

**Call for applications to the Doctoral scholarships of the
Doctoral Programme in the Physics and Mathematics of Information (DP-PMI)**

Scholarship Reference: DP-PMI Call 2016

Main research field: Physics and Mathematics of Information

Scholarship description: The Doctoral Programme in the Physics and Mathematics of Information (DP-PMI) takes place at Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon, in Portugal.

The Doctoral Programme in the Physics and Mathematics of Information (DP-PMI) was selected for funding by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT, IP), having been awarded 10 Doctoral (four years long) scholarships per edition, for a total of 4 editions. The programme started in January 2014 and will recruit up to 40 students over the following four years.

The scholarships awarded under this call will be financed by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology and the Ministry for Science, Technology and High Education (FCT/MCTES), and where eligible, by funds from the European Social Fund through the POCH (*Programa Operacional do Capital Humano*).

As stated in the rules for that competition, the DP-PMI Governing Board will handle the applications and the selection of the candidates to whom these scholarships will be awarded directly by FCT, IP.

Under the terms set in the [Research Fellowship Holder Statute](#) (Law 40/2004, of 18 August), and according to the [Regulations for Research Grants of FCT, IP](#), the DP-PMI Governing Board opens a call for applications to scholarships for the DP-PMI 2016 edition. In this call, ten scholarships are available, including the maximum of 4 mixed scholarships. The actual number of awarded scholarships may be less, depending on the overall merit of the candidates.

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

The scholarships corresponding to this call are expected to start in February 2017.

Applicants: Doctoral scholarships are intended for individuals who meet the requirements set forth in Article 30, number 1, of Decree-Law 74/2006, of 24 March, amended by Decree-Law 115/2013, of 7 August, and who wish to develop research work leading to a doctoral degree.

The following individuals may apply for scholarships directly or indirectly funded by FCT:

a) Portuguese citizens, or citizens of other European Union member states; b) 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 23/2007, of July 4, amended by Law No. 29/2012, of August 9; c) Citizens of countries with which Portugal has reciprocal agreements; d) Citizens of any other country, if available for an interview.

Additionally, to apply for scholarships directly or indirectly funded by FCT, 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 Programme.

In the case of work plans partially carried out outside Portugal (mixed scholarships), 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 to the Doctoral Programme in the Physics and Mathematics of Information, the students must have a Masters degree in Science or in Engineering, namely in Physics, Mathematics, Information Sciences, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering or in some other relevant scientific area, from a recognized university. Students with only a bachelor degree may also be admitted in exceptional circumstances.

If these conditions are not fulfilled, namely if the official degree certificate is not presented timely, the scholarship will not be awarded.

Regarding academic degrees, note the following: it being required for a document evidencing the award of the degree to be submitted with this application, the mere provision of other evidence that the applicant has concluded the study cycle is insufficient. Applicants to studentships holding foreign academic degrees will have to submit proof of registration of the recognition of the degree and the respective conversion of the final scores to the Portuguese grading scale (whenever a final grade has been awarded to the foreign degree), provided either by the *Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior* (DGES) or by a Portuguese public higher education institution (as regulated by Decree-Law no.341/2007 of 12 October). Alternatively, applicants should submit proof of recognition/equivalence of foreign qualifications to Portuguese degrees provided by a Portuguese public higher education institution (as regulated by Decree-Law no.283/83 of 21 June). For more details, please see the website of DGES:

- http://www.dges.mec.pt/en/pages/naric_pages/academic_recognition/recognition_foreign_qualifications.html (information in English),
- <http://www.dges.mctes.pt/DGES/pt> (homepage of DGES in Portuguese).

The proof of the registration/recognition of the foreign academic degrees must be submitted in the DP-PMI application.

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

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>

See also the DP-PMI web site for further details: <http://www.dp-pmi.org/scholarships.html>

Period of the Call: The call is announced publicly on 15 July 2016 and is open from 29 July 2016 until 30 October 2016.

Applications: Individual applications should be submitted electronically using the application form available via the DP-PMI web site at: <http://www.dp-pmi.org/application-form.html>

Evaluation Criteria: The DP-PMI involves a two-stage selection procedure. In the first stage, the Governing Board will select and rank the candidates according to the following criteria (equally weighted):

1. quality of the candidate's scientific record (i.e. potential articles, contributions to conferences, etc.);
2. quality of the candidate's academic record (i.e. marks in the Masters and previous university degrees, quality of the respective institutions and programmes, etc.);
3. motivation letter describing the reasons to join the DP-PMI and potential research plans/directions;
4. relevance and adequacy of the previous training to joining the DP-PMI.

The submitted documentation, including the reference letters, will be used to assess these four criteria. The candidates with the adequate scientific background, presenting the necessary high-quality academic track record and high-level scientific potential, will be invited for the second stage of the selection procedure, consisting of an interview, realized in person or via video-conference, or similar. The objective of this interview is for the Governing Board to evaluate the applicant's fluency in English, as well as to obtain further details on the points 1-4 described above, but specially point 3, and accordingly fine tune the selection of the candidates, whose applications will be ranked taking into account their excellence in each of these criteria.

Announcement of results: The results of this call will be published at Instituto de Telecomunicações, in Lisbon, Portugal, within 90 working days after the deadline to submit applications. All applicants will be informed of the results by e-mail. If the decision is not favorable for the award of the scholarship, the applicant has a period of 10 working days, after receiving notice of the decision, to contest the decision in a preliminary hearing setting. Any appeal to the final decision referred above must be brought before the DP-PMI Governing Board within 15 working days after the notification.

Complementary information: Detailed information about the programme is available in the DP-PMI website: <http://www.dp-pmi.org/>

Any cases not addressed in the present call are covered by the Regulations for Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, available at: <http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.en>