CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS
(AE2024-0026)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the CAGING funded by National Funds through FCT - Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., project reference 2022.10486.PTDC

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Initiation Grant (BII)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Electrical engineering

Area of Work: Engineering

Grant duration: 5 months, starting on 2024-03-01.

Scientific advisor: Luís Filipe Teixeira

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 541,12, 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:

The CAGING project aims to develop solutions that promote a causal approach for the generation of privacy-preserving case-based explanations. The development of the work of this grant will focus on integrating causal representation learning in order to disentangle better identity and disease features and achieve more robust disease classification and privacy-preserving models.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- extend the knowledge of the state of the art in causal representation learning;
- 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.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:
Students enrolled in an integrated master's degree or in a master's degree.
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 scientific research projects and writing of scientific publications.

Minimum requirements:
Knowledge about Machine Learning. Minimum or equal grade of 15 in the Bachelor studies.

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: Luís Filipe Teixeira
Full member: Jaime Cardoso
Full member: Hélder Filipe Oliveira
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;
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 2024-01-25 to 2024-02-08

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

INESC TEC
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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