

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2025-0238)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the Funding for Technology and Innovation Centres (CTI), Co-financed by Component 5 - Capitalization and Business Innovation of core funding for Technology and Innovation Centres (CTI), 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, with reference 21.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE, ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Industrial engineering

Area of Work: Inteligência Artificial, Machine Learning

Grant duration: 6 months, starting on 2025-08-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Davide Rua Carneiro

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1040.98, [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:

- broaden knowledge of the state of the art in the specific scientific area of the scholarship;
- identify and select the appropriate methods for the study in question;
- develop research skills through the application of the selected methods;
- exercise critical thinking when evaluating the research process and the results obtained.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

The training area of the scholarship is Artificial Intelligence, with a focus on Machine Learning, and in particular the development of datasets, evaluation benchmarks and fine-tuning of models for specific tasks / domains. The area of application of the grant holder's contributions will be industry. It is therefore hoped that this scholarship will contribute to the adoption of language models and/or multi-modal models by industry, especially in specific, high-value tasks that may not be covered by proprietary, pay-as-you-go models.

Specifically, the main activities to be carried out by the grant holder are:

- Identifying and characterising typical, high-value tasks in industry that could benefit from integration with Generative AI models (e.g. text, vision, multi-modal);
- Creation of synthetic datasets and/or acquisition of real datasets for model fine-tuning;
- Generation of domain- and/or task-specific evaluation benchmarks for the tasks identified;
- Identifying open-source foundational models and fine-tuning models for the tasks identified;
- Collaborating in the development and validation of the artefacts developed in a real-life scenario;
- Collaborating in the writing of technical-scientific documents and the writing of the scholarship activity report.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

- Degree in computer engineering, information systems, or related field;

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 developing and using evaluation benchmarks;
- Experience in fine-tuning and integrating language models and/or multi-modal models.

Minimum requirements:

- Average of bachelor's degree higher than 12;

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, 50%), Scientific Publications (PC, 0%), Experience (EX, 30%) 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 (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: Davide Rua Carneiro

Full member: António Lucas Soares

Full member: Hugo Miguel Ferreira

Substitute member: Filipa Ramalho

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 2025-06-05 to 2025-06-20

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

