

NOTICE FOR THE AWARD OF RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS (BI)

Reference: NSP_WP4_02/2025

Number of positions: 1 (one)

Applications are open for the award of one (1) Research Scholarship – Bachelor’s Degree – under the “Agenda NewSpace Portugal” project (No. 02-C05-i01.02-2022.C632305114-00466915), funded by national PRR funds (Plano de Recuperação e Resiliência) through IAPMEI – Agência para a Competitividade e Inovação, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Artificial Intelligence

Target recipients: Bachelor’s degree students who, at the time of contracting, can prove enrollment in one of the following courses:

- Master’s/Integrated Master’s (in the field or related field specified in this notice);
- Non-degree awarding course, integrated into the institution’s educational project, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units (e.g., postgraduate studies, advanced studies, specialized training).

Scholarship eligibility requirement:

Only scholarships for which selected candidates present valid proof of enrollment will be contracted:

- a) In a degree-awarding course, according to the type of scholarship in the competition, issued by the academic services of the Higher Education Institution, indicating the current academic year or the duration (start and end dates).
- b) In a non-degree awarding course, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units, in the field or related field specified in the notice.

Profile of recipients:

a) Mandatory Requirements

- Academic qualifications in the project’s scientific fields or related areas;
- Not having benefited from a non-degree awarding research scholarship for a total of 2 consecutive or non-consecutive years;
- Proof of academic qualifications completed by the application deadline or a sworn statement by the candidate;
- Proven knowledge of Python;
- Proven knowledge in Artificial Intelligence – Machine Learning and Deep Learning;

- Proven fluency in spoken and written English.

b) Preferred Factors

- Experience in research projects in scientific areas related to the project;
- Proven participation in extracurricular internships;
- Knowledge of CEiIA's organizational structure.

Eligibility of candidates: Candidates must meet the eligibility requirements set out in Article 9 of the FCT I.P. Regulamento de Bolsas de Investigação (950/2019).

Work plan and objectives: The work plan falls under WP4 – “Atlantic Constellation – Digital Planet”, in PPS3, with the same name, and aims to develop and test annotation and modeling methods based on very high-resolution satellite images, applying artificial intelligence and machine learning techniques. The goal is to improve the efficiency and quality of data annotation processes, also exploring partial automation approaches. In parallel, it aims to train and evaluate object detection and segmentation models (e.g., YOLO, Mask R-CNN, ResNet), with applications in areas such as forests, sustainability, carbon sequestration, vineyard detection, and vessel identification.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellowship Holder Statute (EBI), approved by Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August, in its current wording published by Decree-Law No. 123/2019 of 28 August, and Research Scholarship Regulations No. 950/2019 of 16-12-2019, from the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. – currently in force.

Host/contracting entity and scientific supervision: The work plan will be developed at CEiIA – Centre of Engineering and Product Development, located at Avenida Dom Afonso Henriques, 1825, Matosinhos, under the scientific supervision of Master André Delgado Martins Dias, Aerospace Engineer and head of the Space area at CEiIA.

Duration of scholarships:

The scholarship will last for 6 months, starting in September 2025. It may be renewed up to the maximum duration allowed by the project and/or applicable legislation:

- For non-degree awarding course students: up to 12 months;
- For Master's/Integrated Master's students: up to 24 months;
- For PhD students: up to 48 months.

Monthly maintenance allowance (SMM): The amount corresponds to €1,309.64/month for PhD students and €1,040.98/month for Master's/Integrated Master's or non-degree awarding course students, according to the FCT I.P. scholarship table in Portugal (Annex I – Monthly maintenance allowance table of the FCT I.P. Research Scholarship Regulations).

Payment is made by bank transfer to the fellow's IBAN, by the last business day of each month.

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

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

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

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.