CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS
(AE2025-0269)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the project ScopeAI, with reference 21122 (COMPETE2030-FEDER-02198400) Co-funded by ERDF - European Regional Development Fund through the Innovation and Digital Transition Thematic Programme (COMPETE 2030) within the scope of Portugal 2030.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Scientific subarea: Programming,Informatics

Area of Work: Artificial Intelligence

Grant duration: 12 months, starting on 2025-10-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Alípio Jorge

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1309.64, 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:

Develop, test and validate a predictive model, designed to support decision-making in sensory studies, which will be integrated into a relevant application environment.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

The workplan begins with the analysis and preprocessing of historical data, focusing on identifying relevant variables, handling missing and noisy data, transforming textual variables, and storing the data on appropriate platforms. In the second phase, both global models (predicting overall product acceptability) and local models (predicting acceptability for specific consumer segments such as gender or age groups) will be developed using artificial intelligence techniques. Particular attention will be given to managing missing data and ensuring the application of transparent AI, with the goal of supporting decision-making in sensory studies. The final phase involves applying advanced techniques such as transfer learning and ensemble methods to integrate historical and new data. Language models will be used to adapt data formats for consistency. The main expected outcome is a model that is tested and validated in a laboratory environment and prepared for integration into a relevant application setting.

○ **INESC TEC**
Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Tecnologia e Ciência
Associação privada sem fins lucrativos declarada de utilidade pública
Pessoa Coletiva 504 441 361 - CRC Porto

Campus da FEUP   T +351 222 094 000
Rua Dr. Roberto Frias   F +351 222 094 050
4200 - 465 Porto   info@inesctec.pt
Portugal   www.inesctec.pt

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:
Quality academic background in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Artificial intelligence, Data Science or equivalent.
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 Machine Learning and Data Science.
Experience in dealing with prediction with missing data.
Python Programming.
Willing to do research in Machine Learning, Data Science, Artificial Intelligence and LLM.

Minimum requirements:
In conditions that qualify for enrolment in a PhD program.
Quality academic background in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Artificial intelligence, Data Science or equivalent.
Knowledge of Machine Learning, Data Science, Databases and LLMs.

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, 20%), Experience (EX, 20%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 10%).
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 (60%) and EI (40%).

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: Alípio Jorge
Full member: Miriam Seoane Santos
Full member: Conceição Nunes Rocha
Substitute member: Vítor Ricardo Santos

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 2025-07-03 to 2025-08-31

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

INESC TEC
Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Tecnologia e Ciência
Associação privada sem fins lucrativos declarada de utilidade pública
Pessoa Coletiva 504 441 361 - CRC Porto

Campus da FEUP   T +351 222 094 000
Rua Dr. Roberto Frias   F +351 222 094 050
4200 - 465 Porto   info@inesctec.pt
Portugal   www.inesctec.pt