



## ProtoTera 2023 Call – Applications for Doctoral Scholarships in the framework of the Proton Therapy PhD Grants Program

### Terms of the Call – 4th Edition

The Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and the ProtoTera Association agreed to promote a program of PhD grants, under the FCT Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EIB), in order to constitute a community of PhDs with multidisciplinary training in the areas of medicine, technology and physics that support the installation and operation in Portugal of cancer treatment centers using proton beam therapy.

The following domains will be considered:

- a) Fundamental or applied research in the studies of the effects of high energy radiation on biological systems and materials and, in particular, on studies of radiation on cells and animals;
- b) Development and optimization of relevant technologies for the therapeutic use of particle beams, including accelerators; beams modulated in space, time and intensity; real-time reconstruction systems for the location of the beam in the tumor area; real-time planning and medical imaging;
- c) Diagnosis and treatment of oncological diseases which imply the study of innovative approaches that involve the combination of therapeutic and diagnostic systems, commonly referred to as "theranostics", contributing to a precision and customized medicine;
- d) Research in medical and clinical physics related to proton radiotherapy namely, within the scope of the dependent and independent uncertainties of the dose calculation;
- e) Medical and clinical research related to proton radiation therapy, namely in the referral of patients and in the planning and follow up of treatments;
- f) Study of synergies between immunotherapy and proton therapy and therapies making use of both radioisotopes and proton therapy.

The maximum number of grants to be awarded in the present call will be 6 (six). The granting of the scholarship will depend on the receipt of all required documents and is subject to the availability of FCT funding.

The grants are funded by FCT under the Agreement signed between FCT and the ProtoTera Association.

This program is associated to the IDPASC Doctoral Program in Particle Physics, Astrophysics and Cosmology.

## 1. Grant Recipients

PhD studentships will be granted to applicants that fulfil the requirements to join a study cycle towards a PhD degree and wish to develop research work in the areas of medicine, technology and physics at a Portuguese University and hosted at one of the institutions that integrate the ProtoTera Association or at any national R&D centre **with a protocol previously established with the ProtoTera Association for this PhD studentships program**. These grants will be supervised by a supervisor designed by the host institution and may be co-supervised by researchers from other institutions. In any case it is mandatory that one of the supervisors has a formal link to a Portuguese University granting the academic degree and, in case of mixed grants, one of the co-supervisors must have a link to the foreign host institution.

## 2. Type, local and duration of the grants

The grants may be “national” or “mixed” grants, depending on whether the work program is carried out totally or partially at national institutions. **In the case of national grants, it is mandatory to include in the work program a minimum period of a 6-month internship at an internationally renowned institution.** In the case of mixed grants, the period of the work program that takes place in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months. When applying for a mixed grant, applicants should specify the starting date and length(s) of the period(s) to be spent abroad, and indicate the foreign institution where the research work will take place.

The duration of the grant is annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years and may not be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months.

## 3. Admissibility Requirements

The following applicants are eligible:

- Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states;
- third-country citizens;
- stateless persons;
- beneficiaries of refugee status.

To apply for a PhD studentship it is necessary:

- To hold a bachelor’s or master’s degree in the scientific areas defined in the call announcement or in related areas;
- To be a citizen permanently and usually living in Portugal at the starting date of the working plan abroad, in case the work plan of the requested studentship proceeds partially, in foreign institutions (in case of mixed studentships); this requirement is applicable to both national and foreign citizens;
- Not to have benefited from a PhD or a PhD in industry studentship directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration;
- Not to hold a doctoral degree.

In the case of mixed grants, all candidates (national or foreign citizens) must be able to produce proof of their usual or permanent residence in Portugal at the starting date of the working plan abroad.

#### 4. Period of the Call

The call will be open from 16<sup>th</sup> January to 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 17:00 (Lisbon time).

- 1<sup>st</sup> Phase: Submission of thesis themes by supervisors – 16<sup>th</sup> January to 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, 17:00 (Lisbon time)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase: Submission of the applications by students – 06<sup>th</sup> February to 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 17:00 (Lisbon time)

#### 5. Submission of Thesis Proposals – 1<sup>st</sup> Phase (16<sup>th</sup> January to 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2023, 17:00 (Lisbon time))

As stated in the call announcement, R&D centres should have a protocol previously established with the ProtoTera Association. It is also mandatory that one of the supervisors has a formal link to a Portuguese University granting the academic degree, and in case of mixed grants, one of the co-supervisors must have a link to the foreign host institution. The institutions that don't have such a protocol should send an email to [prototerapia@lip.pt](mailto:prototerapia@lip.pt) to express their interest in joining the doctoral grants program. A template of the protocol can be found at [https://prototerapia.lip.pt/files/prototera\\_minute\\_agreement.docx](https://prototerapia.lip.pt/files/prototera_minute_agreement.docx).

Each thesis theme can have a maximum of three supervisors, with one being the main supervisor and the other(s) (optional) the co-supervisors. Any fully active researcher holding a PhD may be a supervisor or co-supervisor.

To submit thesis themes, you need first to register using the following link: <https://prototerapia.lip.pt/register>. Supervisors and co-supervisors should guarantee that their CV is uploaded in the website.

During this phase, supervisors should submit thesis themes. For each thesis proposed, the supervisor should state the title, the scientific domain, the institution that will award the academic degree, the PhD program, the host institution and, if applicable, the name of the co-supervisor(s).

After logging, supervisors should proceed as indicated below:

- Create a new proposal: go to **"Application->Supervisors->New Thesis"**;
  - Insert the title, the scientific domain, the institution that will award the academic degree, the PhD Program, the host institution, and names of co-supervisors if applicable.

- Insert the work plan, which should be relevant for the installation and operation in Portugal of cancer treatment centers using proton beam therapy, a summary of the thesis and a description of the objectives to be achieved.
- Insert a clear justification of why the proposed topic is relevant to support the installation and operation in Portugal of cancer treatment centers using proton beam therapy.

## 6. Submission of Students' Applications - 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase (06<sup>th</sup> February to 03<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, 17:00 (Lisbon time))

Before applying, you need to register as student using the following link: <https://prototerapia.lip.pt/register>.

Applications can only be submitted electronically through: <https://prototerapia.lip.pt>

No other means of submission are available. Due to the existence of non-Portuguese speaking members on the evaluation panel, applications should be submitted in English in order to ensure an accurate assessment of all the elements. Students may only submit one single application.

All applicants have access to the proposed thesis themes in the website. The applicants should consult the proposed thesis themes and contact the supervisor/co-supervisors of the thesis. A communication between candidates and supervisors is mandatory. The work plan resulting from this interaction should contain a detailed description of how the goals of the research project will be achieved. The description should also provide all the necessary elements to allow the assessment by the evaluation panel, namely the methodological approach, description of tasks, their interrelatedness, sequence and schedule. It may also include a contingency plan, addressing how possible unforeseeable difficulties might be overcome. In order to enable the Evaluation Panel to analyse the feasibility of the proposed work plan, a timeline with milestones for the different tasks should be included.

Besides of other factors, the final locking and submission of the application depends on the association of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s) (when applicable) to the application.

Once the topic has been selected by a candidate in agreement with the supervisor, the candidate formalizes his application by filling the Candidate Application form (*provided on-line*) and uploading the following documents (**mandatory**):

- **One CV file** in PDF format, clearly and succinctly identifying the most relevant elements of your academic and professional career, such as academic and complementary training, scientific publications, communications at conferences, participation and organization of events, awards and other situations considered relevant for the CV assessment;

- **One Motivation Letter file** in PDF format, explaining the reasons for her/his application, presenting her/his academic/professional career path and how it is related to the work plan, if applicable; in this field the choice of the most representative document should also be mentioned and justified;
- **The most representative document of the applicant's scientific/professional path** as, for example, a scientific publication, conference communication, scientific report or master thesis; proof of scientific or professional achievement, performances or artistic creations. Academic degree certificates, CVs or documents describing the applicant's career path should not be submitted in this field;
- **One PDF file containing certificates of all the academic degrees obtained, (Bachelor and Master)**, with the final average grade and marks in all subjects. **The minimum grade of zero (A1 = 0)** will be scored to sub-criterion A1 when no certificate is submitted, in the application form;
- **One PDF file containing the academic degree recognition** and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale or the presentation of the **recognition/equivalence**, registered by a public higher education institution. **The minimum grade of zero (A1 = 0)** will be scored to sub-criterion A1 when no certificate is submitted, in the application form;
- **Timeline**, showing the scheduling of the tasks proposed in the work plan, as well as the main milestones to be achieved, including the thesis submission (or the scientific work leading to the doctoral degree) at the university;
- **Two contacts** (names and e-mail addresses) for reference letters, excluding letters from supervisors.  
*(The reference letters will be directly uploaded by the referees. Applicants will not have access to the letters but they will be able to check if and when they have been uploaded. The referees will receive an e-mail with the name of the applicant and with a link for uploading their letters. The Referees can upload the letters during the whole period of the Call).*

**Optional PDF file containing other documents** that the candidate may consider relevant for the assessment of the merit mentioned in the CV;

Besides of other factors, the final locking and submission of the application depends on the association of the supervisor and co-supervisor(s) (when applicable) to the application. **The supervisors can only associate each thesis proposal with a single student.**

Click **"Associate Supervisors"**. An e-mail will be sent to the applicant and to the supervisor, as well as to the co-supervisors (when applicable). Applicants must then be confirmed by the supervisor and co-supervisors (when applicable).

They will need to fill the supervisor form (*provided by LIP on-line*), describing their personal judgment as regards to the student's CV and his adequacy to the PhD subject.

After the supervisor and co-supervisors have locked their association to the application, applicants should click "**Submit and Lock**". At this point, the entire application will be validated and, if there is no error, locked. No further modification will be allowed.

### Important Notes – Academic degrees

Applicants with academic degrees obtained in Portugal must comply with the following, depending on their specific status:

- For post-Bologna academic degrees, applicants should specify the final grades obtained in the 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 2<sup>nd</sup> study cycles, as well as the corresponding ECTS;
- In case of integrated master degrees, for which the institutions do not provide separate final grades for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of study, just the final grade and the total number of ECTS should be specified;
- For pre-Bologna academic degrees, applicants should indicate the grades obtained for the graduate and/or master degrees.

For each of your academic degrees, you should click on the "**Add Academic Degree**" button, then select the respective option from the drop list and fill in the respective mandatory fields.

### Important notice for national and foreign candidates

Only candidates who have completed the cycle of studies leading to a Bachelor's or Master's degree by the end of the application period will be admitted. Candidates who do not yet have their degree certificate may present a declaration of honor, stating that they have completed the necessary qualifications for the purposes of the call by the end of the application deadline.

In order to comply with the foreseen applicable Portuguese legislation regarding the recognition of foreign qualifications, all the rights inherent to academic degrees granted by foreign higher education institutions is duly recognised to the holders of these degrees. This recognition is subject to the presentation of **the academic degrees recognition and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale**, requested to the Dean of a public Portuguese University, the Head of a Public Polytechnic Institute or the Director-General for Higher Education; or by the presentation of the **recognition/equivalence**, registered by a public higher education institution.

The granting of the scholarship will depend on the presentation of all the documents. For candidates with diplomas issued by foreign institutions **the academic degrees recognition and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale** or the presentation of the **recognition/equivalence** will be required for the granting of the scholarship.

Nevertheless, the presentation of the **degree certificates in the application form is determinant for evaluation purposes**, namely to calculate the score of A1, a sub-criterion of the Merit of the Applicant.

In case of academic degrees obtained abroad, **only degrees with the respective records of recognition/equivalence and conversion to the Portuguese grading scale will be considered to calculate the score of A1 sub-criterion.**

The declarations of honor will not be considered for evaluation purposes.

The minimum grade of zero (A1 = 0) will be scored to sub-criterion A1 in the following cases:

- a) When no certificate is submitted, in the application form, neither graduate nor master's degree certificates (national or foreign);
- b) When both national graduate and master certificates do not state the respective final grade (neither quantitative nor qualitative);
- c) When both foreign graduate and master certificates are not recognized, nor the final grades converted to the Portuguese grading scale.

The members of the panel will only assess the degrees duly recognized at the date of the application submission.

The legal regime applicable to the recognition procedures is approved by the Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August, if requested after 1 January 2019. For requests submitted before 1 January 2019, the applicable legal procedure is ratified by Decree-Law 341/2007, of 12 October, and regulated by Decree no. 227/2017, of 25 July, or, alternatively, for equivalence processes, the request is governed by the Decree-Law no. 283/83, of 21 June.

For further information, applicants are advised to carefully read Decree-Law 66/2018, of 16 August, and to visit the website of the Directorate General for Higher Education (Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior, DGES): <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition?plid=1536>

Applicants with foreign academic degrees should:

- Indicate that the academic degree was completed abroad;
- Upload the **recognition/equivalence of the academic degree and the final grade conversion to the Portuguese grading scale**, issued by a Portuguese public higher education institution or by the Directorate General for Higher Education (DGES).

## 7. Evaluation

Each application admitted to the Call, if considered to meet the admissibility requirements, will be assessed by the evaluation panel.

The evaluation panel is composed by the following members:

- *Rui Marques* – University of Coimbra (Panel Chairman)
- *Marco Riboldi* – Medical Physics, Department of Medical Physics, Ludwig-Maximilians University, Garching b. Munich, Germany
- *Cornelia Hoehr* – Life Sciences Division, TRIUMF, Vancouver, Canada
- *Morten Høyer* – Aarhus University Hospital, Aarhus, Denmark
- *Saverio Braccini* - Albert Einstein Center for Fundamental Physics, Laboratory for High Energy Physics, University of BERN, Switzerland
- *Richard Amos* - University College London (UCL), London, United Kingdom

Members of an evaluation panel may not supervise or co-supervise applications submitted to their panel.

The evaluation panel will analyse applications considering the evaluation criteria disclosed in the Notice of the Call, considering all the appreciation elements.

All panel members, including the chair, establish the commitment to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as impartiality, declaration of potential COI and confidentiality. The confidentiality must be fully protected and ensured, during all the evaluation process, in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced.

An individual evaluation report will be filled in for each of the applications. Each panel will present, in a clear, consistent and coherent manner, the arguments that led to the scores awarded to each of the evaluation criteria and sub-criteria.

The panel meeting report is a responsibility of all panel members and must include:

- a) The name and affiliation of all panel members;
- b) The indication of applications considered as “non-assessable” (If applicable);
- c) The panel adopted methodology used for particular cases (If applicable);
- d) Individual evaluation report for each candidate;
- e) The provisional ranked list of all the applications evaluated by the panel, in descending order of the final score;
- f) The list of COI declared by all the panel members.
- g) Any delegations of vote and powers due to justified absence (if applicable).



All applications will be graded from 0.000 (minimum) to 5.000 (maximum) in each of the three evaluation criteria:

Criterion A – Merit of the Applicant;

Criterion B – Merit of the Work Program;

Criterion C – Merit of Hosting and Supervision Conditions.

Applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the score obtained in the three criteria, following the relative weighting of: 40% Merit of the Applicant (A); 40% Merit of the Work Program (B); 20% Merit of the Hosting and Supervision Conditions (C), converted into the following formula:

$$\text{Final Grade} = (0,4 \times A) + (0,4 \times B) + (0,2 \times C)$$

For purposes of **tiebreak**, the final ranking list will be based on the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order: criterion A (Merit of the Applicant), criterion B (Merit of the Work Programme) and criterion C (Merit of the Hosting Conditions).

Applicants whose application is scored with a final grade lower than 3.000 will not be eligible for studentship granting.

### Criterion A – Merit of the Applicant

The criterion A, which has a 40% relative weight to the final score, is evaluated based on two sub-criteria:

A1. **Academic career** (reflecting the academic degree grades), with a relative weight of 50% in the Merit of the Applicant.

The academic career sub-criterion is calculated according to the final classification stated in the academic degree certificate, submitted in the application form, according to Table 1: i) Graduate + Master / Integrated Master; ii) Graduate degree only; or iii) Master degree only.

**Table 1 – Reference table to score the sub-criterion A1 – Academic career**

<u>Graduate + Master degrees</u> (pre- or post-Bologna) or <u>Integrated Master degree</u> (300-360 ECTS)		<u>Graduate degree (180 ECTS)</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)		<u>Master degree (90-120 ECTS)</u> (pre- or post-Bologna)	
Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score	Final Grade	A1 Score
≥ 18	5.0	≥ 17	3.5	≥ 17	3.0
17	4.5	16	3.0	16	2.5
16	4.0	15	2.5	15	2.0
15	3.5	14	2.0	14	1.5
14	3.0	<14	1.5	< 14	1.0
<14	2.5				

To calculate the score of sub-criterion A1, the prevailing grade is the one stated in the respective degree certificate(s). Certificate final grades presented with decimal digits shall be rounded to the third decimal digit using the following rule: when the fourth decimal digit is equal to or greater than 5 (five) it shall be rounded in excess; if lesser, the value of the third decimal digit shall be upheld. To calculate the arithmetic average between the graduate and master degrees' grades, the original grades indicated in the certificates (even if presented with decimal digits) shall be considered, rounding only the final grade average. If the degree certificate simultaneously shows, both the rounded and the decimal grades, the rounded grade shall be used.

Although it is not mandatory to submit degree certificates for the admission to the call, **documental evidence of the classifications obtained in the academic degrees is mandatory for the evaluation of the sub-criterion A1.**

**In case no valid academic degree certificate is submitted, the sub-criterion A1 will be scored zero (A1 = 0).**

To apply the scoring system presented in Table 1, it is mandatory to submit the following documents in the application form:

- a) Academic degree certificates, indicating the final grade and, if possible, the final classification of the disciplines completed. Applicants with post-Bologna education shall present both 1st and 2nd study cycles academic degree certificates or an integrated master certificate, while applicants with pre-Bologna education should present the graduate and/or master degree certificates. It should be noted that a certificate of curricular units does not substitute the submission of a degree certificate including the degree's final grade required to the sub-criterion A1 calculation.
- b) In case of foreign academic degrees it is mandatory to submit the recognition of such degrees and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, to guarantee the principle of equal treatment to applicants with national and foreign academic degrees.

A2. **Personal curriculum** (reflecting the scientific, professional and academic career, when applicable, and the applicant's motivation to proceed with this study cycle), with a relative weight of 50% in the Merit of the Applicant. In particular, previous experience in the areas of medicine, technology and physics, relevant for the installation and operation in Portugal of cancer treatment centers using proton beam therapy will be valued. In the assessment of the personal curriculum, the panel will consider **the motivation letter**, in particular, the clear identification of applicant's motivation to submit the application and the maturity to develop the proposed scientific work plan. **The recommendation letters and the most representative document (documents of mandatory submission)** will also be considered in the sub-criterion A2. In the case of the recommendation letters, the skills identified by the referees selected by the candidate will be evaluated. Similarly, the quality of the most representative document will be assessed and its choice should be justified in the motivation letter.

### Disability Bonuses

Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 90% shall have a bonus of 20% on criterion A – Merit of the Applicant.

Applicants that state a degree of disability equal to or above 60% and under 90%, shall have a bonus of 10% in this criterion.

The degree of disability should be duly proven by submitting, in the application form, the document **Atestado Médico de Incapacidade Multiuso (AMIM)**, issued according to the Decree-Law no. 202/96, of 23 of October, in its current version.

### Criterion B - Merit of the work programme

The merit of the work programme criterion has a relative weight of 40% and is evaluated in an integrated and transversal manner, assessing the quality, originality and relevance of the work plan in all of its dimensions, in the following three sub-criteria:

- B1. Justified relevance of the study object;
- B2. Scientific quality of the state of the art and the methodology of the work programme;
- B3. Feasibility of the work programme.

For **sub-criterion B1**, the evaluation is based on the clear definition of aims and research questions, as well as the originality and the potential contribution of the research project to the knowledge and progress of science and technology and, when applicable, its social impact.

The assessment of **sub-criterion B2** is based on the quality of the state of the art and the proposed research methodology, considering the clarity, consistency, and coherence, in accordance with internationally accepted standards, and the originality of the work plan to be developed.

For **sub-criterion B3**, evaluation is based on the adequacy of methodologies to the tasks and aims proposed in the work plan and the respective planned deadlines as the total period expected to complete the project. The submission of the thesis, or of the scientific work leading to the doctoral degree, at the university, must be included in the timeline. If applicable, the risk assessment presented is also analysed, by identifying the most critical points and the corresponding contingency measures to be adopted.

The presentation of a **timeline**, of mandatory submission, is also considered, as well as additional and optional information related to the work plan such as schemes, formulas, or figures illustrating preliminary data.

### **Criterion C - Merit of hosting and supervision conditions**

The merit of the hosting and supervision conditions criterion has a relative weight of 20% and takes into account two parameters:

- C1. The scientific merit and experience of the supervisor in the scientific field of the application [and, if applicable, the co-supervisor(s)] and his/her suitability with regard to the supervision of the applicant towards obtaining a PhD;
- C2. Quality and adequacy of the host institution(s) conditions.

The evaluation of these sub-criteria is performed in an integrated way, considering the following:

- a) The supervisor(s) associated CV;
- b) The means available at the host institution(s) mentioned throughout the application form.

Applications that present more than one host institution should clearly indicate the tasks performed in each institution.

When two or more supervisors are proposed, the role of each one should be clearly explained, highlighting the relevance of each one's participation and complementarity for the development and feasibility of the work plan.

When applying to a grant both in Portugal and abroad (whose work plan is partially carried out in a foreign institution), it is mandatory to identify the foreign affiliation institution(s), and to associate the respective foreign supervisor/co-supervisor, affiliated to that/those institution(s).

## **8. Disclosure of results**

The results of the evaluation will be communicated to the applicants by email, and the conclusion of the process will be published on the ProtoTera website. In case of a negative decision, applicants dispose of a period of 10 days in which to oppose the decision in a preliminary hearing, as stated in articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. The panel's final decision will be taken after analysis of the applicant's arguments and the candidates notified. In case of disagreement, the candidates have a period of 15 working days to contest the decision.

A final appeal may also be lodged with the highest body of the funding entity (FCT) within a period of 30 working days after the announcement of the jury's final classification.

## 9. Requirements for Studentship Granting

The following documents are of mandatory submission for the studentship contract:

- a) Copy of the documents of personal identification, tax number and, if applicable, social security;
- b) Document of proof of permanent and usual residence in Portugal, if applicable, valid at the starting date of the working plan abroad. In case the work plan of the requested studentship is held partially, in foreign institutions, applicants, independently of their nationality, will have to present the document of proof of permanent and usual residence in Portugal;
- c) Copy of the academic degree certificates;
- d) Copy of the degrees' recognition and the conversion of the respective final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, if applicable;
- e) Working Program;
- f) Document proving the acceptance and registration in the 3rd study cycle from the educational offer in the higher education institution that will grant the academic degree;
- g) Supervisor(s) statement declaring to coordinate the work plan, as established in Article nº. 5-A of the Statute for Research Fellowships (template will be made available by FCT);
- h) Institutional document supporting the applicant, issued by the institution(s) where the work plan will be carried out, guaranteeing the necessary conditions to its successful development, as well as the fulfilment of the duties established in Article no. 13 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (template will be made available by FCT);
- i) Updated document proving the exclusivity dedication regime (template will be made available by FCT).

The studentship granting is still dependent on:

- the fulfilment of all the requirements listed in this Notice of the Call;
- the results of scientific evaluation;
- the absence of unjustified non-compliance of the fellowship holder during previous directly or indirectly FCT funded fellowships;
- FCT available budget.

The lack of any of the necessary documents to complete the contracting procedure implies the expiration of the studentship granting and conclusion of the process; applicants have up to 6 months after the disclosure of the provisional granting to present all of the listed documents.

## 10. Funding

The scholarship contracts will be signed with FCT. The attribution of grants is conditional on the presentation of all required documentation and on the admission of the candidate by the Institution granting the academic degree, as well as subject to the availability of FCT funds.

The scholarships awarded by FCT under this contract will be financed by funds from the Portuguese State Budget and, when applicable, by funds from the European Social Fund through the Operational Programs of Portugal 2020 (Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020), Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020) and Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020)), or additional funding schemes that might be approved.

## 11. Studentship Allowance

A monthly maintenance allowance is granted to the studentship holder, the amount of which varies according to whether the activities are carried out in the country or abroad, in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The studentship may also include additional allowances, according to RBI's Article nº. 18 and the values indicated in its Annex II.

All the studentship holders have a personal accident insurance related to the research activities, which FCT will support.

All studentship holders who are not beneficiaries of any social protection regime can use the right to social security through the voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Contributory Scheme of the Social Security System. FCT will ensure the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and with the limits provided in Article nº. 10 of the EBI.

## 12. Payment of Studentship Allowance

Payments due to the studentship holder are made by bank transfer to the respective indicated account. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first working day of each month.

Registration, enrolment or tuition fees components are paid by FCT to the national institution where the studentship holder has enrolled.

## 13. Terms and Conditions of PhD Studentship Renewal

The renewal of the studentship always depends on applicant's submission, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, of the following documents:

- a) Declaration issued by the supervisor(s) and by the host institution(s) attesting the work plan development and the evaluation of the respective activities;
- b) Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- c) Declaration demonstrating the enrolment renewal in the study cycle leading to the doctoral degree.

## 14. Information and Publicity of the Granted Funding

All the R&D activities carried out by the grantee, directly or indirectly financed by the studentship, namely, communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as thesis, must include the reference to FCT and, when applicable, the European Social Fund (ESF) financing. In particular, these references should mention the following operational programmes Programa Operacional Regional do Norte (NORTE 2020), Programa Operacional Regional do Centro (Centro 2020) and Programa Operacional Regional do Alentejo (Alentejo 2020), or additional funding schemes that might be approved. Insignia of FCT, ESF and EU must therefore be included in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational programme.

The disclosure of research results funded according to the RBI provisions must comply with the open access guidelines, publications and other research results in accordance with FCT rules.

For all the studentships, in particular in case of European funded actions, namely the ESF, may be performed monitoring and controlling actions by national or European entities according to the applicable legislation. Grantees must therefore collaborate and provide all the required information, including answering to surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even though the studentship might have already ceased.

## 15. Equality and non-discrimination Policy

We are committed to promoting a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, thus no applicant may be privileged, benefited, damaged, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty. This includes ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic disease, nationality, ethnicity or race, land of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs or trade union affiliation.

## 16. Applicable Legislation and Regulation

All missing aspects from this Call will follow the FCT Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (Regulamento nº 950/2019, published in II Série do DR de 16 de dezembro de 2019) available at:

<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>

and the Research Fellowship Holder Statute (approved by Law nº 40/2004, 18<sup>th</sup> August, in its current reading), available at:

<https://dre.pt/dre/legislacao-consolidada/lei/2004-58216179>

and other national and European legislation applicable.

ProtoTera – PhD Program - [prototerapia@lip.pt](mailto:prototerapia@lip.pt)

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CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA  
E INOVAÇÃO SUPERIOR

