

APPLAuSE - Advanced Program in Plasma Science and Engineering

Call for Applications for Individual Doctoral Grants

The Doctoral Program in Plasma Science and Engineering (APPLAUSE) was selected for funding by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, IP (FCT, IP), which will support 10 doctoral grants per annual edition. This program is integrated in the Doctoral Program in Physics of the Physics Department of Instituto Superior Técnico (IST). For detailed information please follow [this link](#).

In the frame of this contract, a Selection Committee was established, consisting of the Executive Committee of the Doctoral Program and the Coordinator of the 3rd Cycle Programs of the Physics Department of IST, to select the student grant recipients. Following the selection process, the respective grant contracts will be signed directly with FCT, IP.

Thus in accordance with the Research Grant Holder Statute, published by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and the Regulations for Fellowships and Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, the Committee hereby opens this call for individual grant applications:

DOCTORAL GRANTS: 10

Intended for individuals who meet the requirements set forth in Article 30, paragraph 1, of [Decree Law nº 74/2006](#), of March 24, as amended by Decree-Law No. 107/2008 of June 25, and 230/2009 of September 14. These grants are one year in duration, renewable for up to a total of four years, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than six consecutive months.

CANDIDATES

The ideal candidate is a student with a solid knowledge in Science and Engineering, preferably (but not necessarily) with basic training in Plasma Physics, motivation to deal with cutting-edge scientific and technological problems, and with a high availability for the mobility requirements of the program.

The following individuals may apply for this program:

- Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states;
- Citizens of other countries who hold permanent residence permits in Portugal or who hold the status of long-term resident, under the terms of [Law 23/2007](#) of July 4, amended by Law No. 29/2012 of August 9;
- Citizens of other European Union member states or other countries, whose applications are made in the framework of agreements or international partnerships in which the Portuguese state is a part or has committed itself to abide;
- Citizens of other European Union member states or other countries, through a preliminary personal interview;

- For grants in which the work program is to be totally or partially carried out in foreign institutions, only Portuguese citizens or individuals who hold the permanent resident status in Portugal are eligible to apply.

PERIOD OF APPLICATIONS

The call is open between August 19 and September 30, 2013 at 17:00 GMT.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are submitted through the IST Doctoral Programs online platform. For detailed information please visit: <http://www.ipfn.ist.utl.pt/applause2013>

The application must include the following components:

- **Application form** (available online)
- **Copy of ID document / passport**
- **General curriculum vitae** – it is mandatory to use the model available at http://www.ipfn.ist.utl.pt/portal/portal/education/applause/open_call
- **Academic curriculum vitae** - certified transcripts showing all academic degrees awarded, with final grade point averages and grades received in all courses taken
- **Letter of motivation**
- **References** - Please supply the contact details of at least two references. Indicate name, institution and e-mail.

Candidates holding a Masters degree (or equivalent, as recognized by the IST/UTL) in Mathematical Sciences or Engineering will be preferred. Exceptionally, the Selection Committee may admit applicants with a Bachelors degree (or equivalent), provided they exhibit an exceptional academic CV.

Candidates who have not yet obtained their academic degree by the closing date of the call will be eligible provided they declare that it will be awarded by November 15, 2013. **If these conditions are not fulfilled the grant will not be awarded.**

EVALUATION

The evaluation of proposals is carried out in two phases, by assessing the merit of each candidate and producing a ranked list of candidates.

First phase. The Selection Committee will review and evaluate the applications, awarding an overall rating calculated using the weighted average of the partial ratings, using a scale from 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum), of the following criteria: (weighting factors shown in brackets)

- (I) academic curriculum vitae (4)
- (II) general curriculum vitae (4)
- (III) motivation letter (3)
- (IV) references (3)

The rating assigned to the academic curriculum vitae is normalized according to the reference used by FCT for Doctoral Grants, taking into account the several types of degrees (Bachelor, Master, Integrated Master).

There may be an additional bonus of up to 1.5 points for candidates who: (i) have (co)-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals; (ii) have presented papers at conferences; (iii) have an exceptional CV, demonstrating remarkable skills.

The top ranked candidates at this stage will be shortlisted for the second phase.

Second phase. Candidates will be individually interviewed by the Selection Committee (live or via video conferencing, e.g., Skype) in order to assess their knowledge, specific technical skills, motivation and communication skills in English.

A maximum of ten candidates will be admitted per year. The number of selected candidates may be less than the number of grants available, depending on their overall merit.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the selection process will be communicated via email to all candidates. In the case of an unfavorable award decision (i.e. for applicants not selected to receive grants), the applicant has a period of 10 days after disclosure, to be heard, by request of a preliminary hearing, pursuant to the Portuguese *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. The final decision may be appealed to the Steering Committee, within 15 days after the respective notification.

If the decision is not favorable, the applicant has a period of ten working days after receiving notice of the decision referred to in the previous paragraph to contest the decision, if he/she so wishes, as provided for in the *Código do Procedimento Administrativo* in a preliminary hearing setting.

Applicants shall be notified of the final decision under the terms set forth in the *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. Any appeal to this decision must be filed within 15 working days after the notification.

FINANCING

The grants awarded under this contract will be financed by funds from the State Budget of the Ministry of Education and Science and, when eligible, by funds from the European Social Fund through the Human Potential Operating Programme of the Portuguese NSRF 2007-2013, in accordance with the provisions of the Specific Regulation of Intervention Typology 4.1.

Any cases not addressed in the present call are covered by the Regulations for Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, available at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento2012.phtml.en>