

# APPLAuSE - Advanced Program in Plasma Science and Engineering

## Call for Applications for 11 Individual Doctoral Fellowships

### FELLOWSHIPS REFERENCE

APPLAuSE 2019

### MAIN RESEARCH FIELD

Physics

### FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Advanced Program in Plasma Science and Engineering (APPLAuSE) is a Doctoral Program PD-F of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, IP (FCT, IP), which takes place at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Universidade de Lisboa, in Portugal.

APPLAuSE was selected for funding by FCT, IP, having been awarded a total initial of 40 doctoral fellowships of which 1 has not yet been attributed (the program started in 2014). An extension of the program by FCT allowed for an extra 10 grants.

APPLAuSE is integrated in the Doctoral Program in Physics / Engineering Physics of the Physics Department of IST.

For detailed information please follow <https://tecnico.ulisboa.pt/en/education/courses/phd-programmes/>

In agreement with the regulations set up by FCT, IP, it is up to the Selection Committee, consisting of the Governing Board of APPLAuSE and the Coordinator of the 3rd Cycle Programs of the Physics Department of IST, to handle the applications and to select the fellowship recipients. Following the selection process, the respective fellowship contracts will be signed directly with FCT, IP.

Thus, in accordance with the Research Fellow Statute, published by [Law Decree no. 40/2004](#) of August 18, in its current wording, and the [Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships](#) of FCT, IP, the APPLAuSE Governing Board hereby opens this call for individual fellowship applications for the APPLAuSE 2019 edition.

In this call, eleven fellowships are available, but the actual number of awarded fellowships may be less, depending on the overall merit of the candidates.

The duration of the fellowships is one year in length, renewable for up to a total of four years, and cannot be awarded for periods of less than three consecutive months.

The fellowships corresponding to this call are expected to start in September 2019.

The doctoral programme (in a total of 240 ECTS) will start with a curricular section followed by a doctoral thesis. Students must enroll in one of two accredited doctoral programs, Physics or Engineering Physics (both at Instituto Superior Técnico).

### APPLICANTS

Doctoral fellowships are intended for individuals who meet the requirements set forth in Article 30, number 1, of Decree-Law 74/2006, of March 24, amended by Decree-Law 115/2013, of August 7, as amended by Decree-Law no. 107/2008 of June 25, 230/2009 of September 14 and Decree-Law no. 63/2016 of September 13, and who wish to develop research work leading to a doctoral degree.

The ideal applicant is a student with a solid knowledge in Science and Engineering, preferably (but not necessarily) with basic training in Plasma Physics, motivation to deal with cutting-edge scientific and technological problems, and with a high availability for the mobility requirements of the program.

The following individuals are eligible to apply for this program:

- Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states;
- Citizens of other countries who hold permanent residence permits in Portugal or who hold the status of long-term resident, under the terms of [Law Decree 23/2007](#) of July 4, amended by Law Decree 29/2012 of August 9;
- Citizens of countries with which Portugal has reciprocal agreements;
- Citizens of any other country, if available for a preliminary personal interview.

Additionally, to apply for these fellowships, the applicants:

- cannot have held any prior FCT-funded PhD studentship, of any type or duration;
- cannot have been selected for a PhD studentship in an FCT PhD Program.

For fellowships in which the work plan is to be totally or partially carried out in foreign institutions (mixed fellowships), applicants must have permanent residence in Portugal, and documental evidence to support the country of residence (residence permit or other legally equivalent document must be submitted).

## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

To be admitted in APPLAuSE applicants should preferentially hold a Master degree in Science or in Engineering from a recognized university. Exceptionally, the Selection Committee may admit applicants with Bachelor degree (or equivalent), provided they exhibit an exceptional academic CV. The applications must include the official certificate(s) of academic degree(s) that grant(s) access to the development of a PhD thesis. **If these conditions are not fulfilled, namely if the official certificate is not presented in due time, the fellowship will not be awarded.**

Furthermore, candidates should be fluent both in written and spoken English.

Note in addition that, following the recent [Law Decree 66/2018](#) of August 16 (whose implementation was enforced starting January 1, 2019), all academic degrees and marks obtained in a foreign institution must be officially recognized by the legally competent Portuguese bodies (<https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>). Although verification of this requirement may be dispensed during the application process, becoming of course necessary prior to signature of any fellowship contract, the Selection Committee (being not a legally competent body to decide on such matters) cannot consider in the evaluation process any certificate or grade which has not been officially recognized and registered.

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Individual applications must be submitted electronically using the application form available on the IST Doctoral Programs online platform.

For detailed information please visit <https://applausephd.wordpress.com/open-call/>

The application must include the following components:

- **Application form** (available online)
- **Copy of ID document / passport**

- **General curriculum vitae** – it is mandatory to use the model available at the website above, section “Calls”
- **Academic curriculum vitae** - certified transcripts showing all academic degrees awarded, with final grade point averages
- **Official transcript of the grades received in all courses taken**
- **Letter of motivation**
- **References** - Please supply the contact details of at least two references. Indicate name, institution and e-mail.

### PERIOD OF THE CALL

The call will be announced publicly on May 13, 2019 and will be open from May 20, 2019 until June 21, 2019 at 17:00 GMT.

### EVALUATION AND SELECTION

The evaluation of proposals is carried out in two phases, by assessing the merit of each candidate and producing a ranked list of candidates.

**First phase.** The Selection Committee will review and evaluate the applications, awarding an overall rating calculated using the weighted average of the partial ratings, adopting a scale from 1 (minimum) to 5 (maximum), of the following criteria: (weighting factors shown in brackets)

- (I) academic curriculum vitae (4)
- (II) general curriculum vitae (4)
- (III) motivation letter (3)
- (IV) references (3)

The rating assigned to the academic curriculum vitae is normalized according to the reference used by FCT for Doctoral Fellowships, taking into account the several types of degrees (Bachelor, Master, Integrated Master).

There may be an additional bonus of up to 1.5 points for candidates who: (i) have (co)-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals; (ii) have presented papers at conferences; (iii) have an exceptional CV, demonstrating remarkable skills.

The candidates having attained a score of 3.5 or greater at this stage will be shortlisted for the second phase.

**Second phase.** Candidates will be individually interviewed by the Selection Committee (either in person or via video-conferencing, e.g., Skype) in order to assess their knowledge, specific technical skills, motivation, and communication skills in English. The results of the interviews will either confirm or adjust the grades previously awarded to the items “general curriculum vitae” and “motivation”.

### PUBLICATION OF RESULTS

The results of this call will be published at Instituto de Plasmas e Fusão Nuclear, at IST in Lisbon, Portugal, within 20 working days after the deadline to submit applications.

All applicants will be informed by email of the partial and final results, including details about their individual scoring and the final ranking.

If the decision is not favourable for the award of the fellowship, the applicant has a period of 10 days, after disclosure, to be heard, by request of a preliminary hearing, pursuant to the Portuguese *Código do Procedimento Administrativo*. The final decision may be appealed to the FCT, IP, within 15 days after the respective notification.

### MONTHLY ALLOWANCE

In accordance with the monthly maintenance stipend of doctoral scholarships attributed directly by FCT: <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.phtml.en>

### FUNDING

The fellowships awarded under this call will be financed by funds from the State Budget of the Ministry of Education and Science and, when eligible, by funds from the European Social Fund through the Operational Programmes of programming period 2014-2020, of Portugal 2020, namely the “Programa Operacional Temático do Capital Humano”, the “Programa Operacional Regional do Norte, do Centro ou do Alentejo”, in accordance with the provisions of the corresponding Specific Regulation.

### COMPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Detailed information about the programme is available at the APPLAuSE website <http://www.ipfn.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/education/applause>

Any cases not addressed in the present call are covered by the Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships of FCT, IP, available at:

<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulationFellowships.pdf>

Governing Board of the doctoral program , APPLAuSE May 13, 2019