

Call For Applications For Up to 10 Doctoral Scholarships 2022/2023

Guidelines

Within the framework of the Carnegie Mellon Portugal (CMU Portugal), the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) opens a call for applications for up to **ten (10) Ph.D. Scholarships** (Bolsas de Investigação para Doutoramento, BD). The Ph.D. will take place in Portugal and at Carnegie Mellon University under the scope 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 are awarded 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) where applicants should indicate their interest in the corresponding CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. 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.

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/>

Dual Degree Ph.D.'s available and application deadlines

The admissions period will be open from November 8th 2021 at 11:59 a.m. (EST) to December 31st 2021 at 11:59 a.m. (EST).

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

- Computer Science (CS): November 8th, 2021 - December 9th, 2021 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): November 8th, 2021 - December 31st, 2021 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): November 8th, 2021 - December 15th, 2021 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Human and Computer Interaction (HCI): November 8th, 2021 - December 9th, 2021 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Language Technologies (LTI): November 8th, 2021 - December 9th, 2021 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Robotics: November 8th, 2021 - December 9th, 2021 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Software Engineering (SE): November 8th, 2021 - December 9th, 2021 (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.

CMU Portugal Scholarship Process Calendar

Phase	Milestone	Observations	Document Section
<u>A. Application Phase</u>	Take GRE (when mandatory) and TOEFL and prepare other application documents	Check specific due dates for each Program	<u>1. How to apply and admission requirements</u>
	Submit an online application form in the Ph.D. Program CMU website	December 2022. Check the specific date for your program	<u>2. Funding Support</u>
<u>B. Selection Phase</u>	Selection of the candidates	January-March 2022	<u>3. Selection process and results announcement</u>
	Informing the candidates about the selection outcome	April 2022	
<u>C. Scholarship Contract and Registration</u>	Formal request for Ph.D. scholarships to FCT and publishing the selection results on the CMU Portugal Program website	May 2022	<u>4. Scholarships request to FCT and announcement of the results</u>
	Students registration at CMU and Portuguese University; Scholarship contract	July-September 2022	<u>5. Students registration and scholarship contract</u>
	CMU Portugal Scholarship Starting Date	September 2022	<u>6. Scholarship starting date and beginning of the academic year</u>

A. APPLICATION PHASE

1. Admission Requirements and How to Apply

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 (Licenciatura or master's degree), 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.

The CMU Portugal Program has a decentralized applications process for admission in which each Ph.D. program manages its own application process. **Applications are submitted directly to CMU.** To apply, follow the next steps:

- 1- Determine which dual degree Ph.D. Program you are interested;
- 2- Go the "Admissions and Scholarships" page on the CMU Portugal Program website;
- 3- Select the Ph.D. Program and you will be directed towards that Ph.D.'s applications page in the CMU website.

As a general guideline, students are required to submit the following documents in order to successfully submit an application to a Ph.D. program (*Please note that the admissions requirements will vary from department to department and the information indicated below is general*):

- Candidate's CV;
- Certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all subjects taken, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how (s)he completed the licenciatura's or master's degree by the end the application deadline. If the candidate presents more than one Licenciatura/Bachelors or/and Master degree(s) the committee will need to choose what will be the degree(s) more aligned with the Ph.D. Program the candidate is applying to and evaluate accordingly in subcriterion A1. The other degree(s) not considered for this purpose should nevertheless be considered in the subcriterion A1 overall score as part of the candidate's academic curriculum;
- Registration of recognition of the academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the final classification conversion to the Portuguese classification scale for those degrees⁵, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how (s)he obtained the recognition of the

⁵ The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the final classification conversion to the Portuguese classification scale can be request at any public higher education institution in Portugal, or at the Directorate General for Higher Education (DGES) for the automatic recognition of the degrees. More information available at: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>

foreign degree equivalent to a graduate or master's degree until the end of the application period;

- Statement of purpose;
- Letters of Recommendation (the number of letters may vary according to the CMU department);
- If required by the Ph.D. Program, the "GRE" (general exam of the Graduate Record Examination) should be submitted;
- If required by the Ph.D. Program, candidates should submit the results of the "TOEFL" (Test of English as a Foreign Language). While TOEFL is usually preferred the "IELTS" (International English Language Testing System) or the "DET" (Duolingo English Test) may be accepted.

The information provided in the online application form as well as the documents to be attached should be written in English. The certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held can be written in English or Portuguese.

The scholarship will only be granted if the candidates are accepted by CMU and by one of the Portuguese Universities Ph.D. programs eligible under the CMU Portugal Program Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs agreement. Information on the Ph.D. Programs in Portugal under this agreement is available [here](#).

GRE and TOEFL tests

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). While [TOEFL](#) is preferred the "[IELTS](#)" (International English Language Testing System) or the "DET" ([Duolingo English Test](#)) may be submitted.

Click [here](#) to register in the GRE test. Now GRE offers the possibility of making the test at home, while maintain also the option of making the test on-site. Currently in Portugal, this test can only be taken on-site in Lisbon. GRE Scores are usually valid for five years; older scores will not be considered.

An English proficiency test is required for international applicants whose native language is not English.

UPDATE TO GRE and English proficiency tests deadlines #1: *Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs in Computer Science, HCI and Software Engineering GRE and English proficiency test deadlines have been extended until the call deadline.*

UPDATE TO GRE and English proficiency tests deadlines #2: *For the Dual Degree PhD in Robotics – If you haven't taken the language test by November 9th, we strongly encourage you to submit the scores as soon as possible and before the deadline for applications so they can still be considered. Preference is given to the TOEFL and IELTS tests. If unavailable, Duolingo will be accepted but only with the subscores. The test result should be sent to CMU – Graduate Computer Science Programs.*

UPDATE TO GRE and English proficiency tests deadlines #3: For the Dual Degree PhD in LTI, GRE and English proficiency test deadlines have been extended until the end of the application period. Candidates should ensure that the test results arrive until the call's deadline. For the Dual Degree PhD in Robotics - If you haven't taken the GRE by November 9th, we strongly encourage you to submit the scores as soon as possible and before the deadline for applications so they can still be considered. GRE is considered optional but strongly recommended, if not presented, you will need to justify why you have not taken the GRE.

GRE and TOEFL tests: main policies

- **SCS GRE policy:** Please take into account that if you want to take a GRE test you should schedule the test date as soon as possible. The requirement of the GRE test varies according to the SCS department: CS (optional, but strongly recommended); SE (not required); LTI (optional); Robotics (optional but strongly recommended); HCI (not required);
- **ECE GRE policy:** not required;
- **ECE EPP policy:** not required;
- **SCS English test policy:** If you are an international applicant and your native language (language spoken from birth) is not English, an official copy of an English proficiency score report is required. The English proficiency requirement cannot be waived for any reason. We strongly encourage applicants to take either the TOEFL (iBT score of at least 100) or IELTS (score of at least 7). In cases where these are not available it is acceptable to take the Duolingo test (score of at least 120). International SCS applicants whose native language is not English, if currently working on or have received a bachelor's and/or a master's degree in the U.S., may submit an expired TOEFL test score up to five years old (from August 20, 2016 onwards). If the undergraduate or/or master's degree is from a foreign institution, you will need to submit a TOEFL that is not expired (less than two years old at the time of application);
- **ECE English test policy:** All international applicants whose "native" language is not English must take an English Language proficiency exam. The scores must be received by the application deadline for the semester in which students are applying. An English Language proficiency test is not required if the applicant will have graduated from a U.S. university by the time of enrollment, or if the applicant is a CMU student or alum. Student must take the TOEFL (the minimum score requirement is a total of 84, with minimum subscores of IBT-R 22, IBT-L 22, IBT-S 18, and IBT-W 22), IELTS (the minimum score requirement is an overall score of 7, with minimum sub-scores of Reading-6.5, Listening-6.5, Speaking-6, and Writing-6) or Duolingo test (the minimum score requirement is a composite score of 105, with minimum sub-scores of Literacy-105, Comprehension-115, Production-70, Conversation-95.);
- **EPP English test policy:** An English proficiency test is required for candidates whose native language is not English. If you have received a 4 year degree in the U.S. and your native language is not English you do not need to take an English proficiency test. The following scores are required depending on the test: TOEFL (iBT score of at least 102), IELTS (score of at least 7.5), or Duolingo (scores of at least 120/160) if English is not the candidate's native language.

Research Topics

Research topics 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. Financial assistance is granted on the basis of the student's potential for scholarship and creative research, and their fit with the research topics available.

2. Financial Support

2.1 CMU Portugal Doctoral Program Funding

The dual degree student's funding is supported by FCT through the Carnegie Mellon Program and is available for a period of up to 5 years (2 years during the student's stay at Carnegie Mellon University and 3 years at Portugal). The announcement of the call for scholarships is available in the [FCT Website](#).

Scholarships Support and Duration

The dual degree Ph.D. programs have a typical duration of 5 years, in order for the student to meet the requirements of both universities involved, thus spending up to three years in Portugal and up to two years in the United States of America. Typically, students start the coursework in a Portuguese university – currently there are six Portuguese universities involved (Aveiro, Coimbra, Lisboa, Minho, Nova de Lisboa, and Porto) – then spend a period of time at CMU, in Pittsburgh, in the United States of America, and finally return to Portugal to complete the Ph.D.

The Ph.D. students enrolled in the dual degree Ph.D. program will receive financial support in a form of a Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program Fellowship that will cover tuition fees paid directly to the institution and a monthly stipend. While staying in Portugal, the accepted candidate will receive the fellowship directly from FCT. While pursuing their studies at Carnegie Mellon, the Ph.D. students will receive the FCT funding through the home department of the doctoral program in which they are enrolled.

Once the candidate accepts the admission offer, instructions on the steps to be followed will be provided. Awarded scholarships shall start on the beginning of the 2022/2023 academic year.

2.2 Other Sources of Financial Assistance

As an alternative to direct funding from the CMU Portugal Program, candidates to the dual degree doctoral programs may be able to secure financial assistance through a regular FCT Ph.D. studentship supplemented by additional funding at CMU. Prospective students **apply directly** to the program they are interested in. Please see above, in section 1 more information on how to apply. Candidates interested in exploring this and other alternative sources of financial assistance should contact potential advisors in Portugal and at CMU.

More information about FCT Ph.D. studentships, and the application process, in particular, is available [here](#).

To know more about other funding opportunities contact us at: apply@cmuportugal.org.

B. SELECTION PHASE

3. Selection process and results announcement

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. The evaluation criteria can be accessed in the announcement of the call [here](#).

Once the set of students that meet the minimum requirements to be considered for admission in the dual degree program at CMU is found, then these candidates are ranked by the jury for scholarship's awarding and recommended for admission in the corresponding Portuguese University in the scope of the CMU Portugal Program Dual Degree Programs initiative.

The elements of the jury that will evaluate the applications will be disclosed on the CMU Portugal website shortly after the applications period and before the start of the evaluation.

The jury will assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this Call for Proposals, considering the elements of evaluation.

The jury will produce, for each application, a final evaluation report where it is clearly stated the reasoning for the scores given in each criterion and subcriterion and also bonus applied.

All the jury members, including the chairs, have committed to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

The jury will be composed of committees for each area available in the current announcement. Each committee will have at least 3 faculty members, and from those, at least 1 should be affiliated with CMU and the remainder from Portuguese Universities affiliated with the CMU Portugal Program. The CMU Portugal Program Directors will chair the jury.

From the jury meetings, a selection report will be produced that will be the responsibility of all members. It must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all the jury;
- Identification of all the excluded applications and respective reasoning;
- Detailed evaluation in each criteria for each candidate as well as a global qualitative evaluation;

- Provisional list of classification and ranking of candidates, in descending order of the final classification, of all the applications evaluated by the panel;
- Conflict of interest declaration from each member of the jury;
- Possible delegations of votes and powers due to justified absence.

C. SCHOLARSHIP AND REGISTRATION

4. Scholarships request to FCT and announcement of the results

Based on the list of candidates to be admitted, CMU informs the prospective candidates of their admissions status. Each candidate will be given a deadline to accept or decline the admissions offer. The list of candidates who accepted the offer is sent to the Coordination of CMU Portugal, which then gathers all necessary items, including the evaluation panel report and makes the submission of the formal request for Ph.D. scholarships to the President of FCT. After the FCT approval, results are published in the CMU Portugal website, under the "[Admissions and Scholarships](#)" page.

5. Students registration and scholarship contract

As soon as the CMU Portugal scholarship is approved, both CMU Portugal Coordination Offices in Portugal and at CMU will start the process of registration of the student and also formalizing the student funding at CMU and Portugal. We strongly recommend the reading of the [call's announcement](#) for all the information concerning the documents that are needed for the FCT contract. More information about the scholarship is also available in the [student guide](#).

6. Scholarship starting date and beginning of the academic year

The CMU Portugal scholarship starting date will be September 2022 for the most cases, which coincides with the beginning of the academic year in Portugal in most Universities.

We strongly recommend the reading of the [student guide](#) for more information on the required VISA if you are planning to start the Ph.D. in the United States or residence card if you are planning to start the Ph.D. in Portugal.

Thank you for your interest in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program!

Please take a look around to learn more about the CMU Portugal Program. If you have any questions, please visit our [F.A.Q.](#) and [News](#) pages. Should you still have any unanswered questions, feel free to contact us via email: info@cmuportugal.org.