

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR UP TO 12 DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS 2021/2022

Announcement

Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) opens a call for applications for up to twelve **(12) Ph.D. Scholarships** (Bolsas de doutoramento - BD) to take place in Portugal and at Carnegie Mellon University in the framework of the CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs in the following fields:

- [Computer Science \(CS\)](#)¹
- [Electrical and Computer Engineering \(ECE\)](#)²
- [Engineering and Public Policy \(EPP\)](#)³
- [Human-Computer Interaction \(HCI\)](#)¹
- [Language Technologies \(LTI\)](#)¹
- [Robotics \(CS/R\)](#)⁴
- [Software Engineering \(SE\)](#)¹

Successful candidates to the CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs spend up to two years at CMU and up to three years at a University in Portugal. At the end of their successful program the candidates get two Ph.D. degrees, one awarded by CMU and the other by the partner University in Portugal. Details of the Dual Degree Ph.D. programs are available in the url's above, for additional information regarding each Dual Degree Ph.D. Program see the [CMU Portugal website](#)

Applications are submitted directly through the Ph.D. program admissions website of each Department at CMU (see above) and applicants should indicate their interest in the corresponding Dual Degree Ph.D. program in the framework of the CMU Portugal Program. The FCT Scholarship will only be granted if the candidates are accepted by a Ph.D. Program at CMU and by a partner Portuguese University. Successful applicants may have to submit additional documentation to be awarded the FCT scholarship, see full details below.

Regulations

The scholarships will be granted under the rules established by the **Research Fellowship Holder Statute** (approved by [Law 40/2004](#), of August 18, amended and republished by the [Decree-Law 202/2012](#), of August 27; [Decree-Law 89/2013](#), of 9 July; [Decree-law 233/2012](#), of 29 October; [Law 12/2013](#); and [Decree-law 123/2019](#)); and under the **Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships** of FCT, I.P. ([Regulation 950/2019](#), of 16 December). For the full requirements and regulations see these documents, you can find below the specific requirements of this announcement.

¹ Computer Science (CS), Human and Computer Interaction (HCI), Language Technologies (LTI), Software Engineering (SE): <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/doctoral-admissions>

² Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): <https://www.ece.cmu.edu/admissions/index.html>

³ Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): <https://www.cmu.edu/epp/prospective/doctoral-studies/doctoral-application/index.html>

⁴ Robotics: <https://www.ri.cmu.edu/education/academic-programs/doctoral-robotics-program/how-to-apply/>

Funding and call deadlines

Scholarships awarded in the current will be financed by national funds through FCT and the Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior and, when eligible, the European Social Fund to be available through PORTUGAL2020, namely through Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020), Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020) and Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), according to the appropriate regulations.

The call deadlines will vary depending on the Ph.D. Program:

- Computer Science (CS): September 23rd, 2020 - December 10th, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): October 1st, 2020 - December 31st, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): October 15th, 2020 - December 15th, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Human and Computer Interaction (HCI): September 23rd, 2020 - December 10th, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Language Technologies (LTI): September 23rd, 2020 - December 10th, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Robotics: September 23rd, 2020 - December 10th, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Software Engineering (SE): September 23rd, 2020 - December 10th, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)

Applications submitted before the call deadlines and until a specific date may present reduced application fees. More information is available in the CMU applications page of each Ph.D. Program.

Applications

Pursuant to article 6 in conjunction with article 9 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of FCT, Portuguese citizens, citizens of other European Union member states, and third-country nationals holding the academic degree required to enroll in a Ph.D. Program, in accordance with the procedures adopted by Carnegie Mellon University, may apply to this call, taking into account the research areas specified by the CMU Portugal Program available in the CMU Portugal website. Individuals who have previously received an FCT-funded doctoral fellowship, for the same purpose, are not eligible for this call. The Ph.D. candidate's application should satisfy the requirements established in article 10 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of FCT, in accordance with the procedures adopted by Carnegie Mellon University.

Applications are to be submitted directly to CMU, through the website of each Ph.D. Program. Research areas available for Ph.D. scholarships, as well as the supervisors at both CMU and Portugal, are defined by the CMU Portugal Program. Hence, candidates do not need to present a work program or an adviser's support letter and CV at the time of application.

Candidates are required to present a CV, recommendation letters, and a motivation letter where they should justify the reasons for applying to one of these programs and their research topics selection. Applicants must demonstrate good fluency and writing skills in English. Candidates should submit the results of both the "TOEFL" (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and, if required by the Ph.D. Program

the “GRE” (general exam of the Graduate Record Examination)⁵. While TOEFL is preferred the “IELTS” (International English Language Testing System) can also be submitted.

Other documentation apart the one mentioned may be required, thus it is strongly recommended a careful reading on the required documents for application in each Ph.D. Program page. The scholarship will only be granted if the candidates are accepted by CMU and by one of the Portuguese Universities within one of the Ph.D. programs.

Evaluation panel and evaluation process

The application, selection, and admission of the candidates are in accordance with the procedures adopted by the corresponding Department at Carnegie Mellon University as well as the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (article 11). Evaluation is based on the merit and motivation of the applicant as assessed through the application.

Once the set of students admitted for the dual degree program at CMU is found, then these candidates are ranked by the evaluation panel for awarding scholarships and admission in the Portuguese University in the scope of the CMU Portugal Program.

The evaluation panel will have a committee for each one of the Ph.D. Programs available in this call. These committees will be composed at least by 3 professors, from which at least one must be affiliated to CMU and the remainder from a Portuguese University affiliated with the CMU Portugal Program. The evaluation panel will be coordinated by the Directors of the CMU Portugal Program. The evaluation panel will be publicly announced in the CMU Portugal Program webpage after the admissions period is closed and before the beginning of the evaluation process.

The evaluation panel will review the submitted applications, weighting the review elements, and ranking the candidates according to the following criteria: “Academic and Professional Merit” (20%), namely the academic path of the candidate and related activities, as well as the relevant professional experience in the area of the Ph.D.; “Alignment with the CMU Portugal Program” (20%), specifically with the its main areas of action; “Impact in the National Research and Innovation Strategy” (20%), in what regards the potential contribution of the research that will be developed to Portugal; “Motivation Letter” (15%); “Recommendation Letters” (15%); “TOEFL/IELTS” (5%)⁶; “GRE” (5%). The GRE will not be considered as an independent evaluation criteria for the Ph.D. Program in which it is optional, as mentioned before. In these cases the criteria “Academic and Professional Merit” will correspond to 25% of the evaluation. The alignment of a candidate to one of the research projects funded by the CMU Portugal Program under the 2019 Call “[Large-scale collaborative research projects](#)”, may constitute a preferable selection criteria. In this case, the evaluation panel will request to the project principal investigators an assessment on the candidate’s adequacy to the scholarship. Individual interviews may also be considered in the final phase of the evaluation.

⁵ The GRE is mandatory for the ECE, EPP and Robotics Ph.Ds.; it is optional (but valued) for the Computer Science Ph.D.; it is optional for the Software Engineering and LTI Ph.Ds.; it is not required in the HCI Ph.D.

⁶ It is strongly recommended the reading of the specific requirements of the Ph.D. Program to which the candidate is applying in what regards the acceptance of the IELTS test

Scholarship Duration and Monthly Stipend amount

Following the Research and Education Collaboration Agreement between FCT and Carnegie Mellon University, the scholarship has the duration of one year, renewable up to a maximum of 5 years with satisfactory progress, of which at most two years are at CMU and up to three years are at the partner University in Portugal. The starting date is September 2021.

While in Portugal the student receives an FCT scholarship monthly stipend “Subsídio de Manutenção Mensal (SMM)” of 1.064,00 euros. The stipend payment, as well as the monthly payment of the social security contributions “Seguro Social Voluntário 1º escalão” will be made in a monthly basis through bank transfer. More information on the FCT scholarship stipend and other allowances is available on the [FCT website](#). While supported by the CMU Portugal program, students work on their doctoral program full time in exclusivity, in accordance with the terms established in Article 5 of the [Research Fellowship Holder's Statute](#). While at CMU, the scholarship pays the going rate of a PhD student stipend and provides full tuition.

Application submission

The applications should be submitted online through the website of each dual degree Ph. D program at Carnegie Mellon University, and using the url's provided. **To apply and to know in detail all the information required for each Ph.D. program application please visit the CMU Portugal Program website at [“Admissions and Scholarships”](#).**

Regulation

The regulation is available on the internet, during the period of the call, on <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento>.

Publication and Results Notification

The list of admissions will be published on the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program [website](#), and the admitted candidates will be notified through the electronic address provided in their Curriculum Vitae.

According to FCT regulations, if a candidate does not agree with the CMU Portugal Program decision, he has 10 working days after the results announcement to present a complaint at the time of the preliminary hearing, in the terms of the Código do Procedimento Administrativo (Code of Administrative Procedure). Upon the selection committee final decision an appeal can be submitted by the candidate during the 15 working days after notification, or to the executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days after notification.

For additional information please contact us at apply@cmuportugal.org.