

CALL FOR 1 INITIATION TO RESEARCH GRANT WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT VESTA | Refª VESTA-BII-1

Application period: 01-Jul-2026 to 16-Jul-2026

The Institute of Systems and Robotics of the University of Coimbra (ISR-UC) opens a call for applications for one (1) Initiation to Research Grant (BII) for a student **enrolled in a Bachelor or Master degree** course within the scope of the **VESTA (Vegetation Evaluation with Satellite Technology and Analytics) project**, funded by ISR own institutional funds, in the following conditions:

Type of Grant: Initiation to Research Grant (*Bolsa de Iniciação à Investigação*), in accordance with article 3 of the ISR Regulation for Research Fellowships, approved by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P.

Number of positions: 1

Scientific Area: Electrical and Computer Engineering, Computer Science, or a related area.

Admission requirements: The candidate must be a student enrolled in a Bachelor or Master degree course, preferably in one of the scientific areas presented above. The candidate should preferably have knowledge and experience for the project, including (but not limited to), ML/AI techniques, system integration, Python programming skills, satellite or UAV (drone) imagery processing.

Work plan: The selected candidate will work on the development and implementation of algorithms and techniques related to AI-based image processing, with applications in semantic segmentation, data collection, and dataset labelling. The selected candidate will also participate in dissemination activities.

Regulation: This call process shall comply with the applicable national legislation and regulations governing research grants, namely the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (*Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação*), approved by Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, in its current wording, and the Regulation of Research Fellowships of the FCT (*Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação*) in force whenever the grant is directly or indirectly funded by FCT, or, when applicable, the ISR Regulation of Research Fellowships approved by FCT.

Regime: The attribution of the fellowship does not generate or entitle a relation of a legal-labour nature, and the fellowship is undertaken in an exclusive dedication regime. The fellowship holder is awarded the Fellowship Statute of the ISR, in its current wording, according to the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, and according to the Regulation for Research Fellowships applicable.

Location: The activities will take place at the *Instituto de Sistemas e Robótica – Universidade de Coimbra*.

Duration: 3 months.

Scientific orientation: Professor Cristiano Premebida.

Financial conditions: The amount of the fellowship is **€ 701.12**, in accordance with the table of values of the scholarships awarded directly or indirectly by FCT in Portugal (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>), to be paid by bank transfer.

Selection and attribution criteria: The selection methods to be used will be **(a) Curricular Evaluation**, with a valuation of 50% for academic overall merit and 50% for the degree of satisfaction and motivation for the project. If the Jury deems it necessary, an interview may be carried out with the candidates placed in the first three positions according to the ranking resulting from the above criteria. In this case, the final score will include the **(a) Curricular Evaluation**, with a valuation of 80%, and **(b) Interview**, with a valuation of 20%. If none of the candidates has the appropriate profile (overall assessment below 60%), the scholarship will not be awarded.

Jury responsible for selection:

- President: Professor Cristiano Premebida;
- 1st Member: Doctor Tiago Barros Silva;
- 2nd Member: Doctor Luís Artur da Silva Garrote.

Formalization of application: Applications must be formalized by sending the following elements:

- (1) Letter of motivation — **mandatory**;
- (2) Curriculum Vitae (CV) — **mandatory**;
- (3) Copy of the Certificate of Qualifications or Transcripts of the enrolled course with grades of curricular units completed until the moment of application — **mandatory**;
- (4) Proof of enrollment in a Bachelor or Master degree course at a Portuguese higher education institution, or a Declaration on the Honor by the candidate that he/she will enroll in the course until the date of contract signature — **mandatory**;
- (5) A declaration under honour by the candidate listing any fellowships received, their type and duration — **mandatory if the candidate has received any fellowships in Portugal**.

Applicants with academic degrees obtained abroad will be required to present a Certificate of Recognition in accordance with applicable law. This document is mandatory only in the contractualization phase.

Application submission: The applications shall be sent by email to gustavo.bongiovi@isr.uc.pt specifying in the subject: **Refª VESTA-BII-1.**

Submission of applications: The application process is open from **01-July-2026 until 16-July-2026.**

Form of publicity / notification of the results: The results of the evaluation will be publicized at the ISR-UC website through a list ordered by the final grade obtained, with the candidates being notified by email. After the dissemination of the results through email, the candidates must consider themselves, from the outset, notified to, if they wish, express themselves in a prior hearing within a maximum period of 10 working days after that date. At the end of this period, the selected candidate must consider himself summoned to start the grant.

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