

Call for Applications for PhD Research Grants

Margarida Losa Comparative Literature Institute (ILCML-FLUP) hereby opens this Call for Applications for 2 (two) research grants (national or blended scholarships), hereinafter called PhD Research Grants, in the field of Literary Studies (Scholarship 1); and in the field of Literary Studies, specifically in the research areas of the strand Inter/Transculturalities (Scholarship 2), in compliance with the provisions of the FCT Regulations for Research Grants and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI).

The scholarships will be financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (*Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia*) (FCT) under the Collaboration Agreement of the Multiannual Financing Plan for Doctoral Research Grants, signed between FCT and the R&D Research Unit Institute for Comparative Literatures, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto (R&D Unit No. 500).

1. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

The Call for Applications is open from **August 1 until September 16 (11h59 pm, local time)**.

Applications and all the supporting documents described in this Call must be submitted at https://sigarra.up.pt/flup/pt/CNT_CAND_GERAL.CONCURSOS_LIST

Each applicant can only submit one application, under penalty of cancellation of all the applications submitted.

Please note that false declarations or acts of plagiarism from the applicants will lead to the exclusion of the application notwithstanding the need to take other corrective or punitive disciplinary measures.

2. TYPE AND DURATION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The PhD scholarships are intended to finance research activities carried out by the doctoral candidate that will lead to the attainment of the academic degree of doctor in Portuguese Universities.

The research activities leading to the attainment of the academic degree of doctor will take place at the Margarida Losa Comparative Literature Institute (ILCML – FLUP), which will be the candidates' host institution, notwithstanding that the research work may be carried out in collaboration with more than one institution.

The research activities leading to the attainment of the academic degree of doctor of the selected applicants must be framed within the strategic plan and activities of the Margarida Losa Comparative Literature Institute (ILCML – FLUP) and must be carried out within the 3rd Cycle of Studies in Literary, Cultural and Interart Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto. (https://sigarra.up.pt/flup/pt/cur_geral.cur_view?pv_curso_id=1881&pv_origem=CAND).

The work programme may be entirely or partially carried out in a national institution (national or blended scholarships, respectively).

As a rule, PhD scholarships are annual, renewable for up to the maximum of four years (48 months), and cannot be granted for a period less than three consecutive months.

3. RECIPIENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

PhD scholarships are intended for candidates who are enrolled or who comply with the requirements to enrol in the 3rd Cycle of Studies in Literary, Cultural and Interart Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, who wish to carry

out research activities as part of this degree in the Margarida Losa Comparative Literature Institute (ILCML – FLUP) Research Unit, or at other associated host institutions.

4. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

4.1 Admission requirements for applicants

The following candidates may apply to this Call:

- National (Portuguese) citizens or citizens from other member states of the European Union;
- Third-country nationals;
- Stateless individuals;
- Citizens with political refugee status.

To apply for a PhD scholarship, applicants must comply with the following requirements:

- Hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree or legally equivalent qualification in the field of Literary Studies or Cultural Studies or Interart Studies or in similar fields considered valid for access to the 3rd Cycle of Studies in Literary, Cultural and Interart Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto.
- Have permanent and regular residence in Portugal at the beginning of the work plan abroad, in cases in which the work plan includes a research period at foreign institutions (blended scholarships); this requirement is applicable to both national and foreign citizens.
- Not have previously benefited from a PhD scholarship or a PhD in Industry scholarship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration.
- Not hold a prior doctoral degree.

4.2 Application requirements

The following documents are mandatory, under penalty of exclusion from the Call:

- Data from ID card / Citizen's card / Passport;
- Candidate's Curriculum Vitae, also available at CiênciaVitae;
- Certificates of all the academic degrees obtained, with the final average grade and, if possible, the grades achieved in all the subjects taken. Alternatively, the candidate can provide a declaration of honour that their Bachelor's or Master's degree will be concluded by the end of the application deadline;
- Registration of recognition of the academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the conversion of the respective final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale. Alternatively, the candidate can provide a declaration of honour that the Bachelor's or Master's degree will be concluded by the end of the application deadline;
- Motivation letter;
- Recommendation letters (two);

- Provisional research plan (maximum: 12,000 characters with spaces, excluding the bibliography), in which the candidate explains, in a reasoned manner: the domain in which he/she intends to develop the research for his/her doctoral thesis, according to one of the following research areas at the R&D Unit: “Literary Studies” (scholarship 1) and “Literary Studies, specifically in the research areas of the strand Inter/Transculturalities” (scholarship 2); the theoretical framework of the issues that he/she would like to develop within the scope of his/her doctoral thesis; the identification, explanation and justification of the main work methodologies that the candidate intends to develop in his/her research leading to the doctoral thesis.
- To prepare and submit the application and all required documents, including motivation and recommendation letters, in Portuguese or in English.

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

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and to guarantee the principle of equal treatment among applicants with national and foreign academic degrees, the applicant must submit proof of recognition of such degrees and the conversion of the respective final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale.
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas and the conversion of the respective final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale, can be issued by a Portuguese public higher education institution, or by the Directorate-General for Higher Education (*Direção Geral do Ensino Superior*, DGES: only in the case of automatic recognition). Candidates should consult the DGES portal for more information at <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en>
- Only applicants who have completed the cycle of studies leading to a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree until the application deadline will be admitted. Applicants who have not yet received their degree certificate/diploma must submit a declaration of honour stating they will conclude the Bachelor’s or Master’s degree by the end of the application period. The scholarship will only be awarded if proof of the required academic qualifications is provided at the contracting stage.

5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The two grants will be awarded for the development of integrated activities, respectively, within the ILC research areas “Literary Studies” (Scholarship 1) and “Literary Studies, specifically in the research areas of the strand Inter/Transculturalities” (Scholarship 2).

SCHOLARSHIP 1 - "Literary Studies"

The scholarship for the development of research in the field of "Literary Studies" is aimed at a project that contributes to the problematization of issues related to the literary text in an eminently critical, theoretical or comparative dimension. Proposals that contribute to one, or more than one, of the following research areas will be of interest: studies that critically reflect on political and power relations developed in literature, culture and the arts, from the perspectives provided by the contemporary theories on gender, sex and sexualities (within the group “Intersexualities”); studies that focus on theoretical and critical instruments in the field of interartistic studies, establishing links between the verbal image and the visual image, and contributing to a better understanding of modern and contemporary poetics (within the scope of the “Intermedialities” group); studies that reflect on the literary constructions of alterity, addressing the displacement and migration of people, and investigating the ways in which literature

constructs and/or reflects critical thoughts and discourses about Europe and the globalized multilingual and multicultural world (in the context of the group "Inter/Transculturalities").

SCHOLARSHIP 2 - "Literary Studies: Inter/Transculturalities"

The scholarship for the development of research in the field "Inter/Transculturalities" is aimed at a project that proposes a study of the way in which literature enables critical thoughts and discourses on a global multilingual and multicultural world, or the way literature (together with other arts) contributes to preserve cultural heritage and to renew its imaginary, as a form of resisting uniformity, and articulating the local and the global. Understanding literature (also) as a means to question contemporary societies and considering that some of the processes causing a redefinition of cultural imaginaries are mechanisms of inter-and transcultural hybridization, projects that explore concepts such as dialogism, transculturalities, periphery, frontier, margin, inclusion (among others) will be given preference.

Candidates who are selected in this competition undertake to pursue research leading to obtaining a doctoral degree, cumulatively respecting the following conditions:

- a) integrate their research activity in the scientific activity of the Institute of Comparative Literature of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto and in the Third Cycle Course (Doctorate) in Literary, Cultural and Interartistic Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, of according to the indications received from the coordination of the Unit, the Course Direction and, from the moment they are formally appointed, also from the supervisor(s) of the doctoral thesis to be developed, respecting the applicable legal and regulatory documents;
- b) actively participate in scientific and pedagogical activities promoted by the Institute of Comparative Literature of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto and by the Third Cycle Course (Doctorate) in Literary, Cultural and Interartistic Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, collaborating with your organization;
- c) follow, after the completion of the curricular component of the Course, a work plan defined by the scholarship holder and his/her supervisor(s) and approved in the context of public presentation in the framework of the UC Course Thesis Preparation;
- d) publish, throughout the course, at least 3 peer-reviewed scientific papers;
- e) participate with communication, throughout the Course, in at least 3 scientific events with peer review.

Notes:

1 – During the curricular year of the Doctoral Course, the coordinators of the Institute of Comparative Literature of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto and the Director of the Doctoral Course will be the advisors for the selected scholarship holders; the attribution of a permanent advisor for the scholarship holder will only be carried out at the end of the first year, when the final distribution of doctoral students by supervisors is carried out according to the chosen topics and other criteria established by the Board and the Scientific Committee of the Doctoral Course.

2 - At the end of each year of the scholarship, the scholarship holder must submit a detailed report to the coordination of the Center and the direction of the Course, duly validated by their supervisor(s), proving that they have complied with the fixed work plan and, when applicable, duly justifying any departures from this plan.

The renewal of the scholarship will always depend on a positive evaluation of this report by the Scientific Committee of the Third Cycle Course (Doctorate) in Literary, Cultural and Interartistic Studies of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto and the Board of the Faculty's Comparative Literature Institute Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto.

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA AND BONUSES

6.1 Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation will be based on the applicant's background and merit and the provisional investigation plan.

All admitted applications will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained on a scale of 0 (zero) to 200 (two hundred) points in each of the following evaluation criteria:

- **Criterion A** – Candidate Merit, with a weight of 65% in the final overall classification of the candidacy:
 - Sub-criterion A1 - Final Bachelor classification, with a weight of 10% in the final global classification of the application (the score to be attributed in this sub-criterion will result from the candidate's graduation average multiplied by 10 (ten)), in case this average was assigned on a Portuguese quantitative scale from 0 (zero) to 20 (twenty); in the case of qualitative scales awarded by Portuguese institutions, the jury will convert them to a scale from 0 (zero) to 20 (twenty), then applying this multiplication factor; candidates who apply without a completed degree will have a score of zero points in this sub-criterion
 - Sub-criterion A2 – Final Master's Classification, with a weight of 20% in the final overall classification of the application (the score to be attributed in this sub-criterion will result from the candidate's Master's average multiplied by 10 (ten), if this average has been attributed in a Portuguese quantitative scale from 0 (zero) to 20 (twenty); in the case of qualitative scales assigned by Portuguese institutions, the jury will convert to a scale from 0 (zero) to 20 (twenty), applying then this multiplication factor; candidates who compete without a completed master's degree will have a score of zero points in this sub-criterion); In the case of holders of integrated masters, the final classification obtained will count for both Sub-Criterion A1 and Sub-Criterion A2.
 - Sub-criterion A3 – Candidate's CV, evaluated by the jury on the basis of the CV and letters of recommendation presented by the candidate and with a weight of 25% in the final overall classification of the candidacy; in this evaluation, the jury will always give a decisive weight to the CV and a lower weight to the letters of recommendation;
 - Sub-criterion A4 – Motivation of the candidate, evaluated by the jury on the basis of the CV and letters of recommendation presented by the candidate and with a weight of 10% in the final global classification of the candidacy;

- **Criterion B** – Merits of the Interim Research Plan, with a weight of 35% in the final global classification of the application:
 - Sub-criterion B1 - Quality, timeliness, relevance, adequacy and coherence of the plan in terms of the content to be dealt with, considering factors such as the integration of the research proposed in the general framework of the scientific mission of the Center and the feasibility of the proposed plan within the scope of the Center and the Course; this sub-criterion will have a weight of 25% in the overall classification of the application;

- Sub-criterion B2 – Quality of writing and formal rigor of the Plan, with a weight of 10% in the final global classification of the application.

In order to decide the granting of a PhD scholarship, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in each of the criteria and sub-criterion, according to the following formula:

$$\text{Final classification} = (0,10 \times A1) + (0,20 \times A2) + (0,25 \times A3) + (0,10 \times A4) + (0,25 \times B1) + (0,10 \times B2)$$

For tiebreaking purposes, the final ranking list will be based on the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order: sub-criterion A2, sub-criterion A3, sub-criterion B1, sub-criterion A1, sub-criterion A4, sub-criterion B2.

Important note for candidates holding a degree issued by foreign higher education institutions:

- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and to guarantee the principle of equal treatment among applicants with national and foreign academic degrees, the applicants must submit proof of recognition of such degrees and the conversion of the respective final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- Applicants with foreign academic degrees who do not submit a proof of conversion of the final average grade to the Portuguese grading scale will be evaluated with the minimum grade of 0 points in sub-criterion A1 and A2.
- In any case, scholarship contracts with applicants whose diplomas have been issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final average grade, as indicated above.

Applicants whose application is scored with a final grade lower than 160 are not eligible for scholarship award.

6.2 Bonuses

Not applicable

7. EVALUATION

The evaluation panel is composed of the following members:

Effective members:

- Professor Maria de Fátima da Costa Outeirinho, Associate Professor of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto and Scientific Coordinator of the Comparative Literature Institute – Coordinator of the Evaluation Panel;
- Professor Maria de Fátima Aires Pereira Marinho Saraiva, Director of the 3rd Cycle of Studies in Literary, cultural and Interartistic Studies, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of The University of Porto – Vice-Coordinator of the Evaluation Panel;
- Professor José Domingues de Almeida, Assistant Professor (with Habilitation), Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Full member and coordinator of the research group Inter/Transculturalities;

- Professor Pedro Jorge da Costa Eiras, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Full member and coordinator of the research group Intermedialities;
- Professor Marinela Carvalho Freitas, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Full member and coordinator of the research group InterSexualities;

Alternate members:

- Professor Ana Paula Coutinho Mendes, Associate Professor (with Habilitation), Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Full member at the Comparative Literature Institute;
- Professor Maria Luísa Malato da Rosa Borralho Ferreira da Cunha, Associate Professor (with Habilitation), Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Full member at the Comparative Literature Institute;
- Bruno Ministro, PhD Researcher, Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the University of Porto, Full member at the Comparative Literature Institute.

The evaluation panel will assess applications based on the evaluation criteria described in this Call for Applications, considering the components of evaluation.

All panel members, including the coordinator, will make a commitment to respect the responsibilities of the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflicts of interest, and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

For each application, a final evaluation form will be produced by the panel, in which the arguments that led to the scores attributed to each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria will be presented in a clear, coherent and consistent manner.

Minutes of the meetings of the evaluation panel will be taken under the responsibility of all its members.

The minutes and their attachments must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the evaluation panel;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective reasons (if applicable);
- Methodology employed by the panel for particular cases;
- Final Evaluation Sheets for each application;
- Provisional list of the scoring and ranking of the candidates, in descending order of the final grade, of all applications evaluated by the panel;
- COI statements from all members of the panel;
- Delegations of voting and decision powers by reason of justified absence, (if applicable).

8. DISCLOSURE OF THE RESULTS

Evaluation results will be communicated by email to the address provided by the candidates in the application form.

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

Once the provisional ranked list of the evaluation results has been communicated, applicants may request a preliminary hearing with the interested parties, under the terms of Articles no. 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedures (CPA).

The final decision will be announced after the analysis of applicants' arguments presented in the preliminary hearing. Following the final decision, the applicant can file a formal complaint within 15 working days or, alternatively, file an appeal within 30 working days, counting after the communication of the final results. Applicants who choose to file a complaint should address their request to the member of the FCT Board of the Directors with the delegated competence. Applicants who choose to file an appeal must address their request to the FCT Board of Directors

10. REQUIREMENTS TO AWARD THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The research scholarship contracts are signed directly with FCT.

The following documents are mandatory, upon conditional awarding of the scholarship for the purposes of contract preparation:

- a) Copy of the document(s) of personal identification, tax number and, if applicable, social security;¹
- b) Copy of the academic degree certificates held by the applicant;
- c) Recognition of the academic degrees obtained abroad and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable;
- d) Work Plan;
- e) Document proving acceptance and enrolment 3rd Cycle of Studies in Literary, Cultural and Interart Studies at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of University of Porto;
- f) Statement from the supervisor(s) declaring their acceptance to coordinate and supervise the work plan, as established in Article no. 5-A of the Statute for Research Fellowships (template will be made available by FCT);
- g) Institutional document supporting the applicant, issued by the institution where the work plan will be carried out, guaranteeing the necessary conditions to its successful development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- h) Updated document proving the exclusive dedication regime (template will be made available by FCT).

The granting of the scholarship is still dependent on:

- The fulfilment of all the requirements listed in this Call for Applications;
- The results of the scientific evaluation;
- The absence of unjustified non-compliance of the fellowship holder during previous directly or indirectly funded FCT fellowships;
- The FCT's available budget.

The lack of any of the necessary documents to complete the contracting procedure implies the expiration of the scholarship granting and conclusion of the process; applicants have up to 6 months after the disclosure of the provisional granting to present all of the documents listed.

¹ Instead of providing these documents, the candidate may opt to present them in person at the financing body, which will store the data contained in them that are relevant for the validity and execution of the contract, including the civil, tax and social security identification numbers, as well as the validity of the respective documents.

11. FUNDING

Scholarship payment will start after the signed contract is returned to FCT, which should happen within 15 working days after its delivery.

The scholarships granted in this call will be financed by FCT using the State Budget fund and, whenever eligible, using the European Social Fund (ESF), under the PORTUGAL2020 programme, in particular the *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020)*, as well as other approved funding schemes, according to the legal requirements of the regulatory provisions applicable for this purpose.

12. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted to the fellows in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The scholarship may also include additional allowances, according to RBI's Article no. 18 and the values indicated in its Annex II.

All the scholarship holders have a personal accident insurance related to the research activities, which FCT will support.

All scholarship holders who are not beneficiaries of any social protection regime have the right to register for social security through the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Scheme of the Social Security System. FCT will ensure the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and the limits provided in Article no. 10 of the EBI.

13. PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

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

Registration, enrolment and tuition fees are paid directly by FCT to the national institution where the scholarship holder has enrolled or is registered in a 3rd Cycle of Studies/PhD Programme;

14. TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF PhD SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

The renewal of the scholarship always depends upon the applicant's request, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, which must include the following documents:

- a) Declaration(s) issued by the supervisor(s) and by the host institution(s) attesting the work plan development and the evaluation of the respective activities;
- b) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) Declaration proving enrolment renewal in the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree.

15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE GRANTED FUNDING

All the R&D activities carried out by the grantee, directly or indirectly financed by the scholarship, namely, papers, publications and scientific creations, as well as the thesis, must include the reference to FCT and the European Social Fund (ESF) financing. In particular, these references should mention the following operational programmes *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020)*, *Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020)* and *Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020)*.

Therefore, the FCT, MCTES, ESF and EU logos must be included in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational programme.

The disclosure of research results funded according to the RBI provisions must comply with the open access guidelines, publications and other research results in accordance with FCT rules.

For all the scholarships, in particular in case of European funded actions, namely the ESF, may be performed monitoring and controlling actions by national or European entities according to the applicable legislation. Grantees must therefore collaborate and provide all the required information, including answering to surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the scholarship might have already ceased.

16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty, due to ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

The present call is governed by the FCT Regulations for Research Fellowships approved by the Regulation no. 950/2019 (published in the Series II of the DR, of 16th December), by the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (approved by Law no. 40/2004, of 18th of August, in its current version), and by other applicable national and European legislation.