

PUBLIC NOTICE/0042/2026

OPENING NOTICE OF A PHD STUDENTSHIP - Reference: FCH-T4EU-2026

The Rector of Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Prof. Dr. Isabel Capelo Gil, hereby announces the opening of a call for applications for two (2) PhD Studentships, designated as a Research Fellowship for PhD Student, in the area of Communication Studies, under the terms of FCT's Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The studentships will be funded by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol for Funding of the Pluriannual Program of Research Fellowships for PhD Students, signed between FCT and Universidade Católica Portuguesa as part of the Transform4Europe alliance.

1. APPLICATION

The call is open between 07/05/2026 and 27/05/2026 until 23:59 (Lisbon time).

The applications and the supporting documents as specified in the Opening Call must be submitted by e-mail to direcaofch@ucp.pt.

Each candidate is allowed to submit one application, under the penalty of cancelling all the submitted applications.

The provision of false statements or acts of plagiarism by candidates shall constitute grounds for the cancellation of their application, without prejudice to the imposition of other disciplinary measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF STUDENTSHIPS

The research fellowships for PhD students are intended to fund the research activities undertaken by the grant holder in order to obtain a PhD at Portuguese universities, namely the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

The research activities leading to a PhD degree will take place at Research Centre for Communication and Culture (CECC), which will act as the host institution for the grant holders, although the research may be carried out in collaboration with more than one institution, particularly within the framework of the Transform4Europe alliance.

The research activities leading to a PhD degree to the selected studentship holders must be in line with the research centre's work plan and strategy, and must be carried out within the framework of the following PhD programmes:

- Doctoral Programme in **Communication Studies**, Faculty of Human Sciences (FCH)/ Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

The work plan may be developed entirely or partially in a national institution (studentship in Portugal or both in Portugal and abroad, respectively).

Studentships are generally awarded on an annual basis and are renewable for up to a maximum of four years (48 months); however, a studentship may not be awarded for a period of less than three consecutive months.

Regarding the studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad, the work plan taking place in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

3. STUDENTSHIP RECIPIENTS

PhD studentships are aimed at applicants that are enrolled or that comply with the requirements to enroll in a PhD program to obtain a doctoral degree from the list in section 2 of the call, and who intend to develop research activities leading to such degree at Research Centre for Communication and Culture (CECC), or in the associated host institutions.

4. ADMISSIBILITY

4.1. Applicant's admissibility requirements

The following individuals may apply to this call:

- Portuguese citizens or citizens from other member-states of the European Union.
- Citizens from third-party states.
- Stateless individuals.
- Citizens holding a political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD studentship, it is mandatory:

- To live in Portugal permanently or habitually at the time of the beginning of the work plan abroad, if the proposed work plan includes a period at a foreign institution (studentship carried out both in Portugal and abroad). This requirement applies to both applicants with Portuguese and foreign citizenship.
- Not to have benefited from any PhD studentship or PhD in Industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not to hold a doctoral degree.
- Hold a master's degree in the scientific field of Communication Studies or related fields.

4.2. Application admissibility requirements

The application and all its elements must be presented either in Portuguese or in English.

It is essential to submit the following documents along with the application, under the penalty of not being eligible to be admitted:

- Elements of the identification card/ citizen's card/passport.
- Curriculum vitae.
- Registration of recognition of the academic degree awarded by a foreign higher education institution, preferably with the registration of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale to guarantee eligibility in this call for

application or, in alternatively, a declaration of honour from the candidate about how they have obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to the bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application period.

- Copy of the certificate(s) of qualifications conferring academic degree in the terms requested in the notice, which contain the final classifications obtained in all the subjects or, alternatively, a declaration of honour from the candidate in which they have concluded the bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application period.
- Letter of motivation, in English.
- Research proposal and work plan (maximum 20.000 characters, no spaces/4000 words), in English.
- Recommendation Letter.

Regarding the admissibility requirements above, it is noted that:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to ensure that the principle of equal treatment is applied to candidates holding both foreign and national academic qualifications, it is mandatory for such qualifications to be recognised and for the corresponding final grade to be converted to the Portuguese grading scale.
- The recognition of foreign academic qualifications and diplomas, as well as the conversion of final grades to the Portuguese grading scale, may be requested at any public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, in the case of automatic recognition only). For further information on this matter, please consult the DGES website at the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.
- Only candidates who have completed the course of study leading to a bachelor's or master's degree by the end of the application deadline will be considered. If they do not yet hold a certificate of completion, a sworn statement from the candidates confirming that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the competition by the end of the application deadline will be accepted. The award of the studentship is subject to the submission, at the time of contract signing, of proof of academic qualifications.

5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION FOR STUDENTSHIPS

Selected candidates will write doctoral dissertations in the field of journalism studies with the aim of contributing to knowledge on the topic of "Journalism in Transition." In addition to their doctoral research, they will be expected to participate in the organization of academic events at the Center for Communication and Culture Studies (host institution). The work plan includes further training at Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), in accordance with the FCT Research Fellowship Regulations (RBI).

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUSES

6.1. Evaluation Criteria

The candidates' final classification shall be presented on a scale of 0 to 100.

The following criteria will be considered:

- A. Candidate's Merit 40%
 - A1. Previous academic degrees, weighted at 25%
 - A2. Professional and research experience, weighted at 15%
- B. Merit of the Research Proposal, weighted at 50%
- C. Motivation for enrolling in the doctoral program and conducting research in the field of Journalism Studies, weighted at 10%

For the purpose of deciding on the award of studentships, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the scores obtained in each of the criteria, calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Final Classification: } (0,25 \times A1) + (0,15 \times A2) + (0,5 \times B) + (0,1 \times C)$$

For the purposes of a tiebreaker, candidates will be ranked based on the scores assigned to each evaluation criterion in the following order of priority: criterion B, sub-criterion A1, sub-criterion A2, criterion C.

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

Applicants with degrees issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated using the same criteria as applicants with degrees issued by Portuguese institutions, provided they submit, as part of their application, proof of recognition of their academic degrees and of the conversion of their final grade to the Portuguese grading scale in accordance with applicable legislation.

Candidates with recognized foreign degrees who do not submit proof of the conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale will be evaluated with the minimum score (50 points) for criterion (A1).

In any case, studentship contracts with candidates holding degrees issued by foreign institutions will only be entered into upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final grade, as indicated above.

Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final grade of less than (50) points are not eligible for a studentship.

The jury reserves the right not to select any candidate if it considers that none of the candidates has the required profile.

The candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions may apply and will be evaluated with the same criteria as the candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, provided that they submit on their application proof of recognition of the academic degrees and the conversion of final grades to the Portuguese grading scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.

7. EVALUATION

The evaluation panel is composed of the following members:

President: Prof. Dr. Nelson Costa Ribeiro; Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Full Members: Prof. Dr. Catarina Duff Burnay; Universidade Católica Portuguesa; Prof. Dr. Ioli Campos; Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Prof. Dr. Aukse Balčytienė; Vytautas Magnus University (VMU)

Substitutes: Prof. Dr. Catarina Valdigem; Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Prof. Dr. Manuel Coutinho; Universidade Católica Portuguesa

The evaluation panel will review the applications according to the evaluation criteria as presented in the call.

All members of the panel, including the coordinator, will adhere to a set of responsibilities that are essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest, and confidentiality. At all stages of the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions issued.

For each application, the panel shall produce a final evaluation report setting out, in a clear, coherent and consistent manner, the reasons behind the scores awarded for each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria.

Minutes of the evaluation panel's meeting shall be drawn up under the responsibility of all its members. The minutes and their annexes must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel.
- Identification of all excluded applications and the reasons for each exclusion, where applicable.
- Methodology adopted by the panel for cases considered to be special, where applicable.
- Final Evaluation Forms for each candidate.
- Provisional list of the ranking and order of candidates, in descending order of final score, of all applications assessed by the panel.
- Conflict of Interest declarations from all members of the panel.
- Any delegations of vote and powers due to justified absence, where applicable.
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8. RESULTS DISCLOSURE

The evaluation results will be disclosed via e-mail to the address presented by the candidate on their application.

9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRELIMINARY HEARING, CLAIMS AND APPEALS

Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants may use their right to dispute it during the preliminary hearing phase, which takes place within 10 working days, according to Articles no. 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code. The final decision will be disclosed after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. A claim may be filed against the final decision within 15 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 working days, both counting from the date of the respective notification. Candidates who choose to file a complaint should address it to the member of the FCT Executive Board with delegated authority. Candidates who choose to file an appeal should address it to the FCT Executive Board.

10. STUDENTSHIP AWARD REQUIREMENTS

Research scholarship contracts are directly entered into with the FCT.

The following documents must be submitted, upon the eventual granting of the scholarship, for the purpose of contractualization:

- a) Copy of identification documents, including civil, tax, and, when applicable, social security documents.
- b) Copies of academic degree certificates held.
- c) Presentation of the recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of their final grades to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable.
- d) Work plan.
- e) Document proving enrollment in and registration for the identified Doctoral Program in this Call.
- f) Declaration from the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Fellow Statute (declaration template provided by the FCT).
- g) Document proving the candidate's acceptance by the institution where the research activities will take place, ensuring the necessary conditions for its successful development, as well as compliance with the duties set forth in Article 13 of the Research Fellow Statute (declaration template provided by the FCT).
- h) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (declaration template provided by the FCT).

The granting of the studentship is also subject to:

- Compliance with the requirements set forth in this Opening Notice.
- The result of the scientific evaluation.

- The absence of unjustified non-compliance with the fellow's duties under a previous scholarship contract funded, directly or indirectly, by the FCT.
- The budget availability of the FCT.

Failure to submit any of the necessary documents to complete the scholarship contractualization process within 6 months from the date of communication of the conditional granting decision of the scholarship will result in the expiration of the aforementioned grant and the closure of the process.

11. FUNDING

The payment of studentships will commence after the candidates return the duly signed studentship contract, which must be done within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date of its receipt.

The studentships awarded under this competition will be funded by the FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, to be made available under the Programa Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão (PDQI), in accordance with the regulations established for this purpose.

12. STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS

Fellows are granted a monthly maintenance allowance in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The studentship may also include other components, under the terms set out in Article 18 of the RBI and for the amounts set out in its Annex II.

All fellows are covered by personal accident insurance for research activities, funded by the FCT. All fellows who are not covered by any social protection scheme can ensure the exercise of their social security rights by joining the voluntary social security scheme, in accordance with the Code of Contributory Regimes of the Social Security Previdencial System, with the FCT bearing the costs resulting from the contributions, under the terms and within the limits provided for in Article 10 of the EBI.

13. PAYMENT OF STUDENTSHIP COMPONENTS

Payments due to the fellow are made by bank transfer to the account identified by the fellow. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first working day of each month.

Payments for registration, enrollment, or tuition fees are made by FCT directly to the institution where the fellow is enrolled or registered in the doctoral program.

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR STUDENTSHIP RENEWAL

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

- a) Opinions issued by the supervisor(s) and the hosting entity(ies) regarding the supervision of the fellow's work and the evaluation of their activities.
- b) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime.
- c) Document proving the renewal of enrollment in the doctoral degree program.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

All research and development activities directly or indirectly funded by the grant, namely all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided by the grant, must mention the financial support of the FCT and the European Social Fund, namely through the Programa Demografia, Qualificações e Inclusão (PDQI).

For this purpose, the insignia of FCT, the MCTES, the ESF and the EU must be inscribed on the documents relating to these actions, in accordance with the graphic standards of the community support program.

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

For all grants, and in particular in the case of actions supported by community funding, notably from the ESF, monitoring and control measures may be carried out by national and EU bodies in accordance with the relevant legislation, and grant recipients are obliged to cooperate and provide the requested information, which includes participating in surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even after the grant has ended.

16. POLICY ON NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, and no candidate can be privileged, favored, disadvantaged, or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty based on, among other factors, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or racial origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, and union membership

17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The competition is governed by this Opening Notice, the FCT Research Fellowships Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in Series II of the Official Gazette on December 16, 2019, in its current version; the Research Fellow Statute approved by Law No. 40/2004, of August 18, in its current version, and other applicable national and community legislation

18. CONTACTS FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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CADOS – Católica Doctoral School

cados@ucp.pt

Lisbon, May 5, 2026

The Rector

