

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2026-0036)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the Multiannual Funding of R&D Units 2025-2029, with the reference UID/50014/2025, Funded by national funds through the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P.

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 2026-03-18 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: Carlos Eduardo Duarte

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:

- Review of techniques and work related to Agentic Retrieval-Augmented Generation (Agentic RAG) architectures, multi-agent systems, and integration of heterogeneous data sources;
- Design, development, and integration of Agentic RAG architectures based on an orchestrator and a set of intelligent agents for information retrieval and processing;
- Validation of proposed solutions through empirical studies in representative decision support and research scenarios;
- Writing of project documentation and scientific publications.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

This work will begin with a study on Agentic Retrieval-Augmented Generation architectures, focusing on the integration of heterogeneous and distributed data sources. Prototypes will be implemented to evaluate different architectural choices based on an orchestrator that receives user input and delegates tasks to a set of intelligent agents specialised in information retrieval and processing. The issues to be addressed involve defining architectures and interfaces that enable interaction between language models and multiple data technologies, ensuring the correct coordination, contextualisation, and control of access to information. Empirical studies will be used to study and demonstrate the benefits of the proposed multi-agent Agentic RAG approaches.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Master's student in Computer Engineering 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 with Linux, Docker, MongoDB, PostgreSQL, and Opal technologies;
- Experience with CI/CD methodologies and technologies;

Minimum requirements:

- Knowledge of Software Engineering;
- Knowledge of Computer Networks;
- Knowledge of Distributed Systems;
- Proven experience in a professional context;
- Experience in developing software based on JavaScript (ReactJS, NodeJS) and Python;
- Experience with the use, integration, and development of APIs;
- Experience in the development of multi-agent systems;
- Experience with cloud technologies and platforms (Azure, GCP, AWS) and deployment of solutions in on-premise infrastructures
- Demonstrable experience in developing software systems that use LLMs and Agentic RAG architectures.

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 (70%) and EI (30%).

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: Ademar Aguiar
Full member: Artur Rocha
Full member: Filipe Figueiredo Correia
Substitute member: Hugo Paredes

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 2026-02-12 to 2026-02-26

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

