

**CALL FOR 1 RESEARCH GRANT FOR A MASTER WITHIN THE SCOPE OF THE
PROJECT BCI4ALL | Refª BCI4ALL-BIM-2**

Application period: 01-Aug-2026 to 31-Aug-2026

The Institute of Systems and Robotics of the University of Coimbra (ISR-UC) opens a call for applications for one (1) Research Grant for a Master (BIM) **enrolled, or willing to enroll, in a PhD or a non-degree course** within the scope of the BCI4ALL project, co-funded by national funds through the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT) under reference **2023.17977.ICDT** (<https://doi.org/10.54499/2023.17977.ICDT>), and through the COMPETE 2030 Programme via the European Regional Development Fund, under reference **COMPETE2030-FEDER-00842800**, in the following conditions:

Type of Grant: Research Grant for a Master (*Bolsa de Investigação para Mestre*), in accordance with article 6 of the Regulation for Research Fellowships of the *Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia* (FCT), I.P.

Number of positions: 1

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

Admission requirements and candidate profile:

1. The candidate must hold a Master's degree in Computer Science, Artificial Intelligence, Electrical and Computer Engineering, or a closely related area.
2. At the time of signing the fellowship contract, the selected candidate must be enrolled in one of the following:
 - a) a course not conferring an academic degree, related to the research fellowship's activity type provided that they are developed in association or cooperation between a higher education institution and one or more R&D units, in accordance with the provisions of article 3, paragraph e) of the FCT Regulation for Research Fellowships; or
 - b) a doctoral program at the University of Coimbra, with a research topic aligned with the scientific area and work plan of this call, and with the involvement of at least one of the fellowship's scientific supervisors in the supervision or co-supervision of the doctoral project;
3. The candidate must meet the eligibility criteria established by the Regulation for Research Fellowships of FCT and , in its current wording.
(https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/RBi_Republicado_2025.pdf)
4. Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of and practical experience in generative artificial intelligence, supported by evidence such as previous projects or applications, academic or

professional work, relevant training, software repositories, or other documented outputs. Applicants must also identify the generative AI methods, models, tools, and software frameworks with which they have experience.

5. Given that the research activities involve interaction with patients and their families, proficiency in spoken and written Portuguese is an essential admission requirement.
6. Candidates must have good knowledge of English, both written and spoken, for the proper scientific dissemination of results.
7. Preference will be given to candidates interested in pursuing a doctoral programme at the University of Coimbra, conducting research activities at the Institute of Systems and Robotics – University of Coimbra in the scientific area of this call.

Work plan: The selected candidate will join the BCI4ALL research team and contribute to the design, implementation, integration, and evaluation of adaptive interaction methods for existing brain-computer interfaces intended to support communication by people with locked-in syndrome and severe motor limitations. The work will aim to improve the naturalness, flexibility, and personalization of the interaction and to adapt the interface to each user's functional and communication capabilities. The proposed approaches will rely primarily on generative artificial intelligence methods, including context-aware and personalized language generation, response prediction and suggestion, dialogue management, and adaptation of the interaction to the individual user, as well as on the software engineering required to develop customized applications suitable for use in home environments.

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-UC, in its current wording, according to the Research Fellowship Holder Statute, and according to the Regulation for Research Fellowships of the FCT, both in their current wording.

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 Regulation of Research Fellowships of the ISR-UC approved by FCT.

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

Duration: **6 months**, possibly **renewable**, by agreement between both parties. In accordance with article 6, paragraph 4, letter a) and c) of the FCT Regulation for Research Fellowships, the

grant cannot exceed a period of 12 months for a candidate enrolled in a non-degree course or 48 months for a candidate enrolled in PhD.

Scientific orientation: Professor Gabriel Pereira Pires and Professor Luís Conde Bento.

Financial conditions: The amount of the fellowship is **€ 1359.64**, 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, plus personal accidents insurance and social security (Seguro Social Voluntário, first level contributions) if the applicant chooses to subscribe.

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 Doctor Gabriel Pereira Pires;
- 1st Member: Professor Doctor Urbano José Carreira Nunes;
- 2nd Member: Professor Doctor Luís Conde Bento.

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 (Master degree) with the final average — **mandatory**;
- (4) Proof of enrollment in a PhD or a non-degree course of 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 (use the template available at: <https://tinyurl.com/mpnwf8wh>) — **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 with CC: gpires@isr.uc.pt and lcondebento@gmail.com specifying in the subject: Ref. BCI4ALL-BIM-2.

Submission of applications: The application process is open from **01-August-2026** until **31-August-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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<https://isr.uc.pt/opportunities>