

Call for Applications for the Award of 2 Research Grants (2BI) for Students

Summary of the Announcement

A call is open (reference **DESCRENÇA/015/2BI/2025**) for the award of 2 (two) Research Grants (BI) for students (as defined in point 5 of the call notice), under the project “Suspension of Dis/belief: Measurement and Definition through a Nomological Network”, reference [2023.14866.PEX], hosted by ISPA – Instituto Universitário, with financial support from the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P./MCTES through national funds (PIDDAC).

1. Scientific Area(s)

Psychology

2. Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P./MCTES, through national funds (PIDDAC).

3. Candidate Profile

Mandatory requirements:

- i. Bachelor’s degree in Psychology or Psychological Sciences;
- ii. The candidate must be enrolled in a Master’s degree in Social and Organizational Psychology or an equivalent field;
- iii. Excellent communication skills in Portuguese and English.

Preferential factors:

- i. Experience in data collection in laboratory settings and via digital platforms;
- ii. Previous experience in reporting and presenting research findings (e.g., conference presentations);
- iii. Previous experience working with the variables under study in this project (i.e., suspension of disbelief).

4. Mandatory requirements for admission to the competition

The following documents must be submitted with the application:

- a) Bachelor’s degree certificate/diploma in Psychology or Psychological Sciences, including the final grade;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter.

Applicants holding an Integrated Master’s diploma awarded by an institution that does not separate the grade of the 1st cycle (Bachelor’s) from the final grade of the 2nd cycle (Master’s) must also submit an official transcript including detailed academic records, with grades for each curricular unit (and corresponding ECTS) of the Integrated Master’s degree (as per note 5 of section 12 of this call).

Only candidates who have completed their Bachelor’s degree by the end of the application deadline will be admitted. If the degree certificate/diploma is not yet available, a

declaration of honor must be submitted stating that the degree has been completed within the application period and that the certificate/diploma will be dated within that deadline. The award of the grant is conditional on the presentation of valid academic certificates during the contracting phase.

For academic degrees obtained abroad, applicants must submit proof of recognition of the degree by a Portuguese higher education institution and proof of conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, and Decree-Law No. 60/2018, of August 3.

Applicants who have already requested recognition of their foreign degree but are still awaiting its issuance may alternatively submit a declaration of honor confirming that recognition has been requested and will be dated before the application deadline.

Recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas, as well as grade conversion to the Portuguese scale, may be requested at any public higher education institution or at the Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior (DGES, in the case of automatic recognition). Further information can be found on the DGES portal: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>

5. Requirements for the research grant contract

The selected candidate must be enrolled in a Master's degree in Social and Organizational Psychology or an equivalent field at the time of signing the grant contract.

For diplomas issued by foreign institutions, if the candidate has submitted a declaration of honor stating that degree recognition would be obtained before the end of the application deadline, proof of such recognition in Portugal must be presented before the contract is signed, dated before the application deadline.

For the grant contract, candidates must also present a personal data form, Ciência ID, copy of an identification document, and a declaration of exclusive dedication.

Submission of false statements will result in cancellation of the application without prejudice to other sanctioning measures.

6. Work Plan

The work plan is part of the research activities developed within the project “Suspension of Dis/belief: Measurement and Definition through a Nomological Network”, reference [2023.14866.PEX], hosted by ISPA – Instituto Universitário and funded by FCT.

Specifically, the grantees will be involved in quantitative data collection, contributing to statistical analyses of the data, presentation and discussion of results, weekly meetings, literature review, and related research activities.

7. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

Law No. 40/2004, of August 18, as amended by Decree-Law No. 123/2019, of August 28 (Statute of the Research Fellow – EBI);

Regulation No. 950/2019, of November 29, published in Diário da República, No. 241, 2nd Series, of December 16 (FCT Research Grants Regulation – RBI, in force);

Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16 (Legal regime for the recognition of foreign higher education degrees and diplomas); ISPA – Instituto Universitário Scientific Research Grants Regulation; and other applicable norms.

8. Workplace and Scientific Supervision

The grant contract will be signed with ISPA, CRL (contracting entity). The work will be carried out at the William James Center for Research (host institution), ISPA – Instituto Universitário, and potentially at other locations necessary for the work plan, under the scientific supervision of Professor Teresa Garcia-Marques.

9. Duration of the Grant

The grant will have an expected duration of 6 months, renewable for additional periods up to the maximum duration of the project, subject to project budget availability and the maximum period allowed for this grant type under Article 6, points 4 and 5, of the FCT Research Grants Regulation.

The expected start date is October 2025.

10. Monthly Maintenance Allowance and Other Components

The monthly allowance is €1,040.98, in accordance with the table of values of grants awarded directly by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf), subject to applicable updates, and will be paid by bank transfer.

The grantee will also benefit from personal accident insurance and, if not covered by any social protection scheme, may exercise the right to social security by joining the voluntary social insurance scheme (Decree-Law No. 40/89, of February 1; Article 10 of the EBI).

11. Application Submission

The call is open from **October 1, 2025, to October 14, 2025** (11:00 p.m., Lisbon time). Only applications submitted and received within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be sent by email to: candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt and gmarques@ispa.pt, with the subject line: **DESCRENÇA/015/2BI/2025**.

Alternatively, applications may be submitted by post to:

ISPA – Instituto Universitário – William James Center for Research – Rua Jardim do Tabaco 34, 1149-041 Lisbon, Portugal, provided they are received before the deadline.

Applications must include the following documents (as per point 4):

a) Copy of the Bachelor's degree certificate/diploma in Psychology or Psychological Sciences, including the final grade;

Where applicable, detailed transcript for Integrated Master's diplomas that do not separate Bachelor's and Master's grades (see point 4);

Where applicable, recognition of foreign degrees and conversion of final grade to the Portuguese scale (or declaration of honor, as per point 4).

- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter.

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

Applications that are incorrectly formalized or do not meet the requirements of this call may be excluded.

12. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The evaluation and selection process will be based on the merit of the candidates, according to the following weighted criteria:

Criterion A: Academic qualifications (20%), based on the final grade indicated in the degree certificate (Bachelor's in Psychology or Psychological Sciences);

Criterion B: Previous experience in data collection, reporting and presenting results, and experience in publication processes, based on the CV (50%);

Criterion C: Motivation and interest in the field, and familiarity with the variables under study, based on the CV and motivation letter (30%).

Applications will be scored and ranked on a scale of 0.00 to 20.00. The final score will be calculated as:

$$\text{Final Score} = (\text{Criterion A} \times 20\%) + (\text{Criterion B} \times 50\%) + (\text{Criterion C} \times 30\%).$$

In the event of a tie, candidates will be ranked based on the following precedence:

Criterion B (experience in data collection, reporting, and publications); Criterion C (motivation and familiarity with project variables); Criterion A (academic qualifications).

Candidates scoring below 10 points will be automatically excluded.

Notes regarding Criterion A:

1. If more than one equivalent Bachelor's degree in Psychology or Psychological Sciences (ECTS equivalent) is submitted, the jury will decide which degree is most relevant to the work plan. The others may count toward Criterion B.

2. If the Portuguese diploma/certificate does not list a final grade, the jury will assume the minimum passing grade (10/20).

3. If only a declaration of honor is submitted (without degree certificate), the jury will assume the minimum passing grade (10/20).

4. If foreign diplomas have not yet been recognized in Portugal or grades converted, the jury will assume the minimum passing grade (10/20).

5. For Integrated Master's diplomas that do not separate Bachelor's and Master's grades, Criterion A will be based on the weighted average of the grades from the first three years (1st cycle). Candidates in this situation must therefore submit a detailed transcript with grades and ECTS.

13. Evaluation Panel

Professor Teresa Garcia-Marques (Full Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; President);
Professor Ana Lapa (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Collaborating Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Effective Member);
Professor Filipe Loureiro (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Collaborating Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Effective Member);
Professor Gonçalo Oliveira (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Substitute Member);
Professor Ana Cristina Martins (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the Applied Psychology Research Center Capabilities & Inclusion_APPSyCI; Substitute Member)

14. Preliminary Hearing, Complaint, and Appeal

After the communication of the provisional list of results, candidates have 10 working days to respond in a preliminary hearing, under Articles 121 and following of the CPA.

The final decision will be issued after consideration of any responses. Once the final decision is communicated, the selected candidate has 10 working days to formally accept the grant in writing. Failure to do so without valid justification will be considered a withdrawal.

The final decision may be contested by filing a complaint within 15 working days, or by appeal to the highest executive body of the funding institution within 30 working days, both counting from notification.

If the selected candidate withdraws or declines the grant, the jury may award the grant to the next candidate(s) in the ranking list, if applicable.

16. Grant Contract and Final Report Templates

The templates for the grant contract, final report (to be prepared by the grantee and supervisor), and respective evaluation criteria are available in the ISPA Scientific Research Grants Regulation (Annexes 2, 3, 4, 5) at:

https://intranet.ispa.pt/sites/default/files/users/531/rg102_bols_invest_cient_v4.0.pdf

17. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

ISPA actively promotes a policy of gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, and strictly avoids any form of discrimination. Terms such as candidate, researcher, doctoral student, and similar are used in a gender-neutral manner in this document.

In accordance with Decree-Law No. 29/2001, of February 3, candidates with disabilities have preference in cases of equal ranking, prevailing over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare their degree of disability, type of impairment, and means of communication/expression to be used in the selection process in the application form, under a declaration of honor.

18. Personal Data Protection

By submitting the application, candidates consent to the processing of their personal data for the purposes of this recruitment process and its inclusion in the respective database, for the period during which the process runs, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

Documents submitted in this procedure constitute administrative records and access to them will be granted in compliance with Law No. 26/2016, of August 22, in its current version.