

The composition of the Evaluation Committee for the award of Merit Scholarships to Students of the 3rd Cycle of the Doctorate in Information Science and Technology has been changed. Professor Abílio Gaspar de Oliveira and Américo Manuel Carapeto Correia will replace Professors Catarina Ferreira da Silva and Octavian Postolache, who have asked to be excused from participating in the selection process.

The grant renewal referred in article 10 of Regulation no. 742/2022 will continue to be subject of evaluation by the Evaluation Committee initially appointed and composed by Professors Adolfo Cartaxo, Bráulio Alturas, Catarina Ferreira da Silva and Octavian Postolache.

Iscte, 13th September 2024

Notice of the Opening of the Period for the Acceptance of Expressions of Interest for the Award of Merit Scholarships to Students of the 3rd Cycle of the Doctorate in Information Science and Technology of the School of Technology and Architecture, of Iscte-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa 2024/2025

Under the terms of the Regulation on Merit Scholarships for 3rd Cycle Students at Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon, Regulation n.º. 742/2022, published in Diário da República, 2nd serie, n.º. 149 of August the 3rd 2022, Iscte's School of Technology and Architecture hereby announces that it will begin the process of funding two (2) merit scholarships for PhD Students in Information Science and Technology (CTI). The scholarships grants are intended to support the development of research work leading to the attainment of a doctoral degree, in order to develop scientific and pedagogical skills of the doctoral students. The renewal of the scholarship is subject to evaluation by the Evaluation Committee and the School's budget availability.

I. RECIPIENTS AND ELIGIBILITY CONDITIONS

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1. Merit scholarships may be awarded to national and foreign students enrolled and registered for the first time in the 1st year of the doctoral programme in (CTI), on a full-time, exclusive-dedication basis.
2. Applicants are admitted to the competition for a merit scholarship if they have obtained a mark of fifteen (15.0/20) or more, in at least one of their academic degrees (Bachelor's or Master's) and have obtained a mark of fifteen (15.0/20) or more, in the assessment of their application for a doctorate.
3. The merit scholarship cannot be combined with other scholarships.
4. The award of the merit scholarship is incompatible with the exercise of a dependent or independent labour activity.

II. FINANCING

1. The merit scholarship is awarded annually, per academic year, and may be renewed for a maximum of up to three years after enrolment in the first year of the programme, or for the maximum number of years corresponding to the duration of the respective doctoral programme. The scholarship is awarded in the form of a monthly subsidy, paid per bank transfer, under the conditions described in the terms of acceptance to be signed by scholarship holder (scholarship contract), which does not give rise to, or constitute, a subordinate employment relationship, or service contract. The scholarship contract describes the scientific and pedagogical activities to be carried out.
2. The monthly value of the merit scholarship (12 months) is €1,199.64, plus the 1st tier of voluntary social insurance if the applicant opts to enroll in it, personal accident insurance and discharge from paying tuition fees. Food, holiday, Christmas, or any other allowances not expressly mentioned in the Iscte Merit Scholarship Regulations are not payable in any case.

III. SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

The maximum number of merit scholarships to be awarded is two.

IV. APPLICATION DEADLINES AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. Interested students must submit the following documentation on the <https://recrutamento.iscte-iul.pt/jobs> platform, by 31 August 2024:
 - a. Application form, available at <https://recrutamento.iscte-iul.pt/jobs>;
 - b. Motivation letter;

- c. A pre-project proposal for doctoral research, including a development and implementation plan, explaining objectives and motivation (up to a maximum of 1500 words).
2. The Evaluation Committee may also request the submission of any additional documents, as well as any clarifications deemed necessary for assessing the expressions of interest.
3. Each applicant may only submit one expression of interest, failing which all submitted expressions of interest will be cancelled.
4. Applicants must respond to each of the assessment criteria in their submission.
5. The results of the evaluation will be made available to interested parties by email, to the address they provided in the expression of interest process, by 20 September 2024.
6. If the decision is unfavourable to the award of the scholarship, the interested parties have a period of 10 working days in which to give their opinion, if they so wish, at a hearing of interested parties, under the terms of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. The evaluation will be based on a scale of 0 to 20 points, and those who obtain a final classification of less than 15.0 points will not be considered eligible for a grant.
2. Assessment is based on the following criteria and weights:
 - a. **Merit of the interested party**, (Annex A): 40%.
 - b. **Merit of the research pre-project**, (Annex B): 40%
 - c. **Merit of the project's fit with the guidance team and host research group** (20%).
3. For the purposes of a subsequent decision on the award of scholarships, the interested parties will be ranked according to the weighted average of the final classification based on the criteria defined in the previous point.

VII. DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE

1. Within five working days of being notified of the grant, the student must declare their acceptance of the grant, under the conditions proposed.
2. Failure to declare will result in the interested party being excluded.

VIII. RENEWAL

1. The scholarship may be renewed for up to three years after enrolment in the first year of the programme, or for the maximum number of years corresponding to the duration of the respective doctoral programme, depending on the evaluation of the Evaluation Committee and the School's budget availability.
2. The scholarship holder must submit a request for renewal to the Evaluation Committee no later than 60 days before the start of the new scholarship period.
3. Renewal of the scholarship requires:
 - a. Approval in all curricular units of the programme for the year in question;
 - b. Approval of the thesis project in the respective curricular year of the course and of the successive progress reports, if this is a condition for transitioning years in the programme;
 - c. It is also compulsory, at the end of the 2nd and 3rd years, for the supervisor to deliver an opinion on the monitoring of the grant holder's work and the evaluation of their activities. The assessment issued by the supervisor includes, in particular, a forecast of whether the grant holder has fulfilled the agreed research project and whether the grant should be renewed.
4. Each renewal request will be evaluated by the respective Evaluation Committee in post at the time of renewal.

IX. EVALUATION COMMISSION

The Evaluation Committee is made up of Professors Adolfo Cartaxo, Bráulio Alturas, Catarina Ferreira da Silva and Octavian Postolache.

X. MENTION OF SUPPORT AND DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

In all scientific publications resulting from the doctoral course, it is mandatory to expressly mention Iscte and the research centre where the scholarship holder is integrated during and after the end of the scholarship.

XI. CHANGE OF RESEARCH PROJECT, SUPERVISOR OR HOST ORGANISATION

The scholarship holder may not substantially alter the objectives set out in the proposed research project, nor the host unit, without the consent of the supervisor and the Scientific Committee of the Doctoral Programme.

XII. REPORT

1. Each academic year, the scholarship holder must submit a report on his/her activities to the respective directorate of the doctoral programme and to the Evaluation Committee, containing at least the following points: (a) the development of the project in the areas referred to in Annex B; (b) scientific publications and creations; (c) communications at conferences, workshops and other events, indicating the URL addresses of the communications; (d) the supervisor's opinion on the success of the research project.
2. Failure to comply with the above, due to a fact attributable to the scholarship holder, implies non-fulfilment of the objectives, under the terms set out in art. 15º of the Iscte 3rd Cycle Student Merit Scholarship Regulations.

ANNEX A

Merit of the interested party: the documentary analysis of the CV, weighted at 40%, takes into account the following sub-criteria:

Sub-criterion A1 - Academic Background, reflects the classifications of academic degrees, contributing 50% to the merit of the applicant;

Sub-criterion A2 - Personal CV, reflects the scientific, professional and academic career, where applicable, contributing 40% to the merit of the applicant;

Sub-criterion A3 - Suitability of the applicant's CV for the project, weighted at 10% of the applicant's merit.

The classification of criterion A, **Merit of the interested party,** will be obtained by applying the following formula: $Critéri\grave{a}o\ A = (A1 \times 0.5) + (A2 \times 0.4) + (A3 \times 0.1)$

The score for **sub-criterion A1 - Academic Background** is calculated based on the final marks on the degree certificates presented by the applicant (Bachelor's + Master's/Integrated Master's, or just Bachelor's, or just Master's), according to Table 1.

Table 1. Reference table for defining the sub-criterion A1 - Academic Background

Bachelor's degree + Master's degree (pre- or post-Bologna) or	Degree (pre- or post-Bologna)	Master's degree (pre- or post-Bologna)
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Integrated Master's degree					
Classification	Score A1	Classification	Score A1	Classification	Score A1
≥ 18	20	≥ 17	14	≥ 17	12
17	18	16	12	16	10
16	16	15	10	15	8
15	14	14	8	14	6
14	12	13	6	< 14	4
13	10	<13	4		
<13	8				

For the purposes of applying Table 1, if the applicant has completed more than one course, the classification is obtained from the weighted average of the classifications of each course (in the case of more than one Master's degree, the one most suited to the work plan should be chosen) by the respective number of ECTS, according to:

$$\text{Classificação} = \frac{\sum n^{\circ} \text{ de ECTS} \times \text{Base Classification}}{\sum n^{\circ} \text{ de ECTS}}$$

Sub-criterion A2 - Personal CV

When evaluating Sub-criterion A2 - Personal Curriculum, the assessors must analyse and weigh up the applicant's curriculum in an integrated manner, starting from a global vision of the merit of their **academic, scientific and professional background**. This sub-criterion has two components: the scientific background and the professional and academic background. **The maximum for sub-criterion A2 is 20 points.**

In the scientific background, the scientific production of the interested party is evaluated. Only articles that have already been published/submitted or accepted and available in electronic format and that are relevant to the proposed work plan will be considered. The score to be awarded for each publication (p.u. = per unit) is as follows:

- 1st author of article in international scientific journal 1^o Q = 5 p.u.
- 2nd or 3rd author of an article in an international scientific journal 1^o Q = 1.5 p.u.
- 1st author of article in international scientific journal NOT 1^o Q = 2 p.u.
- 2nd or 3rd author of article in international scientific journal NOT 1^o Q = 1 p.u.

e. 1st author of a paper at an international conference = 1 p.u.

f. Author of article in any other situation = 0.5 p.u.

The scientific background is limited to a maximum of 20 points.

In terms of professional and academic background, only relevant professional activity should be considered (the duration and value of this activity should be assessed) in relation to the area of the work plan and only academic results not considered in A.1 should be taken into account, provided that the qualification certificates are attached to the expression of interest. *The professional and academic career is limited to a maximum of 5 points.*

Sub-criterion A3 - Suitability of the applicant's CV for the project

When assessing Sub-criterion A3 - **Suitability of the applicant's CV for the project**, the evaluators must analyse the suitability of the CV of the interested party to the project they intend to develop, with a maximum of 20 points.

ANNEX B

The Merit of the pre-project for research, criterion B, with a weighting of 40 per cent, assesses the work plan and its feasibility. Its score will be the result of a mark calculated from a weighted average of the score obtained in each of the metric sub-criteria identified in table 2, using the weights presented in the same table.

Table 2. Notes on the work plan and its feasibility

Weighting	Criteria	Score
10%	Clarity and purpose of the project	1.0 a 20.0
10%	State-of-the-art quality	
10%	Innovation potential	
20%	Work programme	
20%	Methodology and its suitability	
10%	Timeline and risks underlying the work plan	
10%	Appropriateness of the project for the doctoral programme	
10%	Publications and scientific creations to be produced	

ANNEX C

The merit of the project's fit with the mentoring team and host research group, criterion C: the merit of the guidance team and host research group is assessed. Its score will result from a weighted average of the score obtained in each of the metric sub-criteria identified in table 3, using the weights presented in the same table.

Table 3. Notes from the guidance team and the host research group

Weighting	Criteria	Score
60%	Scientific framework of the project with the guidance team	1.0 a 20.0
40%	Scientific fit of the project with the conditions of the host research group	