ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Title: Research Fellowship; 1 vacancy

Reference: CALG/BESI/BI-2026-02

A call for applications is now open for the attribution of 1 (one) Post-Doctoral Research Grant within the scope of the R&D project " BESI: Sistema integrado para a promoção do bem-estar e do sucesso escolar, baseado em estratégias pedagógicas inovadoras" project n° 18237, reference NORTE2030-FEDER-01425800, cofinanced by FEDER through North Regional Programme (Norte 2030) of Portugal 2030, under the terms of the Call MPr-2023-7 (SIID – Business R&D – Co-Promotion – Other Territories), under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Computer Science, Linguistics, or related fields.

Recipient category: The BIPD are intended for doctorates in the area of Computer Science, Linguistics, or related fields.

Admission Requirements:

- Hold a doctoral degree obtained within three years prior to the date of submission of the scholarship application;
- To have carried out the research leading to the award of the doctoral degree in an organization other than the one hosting the scholarship; *
- Not exceed, with the conclusion of the contract in question, including possible renewals, an accumulated period of three years in this type of scholarship, consecutive or interpolated;
- Not to have previously held a post-doctoral scholarship contract with the same I&D Unit. Once the BIPD contract has ended, no new scholarship contract can be signed between the same host organization and the same scholarship holder.

Candidates who do not cumulatively meet the requirements described will be excluded.

* This includes different I&D Units, even if they are based in the same Organic Unit (UOEI) of UMinho (according to n° 4 and 5 of the Article 7° of the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulations in force).

Applicants' eligibility: Candidates who meet the conditions set out in Article 9 of the Research Grant Regulations, No. 950/2019, of 16-12-2019, of FCT I.P. are eligible.

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Nationals or citizens of other European Union member states, third-country nationals, stateless persons, and citizens with political refugee status are eligible to apply for this competition.

Candidate eligibility requirements: Candidates must hold, at the time of application, a **Doctor** degree in Computer Science, Linguistics or related fields. Candidates must also have knowledge in:

i. Natural Language Processing (NLP), including adaptation and evaluation of models based on Large Language Models (LLMs) for the Portuguese language;

ii. Affective computing and automatic sentiment and emotion analysis;

iii. Machine Learning and Deep Learning applied to textual data analysis;

iv.Development and evaluation of intelligent systems, namely conversational systems, recommendation systems, and Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG) architectures.

Priority will be given to candidates with consolidated knowledge in:

i. Generative models applied to the educational context, namely in the automatic generation of educational content and pedagogical questions;

ii. Design of linguistic annotation schemes and evaluation of inter-annotator agreement (Kappa, ICC).

Workplan and objectives to be achieved: The workplan consists of the following tasks:

- Research on affective computing techniques and analysis of open-ended text produced by students;
- Research on generative models and strategies applied to education, in European Portuguese;
- Development and evaluation of advanced support models for the system (activity recommendations, messaging, activity generation, and typology detection);
- Exploration of explainability and interpretability techniques for the models;
- Scientific dissemination of the results.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellow Statute (EBI), approved by Law nº. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording and FCT Research Fellowship Regulation, approved by Regulation nº 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, of December 16, 2019, in its current wording, and Scientific Research Fellowship Regulation (RBIC) of the University of Minho, approved by order nº 4998/2025, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, nº 81, of April 28, 2025 Amended and republished through amendment statement no. 634/2025/2, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, no. 132, of July 11.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the ALGORITMI Centre of University of Minho, located in Azurém Campus, Guimarães, under the scientific supervision of Doctor Dalila Alves Durães, Assistant Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of University of Minho and the coordination of Doctor Paulo Jorge Freitas de Oliveira Novais, Full Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of the University of Minho.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 6 months, with a provisional starting date on the November 2026. The fellowship grant may, eventually, be renewed up to the maximum limit allowed by the project and/or applicable legislation.

Amount of the research grant: The amount of the grant corresponds to 1901€/ month, according to the table of FCT grants in the country (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf) and the table of values of the Scientific Research Scholarships of the University of Minho, updated annually by decision of the Management Board.

Payment is made on the 23rd of each month, through bank transfer to the Bank Identification Number of the fellow identified in the contratualization process.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Insurance, if the candidate chooses to receive it, corresponding to the 1st level of discounts (for research grants with a total duration 6 months or higher) and personal accident insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The grantee will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5º of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel:

President, Doctor Paulo Jorge Freitas de Oliveira Novais, Full Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of the University of Minho;

Effective member, Doctor José Manuel Ferreira Machado, Full Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of the University of Minho;

Effective member, Doctor Dalila Alves Durães, Assistant Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of University of Minho;

Substitute member, Doctor Victor Manuel Rodrigues Alves, Associated Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of University of Minho;

Substitute member, Doctor Francisco Supino Marcondes, Assistant Professor of the Informatics Department of the School of Engineering of University of Minho.

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 0 to 20 values:

A. Merit of the Candidate - MC (100%)

A.1: Relevance of the degree field, (in accordance with Table 1 established in the criteria definition minutes), with a weighting of **40%;**

A.2: Scientific and professional curriculum, with a weighting of **50%;**

A.2.1) Knowledge and experience in NLP, LLMs, and Sentiment Analysis, with a weighting of 40%;

A.2.2) Experience in ML/DL, RAG, and Intelligent Systems, with a weighting of 30%;

A.2.3) Experience in Educational Contexts and Linguistic Resources, with a weighting of 20%;

A.2.4) Scientific production and project participation, with a weighting of 10%.

A.3: Motivation letter, with a weighting of **10%**.

The degree field will be evaluated according to the table established in the criteria definition minutes, previously drawn up.

The final classification of the applicant's merit with the achieved through the following formula:

$$MC = (A.1^* 0.4) + (A.2^* 0.5) + (A.3^* 0.1)$$

where

$$A.2 = (A.2.1 * 0,4) + (A.2.2 * 0,3) + (A.2.3 * 0,2) + (A.2.4 * 0,1)$$

If the jury does not consider itself able to decide using the method indicated in A (MC), it may choose to conduct an Interview. In this case, AM will have a weighting of 60% and the candidates classified in the first 3 positions, who obtain the minimum classification of 12 in the MC, will be admitted to the Interview phase, with the Jury evaluating the following sub-criteria:

B. Interview - ENT (**40%**):

B.1: Interpersonal skills and communication capability, with a weighting of 20%;

B.2: Demonstrated knowledge in the call's specific area, namely NLP, LLMs, and Sentiment Analysis, with a weighting of 40%;

B.3: Motivation and alignment with project goals, with a weighting of 20%;

B.4: Language skills, with a weighting of 20%.

The Interview classification (ENT) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$ENT = (B.1. \times 0.2) + (B.2. \times 0.4) + (B.3. \times 0.2) + (B.4. \times 0.2)$$

Final classification formula: The final ranking of candidates who complete the procedure will be expressed on a scale from 0 to 20 values and will result from the weighted arithmetic average of the quantitative classifications obtained in each selection method, according to the following formula:

$$FC = (MC \times 0.6) + (ENT \times 0.4)$$

Candidates who obtain a valuation lower than 9,50 values in any of the selection methods are considered excluded from the final valuation.

The jury reserves the right not to award the research grant if candidates with the appropriate profile are not presented to the competition.

The academic degrees and diplomas documents, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions are not mandatory in the application phase, being replaced by a declaration of honour of the candidate with the contents of academic results. The documents of academic qualification or respective recognition will be required in the contracting phase and must attest facts that occurred on a date prior to the application. In situations of divergence between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for contracting the grant, only the information contained in the latter will be consider. If the documents proving the ownership of the academic degree and diploma, or the respective recognition under the terms of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the evaluation of the academic path, which can change the candidate's ranking, the fellowship won't be contracted.

The degree recognition must include the respective conversion of the final classification obtained in the foreign qualification, to the Portuguese classification scale. Candidates who do not comply with these terms, when there

is a selection method in which the final grade of the course is indicated as an evaluation criterion, the jury will assign a classification of 0 (zero) values in that component.

In the application stage, when a declaration of honor is presented in replacement of degree recognition by a Portuguese higher education institution, and the degree recognition process has not yet been completed, the indication of the final grade of the academic degree will not be admitted as evidence for evaluation, when there is a selection method in which the final course grade is indicated as an evaluation criterion. Thus, in this situation, or when presenting only a certificate of qualifications from a foreign institution, the jury will assign a classification of 0 (zero) values in the aforementioned selection method.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open from October 19th until 30th, 2026. Applications must be submitted by email to **recrutamento@algoritmi.uminho.pt,** indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents will be accepted:

a) Candidate's updated curriculum vitae;

b) Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honor that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice (requirements and selection criteria) by the application deadline (not applicable to research initiation grants).

c) Motivation letter or recommendations letter.

b) Other documents that the candidate considers relevant to the evaluation process.

Form of publication/notification of results: The results of the evaluation are published in a single list by final score obtained, posted in a visible and public place in the host unit, as well as by email to all candidates, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes of the jury's deliberations, within a maximum period of 90 working days from the deadline for submission of applications.

Candidates are informed, at a preliminary hearing, in accordance with Articles 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code, of the likely outcome of the final decision, and may comment within 10 working days of this notification.

An appeal may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal may be lodged with the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 days, both after the respective notification (Article 12(n°6) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations).

Within 10 working days of notification of the grant award, the applicant must declare their acceptance in writing. In case of non-acceptance, the next highest ranked applicant will be notified immediately.

Fellowship contractualization: The scholarship is awarded through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship recipient, in accordance with point 2.4 of the Rules for the Award and Management of Scholarships https://www.fct.pt/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Normas_de_Atribuicao_de_Bolsas_2021.pdf and the draft contract in Annex II of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulations.

The contract can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required for the type of scholarship, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months, including proof of academic degrees or diplomas, as well as enrollment in non-degree study cycles or courses, as applicable.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the scholarship contract. Once received by the scholarship holder, the contract must be returned, duly signed, within 15 working days.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other grounds laid down in the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulation and in the Research Fellow Statute, the scholarship will cease on completion of the contracted work plan, as well as on expiry of the period for which it was granted or renewed.

The **final report** must be submitted to the scientific advisor, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, no later than 60 working days after the end of the scholarship and must be drawn up in accordance with Annex I of the Regulations of the University of Minho.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: Universidade do Minho actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

Declaration of Honor

Academic qualifications

I, (full name), candidate for the vacancy for the award of a (type of scholarship), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. notice), declare on my honor that I have completed the academic degree of (academic degree), qualifying for the type of scholarship in the competition, namely the course (designation), by the (University conferring the degree), on the date XX/XX/XXXX, with a final average of XXXXX values on the YY scale.

As it is not possible for me to present proof of qualifications until the end of the competition, I declare that I undertake to present the aforementioned certificate at the conclusion of the scholarship contract, in the event that I am selected for the vacancy in the competition.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

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(full name)

NOTE: The declaration may only attest to facts that occurred prior to the application.

In the event of a discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purpose of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be taken into account.

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Declaration of Honor

I, (full name), bearer of identification document number (XXXX), candidate for a research grant (type of grant), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. call for proposals), declare on my honor that (I have not received any research grants to date / I have received the following research grants) under the Research Grant Holder Statute.

University	Financing Entity	Project	Type of Grant	Duration	Start	Term

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

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(full name)

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