

Ref. BOL/2026/00010

**Call for applications for (1) Research Grant for
Doctoral Students**

The Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-Iscte) at Iscte – Knowledge and Innovation is offering one (1) Research Grant for a PhD Student in the scope of the Observatory of Democracy and Political Representation and in accordance with the Multiannual Funding Programme Contract for R&D Units 2025-2029, concluded between FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology and the R&D Unit Centre for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-Iscte) UID/3126/2025, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Political Science or Communication Sciences

Admission requirements

- a) Applicants must hold a Master's degree in Political Science, Communication Sciences, or another social sciences-related field deemed appropriate by the selection panel;
- b) Applicants must be enrolled in a PhD Programme in Political Science or Communication Sciences (in accordance with Article 6 of the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (Reg. No. 950/2019));
- c) Applicants must have experience in research and production of research in the field of digital democracy and be authors or co-authors of at least one scientific article published in a journal indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science in that field.

Note: Academic degrees obtained in foreign countries must be registered by a Portuguese institution, in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of August 16 and Ordinance No. 33/2019 of January 25. Presentation of the certificate is mandatory for the signing of the contract.

Further information can be obtained at: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374>

Preferred criteria:

- a) Experience in the management of scientific activities;
- b) Experience in dissemination activities carried out in collaboration with civil society (e.g. organisation of activities, events, communication);
- c) Competences in the management of websites, communication platforms, and social media;

Work plan

The work plan will consist of scientific research and dissemination activities within the scope of the Observatory of Democracy and Political Representation, including:

- a) Data collection and processing on the quality of democracy, digital democracy, political participation (both conventional and non-conventional), participation platforms;
- b) Management and updating of the Observatory's website, production of informational and dissemination materials, and management of the Observatory's social media channels;
- c) Collaboration in the organisation of the activities carried out within the scope of the Observatory (publications, events, meetings, etc.);
- d) Collaboration with CIES-Iscte and its other research structures in activities organised in synergy.

Applicable legislation and regulations

Statute of Scientific Research Fellows, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording published by Decree-Law No. 123/2019 of August 28; Regulations on Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. - in force and available at:

<https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2019.pdf> e

<https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>.

Workplace and scientific advisor

The work will be carried out at CIES-Iscte, under the scientific guidance of Guya Accornero and José Santana Pereira, respectively Director and Deputy Director of the Observatory of Democracy and Political Representation.

Duration of the scholarship

The scholarship lasts for 12 months. The scholarship contract may be renewed within the term of the research project and in accordance with the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Research Scholarship Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. in force.

Monthly maintenance allowance amount

The amount corresponds to €1,309.64, in accordance with the FCT Research Grant Regulations in force (Regulation No. 950/2019). The corresponding voluntary social security insurance is added to the allowance amount, if the candidate chooses to take it, as well as personal accident insurance. The grant will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

Selection process

The selection process will be based on curriculum evaluation, based on the following criteria:

- a) The Master's degree final grade (30%);
- b) Research experience and scientific output in the field of digital democracy (40%);
- c) The experience demonstrated in the items indicated in the preferential factors (30%).

The curriculum evaluation of candidates will be carried out in accordance with the criteria indicated, on a scale of 0 to 100.

If several candidates demonstrate that they have the appropriate profile to carry out the work plan, the jury reserves the right to invite the three highest-scoring candidates for an interview, which will account for 40% of the final score. If the jury considers interviews unnecessary, the curriculum evaluation will account for 100% of the final score.

The jury reserves the right to:

- a) invite the highest-scoring candidate for the position in question, following the order established in the final ranking list, whenever the selected candidate does not meet the requirements for formalizing the contract or in case of unavailability;
- b) not award the scholarship if none of the candidates match the desired profile.

Composition of the selection panel

Candidates will be selected by a panel consisting of:

Chair: Professor Guya Accornero (Research at CIES-Iscte and Director of ODRP)

Effective Member: Professor José Santana Pereira (Researcher at CIES-Iscte and Deputy Director of ODRP)

Effective Member: Professor Patrícia Ávila (Director of CIES-Iscte)

Form of publication/notification of results:

The evaluation results will be published within a maximum of 90 working days from the deadline for submitting applications, by notification to the candidates via email sent to the address indicated in the application process.

The period for interested parties to be heard will last 10 working days following the communication of the results.

Application deadline and submission of applications:

The call is open from February 27 and March 10, 2026, and only application submitted within this period will be accepted.

Applications must be submitted through the Iscte – Knowledge and Innovation

(<https://recrutamento.conhecimentoinovacao.iscte-iul.pt/jobs>) and must include the following documents:

- i) Detailed Curriculum Vitae.
- ii) Copy of Master's degree certificate indicating the final grade.
- iii) Proof of enrollment in a study program leading to a doctoral degree or, alternatively, a sworn statement that you will be able to present this document on the date of signing the contract.
- iv) Provision of a digital copy or of the bibliographic reference of a scientific article published in a journal indexed in Scopus and/or Web of Science in the field of digital democracy, as defined in the admission requirements of this call.
- v) Other supporting documents deemed relevant, including letter(s) of recommendation.

Applications sent by other means will not be considered.

Within the framework of the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers, Iscte adopts the principles of Open, Transparent and Merit-Based Recruitment ([OTM-R Policy](#)), ensuring equal opportunities for all applicants.