Intelligence; Information Extraction

Grant duration: 11 months 9 days, starting on 2025-01-23.

Scientific advisor: Davide Rua Carneiro

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 601,12, [according to the table of monthly maintenance stipend for FCT grants](#), paid via bank transfer. Grant holders may be awarded potential supplements, according to a quarterly evaluation process (Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and Annex II), up to a maximum limit of 50% of the monthly maintenance stipend.

INESC TEC supports costs with registration, enrolment or tuition fees, during the grant duration, under the terms established in the internal document: "[Payment of Tuition fees to grant holders](#)".

The grant holder will benefit from health insurance, supported by INESC TEC.

2. OBJECTIVES:

- Broaden knowledge of the state of the art in the specific scientific area of the scholarship;
- Identify and select the appropriate methods for the study in question;
- Develop research skills through the application of the selected methods;
- Exercise critical thinking when evaluating the research process and the results obtained.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

The training area of the scholarship is Artificial Intelligence, with a focus on the field of multi-modal information extraction from documents. In particular, a central component of the work will be the identification and characterisation of models with potential application in this field, and the development of a benchmark for the automatic and objective evaluation of these models.

Specifically, the main activities to be carried out by the scholarship holder are:

- Systematically researching, analysing and characterising models with applicability to the problem of information extraction, with a focus on multi-modal models;
- Creating a diverse documentary database, and the corresponding manual extraction and structured storage of relevant information, in order to create a benchmark for the objective and automatic evaluation of models;
- Collaborating in the implementation of a pipeline for the extraction of documentary information, with the respective performance evaluation, in accordance with the benchmark defined in the previous point;
- Collaborating in the writing of technical-scientific documents and the writing of the scholarship activity report.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

-A student studying computer engineering, information systems or a related area;
The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:

- Experience in using machine learning and/or data analysis tools and techniques, particularly for extracting information;
- Experience in developing decision support systems.

Minimum requirements:

5. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection criteria and corresponding valuation: the first phase comprises the Academic Evaluation (AC), based on the criteria referred to in Article 12 of the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#), while the second phase comprehends the Individual Interview (EI). All factors are evaluated on a scale of 0 to 100, taking into account the applicants' merit, suitability and conformity with the preference factors.

The weight of the AC factors are as follows: Academic Qualifications (FA, 50%), Scientific Publications (PC, 0%), Experience (EX, 30%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 20%).

Candidates who score less than 50 points in the AC average will be considered excluded on absolute merit. The top five candidates approved on absolute merit will be qualified for the individual interview. The Final Grade (CF) is obtained by the weighted average of AC (80%) and EI (20%).

DISABILITY INCENTIVE

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 90% will benefit from an incentive (20) in the score of the CV Assessment.

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 60% and less than 90% will also benefit from an incentive (10) in the score of the CV Assessment.

Said score may, in these cases, exceed 100 points.

Candidates must demonstrate the degree of disability during the application, namely through the submission of the Multi-Purpose Medical Certificate of Disability, issued in accordance with Decree-Law no. 202/96, of October 23 - currently in effect.

Candidates must declare, in the application form, the type of disability used throughout the selection process, in order to proceed with the required adaptations.

The Selection Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the Jury: António Lucas Soares

Full member: Davide Rua Carneiro

Full member: Hugo Miguel Ferreira

Substitute member:

Release of results and prior hearing: the results of the selection process, as well as the terms and procedures for prior hearing, will be released to the applicants by email, under the terms referred to in Article 13 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of INESC TEC.

6. FORMALISATION OF APPLICATIONS:

Application Documents:

1. Motivation letter;
2. Curriculum Vitae (must include the list of previous fellowships, their type, beginning and end dates, funding entities and host institutions);
3. Certificate or diploma degree;
4. Proof of enrollment in a degree awarding study cycle or in a non degree awarding Higher Education program.
 - The proof of enrollment may be presented just during the grant hiring stage.
5. Signed declaration stating not having benefited from any other research fellowship (Article 5, no. 5)

6. Documental evidence to support the country of residence, residence permit or other legally equivalent document, in cases where the applicant is a foreigner or non-resident in Portugal - valid until the beginning of the grant.
7. Other supporting documents relevant to the final assessment.

Failure to deliver the required documents within the 90-day period after the date of the notice of the conditional awarding of the grant implies its cancellation.

Application period: From 2024-12-12 to 2024-12-26

Submission of applications: the application will be formalised by submitting the form available in the *Work With Us* section of INESC TEC website.

7. BINDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The hiring process shall comply with the current legislation regarding the Research Grant Holder Statute, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, as well as by the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and for [FCT Grants Regulation in force](#).

For more information, please check the [Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC](#) and relevant annexes at www.inesctec.pt/bolsas



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