

NOTICE FOR THE AWARDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS WITHIN R&D PROJECTS AND INSTITUTIONS

Reference: NewSpace-01/2026

Number of positions: 1 (one)

Applications are open for the award of one (1) Master Research Grant, within the scope of the project “Very High Resolution (VHR) Satellites of the Atlantic Constellation”, framed under WP3 of the NewSpace Portugal Agenda, at CEiiA, with reference NewSpace-01/2026), funded by national PRR funds (Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência) through IAPMEI – Agência para a Competitividade e Inovação, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Physics and/or equivalent areas.

Eligibility Requirements:

- a) Knowledge of aerospace structural simulation;
- b) Knowledge of predominantly numerical structural analysis based on CAD modelling;
- c) Knowledge in translating geometric and dimensional specifications of aerospace structures using manual drafting and three-dimensional virtual models (CAD/CATIA V5);
- d) Knowledge of development, modification and creation of CAD models of aerospace structures;
- e) Compliance with the provisions of Article 5 of the FCT Research Grant Regulations (Reg. no. 950/2019):
 - Not exceeding, with the execution of the respective grant contract, including possible renewals, a cumulative period of one year under this type of grant, consecutive or interpolated;
 - Not having previously benefited from any other research grant directly or indirectly funded by FCT.

Only grants whose selected candidates present valid proof of completion of the degree-awarding or non-degree-awarding course, according to the type of grant under competition, issued by the academic services of the Higher Education Institution, will be contracted. Academic degrees obtained abroad must be registered by a Portuguese institution, in accordance with Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August, and Ordinance no. 33/2019, of 25 January. Submission of the certificate is mandatory for contract signature. More information may be obtained at:
<https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374>

Work plan and objectives: The work plan focuses on the study of the aerodynamic and structural behavior of aerospace structures, with an emphasis on adaptable configurations. The work aims to

analyze the influence of geometry, mass distribution and structural flexibility on dynamic performance and flight stability.

The approach will be predominantly numerical, based on CAD modeling, aerodynamic simulations and structural analysis. Parametric and sensitivity studies will be carried out to identify more robust and efficient configurations, contributing to the development of analysis and optimization methodologies applicable to different aerospace systems.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Law no. 40/2004, of 18 August (Statute of the Scientific Research Grant Holder), as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August; FCT Research Grant Regulations, available at <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2019.pdf> and <https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>.

Workplace: The work will be carried out at CEiIA – Centre for Engineering and Product Development, located at Avenida Dom Afonso Henriques, 1825, Matosinhos, under the scientific supervision of Doctor John Meyer.

Duration of scholarships: The grant will have a duration of 9 months, with an expected start date of 2 March 2026. The grant contract is non-renewable.

Evaluation and selection criteria and procedures: The selection method to be used will be composed of the Candidate's Merit, on a scale from 0 to 20 points:

Candidate's Merit – CM (100%):

- a. Curricular Evaluation, with a weighting of 100%;
 - a.1) Academic Training, with a weighting of 45%;
 - a.2) Scientific Publications, with a weighting of 5%;
 - a.3) Eligibility Requirements, with a weighting of 45%;
 - a.4) Motivation Letter, with a weighting of 5%.

The final classification of the Candidate's Merit (CM) will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$CM = (a.1 \times 0.45) + (a.2 \times 0.05) + (a.3 \times 0.45) + (a.4 \times 0.05)$$

Candidates with a score below 10 points in the Curricular Evaluation component will not be admitted. The jury reserves the right not to award the grant if no candidates meeting the eligibility requirements apply.

Selection Committee composition: The jury is composed of the following members: Henrique Candeias (President), John Meyer (First effective member), Sandra Melo (Second effective member), Vítor Botelho (First alternate member) and Ricardo Ferreira (Second alternate member). In the event of impediment of the Chair, he/she shall be replaced by the first effective member, and the first alternate member shall be appointed to replace the effective member.

Form of Publicity/Notification of Results: All candidates will be notified by email of the Final Evaluation Result, substantiated in minutes, and sent to the candidates within a maximum period of 90 working days from the end of the application submission period, in accordance with Article 12 of the FCT Research Grant Regulations.

Application Deadline and Submission Method: The call is open for a period of 10 working days when submitted on EURAXESS. Applications must be formally submitted, mandatorily, by sending an application letter accompanied by the following documents (if applicable): i) Curriculum Vitae; ii) Academic Certificate; iii) Motivation Letter; iv) Scientific Publications.

Applications must be submitted via the address: <https://smrtr.io/wL89w>, indicating the competition reference in the subject line. Applications submitted through other means will not be accepted. Failure to indicate the competition reference, missing required documents, or submission to a different address than the one indicated above may result in exclusion. In case of doubt, candidates should contact peessoas@ceia.com.

Monthly maintenance allowance and protection: The monthly grant amount corresponds to €1,309.64/month, in accordance with the table of values for grants directly awarded by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf). Payment is made by the last working day of each month via bank transfer to the grantee's IBAN provided during the contracting process. Grant holders who are not covered by any social protection scheme may opt into the Voluntary Social Security Scheme, corresponding to the 1st contribution bracket. Grant holders are entitled to Personal Accident Insurance.

Exclusivity Regime: The performance of duties as a grant holder is carried out under an exclusivity regime, in accordance with Article 5 of the Statute of the Research Grant Holder and applicable research grant regulations.

Complaint and Appeal Procedures: The selected candidate must express in writing (by email) the intention to accept the grant. In case of non-acceptance, the grant will be awarded to the next candidate in the final ranking order. A complaint against the final decision may be submitted within 15 working days, addressed to the Chair of the Jury.

Grant Contracting: The granting of the scholarship is formalized through the signing of a contract between CEiIA and the grant holder, in accordance with the contract template referred to in point 2.4 of the “Rules for the Award and Management of Grants within R&D Projects, including infrastructure projects, the multiannual funding program for R&D units and other FCT funding instruments (2021 Version)”. The contract may only be signed after receipt of all documentation required according to the type of grant, which must occur within a maximum period of three months (including proof of academic degree ownership). After receipt of all documentation, the contracting entity has a period of 30 working days to execute the grant contracts. Once received by the grant holder, the contract must be returned duly signed within 15 working days. Grant contracts may only commence after due authorization by the contracting entity

Termination and Cancellation of Grant Contracts: Without prejudice to the other grounds provided for in the applicable research grant regulations (FCT) and in the Statute of the Research Grant Holder, the grant shall terminate upon completion of the contracted work plan, as well as upon expiry of the period for which it was awarded or renewed. At the end of the grant, the grant holder is required to submit the Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the supervisor, within 30 working days following the end of the grant. This documentation must be submitted to the supervisor, who shall forward it to the competent entities.

The Final Report must be submitted in electronic format and shall include the activities carried out and the results obtained, including communications, publications and scientific outputs resulting from the activity performed, together with their respective URLs, and must be accompanied by the supervisor’s opinion, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 24 of the Research Grant Regulations, Regulation no. 950/2019 of 16 December 2019, of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P.”

Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy:

CEiIA promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. Therefore, no candidate may be privileged, benefited, prejudiced or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the grounds of ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions or trade union membership.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Security contributions (1st level of the contributory base) and Personal Accident Insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The scholarship holder's duties are carried out on an exclusive basis, as per Article 5 of the Research Fellowship Holder Statute and applicable scholarship regulations.

Selection Committee composition:

President:

- Master André Delgado Martins Dias, Aerospace Engineer and Head of Space – Downstream at CEiiA

Full members:

- Dr. Jorge Miguel Nunes dos Santos Cabral, Electronic Engineer and CEiiA Board Member
- Dr. Rui Miguel de Azevedo Magalhães, Engineer and Head of Space – Upstream at CEiiA

Substitute members:

- Master Rute Isabel Martins dos Santos, Data Engineer at CEiiA
- Master Benjamim Martins Oliveira, Image Processing and Computer Vision Engineer at CEiiA

In the event the President is unavailable, the first full member will replace them, and the first substitute member will replace the full member.

Evaluation and selection criteria and procedures:

Applications will be assessed based on Candidate Merit (CM), with the following criteria (scored 0–20):

Candidate Merit – CM (100%):

- a. Academic background (50% weighting):
 - a.1) Bachelor's degree average (40% weighting)
 - a.2) Bachelor's degree field of study (60% weighting)

$$\text{Formula: } a = (a.1 \times 0.4) + (a.2 \times 0.6)$$

- a. Personal curriculum (50% weighting):
 - b.1) Knowledge in Artificial Intelligence

b.2) Python programming knowledge and projects

Formula: $b = (b.1 \times 0.5) + (b.2 \times 0.5)$

Final CM formula: $CM = (a \times 0.5) + (b \times 0.5)$

Proof of academic degrees and diplomas, or their respective recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions, may be waived at the application stage, being replaced by a declaration of honor from the applicant. Verification of this condition will only take place at the grant agreement stage. This declaration must attest to facts that occurred prior to the date of application. In cases where there is a discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purposes of signing the grant agreement, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is found that the supporting documents for the academic degree and diploma, or their respective recognition under Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the grades awarded in the academic track evaluation and may, consequently, alter the applicant's ranking, the grant agreement will not be executed.

Note: *Candidates with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of the recognition of their qualifications in Portugal and the conversion of their final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, or a declaration in accordance with the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions will be assigned a grade of "0" for their bachelor's and/or master's degree course grade. Candidates will be assessed on the remaining parameters.*

Disclosure of results: The draft results of the evaluation, supported by minutes, will be sent to the candidates by email within a maximum of 90 working days from the deadline for submitting applications, in accordance with Article 12 of the FCT's RBI.

If the result is unfavorable to the granting of the requested scholarships, candidates have a period of 10 working days to respond, should they wish to, during the prior hearing of interested parties, pursuant to Articles 121 and 122 of the Code of Administrative Procedure (Decree-Law No. 4/2015 of January 7).

Complaint and appeal procedures: The evaluation results will be made public through an ordered list, ranked by final grade obtained, posted in a visible and public place at the Host Institution, as well as sent by email to all candidates, attaching the minutes with the jury's deliberations.

Selected candidates must confirm in writing their intention to accept the scholarship. In case of refusal, the scholarship will be awarded to the next candidate in the final ranking order.

An appeal against the final decision may be lodged, within 15 working days, addressed to the Chair of the Jury.

Application deadline and submission method: The call is open for a period of 10 working days when posted on EURAXESS.

Applications must be formally submitted by sending a cover letter accompanied by the following documents: Curriculum Vitae, degree certificate or declaration of honor from the applicant (if applicable). Optionally, the applicant may also submit other documents considered relevant to the evaluation process.

Applications must be submitted via the following address: <https://smrtr.io/sXRW9>, indicating the reference of the call in the subject line. Applications submitted through other means will not be accepted.

Failure to indicate the reference of the call, omission of any required document, or submission/delivery of the application to any location other than the one indicated above, may result in exclusion from the process.

Scholarship contracting: The award of the scholarship is formalized by signing a contract between CEiiA and the scholarship holder, in accordance with the contract template provided in point 2.4 of the “Regulations for the Award and Management of Scholarships within R&D Projects, including infrastructure projects, the multiannual funding program for R&D units, and other FCT funding instruments (2021 version).”

The contract can only be signed after receipt of all required documentation according to the type of scholarship, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months [including proof of academic degrees or diplomas, and proof of enrollment in degree or non-degree courses, as applicable].

Once all documentation has been received, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the scholarship contract. Upon receipt of the contract, the scholarship holder must return it duly signed within 15 working days.

Scholarship contracts may only commence after due authorization from the contracting entity.

Termination and cancellation of scholarship contracts: Without prejudice to other causes provided for in the applicable scholarship regulations (FCT) and in the Research Scholarship Holder Statute, the

scholarship shall end upon completion of the contracted work plan, as well as upon expiry of the period for which it was granted or renewed.

At the end of the scholarship, the scholarship holder is required to submit the Final Report of the work carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the scientific supervisor, within 60 working days after the end of the scholarship.

The Final Report must be submitted in electronic format and must include the activities carried out and the results obtained, including any communications, publications, and scientific creations resulting from the work developed, along with their respective URLs. It must also be accompanied by the supervisors' opinion, in accordance with Article 24(1) of the Research Scholarship Regulations No. 950/2019 of 16-12-2019 of the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: CEiiA promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, and therefore no candidate may be privileged, favored, disadvantaged, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the basis of, in particular, ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, social origin or status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or racial origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

Declaração de Honra

Habilitações Académicas

Eu, **(nome)**, candidato(a) à vaga para atribuição de uma (tipo de bolsa), no âmbito do projeto (nome ou referência do projeto), publicada no portal EURAXESS, com a referência **(ref. edital)**, declaro sob compromisso de honra que concluí o grau académico de (grau académico), habilitante à tipologia de bolsa a concurso, designadamente o curso (designação), pela **XXXX (Universidade conferente de grau)**, na data **XX/XX/XXXX**¹, com média final de **XX** valores na escala **YY**².

Por não me ser possível apresentar o comprovativo das habilitações até ao termo do concurso, declaro que me comprometo a apresentar o referido certificado na celebração do contrato de bolsa³, no caso de ser selecionado para a vaga a concurso.

Por ser verdade, vai a presente declaração ser por mim datada e assinada.

(Local), (data).

(nome)

¹ A declaração só poderá atestar factos ocorridos em data anterior à candidatura.

² Exemplo de escalas: 0-10 valores; 0-20 valores; 0-100 valores.

³ Nas situações de divergência entre a informação constante da declaração e a documentação entregue para efeitos de contratualização de bolsa, apenas será considerada a informação constante nesta última.