CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0184)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the project NAU_AZUL, with reference 21164 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: ENGINEERING

Scientific subarea: Electrical engineering

Area of Work: Robotics

Grant duration: 12 months, starting on 2026-07-20, with the possibility of being renewed until the end of the project.

Scientific advisor: António Bernardo Ferreira

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:

- To broaden knowledge of the state of the art in the specific scientific area of the grant;

- To identify and select the methods appropriate to the study in question;

- Experimental tests in a laboratory and/or operational environment;

- Development, implementation and validation of navigation, control and perception algorithms;

- Advanced processing and fusion of sensory data;

- To exercise critical thinking in evaluating the research process and the results obtained.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- Support for the development and integration of software modules for autonomous robotic platforms for environmental monitoring applications;

- Integration and calibration of sensors and data acquisition systems;

- Implementation of data processing and fusion techniques for data from heterogeneous sensors;

- Participation in conducting experimental tests and validating solutions developed in a marine environment;

- Development and integration of software architectures for autonomous maritime systems;

- Analysis and processing of data obtained during tests;

- Production of technical and scientific documentation, including reports, scientific articles, and support for the dissemination of project results;

- Collaboration with the Robotics and Autonomous Systems Center team in the technical and scientific activities of the project;

- Writing the scholarship activity report.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Master's degree holder and doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering.
The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:
- Prior experience with the ROS1 and ROS2 robotic platforms;

- Prior knowledge of programming languages such as C, C++, and Python;

- Prior experience with machine learning tools such as TensorFlow and PyTorch;

- Prior experience with engineering and scientific computing tools such as MATLAB/Symulink;

- Prior knowledge of acoustic signal processing in underwater environments;

- Prior experience using operating systems, Linux and Windows.

Minimum requirements:
- Master's degree average above 16;
- Participation in scientific projects;
- Writing of at least three scientific papers;

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, 40%), Scientific Publications (PC, 5%), Experience (EX, 45%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 10%).
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 (80%) and EI (20%).

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: Hugo Miguel Silva
Full member: André Dias
Full member: Ana Paula Lima
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 2026-06-18 to 2026-07-02

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