

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

(AE2026-0191)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Grant (BI) within the scope of the project EXITS, with reference 24610 (COMPETE2030-FEDER-02970200) 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: Programming, Informatics

Area of Work: Artificial Intelligence

Grant duration: 12 months, starting on 2026-09-01, with the possibility of being renewed for a maximum term of two years, in the cases of students enrolled in a master's degree.

Scientific advisor: Nuno Ricardo Guimarães

Workplace: INESC TEC, Porto, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 1090.98, [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 main objective of this project is to identify and recommend startups to potential buyers based on textual data and transaction history. To achieve this, it will be necessary to (1) map investor profiles, (2) score the suitability of each startup's narrative to investor profiles, (3) recommend potentially relevant startups for each investor, and (4) implement a multi-agent system for automatically generating reports on recommended startups.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

For the first objective, the student must develop strategies to identify narrative elements in structured historical databases of stakeholders. Also, for the first objective, it will be necessary to identify news related to the stakeholders based on relevant keywords identified through NLP techniques. The sentiment of the news will also be predicted. Next, different recommendation models will be evaluated based on the extracted narratives. Other studies of evaluation, sensitivity, ablation, and comparison with the state of the art will also be carried out. Finally, the student must assist in integrating the models into a multi-agent system.

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Bachelor's degree in computer science, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, or equivalent.
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 recommendation systems, natural language processing, classification methods, agentic AI, and generative models.

Previous participation in research projects.

Writing and publishing scientific articles.

Minimum requirements:

Proven knowledge and experience in LLMs/NLP such as fine-tuning and prompting.

Fluent in Portuguese. Advanced knowledge of English (primarily reading and writing).

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: Ana Costa e Silva

Full member: Nuno Ricardo Guimarães

Full member: Evelin Freire Amorim

Substitute member: Alípio Jorge

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 2026-06-25 to 2026-07-09

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



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