

Announcement of a RESEARCH GRANT (BI)

IIA – Mestre – iN-Seed

Reference: PRBI/22/2026

An open call for a research grant is being launched under the project “**COMPETE2030-FEDER-03252300 iN_Seed – Forest Seeds and Natural Intelligence: A Technology-Supported Approach to Promoting Resilient Ecosystems**”, developed by the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra and funded by the COMPETE 2030 Innovation and Digital Transition Programme, under the following conditions:

Generic scientific area: *Forestry*

Specific scientific area: *silviculture and forest management*

Admission requirements:

In accordance with Article 3 of the Research Fellowship Regulations of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, approved by Order No. 5963/2020 and published in Series II of the Portuguese Official Gazette on 1 June 2020, applicants must:

- Hold a Master’s degree;
- Be enrolled in a doctoral programme or in a non-degree-awarding course aimed at providing initial scientific training;
- Where the applicant holds a higher education degree obtained abroad, provide evidence of the corresponding degree recognition, where applicable;
- Have oral and written proficiency in Portuguese and English;
- Have knowledge and experience in the establishment of experimental projects and/or sampling plots;
- Have knowledge and experience in conducting forest inventories;
- Be proficient in the use of Geographic Information Systems;
- Proven experience in the use of multispectral drones.
- Hold a valid driving licence.

Work plan:

The work plan will include the following activities:

1. Review and analysis of relevant approaches, technologies and state-of-the-art research, as well as the systematisation of knowledge relating to the establishment of forest stands by direct seeding;
2. Technical and scientific monitoring of the tasks carried out within the project, particularly the establishment and monitoring of field trials and the processing and analysis of the resulting data;

3. Support for project coordination;
4. Preparation of reports, scientific articles and other materials for the dissemination of the project results.

Duration of the scholarship:

The fellowship will have an initial duration of 12 months and may be renewed for an equal period, provided that the conditions set forth in Article 3 of the aforementioned Research Grant Holder Regulation of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, currently in force, are met. It will be carried out on an exclusive-dedication basis, in accordance. The fellowship is expected to begin on 1 September 2026.

Monthly Maintenance Allowance:

The monthly maintenance allowance will amount to **EUR 1.359,64**, in accordance with the table of values applicable to research fellowships awarded in Portugal by the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. — FCT, I.P. — available at www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.

Payment will be made monthly by bank transfer. Where the fellowship holder chooses to enrol in the voluntary social security scheme, the amount corresponding to the first contribution level will be added to the allowance. Personal accident insurance will also be provided.

Host institution and scientific supervision:

The work will be carried out at the facilities of the Coimbra School of Agriculture — ESAC — and at other locations in the Central and Northern regions of Portugal where the field trials will be established.

The work will be carried out under the scientific supervision of the project coordinator, Maria Beatriz Machado Fidalgo.

Evaluation criteria:

The assessment will focus on the merit of the applicants and will be carried out using the weighted linear sum of a set of criteria, each evaluated on a scale from 0 to 10, according to the weighting scheme indicated below:

1. Oral and written proficiency in Portuguese and English — weighting: 0.10;
2. Knowledge and experience in establishing experimental projects and/or sampling plots in forest stands — weighting: 0.30;
3. Professional experience relevant to the scientific area of the project — weighting: 0.20;
4. Proficiency in the use of Geographic Information Systems and drones — weighting: 0.30;
5. Interpersonal skills and experience in organising and carrying out teamwork involving different types of stakeholders — weighting: 0.10.

In the event of a tie between the highest-ranked applicants following the assessment of the above criteria, an interview will be held in order to further assess the following aspects:

- Applicant's motivation;
- Oral and written proficiency in English;
- Autonomy and initiative;
- Analytical ability and critical thinking.

Composition of the Jury:

The selection panel responsible for the recruitment procedure will comprise:

- Professor Maria Beatriz Machado Fidalgo, Chair;
- Professor Raúl Salas González, Full Member;
- Professor José de Jesus Gaspar, Full Member;
- Professor Daniela Santos, Alternate Member;
- Professor José Manuel Serras Tavares, Alternate Member.

Documents to be submitted:

Applications must include the following documents:

- Application form available on the internet page for this competition at https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros
- Identification details, identification document number and tax identification number;
- Documentary evidence demonstrating that the applicant meets the admission requirements, namely:
 1. Bachelor's and Master's degree certificates;
 2. Proof of enrolment or registration in a non-degree-awarding course aimed at providing initial scientific research training;
 3. Applicants holding foreign qualifications must provide evidence of the recognition of their foreign academic degree and diploma in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August;
- Curriculum vitae;
- Motivation letter;
- Reference or recommendation letter(s), including the contact details of the referees. This document is optional.

The above-mentioned documents must be submitted within the application period established in this call for applications.

Application Period

The application period will be 10 working days, from **12/08/2026 to 25/08/2026**, inclusive.

Candidates must access and register on the website: https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros to submit the application, selecting the procedure for which they intend to apply.

Applications must be delivered exclusively in digital format, in portable document format (pdf), with the exception of documents whose delivery is scheduled in other digital formats.

Application instructions are completed by filling in the sections available at the aforementioned link.

When formalizing the application, if it contains a classified document that reveals commercial or industrial secrets, or secrets relating to literary, artistic or scientific property, the candidate must expressly indicate such reservation, under penalty of the work in question being freely accessed by any one of the other candidates, in consultation with the process.

When submitting the application, the candidate must provide the data strictly necessary for the purpose, under the terms of this public notice, and must hide personal data that may exist in the documentation submitted, otherwise these data may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates, in the process query. Applicable legislation and regulations:

The awarding of scholarships is based on Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August (Statute of Scientific Research Scholarships), amended and republished by Decree-Law No. 202/2012 of 27 August, updated by: Decree-Law No. 233/2012, Law No. 12/2013, and Decree-Law No. 89/2013; the Scholarship and Research Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology in force (www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2015.pdf), Order No. 12709/2016 published in DR, II series of 21/10/2016, of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra, regarding the IPC Scholarship Regulations.

The model scholarship contract and final reports to be prepared by the scholarship holder and the coordinator are those contained in the annexes to the Scientific Research Scholarship Statute mentioned above.

Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

The award of this scholarship is based in the Law 40/2004, of the 18th of August (Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow), changed and republished by the Decree-Law 202/2012, of the 27th of August, updated by: Decree-Law 233/2012, Law 12/2013, Decree-Law 89/2013 and Decree-Law 123/2019; the Regulation of the research scholarships from the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I. P. and the Order No. 5963/2020, of June 1, in its current wording (Regulation of the Research Fellow of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra).

The model of the scholarship contract, as well as that of the final reports to be prepared by the scholarship holder and the scientific supervisor, are those set out in the annexes to the above-mentioned Statute for Scientific Research Scholarship Holders.

Publication and Notification of Results:

The results of the evaluation will be published within 90 working days from the deadline for submission of applications, by sending a communication to the candidates, via email. After the results have been published, candidates will be notified to, if they wish, give their opinion in a prior hearing within a maximum of 10 working days after that date. After this deadline, the selected candidates will have to declare their acceptance in writing. Unless a justifiable reason is provided, failure to make the declaration within the deadline will be considered as a waiver of the scholarship. In case of resignation or withdrawal of the selected candidate, the immediately best ranked candidate will be notified.

For further information, please contact the Chair of the Selection Panel by email at **bfidalgo@esac.pt**.

Coimbra, July 2026