

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

The Advanced Integrated Microsystems (AIM) PhD programme was awarded 24 PhD scholarships (BD) financed by national funds through the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (MCTES), and the European Social Fund through the Human Capital Operational Programme (HC OP) and plans to award six (6) PhD scholarships (BD) in this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

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 (36 ECTS) followed by a doctoral thesis (204 ECTS). Students must enrol in one of five accredited doctoral programs (Biomedical Engineering, Biotechnology and Biosciences, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Technological Physics Engineering (all at IST) or Molecular Biosciences (ITQB)).

In the framework of this call, the Directive Board (DB), comprising the Programme Director and one representative from each partner institution, 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, (republished by Decree-Law no. 115/2013 of August 7), as amended by Decree-Law no. 107/2008 of June 25, 230/2009 of September 14 and e Decree-Law n.º 63/2016 of September 13. 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 into the doctoral programme is holding a recognised Master's degree in engineering, science, pharmacy or medicine (with 300 ECTS or more). In special circumstances, other candidates with an outstanding academic curriculum (with 180 ECTS or more) will be considered.

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 14/20 or 70%), or an equivalent grade in the national scale of the candidates.

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.

Candidates who have already received scholarships of the same type as those being offered are not eligible if these scholarships were directly funded by FCT.

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 March 1 and April 30, 2017.

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Applications are submitted through the IST doctoral programme 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; and listing, in order of preference, at least 3 of the available doctoral research plans (available in <http://aim.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/news/2016-call/>)
- 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. The candidate must supply a document proving that he/she has been granted the degree, not simply demonstrating completion of the course without having been issued proof of the degree.

In the case of the required academic degrees being conferred by a foreign higher education institution, the presentation of the recognition of the degree registration is required (process regulated by Decree-Law No. 341/2007 of 12 October), or alternatively, the presentation of the equivalence process / recognition regulated by Decree-Law No. 283/83 of 21 June. It is suggested that candidates consult the website of the General Directorate of Higher Education at: <http://www.dges.mctes.pt/DGES/pt>. The registration of degrees must be finalised at the time of submission of the application.

## **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 DB 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 scientific 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* – A shortlist of the 12 highest ranked candidates in the first phase will be individually interviewed by a minimum of 4 of the members of 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 DB may choose, based on the merits of the candidates, to select fewer candidates than the number of scholarships available. The offer of the doctoral fellowship is conditional to the acceptance of the candidate by an AIM research team, by the institution that offers the accredited doctoral program, and by FCT.

## **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 working days after disclosure to be heard by the DB by requesting 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 MCTES (Ministério da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior)/FCT 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 **AIM** doctoral programme, February 3, 2017