

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR RESEARCH GRANTS UNDER R&D PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Research Grants for Master's Students

Ref. BOL/2026/00005 and BOL/2026/00006

The Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-Iscte) at Iscte - Knowledge and Innovation is offering two (2) Research Grant for Master's Students under the project PARPLE - The chain of party pledges: From deciding what to promise to the consequences of (un-)fulfilling the mandate, registered with no. 2023.16141.ICDT whose funding was approved by Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., under the following terms:

1. Scientific Area: Political Science

2. Source of Funding:

Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. under the 2023 Call for R&D Projects in All Scientific Domains

3. Admission requirements:

Applicants must hold a bachelor's in political science, or another field deemed appropriate for the project by the selection panel and must be enrolled in a Master's Programme in Political Science (in accordance with Article 6 of the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (Reg. No. 950/2019).

Academic degrees obtained in foreign countries must be registered by a Portuguese institution, in accordance with Article 25 of Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August, which establishes the legal framework for the recognition of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and with subparagraph (e) of paragraph 2 of Article 4 of Decree-Law No. 60/2018 of 3 August. Presentation of the certificate is mandatory for the signing of the contract.

Preferred criteria:

- a) Proven experience in the use of quantitative or qualitative data analysis software, such as SPSS, Stata, R, MaxQDA, or equivalent;
- b) Proven experience in data analysis and in the preparation of scientific texts with statistical or qualitative nature;

- c) Experience in the creation and validation of quantitative databases;
- d) Experience in conducting qualitative or quantitative research work, participating in research projects, and/or publishing scientific work;
- e) Proficiency in spoken and written English.

4. Work plan:

The work plan consists of supporting the research activities developed under the project PARPLE - The chain of party pledges: From deciding what to promise to the consequences of (un-)fulfilling the mandate, namely:

- a. Collaboration in the preparation, scheduling, conducting, and transcription of interviews with political party leaders;
- b. Collection and coding of electoral pledges contained in the manifestos of political parties represented in the Assembly of the Republic during the 2015–2019, 2019–2022 and 2022–2024 legislative terms, in accordance with the methodology of the Party Pledges Group;
- c. Assessment of the fulfilment of electoral pledges, ensuring their validation and the subsequent construction of the database;
- d. Support in monitoring the administration of a questionnaire survey to Portuguese voters, validation of the corresponding database, and preparation of the data for statistical analysis; and
- e. Undertaking other tasks inherent to supporting the development of the project.

5. Applicable legislation and regulations:

Statute of Scientific Research Fellows, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording published by Decree-Law No. 123/2019 of August 28; Regulations on Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force and available at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2019.pdf> and
<https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>

6. Workplace:

The work will be carried out at CIES-Iscte, at Iscte - Knowledge and Innovation, under the scientific guidance of Professor Ana Maria Belchior.

7. Duration of the scholarship:

The scholarship lasts for 12 months, renewable up to the maximum limit of the approved funding or up to the maximum duration permitted for this type of scholarship (whichever occurs first), and in no case may it exceed the limits established in numbers 3 and 6 of Article 7 of Research Scholarship Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. in force.

8. Monthly maintenance allowance amount:

The amount of the scholarship corresponds to €1,040.98, on an exclusive and full-time basis, as established in the table of scholarships directly or indirectly awarded by the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. , in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf). The corresponding voluntary social security insurance is added to the allowance amount, if the candidate chooses to take it, as well as personal accident insurance. The grant will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

9. Selection process:

The selection process will be based on curriculum evaluation, based on the following criteria:

- a) The bachelor's degree final grade (30%);
- b) The experience demonstrated in the items indicated in the preferential factors (70%).

The curriculum evaluation of candidates will be carried out in accordance with the criteria indicated, on a scale of 0 to 100.

If several candidates demonstrate that they have the appropriate profile to carry out the work plan, the jury reserves the right to invite the four highest-scoring candidates for an interview, which will account for 40% of the final score. If the jury considers interviews unnecessary, the curriculum evaluation will account for 100% of the final score.

The jury reserves the right to:

- a) invite the highest-scoring candidates for the two positions in question, following the order established in the final ranking list, whenever the selected candidates do not meet the requirements for formalizing the contract or in case of unavailability;
- b) not award the scholarship if none of the candidates match the desired profile.

This call may be closed at any time up to the approval of the final ranking list of candidates and shall remain valid for the duration of the project.

10. Composition of the selection panel:

Candidates will be selected by a panel consisting of:

Chair: Professor Ana Maria Belchior (Associated Professor at Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Researcher at CIES-Iscte and Principal Investigator of the Project)

Effective Member: Professor Susana Rogeiro Nina (Researcher at Lusófona University)

Effective Member: Professor Pedro Silveira (Assistant Professor at NOVA University Lisbon and a researcher at IPRI–NOVA)

11. Form of publication/notification of results:

The evaluation results will be published within a maximum of 90 working days from the deadline for submitting applications, by notification to the candidates via email sent to the address indicated in the application process.

The period for interested parties to be heard will last 10 working days following the communication of the results.

12. Application deadline and submission of applications:

The call is open from 5 to 18 March 2026, and only application submitted within this period will be accepted.

Applications must be submitted through the Iscte – Knowledge and Innovation (<https://recrutamento.conhecimentoinovacao.iscte-iul.pt/jobs>) and must include the following documents:

- i) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- ii) Copy of the bachelor's degree certificate, with a list of completed course units;

- iii) Proof of enrollment in a study program leading to a master's degree or, alternatively, a sworn statement that you will be able to present this document on the date of signing the contract.
- iv) Motivation letter;
- v) Other supporting documents deemed relevant, including certificates of participation in qualitative or quantitative analysis training/courses (e.g. SPSS, MAXQDA), as well as evidence of involvement in research and/or intervention projects, internships, completed work or publications.

Applications sent by other means will not be considered.

Within the framework of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, Iscte adopts the principles of Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment (OTM-R Policy), ensuring equal opportunities for all applicants.