

Public Notice REF. **BD22-LEAD-1**

Tender Opening Notice for Attribution of a Research Scholarship for PhD

The Distance Education and eLearning Laboratory of Universidade Aberta (LE@D, Universidade Aberta) is opening a competition for the award of ONE research scholarship, hereinafter referred to as Research Scholarship for PhD, in Educational Sciences, under the Regulation of FCT Research Grants and the Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI).

1. Submission of applications

The tender is open between the 22nd of July and the 16th of August 2022. Applications and supporting documents for the application provided for in this Tender Opening Notice must be submitted, mandatorily, by email sent to lead@uab.pt indicating the notice reference in the subject field, **BD22-LEAD-1**, and name of the candidate.

Each candidate may submit only one application, under penalty of cancellation of all submitted applications.

The provision of false statements or the performance of acts of plagiarism by candidates is reason for cancellation of the candidacy without prejudice to the adoption of other measures of a sanctioning nature.

2. Type and duration of the Scholarship

Research grants for doctoral studies are intended to finance the carrying out, by the grantee, of research activities leading to the achievement of the academic degree of doctor in Portuguese universities.

The research activities leading to obtaining the academic degree of doctor will take place in the Laboratory of Distance Education and eLearning (LE@D) of Universidade Aberta, which will be the host institution for the scholarship holder, without prejudice to the works that may be carried out in collaboration between more than one institution.

The research activities leading to the academic degree of Doctor of the selected scholarship holders must be framed in the plan of activities and strategy of the Laboratory of Distance Education and eLearning (LE@D), Universidade Aberta, and must be developed within the scope of Programs of PhD in Distance Education and eLearning.

The duration of the scholarship is granted for 12 (twelve) months and is eventually renewable up to a maximum of thirty-six (36) months.

3. Beneficiaries of the PhD Scholarships

The PhD Research Scholarships are intended for candidates enrolled or candidates admitted to a Doctoral Program listed in point 2 of this Notice and who intend to develop research activities leading to the academic degree of Doctor in Distance Education and eLearning

4. Candidate Eligibility

4.1 Candidate Eligibility Requirements

You can apply for this competition:

National citizens or citizens of other member states of the European Union;

Citizens of third States;

Stateless persons;

Citizens benefiting from political refugee status.

To apply for the Research Scholarship for a PhD, it is necessary:

To have a Bachelor's degree (“licenciatura”) or have a master's degree in the areas of Educational Sciences or in areas of Social Sciences considered to be related.

Not having benefited from a doctoral or doctoral scholarship in institutions directly or indirectly financed by the FCT, regardless of its duration.

Not hold a Doctor's degree

4.2 Application Eligibility Requirements

It is essential, under penalty of non-admission to the Competition, to attach the following documents to the application:

Curriculum vitae of the candidate, indicating the name, full address and electronic address, and the scientific production (scientific articles, books, chapters, communications, etc.) ;

Elements of the identity card/citizen card/passport;

Qualification certificates of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all the subjects taken, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor by the candidate that he/she completed the bachelor's or master's degree until the end the application deadline;

Record of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, declaration of honor by the candidate that he/she obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to that of graduate or master with effect at the end of the application period;

Letter of motivation;

Letters of Recommendation (maximum two);

Other documents that the candidate considers relevant for the assessment of its merits;

The application and all documents associated with it, including motivation and recommendation letters, can be delivered in Portuguese or English.

Regarding the aforementioned admissibility requirements, the following should be noted:

In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to candidates who hold foreign and national academic degrees, it is mandatory to recognize these degrees and convert the respective final classification to the Portuguese rating scale.

The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale can be requested at any public higher education institution, or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, only in the case of automatic recognition).).

Only candidates who have completed the cycle of studies leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree by the end of the application period will be admitted. If they still do not have a course completion certificate, a declaration of honor from candidates that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition will be accepted by the end of the application deadline. The granting of the scholarship is subject to the presentation, in the contractualization phase, of proof of academic qualifications.

5. Evaluation criteria

5.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation will take into account the merit of the candidate, the merit of the work plan and the relevance of the application to the LE@D strategic plan.

Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale of 0.000 to 5.000 in each of the following evaluation criteria:

Criterion A - Merit of the candidate, with a weight of 40%;

Subcriterion A1 - Academic background, with a weight of 50%

The score for this sub-criterion will be calculated based on the final classifications that appear in the academic degree certificates presented by the candidate in the application form:

- i) Degree + Master's/Integrated Master's;
- ii) only Degree;
- iii) Master's only, according to Table 1.

In the event that no valid degree certificates are submitted, the classification to be assigned to sub-criterion A1 will be zero (A1 = 0).

Table 1 Score of subcriterion A1 – Academic career					
Bachelor's degree + Master (pre- or pós-Bolonha) or Integrated Master's Degree		Degree (pre- or post-Bolonha)		Master's degree (pre- or post-Bolonha)	
Classificação	Pontuação A1	Classificação	Pontuação A1		Pontuação A1
≥ 18	5,000	≥ 17	3,500	≥ 17	3,000
17	4,500	16	3000	16	2500
16	4000	15	2500	15	2000

Note: the classification to be considered is the one that appears in the respective degree certificates submitted in the application. In the case of qualification certificates whose final classification is presented with decimal places, it will be rounded to the unit following the following rule: when the decimal place is equal to or greater than 5, it will be rounded up; when the decimal place is less than 5, the value will be kept. In the case of calculating the simple arithmetic average between the undergraduate degree and the master's degree, the notes on the certificates will be considered (even if they present decimals) and the rounding will be carried out after obtaining the result of such average.

Sub criterion A2 - Personal Curriculum, with a weight of 40%

In assessing this sub-criterion, the candidate's curriculum will be analyzed and considered holistically, evaluating in an integrated way the merit of his academic, scientific, and professional path.

Sub criterion A3 - Letter of Motivation, with a weight of 10%

The classification to be attributed in this sub-criterion will take into account the clarity with which the candidate identifies the reasons underlying his application and the maturity with which he envisages carrying out the proposed research activities.

Criterion A classification will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\text{Criterion A} = (A1 \times 0,5) + (A2 \times 0,4) + (A3 \times 0,1)$$

Criterion B - Merit of the Work Plan, with a weight of 40%

Sub criterion B1 - Relevance of the object of study, with a weight of 30%

In assessing this sub-criterion, the clear definition of research objectives and questions will be valued, as well as the potential contribution of the research project to the knowledge and advancement of science and technology.

Sub criterion B2 – Scientific quality, with a weight of 50%.

In the evaluation of this sub-criterion, the relevance of the state of the art presented and the proposed research methodology will be considered, taking into account its clarity, consistency and coherence, in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

Sub criterion B3 - Feasibility of the work plan, with a weight of 20%

In the evaluation of this sub-criterion, the adequacy of the methodologies to the tasks and objectives foreseen in the work plan will be evaluated according to the number of months indicated for carrying them out, as well as the total time foreseen for the completion of the project.

If applicable, an analysis of the risks inherent to the various phases that constitute it will also be assessed, possibly with a preliminary identification of the most critical points and the corresponding contingency measures to be adopted.

The classification of criterion B will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\text{Criterion B} = (B1 \times 0,3) + (B2 \times 0,5) + (B3 \times 0,2)$$

Criterion C - Relevance of the application to the LE@D Strategic Plan, with a weight of 20%.

The evaluation of this criterion will be based on the appreciation of the work plan and the motivation letter and will consider how the candidate demonstrates that his project aligns with the mission of the Distance Education and e-Learning Laboratory and how he can contribute to the pursuit of its strategic objectives (more information can be found at <http://lead.uab.pt>)

To deciding on the award of scholarships, candidates will be ranked according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the 3 criteria, translated by the following formula:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (0,4 \times A) + (0,4 \times B) + (0,2 \times C)$$

For the purposes of breaking the tie, candidates will be ranked based on the classifications given to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence:

Criterion A - Candidate merit,

Criterion B - Merit of the work plan

Criterion C - Relevance of the application to the strategic areas of the LE@D.

Important notice for candidates with degrees issued by foreign higher education institutions:

Candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated with the same criteria as candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, if they present, in their application, proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the classification. final for the Portuguese classification scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.

Candidates with recognized foreign diplomas who do not present proof of conversion from the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale will be evaluated with the minimum classification (1,000 points) in sub-criterion A1.

In any case, scholarship contracts with candidates with diplomas issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final classification, as indicated above.

Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final grade of less than 3,000 points are not eligible for the grant.

5.2 Candidate Bonus

A Bonus will be awarded to candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 90% will receive a bonus of 20% in Criterion A – Candidate Merit.

Candidates who present a degree of disability equal to or greater than 60% and less than 90% will receive a 10% bonus in the same criterion.

The degree of incapacity must be proven through the presentation, in the application, of the Multipurpose Disability Certificate, issued under the terms of Decree-Law no. 202/96, of October 23, in the current wording.

6. Assessment panel

The candidate evaluation panel is made up of the following elements:

Professor Lina Maria Gaspar Morgado, Universidade Aberta (coordinator of the panel);

Professor Maria Luísa Lebres-Aires, Universidade Aberta (effective member);

Professor António Manuel Quintas Mendes, Universidade Aberta (full member);

Professor Maria do Carmo Teixeira Pinto (alternate member);

Professor Filipa Isabel Barreto de Seabra Borges (alternate member);

7. Results communication

The evaluation results are communicated via e-mail to the e-mail address used by the candidate to send the application.

8. Deadlines and procedures for prior hearing, complaint and appeal

After communication of the provisional list of the evaluation results, candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, speak at a prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The final decision will be rendered after the analysis of the pronouncements presented in the seat of the prior hearing of interested parties. A complaint may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be lodged within 30 working days, both counting from the respective notification.

9. Scholarship attribution requirements

The following documents must be sent, at the time of the eventual granting of the scholarship, for the purposes of its contractualization:

- a) Copy of the civil, tax and, when applicable, social security identification document(s);
- b) Copy of the qualifications certificates of the academic degrees held;
- c) Presentation of the registration of recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- d) Work plan;
- e) Document proving enrollment and enrollment in one of the Doctoral Programs identified in this Notice
- f) Statement by the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, under the terms of article 5-A of the Research Fellowship Statute (draft statement to be made available by the FCT);
- g) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime

The granting of the scholarship is still dependent on:

- compliance with the requirements set out in this opening Notice;
- non-existence of unjustified non-compliance with the grantee's duties within the scope of a previous grant contract financed, directly or indirectly, by the FCT;

Failure to deliver any of the documents necessary to complete the grant contracting process, within 6 months from the date of communication of the decision to grant the grant conditional, implies the expiry of said grant and the termination of the process.

10. Financing

The grants awarded under this call for proposals will be financed by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) through the budget of the R&D unit Laboratory of Distance Education and eLearning, LE@D, Universidade Aberta, within the scope of the budget FCT UIDB/04372/ 2020 and FCT UIDP/04372/2020

11. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

Grant holders receive a monthly maintenance allowance in accordance with the table in Annex I of the Research Grants Regulation, which in 2022 corresponds to €1144.64.

The scholarship holder will benefit from personal accident insurance in relation to research activities, supported by LEAD, Universidade Aberta.

Scholarship holders who are not covered by any social protection scheme can ensure the exercise of the right to social security by joining the voluntary social insurance scheme, ensuring the Distance Education and eLearning LEAD Laboratory, Universidade Aberta resulting from contributions under the terms and within the limits set out in article 10 of the EBI.

The payments of the components referring to registrations/enrollments/tuition fees of the doctoral program where the scholarship holder is enrolled, are supported by the Distance Education and eLearning Laboratory (LE@D), Universidade Aberta and they are reimbursed to the scholarship holder after delivery of proof of payment thereof.

12. PAYMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

Payments due to the grantee are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the grantee. Payments for the components referring to registrations/enrollments/tuition fees of the doctoral program where the grantee is enrolled, are supported by the Distance Education and eLearning

Laboratory (LE@D), Universidade Aberta and reimbursed to the grantee by bank transfer after delivery of proof of payment of the same by the grantee

13. SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The renewal of the grant always depends on a request submitted by the grantee, within 60 working days prior to the start date of the renewal, accompanied by the following documents:

- a) opinions issued by the supervisor/s and the host entity/ies on the monitoring of the scholarship holder's work and the evaluation of his/her activities.
- b) updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime.
- c) document proving the renewal of enrollment in the cycle of studies leading to the doctorate degree.

The renewal of the monthly maintenance allowance payment, up to the maximum period indicated in point 2 of this Notice, also depends on the budget available within the scope of the Distance Education and e-learning Laboratory LE@D, Universidade Aberta within the scope of of the budget FCT UIDB/04372/2020 and FCT UIDP/04372/2020.

14. INFORMATION AND ADVERTISING OF THE FUNDING GRANTED

In all R&D activities directly or indirectly financed by the grant, namely, in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided for in the grant, mention must be made of financial support from FCT and LE@ D under the budget FCT UIDB/04372/2020 and FCT UIDP/04372/2020

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

15. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

LE@D, as a research unit funded by the FCT, promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, in particular, to of ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or racial origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

16. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The Contest is governed by this Opening Notice, by the FCT Research Grants Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 40/2004, of August 18, in the current wording, and by other applicable national and community legislation