

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2025-0495)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the project BringTrust, with reference 18493 (COMPETE2030-FEDER-01489500) 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: Informatics

Area of Work: Computer Science

Grant duration: 6 months, starting on 2026-01-01 with the possibility of being renewed for a maximum term of one year, in cases where the grant has been awarded to students who are enrolled in non-award courses, or up to two years, in the cases of students enrolled in a master's degree.

Scientific advisor: Tânia Esteves

Workplace: INESC TEC, Braga, 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:

The work to be developed under this grant aims primarily to explore and assess the security risks associated with GitHub Actions, as well as to design new solutions to analyze, monitor, and strengthen the security of these pipelines. The goal is to propose mechanisms capable of mitigating attacks in real time, thereby increasing trust in the use of automated workflows in DevOps contexts.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

Study of security vulnerabilities associated with GitHub Actions and of state-of-the-art tools for their dynamic analysis, identifying potential optimization opportunities.

Design of novel solutions capable of:

- monitoring GitHub Actions execution environments, enabling the identification or blocking of suspicious actions (such as unauthorized code execution or data exfiltration);
- ensuring that the execution and configurations of the different Actions remain unchanged throughout the pipeline workflow (for example, detecting version changes in Actions).

Experimental evaluation of the developed programs in representative environments with realistic workloads.

The tasks described in this working plan demand the application and development of concepts and techniques

in the area of Software Engineering, which are usually introduced in curricular units included in the curricula of the Integrated MSc in Informatics Engineering or the MSc in Informatics Engineering studies.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

BSc Degree in Computer Science or Informatics Engineering.

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 with the C programming languages;
- Solid experience with the Linux operating system and scripting.

Minimum requirements:

- Solid knowledge of operating systems;
- Practical experience with Git and GitHub Actions;
- Practical experience with monitoring tools;
- Practical experience with Ansible, Docker, and Kubernetes technologies;
- Practical Experience with cloud computing services (e.g., GCP) and high performance computing (HPC).

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, 60%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), 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 (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: Tânia Esteves

Full member: Cláudia Vanessa Brito

Full member: João Tiago Paulo

Substitute member: Ricardo Gonçalves Macedo

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:



INESC TEC

Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Tecnologia e Ciência

Associação privada sem fins lucrativos declarada de utilidade pública

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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 2025-11-06 to 2025-11-19

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



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