

## Call for Applications for PhD Research Grants

The REM Research Consortium – Research in Economics and Mathematics, based at ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management, Universidade de Lisboa, is opening a contest for the award of two PhD research grants, hereinafter known as PhD Research Grants, in Economics and Mathematics with emphasis in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Econometrics, subject to the Rules and Regulations of FCT Research Grants (RBI) and the Statute of Research Grants (EBI).

The research grants are financed by *Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia* (FCT), under the Collaboration Agreement for the Financing of the Multiannual Plan for Research Grants for PhD Students, signed between FCT and REM – Research in Economics and Mathematics, with number 5069.

### 1. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The call is open from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April at 24.00 (Lisbon time) through the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 2020.

It is obligatory that all applications and supporting documents submitted in response to this Call for Applications be submitted by email to [rem@iseg.ulisboa.pt](mailto:rem@iseg.ulisboa.pt).

Each applicant can only submit one application, under penalty of the cancellation of all applications submitted.

The submission of false declarations or the practice of plagiarism by applicants is considered just cause for cancelling the application without prejudice to the administration of other sanctions.

### 2. TYPE AND DURATION OF THE GRANTS

Research grants for a PhD are designed to finance the carrying out of research by the researcher, which leads to obtaining a PhD degree at a Portuguese university.

The above-mentioned research will be carried out in those research units that constitute part of REM - Research in Economics and Mathematics, which will be the host entity of the grant beneficiaries, without prejudice to research, which is carried out in collaboration between more than one university.

The research that leads to obtaining the PhD degree of the selected grant beneficiaries has to be compatible with the context of the strategy and activity plan of REM – Research in Economics and Mathematics, and must be carried out as part of the study for the following PhD degrees:

- PhD in Economics of ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management, Universidade de Lisboa (<https://www.iseg.ulisboa.pt/aquila/cursos/pde>)
- PhD in MAEG – Applied Mathematics for Economics and Management of ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management, Universidade de Lisboa (<https://www.iseg.ulisboa.pt/aquila/cursos/pdmaeg>)

The work plan can be carried out exclusively or partially at a Portuguese university (with a Portuguese grant, or a mixed grant, respectively).

As a rule, the duration of the grant is for one year, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months). A grant cannot be awarded for a period of less than three consecutive months.

In the case of a mixed grant, the period of the work plan that is to be carried out at a foreign university cannot exceed 24 months.

### **3. TARGET GRANTS BENEFICIARIES**

The PhD Research Grants are intended for applicants who are enrolled, or who satisfy the necessary admission conditions to enrol in one of the PhD degrees stipulated in Paragraph 2 of this Call for Applications, who intend to carry out research that leads to obtaining a PhD degree in the context of REM - Research in Economics and Mathematics, or an associated host entity.

### **4. ELIGIBILITY**

#### **4.1 Conditions for the Eligibility of the Applicant**

The following are eligible to apply for this contest:

- Portuguese citizens or citizens of other member states of the European Union.
- Citizens of third party countries.
- Stateless people.
- Citizens/beneficiaries with refugee status/political asylum.

The following conditions must be met in order to compete for a PhD Research Grant:

- Have a Bachelors or Masters in the areas of Economics, Mathematics, or a related subject.
- Be a permanent and habitual resident in Portugal, if the associated work plan for the grant is to be partly carried out at foreign universities (mixed grants). This requirement is applicable to both Portuguese nationals and foreigners citizens.
- Not to have received a PhD grant previously, neither to have their PhD paid for by a company, which is directly funded by FCT, regardless of the duration of the degree.

#### **4.2 Conditions for eligibility to apply for a grant**

Under penalty of being banned from applying for the Contest, it is essential that the application is accompanied by the following documents:

- The information contained in the applicant's identity card/citizen's card/passport;
- The curriculum vitae of the applicant;

- All Degree Certificates, specifying the final grade, and, if possible, the grades obtained in all subjects studied, or, alternatively, the applicant's declaration of honour to declare their Bachelor's or Master's final grade before the end of the application period;
- The diploma and registration of all academic degrees awarded by foreign universities and the registration of the conversion of the equivalent final grade to the Portuguese grading system, or, alternatively, a declaration of honour by the applicant explaining how they obtained the recognised foreign equivalent of a Bachelors or Masters degree before the end of the application period;
- A motivation letter;
- Two letters of recommendation;
- The Work Plan to be carried out;
- An English language proficiency certificate (TOEFL, GRE, IELTS, or similar);
- The application and all documents associated with it, including the motivation and recommendation letters, must be written in either Portuguese or English.

In addition to the above-mentioned conditions for eligibility to apply for a grant, the following should be noted:

- In the case of degrees awarded by a foreign university, and in order to guarantee equal treatment for applicants who have either a Portuguese or foreign degrees, it is obligatory to recognise these degrees and convert their final grade to the equivalent Portuguese grade.

The recognition of foreign degrees and diplomas, as well as the conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grade may be requested by any public higher education institution or by the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES - only in the case of automatic recognition). In this respect, it is advisable to consult the DGES portal on <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

- Applicants will only be admitted if they have completed the Bachelors or Masters study cycle before the application deadline. If they do not yet possess a certificate of completion of their degree, a declaration of honour from the applicant will be accepted - certifying that the applicant has completed the necessary academic qualifications for the purposes of applying for the contest by the application deadline. The award of a grant is always dependent on the presentation of proof of possessing the necessary academic qualifications required for the award of a grant.

## 5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION OF THE GRANTS

[Supervision to be defined by the R&D Unit]

The Work Plan must be written in English and must define the main objectives of the thesis project, which is to be developed, as well as the key research questions that are to be answered, taking into account the scientific areas for which the contest is open. The Plan should also include a summary presentation of the existing literature on the topic in question, the methodologies to be used, and the expected results, highlighting the

relevance of the proposed research work, especially its innovative contribution. The Plan should also include a brief description of the activities involved and the respective work schedule.

## 6. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

The assessment takes into account the merit of the applicant and the merit of the Work Plan, as well as its relevance to the REM's scientific activities.

Admissible applications will be scored on a scale of 0 to 5 for each of the following assessment criteria:

- Criterion A – Merit of the applicant, with a weighting of 50%;
  - Sub-criterion A1: Academic Career (which reflects the final grades of degrees and the quality of the universities where they were studied), with a weighting of 50% of the applicant's merit;
  - Sub-criterion A2: Personal Curriculum (which reflects the scientific, professional and, academic career), with a weighting of 40% of the applicant's merit;
  - Sub-criterion A3: Motivation letter, with a weighting of 10% of the applicant's merit.

The classification of Criterion A will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\textit{Classification of Criterion A} = (0.50 \times A1) + (0.40 \times A2) + (0.10 \times A3)$$

- Criterion B – Merit of the Work Plan, with a weighting of 50%;
  - Sub-criterion B1: substantiated relevance of the study topic, with a weighting of 40% of the merit of the Work Plan;
  - Sub-criterion B2: the scientific quality of the state-of-the-art and the methodology of the Work Plan, with a weighting of 40% of the merit of the Work Plan;
  - Sub-criterion B3: the feasibility of the Work Plan, with a weighting of 10% of the Work Plan;
  - Sub-criterion B4: the relevance of the Work Plan to the strategic objectives of REM's scientific activities, with a weighting of 10% of the merit of the Work Plan;

$$\textit{Classification of Criterion B} = (0.40 \times B1) + (0.40 \times B2) + (0.10 \times B3) + (0.10 \times B4)$$

For the purpose of choosing the beneficiaries of the grants, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the classification obtained for each of the two criteria, using the following formula:

$$\textit{Final Classification} = (0.50 \times A) + (0.50 \times B)$$

In the case of a tie, the ranking of the applicants will be carried out based on the ratings assigned to each of the assessment criteria, in the following order of precedence: Criterion A and Criterion B.

**Important note regarding applicants with foreign degrees:**

- Applicants with degrees from foreign universities may apply and will be assessed using the same criteria as those applicants with Portuguese degrees, provided that their application is accompanied by proof of recognition of their degrees and the conversion of the final grade to the equivalent Portuguese grade, under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- In any case, the celebration of grant contracts with applicants who have a foreign degree will only be concluded on presentation of proof of recognition of the degrees and the conversion of the final grade, as indicated above.

Those applicants whose application has a final classification of less than 3 points are not eligible for a grant.

## 7. ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION

The assessment panel is comprised of the following professors:

- António Afonso, ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management and REM – Research in Economics and Mathematics, (Coordinator of the panel);
- Isabel Proença, ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management and REM – Research in Economics and Mathematics;
- Joana Pais, ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management and REM – Research in Economics and Mathematics.

The assessment panel will assess applications in accordance with the assessment criteria described in this Call for Applications, taking into consideration all the assessment factors.

All members of the panel, including the Coordinator, are committed to respecting a series of responsibilities, which are essential for the assessment process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations, and confidentiality. Confidentiality is fully protected and ensured at all times during the assessment process, in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions proffered.

The members of the panel, including the Coordinator, cannot be supervisors or co-supervisors of applicants for the grant contest. A final assessment form will be produced by the panel for each application, which presents the arguments, which led to the attribution of the ratings for each of the assessment criteria and sub-criteria - in a clear, coherent, and consistent manner.

Minutes will be produced of all the meetings of the assessment panel, which must be signed by all the members of the panel.

It is obligatory that these minutes, together with their appendices, include the following information:

- The name and affiliation of all members of the assessment panel;
- The fully-justified identification of all excluded applications;
- The methodology adopted by the panel for special cases;
- The Final Assessment Forms for each applicant;

- The provisional list of the classification and ranking of all the applications assessed by the panel, in descending order of the final classification;
- CDI statements from all members of the panel;
- If necessary, the issue of proxies for voting due to justified absence.

## **8. COMMUNICATION OF THE RESULTS**

The results of the assessment are communicated via e-mail to the e-mail address used by the applicant/for sending the application, or as indicated in the application.

## **9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR HEARINGS, APPEALS, AND RE-ASSESSMENT**

After communicating the provisional list of the results of the assessment, should they so desire, applicants have a period of 10 working days to request a hearing of interested parties, under the terms of Articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The final decision will be announced after the analysis of all deliberations proffered at the above-mentioned hearing of interested parties. The applicant has 15 working days to appeal against the final decision, or, alternatively, they can submit an appeal for a re-assessment up until 30 working days, both of which count from the respective notification date. Applicants who decide to submit a request for an appeal should address their appeal to the member of the Board of Directors of FCT with respective powers, which should be addressed to the Board of Directors of FCT.

## **10. CONDITIONS FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT**

Contracts for the award of research grants are celebrated directly with FCT.

On award of a grant, the following documents must be submitted for drawing up the contract:

- a) A copy of the applicant's identity and tax document, and when applicable, their social security identification document;
- b) A copy of all certificates of degrees obtained;
- c) The presentation of the registration of the recognition of foreign degrees and the conversion of the respective final grade to the equivalent Portuguese grade, if applicable
- d) A document proving registration and enrolment in one of the PhD degrees identified in this Call for Applications;
- e) A statement by the supervisor (s) assuming responsibility for supervising the Work Plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Scholarships Statute (FCT can provide a draft declaration);
- f) A document proving the admission of the applicant by the university where the research is to be carried out,

guaranteeing the necessary conditions for its good development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties stipulated in Article 13 of the Research Scholarships Statute (FCT can provide a draft declaration);

- g) An up-to-date document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (FCT can provide a draft declaration).

The award of a grant also depends on:

- Compliance with the requirements set out in this Call for Applications;
- The result of the scientific assessment;
- The lack of unjustified non-compliance with the applicant's duties under a previous grant contract which is/was financed, directly or indirectly, by FCT;
- The availability of funds in the FCT budget.

Failure to submit any of the required documents that are necessary to complete the grant contract process within 6 months from the date of communication of the conditional decision to award a grant, implies the annulment of the award of the grant in question, and the termination of the process.

## 11. FINANCING

The payment of the grant starts to be made on the return of the duly-signed grant contract by the applicant, within a maximum of 15 working days from the date of receipt of the contract.

All grants awarded as a result of this Call from Applications will be financed by FCT, with funds from the State Budget, and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, which are to be made available under the terms of PORTUGAL2020, namely through the Northern Regional Operational Programme (*O Programa Operacional Regional do Norte - NORTE 2020*), the Central Regional Operational Programme (*O Programa Operacional Regional do Centro - CENTRO 2020*), and the Alentejo Regional Operational Programme (*O Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo - ALENTEJO 2020*), in accordance with the regulatory provisions established for this purpose.

## 12. THE COMPONENTS OF THE GRANT

Grant beneficiaries are awarded a monthly maintenance grant, in accordance with the table in Appendix I of the RBI.

The grant can also include other components, under the terms stipulated in Article 18 of the RBI and for the amounts provided for in Appendix II.

All grant beneficiaries are entitled to personal accident insurance for carrying out research, which is financially supported by FCT.

All those grant beneficiaries who are not covered by any social security regime can secure the right to social

security by paying contributions to the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Code of Contributory Social Security Regimes, whereby FCT assumes the responsibility for the cost of these voluntary contributions, under the terms, and within the limits provided for in Article 10 of the EBI.

### **13. PAYMENTS OF THE COMPONENTS OF THE GRANT**

Payments due to grant beneficiaries are made by bank transfer to the account identified for this purpose by the beneficiary. The monthly maintenance grant is paid on the first working day of each month.

Payments for the registration, enrolment, or tuition components are made directly by FCT to the respective Portuguese university where the beneficiary is registered or enrolled for the associated PhD.

### **14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF RENEWING THE GRANT**

The renewal of the grant is always dependent on an application, which has to be submitted by the grant beneficiary within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) An opinion emitted by the supervisor (s) and by the host entity (ies) regarding the monitoring of the grant beneficiary's work and the assessment of their research;
- b) An up-to-date document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) A document proving the renewal of enrolment in the PhD Study Cycle.

### **15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY REGARDING THE FINANCING AWARDED**

In all R&D activities which are directly or indirectly financed by the research grant, especially communications, publications, scientific production, and theses which are carried out with grant support, all financial support received from FCT and the European Social Fund must be expressly mentioned, namely, the Northern Regional Operational Programme (NORTE 2020), the Central Regional Operational Programme (Centro 2020), and the Alentejo Regional Operational Programme (Alentejo 2020). For this effect, FCT, MCTES, FSE, and EU insignia must all be embedded in all documents related to these actions, in accordance with the graphic identity of each operational programme.

The communication of the results of research funded under the RBI must comply with the open access rules for data, publications, and other research results in force at FCT.

For all grants, and in particular in the case of actions supported by Community funds, especially from the ESF, Portuguese and community bodies have the right to monitor and control the research, in accordance with the applicable legislation in force, whereby existing grant beneficiaries are obliged to collaborate and provide the requested information, which can include the carrying out of surveys and assessment studies of the work, even though the grant support has already ended.



## 16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES POLICY

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no applicant can be privileged, benefited, harmed, or denied any right or be exempt from any duty in reason, in particular in terms of ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic status, education, origin or social status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, country of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

## 17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND RULES AND REGULATIONS

This contest is governed by this Call for Applications, by the Rules and Regulations for FCT Research Grants, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in the II Series of the *Diário da República* official gazette on the 16<sup>th</sup> of December, 2019, by the Research Grant Statute approved by Law No. 40/2004 of the 18<sup>th</sup> of August, in its current form, and by any other applicable Portuguese or Community legislation.