

Notice of Opening of the Call for the Award of 1 Research Fellowship (BI) for Students

Announcement Summary

A call is open (reference **BeProSocial/021/BI/2025**) for the award of one (1) Research Fellowship (BI) (as stated in point 5 of the notice) within the scope of the project “Becoming prosocial amidst social media – Neural markers of prosocial behaviour in early adulthood and the effects of social media consumption” (Project Reference No. 260/24), through the Research Unit William James Center for Research, funded by the Bial Foundation.

1. Scientific Area

Psychology

2. Funding

Bial Foundation (Project Reference No. 260/24).

3. Candidate Profile

Mandatory requirements

- a) A Bachelor's degree in psychology, neuroscience, biology or other related fields deemed relevant by the Jury for the position and execution of the research plan, with a final grade equal to or higher than 14 (out of 20).
- b) Candidates must be enrolled, or meet the conditions to enrol, in a master's programme, or be enrolled in a non-degree-granting course.
- c) Proficiency in written and spoken Portuguese and English.

Preferential factors

- Preference will be given to candidates who have:
- Experience in programming and data collection using experimental software (e.g., E-Prime, PsychoPy, or similar);
- Experience in participant recruitment and pool management;
- Experience in quantitative data analysis (e.g., JASP, Jamovi, SPSS, R, or similar);
- Experience in social media management;
- Programming experience (e.g., R, Python, Matlab, etc.);
- Experience in preparing scientific manuscripts.

4. Mandatory requirements for admission to the call

Eligible candidates must cumulatively meet the following requirements:

- a) Have completed their Bachelor's degree by the application submission deadline.
- b) Submit the following documents as part of the application:

Bachelor's degree certificate with final grade.

If applying with an Integrated Master's degree awarded by an institution that does not issue certificates/diplomas with separate final grades for the 1st cycle (bachelor's) and 2nd cycle (master's), a transcript detailing the grades of each curricular unit (and respective ECTS) of the Integrated Master's programme must also be submitted (as per note 5 of point 12 of this notice).

Detailed curriculum vitae (CV) in English.

Motivation Letter (in English), in which the candidate explains the reasons for applying and future career plans (max. 2 pages).

Only candidates who prove completion of the Bachelor's degree by the end of the application period will be admitted.

If candidates do not yet have the official certificate, a declaration of honour stating that the required qualifications have been completed and that the diploma/certificate will be dated within the application period will be accepted. Granting of the fellowship is always conditional upon submission of the mandatory proof of academic qualifications.

If the academic degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must be formally recognised by a Portuguese higher education institution, and the final grade must be converted to the Portuguese grading scale, pursuant to Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August and Article 4(2)(e) of Decree-Law No. 60/2018 of 3 August.

If the candidate has already requested but is still awaiting issuance of the formal recognition, they may submit a declaration of honour stating that the recognition has been requested and will be dated within the application period.

Recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of final grades may be requested at any Portuguese public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, for automatic recognition only). More information: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>

5. Requirements for signing the research fellowship contract

The selected candidate must be enrolled in a master's programme or a non-degree-granting course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association/cooperation with one or more R&D units, at the time of the fellowship contract signing.

For degrees issued by foreign institutions, if the candidate submitted a declaration of honour stating that recognition would be obtained by the end of the application period, they must provide proof of recognition dated prior to the end of the application period before the fellowship contract can be signed.

The following may also be required for contract signing: personal data form, Ciência ID, copy of identification document, and a statement confirming availability for exclusive dedication.

Providing false statements will lead to cancellation of the application, without prejudice to other sanctions.

6. Work Plan

This project examines the influence of social media on the development of prosocial behaviour during early adulthood. Using robust methodologies and integrating behavioural and neural (EEG) evidence, the project aims to validate empirical measures and explore the complex interaction between social media and prosocial behaviour.

Tasks associated with this position include supporting all stages of the research and contributing to all activities aligned with the project's objectives, namely:

- Participant recruitment;
- Review of relevant literature;
- Programming of experimental studies;
- Data collection (behavioural and EEG);
- Data processing and quantitative analysis;
- Administrative and project management support;
- Support in dissemination of project results at scientific meetings, general outreach events, and on social media;
- Preparation of manuscripts.

7. Applicable legislation and regulations

Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August, as amended by Decree-Law No. 123/2019 of 28 August (Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow – EBI); Regulation No. 950/2019 of 29 November (FCT Research Fellowship Regulation – RBI); Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August (Recognition of foreign higher education degrees); ISPA's Scientific Research Fellowships Regulation and any other applicable norms.

8. Workplace and scientific supervision

The fellowship contract will be signed with ISPA, CRL (contracting entity).

Work will be carried out at the William James Center for Research (host institution), ISPA – Instituto Universitário, and possibly at other locations necessary for executing the work plan, under the scientific supervision of Dr. Inês Mares.

9. Duration of the fellowship

The fellowship will have a duration of 12 months starting in January 2026, renewable up to the maximum duration of the project and limited by the fellowship type as defined in Article 6(4–5) of the FCT Research Fellowship Regulation.

10. Monthly allowance and other components

The monthly maintenance allowance for exclusive dedication is €1,040.98, according to the FCT table of values for fellowships in Portugal (subject to updates). Payment is made monthly via bank transfer.

The fellow is covered by personal accident insurance and may, if not already covered by any social protection scheme, adhere to voluntary social security (Decree-Law No. 40/89 of 1 February; Article 10 of the EBI).

11. Submission of Applications

The call is open from **16 December 2025 until 23:00 (Lisbon time) on 02 January 2026**.

Only applications submitted and received within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be submitted via email to **candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt**

(cc: **imares@ispa.pt**) with the subject line indicating the reference BeProSocial/021/BI/2025.

Applications must include (as per point 4):

a) Copy of the Bachelor's degree certificate/diploma with final grade.

If the candidate holds an Integrated Master's degree from an institution that does not issue separate final grades for bachelor's and master's, a transcript detailing grades and ECTS of each curricular unit must also be submitted.

If applicable, proof of recognition of the Bachelor's degree (for foreign qualifications) and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese scale must be included. Alternatively, a declaration of honour stating that recognition has been requested and will be dated within the application period.

b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (in English).

c) Personal statement (in English) explaining the reasons for applying and future career plans (max. 2 pages).

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

Candidates who incorrectly formalise their application or fail to provide the required documentation may be excluded.

False statements will be legally punished.

12. Evaluation Criteria and Selection Methodology

12.1 Curriculum Evaluation (CE)

The CE is graded on a scale of 0–100.

Evaluation Criteria:

a) Final grade of the Bachelor's degree in Psychology or related areas (neuroscience, biology):

≥16 = 5 points

17 = 10 points

≥18 = 15 points

b) Previous experience in research projects:

1 project = 5 points

2+ projects = 10 points

c) Experience in programming experimental studies (E-Prime, PsychoPy, similar):

Academic experience = 5 points

Experience in research teams = 10 points

d) Experience in quantitative data collection:

Academic experience = 10 points

Research team experience = 15 points

e) Advanced statistical knowledge (e.g., JASP, SPSS, R):

Academic experience = 5 points

Research team experience = 10 points

f) Experience in scientific dissemination:

No experience = 0 points

With experience = 10 points

g) Experience in academic publication:

None = 0 points

With publications (not first author) = 10 points

With first-author publications = 20 points

h) Experience with programming languages (e.g., R, Matlab, Python):

None = 0 points

Learning experience = 5 points

Applied research experience = 10 points

The Jury evaluates applications based on the CE criteria, with scores expressed on a 0–100 scale, rounded to two decimal places. Ranking is based on the average of the scores assigned by each Jury member.

Only the top five (5) candidates will be invited for an interview.

If multiple Bachelor's degrees are submitted, the Jury will determine which degree(s) best match the work plan and should therefore be scored.

12.2 Interview

The interview aims to clarify aspects related to the candidate's research background.

Evaluation focuses on the candidate's scientific knowledge and the suitability of their research profile to the position.

The interview is graded on a scale of 0–100, with one decimal place.

12.3 Final Classification (FC)

The FC is the weighted average of:

- **Curriculum Evaluation: 60%**
- **Motivation Letter: 20%**
- **Interview: 20%**

In the event of a tie, the Jury President has the deciding vote.

Minutes of Jury meetings containing summaries and justifications of votes will be made available upon request.

If none of the candidates meets the required profile, the Jury reserves the right not to award the fellowship.

13. Composition of the Jury

- President: Inês Mares, Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário
- Member: Nuno Gomes, Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário
- Member: Jorge Martins, Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário;
- Alternate Member: Magda Saraiva, Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário
- Alternate Member: Sara Félix, Collaborator at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário

14. Communication of Results

All candidates will be notified of the evaluation results via email, with proof of delivery, to the address provided.

Notifications are made under Articles 112(1)(c) and 113(5) of the Administrative Procedure Code (CPA).

15. Deadlines and Procedures for Prior Hearing, Complaint, and Appeal

After the provisional results are communicated, candidates have 10 working days to comment in the prior hearing phase (Articles 121 ff. of the CPA).

The final decision will be issued after analysing submissions.

The selected candidate then has 10 working days to accept the fellowship in writing; failure to do so without justification will be considered withdrawal.

From the final decision, candidates may submit a complaint within 15 working days, or appeal to the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days.

If the selected candidate withdraws, the fellowship may be offered to the next candidate on the ranking list.

16. Fellowship Contract and Final Report Templates

The contract model and final report templates (for both fellow and supervisor), including evaluation criteria, are available in the ISPA Scientific Research Fellowship Regulation (Annexes 2, 3, 4, and 5):

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

17. Publication of the Notice

This notice is published:

- a) On the EURAXESS platform, in Portuguese and English;
- b) On the ISPA website, in Portuguese and English;
- c) On ISPA social media channels.

18. Non-discrimination and Equal Access Policy

ISPA actively promotes gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring strict avoidance of all forms of discrimination. Terms such as “candidate,” “researcher,” “doctoral student,” and similar are used regardless of gender.

Under Decree-Law No. 29/2001 of 3 February, candidates with disabilities have preference in case of equal classification, taking precedence over any other legal preferences. Candidates must declare their disability status, type, and required communication methods in the application form under honour statement.

19. Personal Data Protection

By applying, candidates consent to the processing of their personal data strictly for the purposes of managing the competition procedure, for the duration of the procedure, under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Documents submitted within this procedure constitute administrative documents, and access will comply with Law No. 26/2016 of 22 August, as amended.