

FCT PhD PROGRAMME

**3rd CYCLE – PhD IN LAW
2016/2017**

**Notice of Call for Applications for the first 4 (four) Individual Research and PhD
Grants, 2016/2017 Edition**

The PhD in Law Programme at Universidade Nova de Lisboa’s Law School (“Programme”) has been selected as part of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology’s (“FCT”) funding scheme. 8 (eight) research grants (“BI”) per edition have been awarded, followed by 5 (five) mixed PhD studentships (“BD”), also per edition, for a total of four editions of this Programme, for the academic years of 2014/2015, 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018.

As part of this scheme, it is the responsibility of the Programme’s Steering Committee to select the students who will receive the grants funded by FCT. Subsequently, those students selected will sign their research grant contracts directly with FCT.

Thus, according to the Research Fellowship Holder Statute,¹ and the FCT Regulation of Studentships and Fellowships,² the Programme Steering Committee invites applications for the first 4 (four) individual research grants (BI) starting on or after 1st November 2016, exclusively designed for students who apply to the 1s Phase Applications of the 2016/2017 edition of our Programme. The notice of call for applications for the remaining 4 (four) individual research grants shall open simultaneously with the 2nd Phase Applications to our Programme, on the probable dates of 1st July to 31st August 2016.³

RESEARCH GRANTS (BI) – 1st Call of 4 individual Research Grants

Research grants awarded as part of this scheme are intended for graduates with first-cycle degrees and master’s degrees who apply and subsequently are admitted during the 1st Phase Applications to our Programme. The grants last for one year. In the second year, annual, mixed PhD grants will be awarded. They will be renewable for up to 3 years, in a total of 4 fully funded years, and will be allocated to 5 of the 8 research grant holders, who are selected by a panel chosen for this purpose by the Steering Committee based on (i) the quality of their research project; and (ii) their academic performance in the first two semesters of the Programme.

RECIPIENTS

In order to receive a grant, recipients should satisfy the conditions set out in no. 1 of Article 30 of the *Regime Jurídico dos Graus e Diplomas do Ensino Superior* (Higher Education Diploma and Degree Legal Framework).⁴

Those eligible to apply are all applicants to the 1st Phase Applications to this Law School’s PhD Programme in Law in its 2016/2017 Edition who are Portuguese nationals or citizens of other member states of the European Union; third-country nationals that hold valid residence

¹ Approved by Law no. 40/2004, 18th August, with amendments, and available in English at <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/FellowshipHolderStatute2013.pdf>.

² Available in English at <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/FCTFellowshipRegulations2013.pdf>.

³ Should any grants remain vacant in this 1st round of applications, they will be added to the 4 (four) individual research grants to be attributed simultaneously with the 2nd Phase Applications to our Programme.

⁴ Decree-Law no. 74/2006, 24th March (in its current version). N.B.: fulfilment of these conditions was verified by the Selection Committee in the case of candidates already admitted to the Programme.

permits or holders of long-term resident status;⁵ third-country nationals with whom Portugal has signed reciprocal agreements; third-country nationals, whenever the invitation for applications contains an individual interview selection method.⁶ Only Portuguese or foreign citizens who have permanent residence in Portugal may apply for grants for work programmes undertaken wholly or partly at foreign institutions.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Applications must be submitted between 00h00 on 23rd February 2016 and 24h00 on 29th April 2016 (Lisbon time).

APPLICATIONS

Applications must be submitted via e-mail to the following address: concurso.bolsasFCT@fd.unl.pt. Documents supporting the application should be scanned and attached to the electronic application. Applications submitted by any other means will not be accepted.

Applications must include the following documents, demonstrating that the applicant satisfies the conditions required for the respective type of grant, according to art. 16 of the FCT Regulation of Studentships and Fellowships:

- Motivation letter containing a summary of the work plan the applicant intends to undertake on the Programme;
- A full *curriculum vitae*, including the final average of all academic degrees obtained and lists of publications with respective DOI (if any) and English language skills (according to the Common European Framework for languages);
- Duly completed and signed FCT form;⁷
- Applicant's association key;⁸
- ORCID iD number;⁹
- Copy of an identification document and tax identification number;
- Up-to-date documentation proving employment status during the time the applicant wishes to benefit from a grant, or, alternatively, a sworn statement that there will be no professional activity or service provision. Should the applicant wish to render teaching services whilst benefiting from a grant, he/she should indicate the nature of the employment contract, duties and average weekly teaching time. In the case of civil servants, applicants must submit a written statement committing to suspend their employment contract.¹⁰⁻¹¹

⁵ According to the terms of Law no. 23/2007, 4th July, amended by Law no. 29/2012, 9th August.

⁶ According to article 14 of the FCT Regulation of Studentships and Fellowships, which, in paragraph d) of no. 1 states that the admission of applications from third-country nationals is subject to a selection method of individual interviews, as stated in the notice of invitation for applications (which is the case).

⁷ Available at <http://www.fd.unl.pt/en/default.asp>.

⁸ If the applicant is not registered on the platform FCTSIG, he/she should register at <https://sig.fct.pt/fctsig/?lang=EN>.

⁹ To be obtained at <http://orcid.org/>.

¹⁰ Applicants must provide all the documents verifying the fulfilment of the conditions required for the respective type of grant, in accordance with the provisions of art. 16 of the FCT Regulation of Studentships and Fellowships.

¹¹ The sworn statement should refer to the date from which the applicant wishes to use the grant. The applicant's professional situation is only important to the extent the applicant wishes or is able to maintain it during the period of the grant.

- Certificates of all academic qualifications obtained on which the applicant intends to base its application, with a final average and, where possible, the respective percentile, as well as the diploma supplement relating to all academic qualifications already completed¹² and the grades of all subjects taken. With regard to academic degrees, we note the following:

the **academic degree** required for admission to this call **must necessarily have been concluded on the date of submission of the application**, it being required for a **document evidencing the award of the degree** to be submitted with this application, the mere provision of other evidence that the applicant has concluded the study cycle being insufficient;

if the academic degree or degrees in question were **awarded by a foreign institution of higher education**, submittal of the **registration of the recognition of academic degree** is required (process regulated by Decree-Law 341/2007 of 12th October) or, alternatively, the submittal of the **process of equivalence/recognition** regulated by Decree-Law 283/83 of 21st June. For more information, please check the General-Directorate of Higher Education's website at <http://www.dges.mctes.pt/DGES/pt> (information available in English). The degree's registration **must be concluded on the date of submission of the application**.

Important: the submittal of an application for an individual research grant does not exempt the applicant from the simultaneous submission of an application to this Law School's PhD Programme in Law (and vice-versa)!

The panel will take the obligatory documents submitted electronically at the time of application into account when making their assessment.

ASSESSMENT

The assessment of applications is made according to the provisions of this notice, in line with the applicable legal and regulatory provisions, considering factors of appreciation and producing an ordered list of candidates. Alternatively, the provisions of the 2015 FCT Assessment Guidelines for Individual Grant Schemes will be applied.¹³ Assessment of applications will be the responsibility of the Programme Selection Commission.

Applicants will be assessed solely on merit, taking into account the following parameters and their respective weighting:

- a) Academic *curriculum vitae* (50%);
- b) Scientific *curriculum vitae* (publications, other scientific production indicators and verified research experience) (20%);
- c) Relevant professional *curriculum vitae* (15%);
- d) Knowledge of English (10%);
- e) Work plan to be undertaken (5%).¹⁴

The assessment of applicants' merit must also include individual interviews.¹⁵

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the assessment will be published by 30th May 2016 on the Law School's website and communicated to applicants by e-mail. The minutes of the Selection Committee meeting(s) will also be available for consultation.

¹² Ordinance no. 30/2008, 10th January.

¹³ Available at <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/concursos/docs/BolsasGuiaoAvaliacao2015.pdf>.

¹⁴ This criterion, which is relatively unimportant at this phase, will carry substantially more weight in the selection of applicants to receive BD.

¹⁵ Interviews can be carried out using telematics resources. They will not have a separate score, with their objective being the correct assessment of the abovementioned parameters.

Those applicants not selected to receive a grant have 10 working days after the publication of the results in which to request a hearing, according to the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Code. Appeals against the final decision can be made to FCT within 15 working days of the respective notification.

FUNDING

The grants awarded as part of this scheme will be funded from the Ministry of Education and Science State Budget and, when eligible, from the European Social Fund via the 2014-2020 operational programmes, Portugal 2020, the Human Capital Operational Programme in particular, and the Regional Operational Programme for the North, Centre or Alentejo, according to the provisions of the applicable Specific Regulation.

TPB, 22nd February 2016