

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2022-0077)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the Plurianual\_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:**

**Scientific subarea:**

**Grant duration:** 6 months, starting on 2022-04-01, with the possibility of being renewed for a maximum term of one year.

**Scientific advisor:** José Nuno Oliveira

**Workplace:** INESC TEC, Braga, Portugal

**Maintenance stipend:** € 486,12, according to the table of monthly maintenance stipend for FCT grants (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>), 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:

Typed Linear Algebra Formal Semantics for Spreadsheets

### 3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

Spreadsheet tools, like Excel, are used massively by companies and other institutions in their decision making processes. Every spreadsheet program may start small and simple, but over time and through different users its quality degrades. Despite the impressive number of features available in spreadsheet software, the development tools is far less than optimal, making them unreliable and error prone.

This project should investigate a new technique to formalize spreadsheet semantics based on typed linear algebra (LA). This theory should be used to capture both the syntax and semantics of spreadsheets, including spreadsheet usual operations (eg. sumproduct, running totals etc). The work should find inspiration in previous research in the field, including a LA approach to data cubes and the use the strongly typed linear algebra library in Haskell laop developed in a previous project to encode such formal spreadsheet models, paving the way to spreadsheet safety analysis and re-factoring.

Besides the formal semantics definition, the project is expected to deliver tools for spreadsheet synthesis from LA specifications and a LA- semantics analyser for spreadsheets.

This grant proposal is intended to fill this gap, which is regarded as a research opportunity for a Master Student in Informatics.

#### 4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

##### Admission requirements:

Master's student in computer engineering or computer science.

The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

##### Preference factors:

Solid background in formal methods, relational algebra and linear algebra.

##### Minimum requirements:

Master's student in computer engineering or computer science that includes courses on formal methods.

#### 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, 70%), Scientific Publications (PC, 0%), 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%).

##### The Selection Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the Jury: José Nuno Oliveira

Full member: Alcino Cunha

Full member: Nuno Moreira Macedo

Substitute member: Hugo Pereira Pacheco

**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 fully recognised in Portugal;
  - Documents proving the awarding of academic degrees and diplomas, or the according recognition - in cases of academic degrees or diplomas granted by a foreign higher education institution - can be dismissed in the application process, and replaced by the applicant's declaration of honour, with the verification of said condition taking place during the grant's hiring stage. The submission of the certificate is mandatory when signing the contract.
  - Academic degrees or diplomas awarded by a foreign higher education institution require an authentication by a Portuguese higher education institution, and the corresponding registration on the DGES platform, in conformity with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of August 16, and Ordinance no. 33/2019, of January 25. More information available on the website <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374>
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 2022-03-02 to 2022-03-15

**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](http://www.inesctec.pt/bolsas)



Governo da República Portuguesa

