

## CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0170)

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:** TECHNOLOGY

**Scientific subarea:** Knowledge technology

**Area of Work:** Technology Transfer, Entrepreneurship and Innovation Ecosystems

**Grant duration:** 11 months 22 days, starting on 2026-08-10, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

**Scientific advisor:** Rita Lopes

**Workplace:** INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

**Maintenance stipend:** € 1359.64, [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:

Develop advanced competencies in technology transfer, knowledge valorisation, open innovation, entrepreneurship, market validation, and innovation ecosystem development.

Support the early-stage validation of innovation and entrepreneurial opportunities through structured customer discovery processes, stakeholder engagement, evidence-based market assessment, identification of unmet user and market needs, and evaluation of problem–solution fit to reduce innovation and commercialisation risks.

Contribute to strengthening innovation ecosystem capacity by fostering collaboration among researchers, industry partners, startups, investors, and public-sector stakeholders, while supporting the design of sustainable exploitation pathways, business models, and impact-oriented strategies to maximise the uptake, scalability, and long-term sustainability of project results.

### 3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

The fellow will join INESC TEC activities - Fostering Systemic Innovation and Digital Transformation across European Innovation Ecosystems, supporting capacity-building, ecosystem connection and exploitation/legacy activities in the context of open innovation, co-creation and systemic entrepreneurship.

The work plan includes: (i) mapping and characterising quadruple-helix stakeholders (academia, industry, public sector and civil society) in the innovation ecosystem; (ii) preparing and conducting customer discovery interviews with researchers, startups, SMEs, companies, public entities, potential customers/users, investors and other relevant actors; (iii) defining, testing and documenting hypotheses on problems, customer segments, value propositions and problem-solution fit; (iv) supporting the identification of market needs and digital transformation challenges in health/bio-health, energy and mobility; (v) supporting workshops, co-creation actions, matchmaking, capacity-building sessions and links with incubation/acceleration programmes; (vi) carrying out market, competitor, value-chain, exploitation model and technology-transfer pathway analyses; (vii) systematising evidence into opportunity briefs, reports, presentations, decision matrices and other decision-support materials; and (viii) capacity-building, ecosystem-connection, interregional-project, exploitation and legacy activities and deliverables.

Hands-on training will be provided by INESC TEC's Technology Transfer and Entrepreneurship team in technology scouting, valorisation of R&D results, market analysis, customer discovery, Lean Startup, problem-solution fit, intellectual property, exploitation strategies and communication with national and international stakeholders.

#### **4. REQUIRED PROFILE:**

##### **Admission requirements:**

Master's degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science and Informatics Engineering, Physics Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Bioengineering or similar fields.

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 or training in customer discovery, exploratory interviews, problem validation, problem-solution fit, Lean Startup, Design Thinking, Jobs-to-be-Done or similar methodologies.
- Participation in entrepreneurship, acceleration, incubation, open innovation, technology transfer or R&D valorisation programmes.
- Experience in market analysis, competitor analysis, customer segmentation, value-proposition design or business-case preparation, especially in the context of a Technology Transfer Office.
- Knowledge of intellectual property, exploitation strategies, licensing, spin-off creation or technology commercialisation.
- Experience in communication and relationship management with researchers, startups, companies, investors, public entities and/or international networks.
- Ability to prepare reports, presentations and decision-support materials in Portuguese and English.
- Knowledge of health/bio-health, energy, mobility, digital transformation or deep tech sectors will be valued.

##### **Minimum requirements:**

- Master's degree in a field compatible with the work plan.
- Very good command of Portuguese and English, both spoken and written.
- Proven analytical, synthesis, technical writing and stakeholder communication skills.
- Demonstrated interest in technology transfer, entrepreneurship, open innovation, business development or market validation.
- Autonomy, organisation, rigour in evidence collection and systematisation, and availability to interact with researchers, companies, startups and external entities.

## 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, 40%) 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 (50%) and EI (50%).

### 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: Daniel Marques Vasconcelos

Full member: Rita Lopes

Full member: Marta Vranas

Substitute member: João Miguel Ferreira 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 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 2026-07-13 to 2026-07-24

**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](http://www.inesctec.pt/bolsas)

