CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0038)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the project CLAdvanced, with reference COMPETE2030-FEDER-02974200 (24765) 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: Computer Systems

Area of Work: Research and development of new algorithms for processing and classifying physiological signals.

Grant duration: 6 months, starting on 2026-03-16with 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: João Paulo Cunha

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:

The Center for Biomedical Engineering Research (C-BER) has extensive experience in biomedical signal processing, particularly sound signals in clinical settings and wearable systems. This position aims to research and develop methods for processing physiological signals, including electrocardiograms and other wearable sensors, for subsequent application of machine learning and deep learning methods and classification of health and wellness parameters. Data acquisition, as well as the preparation of presentations, scientific publications, and technical reports, are also part of the objectives of this scholarship.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

Processing of physiological signals (pre-processing, filtering, feature extraction in the time, frequency, and time-frequency domains). Development and validation of machine learning and deep learning models; integration and analysis of data from wearable and clinical monitoring devices and clinical databases. Experimental evaluation of algorithms, development, and deployment. Support in data collection and documentation of the work performed.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering, Electrical Engineering, Computer Science, or a similar 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:

Previous work in developing algorithms for biomedical signal processing and machine learning/deep learning techniques with physiological signals, namely ECG. Previous knowledge in collecting physiological data and managing and preparing it for analysis. Prior experience in a hospital setting in the field of biomedical engineering.
Willingness to pursue a master's thesis within the research group.

Minimum requirements:

Experience in biomedical signal processing.
Knowledge of machine learning/deep learning.
Experience in scientific programming (e.g., Python and/or MATLAB) and code management tools.
Good knowledge of written and spoken scientific English.

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, 30%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), Experience (EX, 30%) 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: João Paulo Cunha
Full member: Miguel Velhote Correia
Full member: João Manuel Pedrosa
Substitute member:

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 2026-02-25

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