

Doctoral program in Advanced Integrated Microsystems (AIM) Call for Applications for Individual Doctoral Scholarships

The doctoral programme **AIM** - (Advanced Integrated Microsystems) was selected for funding by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, IP (FCT), which will support a total of twenty-four (24) doctoral scholarships (BD). Details of **AIM** can be found at <http://aim.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/>.

AIM is being developed in cooperation between Instituto Superior Técnico (IST, Universidade de Lisboa), Instituto de Tecnologia Química e Biológica (ITQB, Universidade Nova de Lisboa), International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory (INL), Faculty of Pharmacy (FFUL, Universidade de Lisboa), Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores (INESC ID), Institute of Bioengineering and Biosciences (IBB) and Institute of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (IN).

The doctoral programme (240 ECTS) will start with a curricular section (min. 36 ECTS, max. 60 ECTS) followed by a doctoral thesis. The scholarship holders will select a research project/advisor prior to the start of the 2nd semester and will begin their research at that point.

Students must enrol in one of five accredited doctoral programs (Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technological Physics Engineering (all at IST) or Molecular Biosciences (ITQB)) no more than 60 days after the scholarship is awarded. After selecting a research project/advisor the student may change his/her enrolment to a different one of the five accredited doctoral programs.

In the framework of this call, the Directive Board (DB), composed by the Program Director and one representative from each partner, will appoint a Selection Committee (SC) which will be responsible for selecting the students that will receive the scholarships funded by FCT. The scholarship contracts will be signed directly with FCT.

Thus, in accordance with the Research Scholarship Holder Statute, published by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, and the Regulations for Fellowships and Scholarships of FCT, the DB of the program hereby opens this call for individual scholarship applications.

DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS (BD): SIX (6)

These scholarships are 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 scholarships are one year in duration, renewable for up to a total of four years and not of less than six consecutive months.

CANDIDATES

The basic requirement for admission in the doctoral programme is holding a recognized Master's degree in engineering, science, pharmacy or medicine (with 300 ECTS or more). Exceptionally, other candidates with outstanding academic curriculum (with 180 ECTS or more) can be admitted.

In addition, the minimum grade of the candidates in the degrees mentioned above is “B” in the ECTS grading scale (corresponding to a score of at least 15/20 or 75%), or an equivalent grade in the national scale of the candidates. If requested, candidates must demonstrate that their degree is equivalent to the degree required for the application, and provide official recognition documents translated/written in English. Since English is the official language of the doctoral programme, a minimum level of fluency in English communication is required, as documented by standardized tests or interview. The selected candidates, after being offered admission, must agree to enrol in the Doctoral Programme and remain engaged in the programme for a minimum period of 3 years.

The following individuals may apply to 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 countries with whom Portugal holds reciprocity agreements;
- citizens of other countries, through a preliminary personal interview.

PERIOD OF APPLICATIONS

The call is open between May 1 and May 31, 2015 at 17:00 GMT.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications are submitted through the IST doctoral programs online platform. For detailed information please visit <http://aim.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/>. The application must include the following components:

- Application form (available at <http://aim.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/info-for-students/applications/>);
- Copy of ID document / passport, title of permanent residence, and tax card (if applicable);
- Curriculum vitae. It is mandatory to use the model available at <http://aim.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/info-for-students/applications/>;
- Certified transcripts showing all academic degrees awarded, with final grade and grades for all courses taken (in English or Portuguese);
- Statement of intent (cover letter), describing the interest of the candidate in the domains of the PhD programme, personal aims and research topics of interest;
- Reference letters – each candidate must supply 2 reference letters.

Candidates must have obtained their academic degree by the closing date of the call to be eligible.

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 SC will analyse and evaluate the applications, and the candidates' selection will be based on an objective evaluation of the following specific criteria and weights:

- Academic achievements (final classification and main area of the previous degree(s), as well as the school in which it(they) was(were) obtained - 70%;
- Relevant scientific activities (e.g. participation in research projects, authorship of journal and conference papers, patents, among others) and relevant professional experience (related to the programme's scope)- 20%;
- Motivation (based on the statement of purpose and reference letters) - 10%.

Second phase - The highest ranked candidates in the first phase will be individually interviewed by the DB (live or via video conferencing) in order to assess their knowledge, specific technical skills, motivation, and communication skills in English. The final ranking score will be a combination of the shortlist grade (75%) and the interview grade (25%).

The number of selected candidates may be less than the number of scholarships available, depending on their overall merit.

PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the selection process will be communicated via email to all candidates, and the list of approved applicants will be available at <http://aim.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/>. In the case of an unfavourable award decision (i.e. for applicants not selected to receive scholarships), the applicant has a period of 10 days after disclosure to be heard by the SC by request of a preliminary hearing, pursuant to the *Portuguese Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. The final decision may be appealed to the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, IP, within 15 days of notification of the decision.

FINANCING

The scholarships 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 *Programas Operacionais* during the period 2014-2020, from Portugal 2020, namely, the *Programa Operacional Temático do Capital Humano*, the *Programa Operacional Regional do Norte, do Centro or do Alentejo*, in accordance with the provisions of their specific regulations.

Any cases not addressed in the present call are covered by the Regulations for Research Scholarships of FCT, available at <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.pt>.

Directive Board of the doctoral program **AIM**, April 9, 2015