

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0089)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the on the scope NOUS with reference 101135927 funded by the European Commission under the Horizon Europe program for the period 2021-2027.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Initiation Grant (BII)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Scientific subarea:

Area of Work: Computer Science

Grant duration: 3 months, starting on 2026-06-01, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: Dennis Lourenço Paulino

Workplace: Vila Real ou Porto

Maintenance stipend: € 701.12, [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:

- Expand knowledge of the state of the art in the specific scientific field covered by the fellowship;
- Identify and select appropriate methods for the study in question;
- Develop research skills through the application of the selected methods;
- Apply critical thinking in evaluating the research process and the results obtained.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

Under the guidance of the scientific coordinator, the fellow must:

1. Define a conceptual model of HCAI, identifying entities (human, system, decision, feedback) and their relationships
2. Represent the model using diagrams, a lightweight ontology, or a structured framework
3. Structure a taxonomy of HCAI practices, organized by levels (design, interaction, validation, learning)
4. Define key dimensions of the taxonomy (transparency, control, trust, ethics) and align them with use cases

5. Develop a functional prototype, including a simple interface and a pipeline with Human-in-the-Loop
6. Integration of a basic explainability (XAI) module into the prototype, aligned with the proposed architecture
7. Conducting exploratory testing and qualitative evaluation, focused on usability and the perception of human control
8. Throughout the fellowship, depending on the results, there may be opportunities to present these at conferences in the fields of HCI and Data Science.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Master or Degree student in Computer Engineering or a 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:

- Outstanding academic performance in subjects such as Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence;
- Demonstrated knowledge and skills in Data Science or HCI (Human-Computer Interaction) and in evaluation methodologies;
- Demonstrated communication and teamwork skills.

Minimum requirements:

- A final undergraduate GPA of 15 or higher.
- A public repository on GitHub or GitLab containing a portfolio that documents and demonstrates knowledge and skills.

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, 10%), Experience (EX, 20%) 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: Dennis Lourenço Paulino

Full member: Hugo Paredes

Full member: Alexandre Valle

Substitute member: Artur Rocha

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 not having benefited from any other research fellowship (Article 5, no. 5)
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 2026-04-23 to 2026-05-07

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



Funded by the
European Union