

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2025-0009)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the HfPT funded by IAPMEI with reference 41 Co-financed by Component 5 - Capitalization and Business Innovation, integrated in the Resilience Dimension of the Recovery and Resilience Plan within the scope of the Recovery and Resilience Mechanism (MRR) of the European Union (EU), framed in the Next Generation EU, for the period 2021 - 2026.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Electrical engineering

Area of Work: Computational Learning

Grant duration: 10 months, starting on 2025-03-01.

Scientific advisor: Hélder Filipe Oliveira

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1259,64, [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:

- extend the knowledge of the state of the art in machine learning for vessel segmentation;
- identify and select the appropriate methods for the study in question;
- develop the research capacity through the application of the selected methods;
- exercise a critical spirit in the evaluation of the research process and the results obtained.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

Breast conservative therapies have been allowing many women with breast cancer to avoid a mastectomy. Nevertheless, there are many scenarios where the latter is still conducted. Fortunately, breast reconstruction allows to alleviate the loss of the breast(s) either by making use of an implant or tissue from the body of the patient. Among the autologous options, the DIEP flap is nowadays considered the state-of-the-art. This technique gets its name after the designation of the blood vessel tree that exists in the lower and anterior portion of the abdomen, the Deep Inferior Epigastric Perforator vessels. This is due to the crucial role that these blood vessels play in this procedure, since they are extracted among the tissue and must ensure proper vascularization of the new breast. When a patient shows interest in this type of reconstruction, the surgical team requests a Computer Tomographic Angiography (CTA) or Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA). The radiology team acquires the scans and detects the DIEP vessels. In the end, a report with a description of every perforator that was found (variable but usually around 6-8) is delivered to the surgeons, such that they may determine whether the patient is eligible for the procedure, and in case she is, they may plan which vessels will

include in the flap and how it will be collected. This process is very challenging for the radiological team, mainly because these blood vessels are very small (cross section of 1-2 pixels most of the time). The objective of this work is to investigate computer vision/machine learning techniques which can achieve a larger automation of the process of segmentation without significantly lowering its accuracy.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Master's degree in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, Bioengineering or similar
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 research projects.

Minimum requirements:

Experience in Computer Vision and machine learning.

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, 40%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), Experience (EX, 20%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 30%).

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: Hélder Filipe Oliveira
Full member: Tânia Pereira
Full member: Ana Filipa Sequeira
Substitute member: Daniela Santos

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 the infringement of the grant holder's duties (article 14, no. 4)
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 2025-01-16 to 2025-01-29

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

