

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2026-0013)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the within the eduBEST project with reference 2022.08686.PTDC, Funded by National Funds through the FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Grant (BI)

General scientific area: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Industrial engineering

Area of Work: Monitoring Academic Trajectories and Success at the University of Porto

Grant duration: 5 months, starting on 2026-03-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Ana Camanho

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:

This project falls within the scientific area of Quantitative Methods for Decision Support, integrating optimization methods, statistical techniques, econometric models, and machine learning approaches applied to the higher education context. The main objective is to understand the determinants of academic dropout and to develop dropout prediction models in higher education. The project aims to design innovative quantitative approaches that enable the early identification of students at risk of dropout, thereby supporting the design and implementation of effective strategies to prevent and reduce dropout in the initial years of the academic pathways of students at the University of Porto.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- 1 Review of the relevant literature in the field of study.
2. Data collection and processing, with emphasis on students from undergraduate (licenciatura), integrated master's and master's degrees from the University of Porto, over the last 10 years.
3. Definition of key indicators to be monitored, enabling the measurement of academic success and the characterization of different perspectives of dropout (programme dropout and University of Porto dropout). Collection of socio-economic, socio-demographic, and academic trajectory indicators of students.
4. Modelling using machine learning and statistical methods to determine the most relevant factors associated with programme dropout, as well as to predict dropout among first-year students, considering both programme dropout and University of Porto dropout perspectives.
5. Analysis and interpretation of results, including the identification of differentiated behavioural patterns across disciplinary fields (according to the FORD classification), programmes, or faculties.
6. Discussion of policy and management implications, including the development of a set of strategic

recommendations to support decision-making at the University of Porto and to contribute to the design of actions aimed at promoting academic success and reducing dropout.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering and Management.

The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:

Good knowledge of the English language. The letter of motivation must be written in English to allow the assessment of the candidate's English proficiency and motivation.

Attendance of Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering and Management.

Availability to work full-time on the research project as part of the completion of a master's thesis.

Minimum requirements:

Average mark of 17 in the Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Engineering and Management.

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, 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 (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: Flávia Barbosa

Full member: Ana Camanho

Full member: Hermílio Vilarinho

Substitute member: Henriqueta Nôvoa

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 2026-01-22 to 2026-02-04

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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