CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A RESEARCH GRANT FOR A BACHELOR'S DEGREE HOLDER

Reference PRBI/34/2026

Applications are open for the award of one Research Grant for a Bachelor's Degree Holder (Bolsa de Investigação para Licenciado) within the project "HUMYK - Autonomous Community Composter", operation code CENTRO2030-FEDER-01180100, of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, funded by PT 2030 through the SIID Programme – Business R&D - Co-promotion Operations - Other Territories (Call Mr-2023-7), under the following conditions:

The purpose of the grant is to implement and develop the following activities:

1) Tests to validate the prototype at pilot scale, including:
    a. Installation of prototypes
    b. Tests to validate the prototype
    c. Life cycle assessment
    d. Cost-benefit analysis
    e. Preparation of a technical datasheet + user manual for the prototype
2) Dissemination, promotion and exploitation of the results;
3) Participation in project management and monitoring;
4) Other activities to be carried out within the project.

General scientific area: Electrical Engineering or related field.

Specific scientific area: Electrical Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, or Computer Science and Engineering.

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering or a related field, and enrolment in a Master's programme in Electrical Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, or a related field.

- Candidates holding a higher education degree obtained abroad must have that degree recognised in Portugal, where applicable;

- Skills in microcontroller programming, energy consumption analysis, and development of IoT applications, mobile applications and services.

Work plan:

Within the planned project activities, the following tasks will be carried out:

1. Research support, monitoring of the state of the art and preparation of technical documentation;
2. Installation of prototypes;
3. Support for prototype validation tests;
4. Support for life cycle assessment and cost-benefit analysis;
5. Support in preparing the technical datasheet + user manual for the prototype;
6. Participation in the publication of scientific papers;
7. Support for the validation and verification of results;
8. Other development tasks identified as necessary within the project.

Grant period:

The grant lasts 12 months, possibly renewable, on an exclusive-dedication basis, in accordance with the Research Grant Regulations of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT) in force, with an expected start date of 01.01.2027.

Monthly Maintenance Allowance:

€1,090.98, in accordance with the FCT, I.P. table of amounts for research grants in Portugal (www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores), paid monthly by bank transfer.

In addition, the grant covers voluntary social security contributions at the first bracket, should the grant holder choose to enrol, as well as personal accident insurance.

Workplace:

The work will be carried out at the Coimbra Institute of Engineering (ISEC) of UPCoimbra, under the scientific supervision of Professors Fernanda de Madureira Coutinho, Jorge Miguel Sousa Barreiros and Marco José Silva.

Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

a) Curriculum Assessment (35%), weighted 50% on academic qualifications and 50% on the extent to which the required skills are met;

b) Interview (65%), held only with the three top-ranked candidates under criterion a).

Selection Panel:

The panel responsible for the selection process will be composed of:

Chair:

Professor Fernanda de Madureira Coutinho, PhD

Full members:

Professor Jorge Miguel Sousa Barreiros, PhD

Dr. Verónica Costa Oliveira, PhD

Professor Marco José Silva, MSc

Alternate members:

Professor Nuno Miguel Fonseca Ferreira, PhD

Professor Fátima Coelho Monteiro, PhD

Required documents:

Applications must include the following documents:

- Application form available on the internet page for this competition at https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros
- Motivation letter, in which the candidate explains their motivation for carrying out this work plan and states whether they are available to start the grant on the expected date;
- Up-to-date curriculum vitae describing the candidate's qualifications;
- Proof of the academic degree and/or diploma(s) required for this call, preferably stating the final grade and the grades obtained in each course unit. Candidates with foreign qualifications must provide proof of their foreign degree and diploma under Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16 August;
- Proof of registration and enrolment in the Master's programme;
- Proof of any other assessment parameter(s) indicated in this call;

– Other certificates and/or documents the candidate considers relevant.

Application deadline:

Applications will be accepted for 10 working days, from 13/11/2026 to 26/11/2026.

Applicants must access and register on the following website:

https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros

to submit their application, selecting the procedure for which they wish to apply.

Applications must be submitted exclusively in digital format, and all supporting documents must be provided in *Portable Document Format* (PDF), except for documents whose submission is required in other digital formats.

Applications must be completed by filling in the sections available at the above-mentioned website.

When submitting an application, if it contains any classified document disclosing trade or industrial secrets, or secrets relating to literary, artistic or scientific property, the applicant must expressly indicate such confidentiality. Failure to do so may result in the document concerned being freely accessible to any other applicant during consultation of the application file.

When submitting an application, applicants must provide only the personal data strictly necessary for the purpose, in accordance with this call for applications, and must conceal any personal data that may appear in the submitted documentation. Failure to do so may result in such data being freely accessible to any other applicant during consultation of the application file.

Applicable legislation and regulations:

The award of the research fellowship is governed by the following legal provisions:

- Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August, as amended (Statute of Scientific Research Fellows);
- Order No. 5963/2020 of 1 June, as amended (Research Fellowship Regulations of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra).
- Alternatively, the Research Scholarships Regulation of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia in force (https://www.fct.pt/wpcontent/uploads/2026/01/RBi_Republicado_2025.pdf),

The fellowship contract template, as well as the final report templates to be completed by the fellow and the scientific supervisor, are those included in the annexes to the above-mentioned Statute of Scientific Research Fellows.

Publication and Notification of Results:

The evaluation results will be announced within 90 working days from the application submission deadline, by means of an email notification sent to the applicants.

Following the announcement of the results, applicants will be notified and given the opportunity to submit their comments under the prior hearing procedure within a maximum period of 10 working days from the date of notification.

Once this period has expired, the selected applicants must declare their acceptance in writing and communicate the effective starting date of the fellowship.

Unless a valid justification is provided, failure to submit the acceptance declaration within the specified period shall be considered a waiver of the fellowship.

In the event that the selected applicant declines or withdraws from the fellowship, the next highest-ranked applicant will be notified.

For further information, please contact: *Professor* Fernanda de Madureira Coutinho, PhD, by e-mail: fermaco@isec.pt.

Coimbra, November 2026