

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2025-0079)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the within the CitiLink project with reference 2024.07509.IACDC/2024, co-funded 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 Initiation Grant (BII)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Scientific subarea: Programming, Computer Systems, Informatics, Database management

Area of Work: Computer Science

Grant duration: 7 months, starting on 2025-04-01.

Scientific advisor: Ricardo Campos

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:

- Collect and prepare data for building the annotated dataset in coordination with the computational linguistics team;
- Assist in developing and testing models in collaboration with the computer science team;
- Design, develop, and deploy a functional prototype;
- Monitor and evaluate the prototype's impact in partnership with the communication sciences team.

The selected candidate will collaborate with the NLP team at INESC TEC (<https://nlp.inesctec.pt>) in a dynamic and innovative environment. As part of this team, the candidate will have the opportunity to engage with researchers, master's students, doctoral candidates, and postdoctoral fellows working on diverse topics such as Natural Language Processing, Information Retrieval, Machine Learning, and Information Extraction.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- Collect data and build the annotated dataset, in collaboration with the computational linguistics team;
- Configure the annotation scheme, in conjunction with the computational linguistics team;
- Support the computer science team in developing and testing LLM models in European Portuguese, focusing on tasks such as event identification, stance detection, text simplification and summarization;
- Explore web elements to visualize and represent data extracted from the minutes;
- Develop a functional prototype and integrate LLM models into operational scenarios;
- Configure and make the repository available in a repository and on a web server for public access;

Document and organize the resources developed, through the preparation of a technical report;
Monitor and evaluate the impact of the prototype, in collaboration with the communication sciences team.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Undergraduate student in Data Science, Artificial Intelligence, Computer Engineering, Computer Science 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:

Proficiency in Portuguese (spoken and written), in the European variant, at level C2 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, certified with the respective diploma, or as a mother tongue, given that this is a project that aims to develop models of AI in Portuguese, European variant, based on a diverse set of Portuguese language documents;

Recent approval or attendance at a Web Development Course Unit; NLP; AI or Machine Learning;

Relevant experience in web development;

Relevant experience in the use and training of LLMs;

Experience in using NLP libraries (transformers; PyTorch; Keras).

Minimum requirements:

Knowledge of programming (Python), versioning tools (git), software engineering and web composition;

Knowledge of web programming languages (HTML, CSS, JavaScript) or Flask for website development;

Familiarity with creating Docker images;

Fluent in Portuguese and English, spoken and written;

Communication skills and ability to collaborate in a team;

Availability to participate in meetings with project partners;

Able to start the scholarship immediately after selection.

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, 60%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), Experience (EX, 10%) 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 (70%) and EI (30%).

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: Ricardo Campos

Full member: Alípio Jorge

Full member: Nuno Ricardo Guimarães
Substitute member: Evelin Freire Amorim

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 2025-02-13 to 2025-03-03

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

