

2017 Call for Applications for Doctoral Scholarships in the Framework of IDPASC Portugal (Doctoral Programme in Particle Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology)
PD/00024/2013



Terms of the Call

In the framework of the Doctoral Programme FCT IDPASC-Portugal, the IDPASC network opens a call for applications to:

❖ **PhD Scholarships** for thesis subjects proposed by IDPASC researchers and taking place in the Universities of Évora, Lisbon, Coimbra, Porto and Minho in the following fields:

- Particle Physics
- Astrophysics
- Cosmology

The number of grants to be awarded will be six. Two of these grants will preferentially be given to, if possible one for each category:

- applications with a supervisor from the Coimbra University;
- applications with a supervisor and a co-supervisor from two different universities of the programme and a working plan for at least one year in each university.

The grants will be funded directly by FCT. Thus, under the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (*Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação*), approved by Law nº 40/2004 of 18 August, subsequently amended and republished by Decree-Law nº 202/2012 of 27 August, amended again by Law nº 12/2013 of 29 January and Decree-Law nº 89/2013 of 9 July, the IDPASC Portugal Scientific Committee launches a call for the selection of grantees to award individual grants.

1. Grant Recipients

The duration of the grant is annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years and may not be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months. The grant covers:

- A monthly stipend of 980 € (tax free).
- The tuition fees for the doctoral degree of the participating universities.



- Social security (voluntary registration), with basic access to the national health system.

Whenever the fellowship holder is not in the country of the host institution, the following components may also be added:

- A one-off travelling fee, if justified, for the pre-established value;
- A one-off installation fee for stays equal to or higher than six consecutive months, for the pre-established value.

Under the conditions set out in Article 5 and Paragraph 1 of Article 14 of Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, recipients are Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states; third-country nationals holding a valid residence permit or who have acquired long-term resident status, pursuant to Law nº 23/2007 of 4 July and amended by Law nº 29/2012 of 9 August; third-country nationals of states with which Portugal has entered into reciprocal agreements. The applicant should make reference to the publication in *Diário da República* of the agreement approval; third-country nationals, which are considered selectable after an individual interview.

Candidates who have previously received an identical type of FCT-funded fellowship or have been selected for a PhD studentship in an FCT PhD Programme may not apply.

Applicants should follow the procedures detailed in:

http://www.idpasc.lip.pt/LIP/thesis_program/index.php?opt=5

2. Period of the Call

The call will be open from **15th May to 02nd October 2017**

Phases:

- **Supervisors 1st phase – 15th May to 19th June, 17h00**

During this period, supervisors should submit thesis themes. For each thesis proposed the supervisor should setup the title, the PhD programme, the scientific domain, the institution that will award the academic degree, the host institution, and the name of the co-supervisor if applicable (both supervisor and co-supervisor must be registered in the IDPASC network - <https://www.idpasc.lip.pt/login/index.php>). All the information should be updated during the call period by the supervisor or the co-supervisor, but only the supervisor has the ability to select a candidate. *(Please see Instructions for Supervisors below)*

- **Applicants 1st phase – 20th June to 17th July, 17h00**

During this period, applicants can only apply to one thesis theme available in the system. But applicants can give up from one thesis to another during this phase.

The candidates will apply by filling the Candidate Application form (*provided by IDPASC-Portugal on-line*), and by providing some documents. (*Please see Instructions for Applicants below*)

- **Supervisors 2nd phase – 18th July to 31st July, 17h00**

During this period, supervisors may select one candidate from the list of candidates who have applied and must fill a supervisor form (*provided by IDPASC-Portugal on-line*), describing its personal judgment as regards to the student CV and his adequacy to the PhD subject. This can only be done by the Supervisor. (*Please see Instructions for Supervisors below*)

- **Applicants 2nd phase – 1st August to 02nd October, 17h00**

During this period, the selected candidate will formalize his application, by filling the Programme Application form (*provided by IDPASC-Portugal on-line*), and by providing some documents. (*Please see Instructions for Applicants below*)

3. Applications

Applications can only be submitted electronically through

<http://www.idpasc.lip.pt/portugal>

Instructions for Applicants

Applicants 1st phase – 20th June to 17th July, 17h00

All applicants have access to the proposed thesis themes in the IDPASC-Portugal website. The applicants should consult the proposed thesis themes and, in case of interest (and after register and logging in at IDPASC Network - <https://www.idpasc.lip.pt/login/index.php>), must apply to the theme by filling the Candidate Application form (*provided by IDPASC-Portugal on-line*), and by uploading the following documents:

- **One** CV file in pdf format
- **Copy** of the Identity Card/passport
- **One** Motivation Letter file in pdf format
- **Classifications** obtained in the course units (Bachelor's degree, Integrated Master's degree or Master's degree)
- **One** PDF file to include other documents that the candidate may consider relevant to the assessment of the merit mentioned in the CV (Diplomas, certificates etc....)

- **Up to three** contacts for reference letters
(The reference letters will be directly uploaded by the referees. Applicants will not have access to the letters content but they will be able to check if the reference letters have been uploaded and when. The Referees can upload the letters during the whole period of the Call).

Click **Apply** in the thesis themes. An e-mail will be sent to both the applicant and the supervisor. Applicants should contact the supervisor/co-supervisor of the thesis theme.

A communication between candidates and supervisors is of the utmost importance. Applicants must then be confirmed by the supervisor.

Important: Applicants can only apply to one thesis, but during the 1st phase applicants can change from one theme to another, for that they should withdraw from the thesis they applied before and then apply to the other thesis, doing so will require to submit a new application and to follow the steps outlined before.

Applicants 2nd phase – 1st August to 02nd October, 17h00

If the applicant was selected by the Supervisor:

The candidate should formalize his application to the grant through the **My Thesis (LINK)** section, providing the following documents:

- **One** Programme Application form (*provided by IDPASC-Portugal on-line*)
- **One** Supervisor CV in PDF format
- **One** Co-supervisor CV in PDF format

Important Notes:

Candidates should hold either a pre-Bologna degree, or a pre-/post-Bologna Master's degree at the time of application. Students must complete the Master degree until 02nd October, 2017.

Foreign degrees/diplomas will only be accepted after recognition by the General Directorate of Higher Education or by a Portuguese higher education institution, in accordance with the Decree Law n.º 341/2007, of 12 October and the Decree Law n.º 283/83, of 21st June.
http://www.dges.mec.pt/en/pages/naric_pages/academic_recognition/recognition_foreign_qualifications.html

Candidates who have previously received an identical type of FCT-funded fellowship or have been selected for a PhD studentship in an FCT PhD Programme may not apply.

Instructions for Supervisors

Supervisors 1st phase – 15th May to 19th June, 17h00

During this phase REGISTERED IDPASC researchers should propose thesis themes for the call by:

- Creating a new proposal: go to "Application->Supervisors->New Thesis"
- Insert the title, the PhD Programme, the scientific domain, the institution that will award the academic degree, the host institution, the name of the co-supervisor if applicable (both supervisor and co-supervisor must be registered in the network).

Note that two of the available grants will preferentially be given to, if possible one for each category:

- applications with a supervisor from the Coimbra University;
- applications with a supervisor and a co-supervisor from two different universities of the programme and a working plan for at least one year in each university.

Supervisors 2nd phase – 18th July to 31st July, 17h00

During this phase, supervisors should select one candidate to his thesis and fill the supervisor form (*provided by IDPASC-Portugal on-line*), describing its personal judgment as regards to the student CV and his adequacy to the PhD subject. The supervisors should maintain contact with the candidate to help him to fill the Programme Application form.

Other information

All these steps must be taken before the deadline announced in the period of Call otherwise the application will not be completed and cannot be taken into account for the grant award selection. No other means of submission are available.

Notifications are sent by email but supervisors and applicants are strongly advised to keep direct communication by other means since the notifications can sometimes be filtered by anti-spam systems.

4. Evaluation

The evaluation panel is constituted by Jorge Romão (President. University of Lisbon – IST), Francisco del Aguila (University of Granada), Enrique Zas (University of Santiago de Compostela), Kostas Kokotas (University of Tuebingen), Andreas Glindemann (Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich), João Alves (University of Vienna), Marcella Diemoz (INFN) and José Valle (IFIC - University of Valencia).

The selection committee will rank the applications (No Ex-aequo) taking into account the merits of the candidate, the quality and relevance of the work plan and the quality and adequacy of the supervision. Interviews with the applicants will be conducted individually. Each of these items will be scored from 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum) and will be clearly justified so that the candidate is able to understand the score obtained. The final ranking will be based on a weighted average with weights 5 (4 *candidate* + 1 *interview*), 3 (work plan) and 2 (supervision). A larger weight is put on the CV of the candidate, as the other components are already restricted by the programme rules. Among other elements, the involvement of the applicant in research activity related to the PhD must be guaranteed to constitute his/her main occupation.

The jury will indicate the minimal classification that a candidate should obtain in order to be qualified for a grant.

Two of these grants will preferentially be given to, if possible one for each category:

- applications with a supervisor from the Coimbra University;
- applications with a supervisor and a co-supervisor from two different universities of the programme and a working plan for at least one year in each university.

5. Announcement

The results of the evaluation will be announced by email addressed to the applicants, using the email address associated to the grant application, and will be made public in the IDPASC-Portugal website.

In case of a negative decision on the requested grant, the applicant has (according with the Administrative Procedure Code) a period of 10 days after disclosure, to be heard in a preliminary hearing. In relation to the final decision, an appeal may be lodged with the highest body of the funding entity (FCT) within 15 working days after the relevant notification.

Grants final approval is conditioned to the admission of the candidate by the Institution granting the academic degree.

6. Equality and non-discrimination Policy

We are committed to promoting equality and preventing discrimination and welcome the applications of all qualified candidates irrespective of their age, disability, gender, marital status, pregnancy, maternity, gender identity, race, colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origin, sexual orientation, religion or belief, social background or culture or trade union membership.

7. Funding

The scholarship contracts will be signed directly with FCT.

The scholarships awarded under this contract will be financed by funds from the State Budget of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education/FCT and by funds from the European Social Fund through the Human Capital Operating Programme (POCH).

All missing aspects from this Call will follow the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia available at:

<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/2015RegulationFellowships.pdf>

and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute available at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/FellowshipHolderStatute2013.pdf>

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