

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2023-0339)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the CELLO funded by FCT co-financed by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology I.P. (PIDDAC) and by the funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), through Operational Agenda for Competitiveness Factors Programme (POFC), project (reference 2022.05237.PTDC

### 1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

**Type of grant:** Research Grant (BI)

**General scientific area:** ENGINEERING

**Scientific subarea:** Electrical engineering

**Grant duration:** 6 months, starting on 2023-10-16, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

**Scientific advisor:** Hélder Filipe Oliveira

**Workplace:** INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

**Maintenance stipend:** € 1199,64, [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 computer vision in microscopic images;
- 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:

The Era of personalized cancer care is now. Still, personalized therapy is not possible without personalized diagnostics. Particularly, Bladder Cancer has up to 70% risk of recurrence, the highest of all cancer types, which also results in the most expensive one for the healthcare systems. The current standard of care following these patients consists of regular invasive cystoscopy, and cytology, which require hospital visits. Having a non-invasive procedure with comparable or better sensitivity and specificity would help on the following up of patients. A study revealed that 63% of cytologies resulted in undetermined diagnoses. Overall, the study claims and confirms the urgent need for complementary urine biomarker based analysis.

The objectives of this scholarship are: Design and implement a computer vision algorithm for microscopic image analysis for urine biomarker characterization; Validate the algorithm with ground truth data.

#### 4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

##### Admission requirements:

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%).

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

President of the Jury: Helder Filipe Oliveira

Full member: Tânia Pereira

Full member: Luís Filipe Teixeira

Substitute member: Ana Filipa Sequeira

**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 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 2023-09-14 to 2023-09-27

**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

# FCT

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