

Doctoral program in Analysis and Mitigation of Risks in Infrastructures (InfraRisk-) Call for Applications for Individual Doctoral Scholarships

The doctoral program **InfraRisk-** (Analysis and Mitigation of Risks in Infrastructures) was selected for funding by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, IP (FCT), which will support five (5) doctoral scholarships (BD) in this 5th edition.

The doctoral program is developed in cooperation with Instituto Superior Técnico (IST)/Universidade de Lisboa (ULisboa), University of Minho (UMinho), University of Porto (UP)/Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto (FEUP), University of Aveiro (UA) and the Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil (LNEC). The five (5) BD doctoral scholarships should be equitable allocated to the five Participating Institutions (IST, UA, UM, UP, LNEC). The scholarship holder must enrol in a Civil Engineering doctoral program included at IST/ULisboa, or UP/FEUP, or UMinho or UA, no more than 60 days after the scholarship is awarded.

In the framework of this call, the Board of Studies (BoS), composed by the Program Director and one representative from each partner institutions (<http://infrarisk.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/governance/>), will be responsible for selecting the students that will receive the scholarships funded by FCT. The scholarship contracts will be signed directly with FCT.

Thus, in accordance with the Research Scholarship Holder Statute, published by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and the Regulations for Fellowships and Scholarships of FCT, the BoS of the program hereby opens this call for individual scholarship applications.

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS (BD): Five (5)

These scholarships are intended for individuals who meet the requirements set forth in Article 30, paragraph 1, of Decree Law no. 74/2006, of March 24 (republished by Decree-Law no. 115/2013 of August 7), and amended by Decree-Law no. 107/2008 of June 25, 230/2009 of September 14, Decree-Law-Lei No. 63/2016, of September 13 and Decree-Law-Lei No. 65/2018, of august 16. These scholarships are one year in duration, renewable for up to a total of four years and not of less than three consecutive months.

CANDIDATES

The basic requirement for admission in the doctoral programme is holding, at the date of the application, a nationally recognized Master's degree in civil engineering or in related areas, such as environmental engineering, mechanical engineering or architecture - granted by Schools of international prestige. Exceptionally, other candidates with a remarkable degree can be admitted.

The BoS holds the right to evaluate the equivalency processes correspondent to a substantial part of the academic degree required for the application.

The academic degrees not awarded by Portuguese Universities will only be accepted if recognize by the *Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior* or a Portuguese Public Higher Education Institution, according to the requirements set by the applicable laws concerning the recognition of qualifications obtained abroad, namely in Decree-Law No. 341/2007, of October 12, and Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16.

Candidates who have already held, for the same purpose, scholarships of the same type of those of this call are not eligible, if those scholarships have been funded directly by FCT.

In addition, the minimum grade of the candidates in the degrees mentioned above is “B-“ in the ECTS grading scale (corresponding to a score of at least 70%), or an equivalent grade in the national scale of the candidates. If requested, candidates must demonstrate that their degree is equivalent to the degree required for the application, and provide official recognition documents translated/written in English. Since English is the official language of the doctoral program, a minimum fluency in English communication is required. Students from non-English speaking countries are required to have one of the following certificates: TOEFL certificate paper based (minimum score 500), TOEFL certificate internet based (minimum score 61), IELTS certificate (academic version, minimum score 6.0) or other recognized English language certificate.

The candidates must agree to enrol in the Doctoral Programme and remain engaged in the programme for a minimum period of 3 years.

The following individuals may apply to this program:

- Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states;
- Citizens of other countries who hold permanent residence permits in Portugal or who hold the status of long-term resident, under the terms of Law 23/2007 of July 4, amended by Law no. 29/2012 of August 9;
- Citizens of other countries with whom Portugal holds reciprocity agreements;
- Citizens of other countries, through a preliminary personal interview.

PERIOD OF APPLICATIONS

The call is open between March 8 and April 5, 2019 at 17:00 GMT.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are submitted through the IST doctoral program online platform. For detailed information please visit <http://infrarisk.tecnico.ulisboa.pt>. The application must include the following components:

- application form (available at <http://infrarisk.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/applications/>);
- copy of ID document / passport and tax card (if applicable);
- general curriculum vitae. It is mandatory to use the model available at <http://infrarisk.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/applications/>;
- academic curriculum vitae – certified transcripts showing all academic degrees awarded, with final grade;
- the official certificate of the university degree(s) (if applicable, in English);
- statement of purpose, describing the interest of the candidate in the domains of the PhD programme, personal aims and research topics of interest;
- reference letters – the contact details (name, institution and e-mail) of at least two references should be supplied.

Candidates who have not yet obtained their formal English language certificate by the closing date of the call will be eligible provided they declare, in the letter of motivation, that an English degree certificate will be provided until July 26, 2019. If this condition is not fulfilled (i.e. provision of the certificate with the corresponding required classification), the scholarship will not be awarded.

EVALUATION

The evaluation of proposals is carried out in two phases, by assessing the merit of each candidate and producing a ranked list of candidates.

First phase – The BoS will analyse and evaluate the applications, and the candidates selection will be based on an objective evaluation of the following specific criteria and weights:

- academic achievements (final classification and main area of the previous degree(s), as well as the school in which it(they) was(were) or will be obtained; preference will be given to candidates with a Civil Engineering background) – 50%;
- relevant scientific activities (e.g. authorship of journal and conference papers, patents, among others) – 20%;
- relevant professional experience (related with the programme's scope) – 15%;
- motivation (based on the interview, statement of purpose and reference letters) – 15%.

Second phase – The highest 10 ranked candidates in the first phase will be individually interviewed by the BoS (live or via video conferencing) in order to assess their knowledge, specific technical skills, motivation and communication skills in English and thereby defining the final ranking.

The number of selected candidates may be less than the number of scholarships available, depending on their overall merit.

THESIS SUBJECT

After evaluation of the candidates, students selected will choose their thesis subject and supervisor from a list provided by the BoS according to the ranked list of candidates.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the selection process will be communicated via email to all candidates, and the list of approved applicants will be available at <http://infrarisk.tecnico.ulisboa.pt>. In the case of an unfavourable award decision (i.e. for applicants not selected to receive scholarships), the applicant has a period of 10 days after disclosure, to be heard by the BoS, by request of a preliminary hearing, pursuant to the *Portuguese Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. The final decision may be appealed to the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia I.P., within 15 days after the respective notification.

FINANCING

The scholarships awarded under this contract will be financed by funds from the State Budget of the MCTES (Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education/FCT) and, when eligible, by funds from the European Social Fund through the Operating Programs of the period 2014-2020, the Portugal 2020, in particular, the Operating thematic Programme of Human Capital, Operating Programme of North Region, Centre and Alentejo in accordance with the provisions of the Specific Regulation.

Any case not addressed in the present call is covered by the Regulations for Research Scholarships of FCT, available at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento2012.phtml.en>.

Board of Studies of the doctoral program **InfraRisk**-, February 14, 2019