

Call for Applications for the Award of 1 Research Scholarship (BI) for Students

Announcement Summary

A call for applications is open (reference SRENGTHBONDS/01/BI/2026) for the award of 1 (one) Research Scholarship (BI) (in accordance with point 5 of the notice), within the scope of the project Strengthening Affective Bonds, hosted by the William James Center for Research and funded by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, under Axis II of the initiative Growing Minds – Affective Bonding and Development.

1. Scientific Area

Psychology

2. Funding

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, under Axis II of the initiative Growing Minds – Affective Bonding and Development.

3. Candidate Profile

Mandatory requirements:

Master's degree in Psychology and Developmental Psychopathology;

The candidate must be enrolled, or eligible to enroll, in a Master's programme or a non-degree-granting course;

Excellent communication skills in Portuguese and English.

Preferred factors:

Training in the VIPP-SD intervention programme;

Previous experience in data collection with children, parents, and teachers.

4. Mandatory Requirements for Admission to the Call

The following documents must be submitted with the application:

- a) Master's certificate/diploma in Psychology and Developmental Psychopathology, including final grade;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter.

Only candidates who have completed the study cycle leading to the master's degree by the end of the application period will be admitted. If the certificate/diploma is not yet available, a sworn statement declaring that all necessary qualifications have been completed by the end of the application period will be accepted. Awarding of the scholarship is conditional on presenting proof of academic qualifications during the contracting phase.

For academic degrees granted by foreign higher education institutions, proof of degree recognition by a Portuguese higher education institution and conversion of the final

classification to the Portuguese grading scale is required, under Decreto-Lei no. 66/2018 of 16 August, and article 4(2)(e) of Decreto-Lei no. 60/2018 of 3 August.

If recognition has been requested but not yet issued, candidates may alternatively submit a sworn statement confirming the request and that recognition will be dated prior to the end of the application period.

Recognition of foreign degrees and conversion of classifications may be requested at any public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, for automatic recognition). See the DGES portal: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>).

5. Requirements for Signing the Scholarship Contract

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

For diplomas issued by foreign institutions, if a sworn statement was submitted, proof of degree recognition dated prior to the end of the application period must be presented before contract signing, as indicated in point 4.

Additional documents may be required for the contract: personal data form, Ciência ID, copy of identification document, and declaration of exclusive dedication.

Providing false statements will result in cancellation of the application and may trigger other sanctions.

6. Work Plan

VIPP-SD is a short-term video-feedback intervention for caregivers of children aged 1–6 years, promoting positive parenting and sensitive discipline. It increases parental sensitivity, strengthens parent–child attachment, and prevents or reduces child behavioural problems. It is evidence-based, targeted at at-risk parents and vulnerable children, disrupting cycles of disadvantage and promoting socio-emotional development and child well-being.

Activities to be developed by the scholarship holder include:

Contacting potential partners (associations, schools, daycare centres, health units, social networks) to present the project and recruit participants;

Conducting research and literature review (e.g., systematic review);

Collecting data from children, parents, and teachers;

Developing online questionnaires (Qualtrics) and databases (Excel, SPSS);

Data analysis and processing (SPSS; AMOS);

Discussing and presenting results – scientific dissemination through participation in conferences and preparation of scientific reports, as well as communicating information to the target audience (parents and professionals).

7. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, updated by Decreto-Lei no. 123/2019 of 28 August (Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow – EBI); Regulation no. 950/2019 of 29 November (FCT Research Scholarship Regulations – RBI); Decreto-Lei no. 66/2018 of 16 August (Recognition of Foreign Degrees); ISPA – Instituto Universitário Research Scholarship Regulation; and all other applicable norms.

8. Workplace and Scientific Supervision

The scholarship contract will be signed with ISPA, CRL (contracting entity). The work will be carried out at the William James Center for Research (host institution), at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, and possibly at other locations necessary to the work plan, under the scientific supervision of Professor Manuela Veríssimo, PhD.

9. Duration of the Scholarship

The scholarship is expected to last 12 months starting in March 2026, renewable subject to project budget and up to the project's maximum duration, in accordance with Article 6(4–5) of the FCT Scholarship Regulations.

10. Scholarship Amount and Other Components

The monthly stipend, for exclusive dedication, is **€1309.64**, according to the FCT scholarship table (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 scholarship holder is covered by personal accident insurance and may join the voluntary social security scheme if not covered by any social protection regime (Decreto-Lei no. 40/89 of 1 February; article 10 of the EBI).

11. Submission of Applications

The call is open from **15th January 2026 to 28th January 2026**, 23:00 (Lisbon time). Only applications submitted and received within the deadline will be accepted.

Applications must be submitted by email to **candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt**, indicating in the subject line the reference **SRENGTHBONDS/01/BI/2026**.

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

a) Copy of the master's certificate/diploma in Psychology and Developmental Psychopathology, including final grade; Where applicable, candidates with an Integrated Master's degree whose institution does not separate Bachelor's and Master's final grades must submit detailed academic records listing grades and ECTS for all course units (as per note 5 of section 12).

Where applicable, and in accordance with point 4, recognition of foreign degrees and conversion to the Portuguese grading scale. Alternatively, a sworn statement confirming

that recognition has been requested and will be dated before the end of the application period.

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

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

Applications may be excluded if incorrectly submitted or if required documents are missing.

12. Evaluation Criteria and Selection Methodology

Evaluation will be based on the candidate's merit according to the following weighted criteria:

- a) Final master's grade (20%);
- b) Previous experience in interviews with children and knowledge of digital platforms, according to the CV (60%);
- c) Motivation and interest in the area, according to the motivation letter (20%).

Candidates will be scored on a scale of 0.00–20.00.

The final score will be calculated using:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (A \times 10\%) + (B \times 70\%) + (C \times 20\%)$$

In case of a tie, candidates will be ranked based on:

1. Criterion B – Previous experience in data collection, reporting and results presentation, and publication experience;
2. Criterion C – Motivation and interest;
3. Criterion A – Academic qualifications.

Candidates scoring below 10 points will be automatically excluded, as the Jury considers that they do not demonstrate the appropriate skills for awarding the scholarship.

Notes concerning Criterion A:

1. If multiple master's degrees in Psychology or equivalent are submitted, the Jury will select the degree(s) most relevant to the work plan; other degrees may be considered under Criterion B.
- 2–4. The Jury will assume the minimum passing grade (10/20) when:
 - the degree certificate does not include a final Bachelor's grade;
 - the candidate submits a sworn statement without a certificate;
 - foreign documents have not yet been officially recognised/converted.
2. For Integrated Master's degrees without separate Bachelor/Master grades, Criterion A will consider the weighted average of the first three years (Bachelor level). The candidate must therefore submit a full transcript.

In case of a tie, the Jury has the deciding vote.

The final score is expressed on a 0–100 scale, with one decimal place.

13. Jury Composition

- Professor Maria Manuela Pedro Veríssimo, PhD (Full Professor at ISPA; Integrated Researcher at WJCR) – President
- Professor António José Freitas dos Santos, PhD (Full Professor at ISPA; Integrated Researcher at WJCR) – Member
- Professor Carla Sofia Rodrigues Dias Fernandes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA; Integrated Researcher at WJCR) – Member

- Professor Maryse de Melo Guedes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA; Integrated Researcher at WJCR) – Alternate
- Professor Marília Solange Ornelas Fernandes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA; Integrated Researcher at WJCR) – Alternate

14. Communication of Results

All candidates will be notified of the evaluation process by email, with delivery receipt, to the address provided for that purpose.

Notifications will be made by email under Articles 112(1)(c) and 113(5) of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

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

After provisional results are communicated, candidates have **10 working days** to submit comments under Articles 121 ff. of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The final decision will be issued after analysis of the prior-hearing submissions. Once notified, the selected candidate has **10 working days** to accept the scholarship in writing. Failure to do so without justification will be considered a withdrawal.

Complaints may be submitted within **15 working days**, or appeals within **30 working days**, counting from notification of the final decision.

If the selected candidate declines or withdraws, the Jury may award the scholarship to the next ranked candidate(s), if applicable.

16. Scholarship Contract and Final Report Templates

Models for the scholarship contract and final reports (to be completed by the scholarship holder and supervisor), as well as the evaluation criteria, can be consulted in the ISPA Research Scholarship Regulation (Annexes 2, 3, 4, 5) at: https://intranet.ispa.pt/sites/default/files/users/531/rg102_bols_invest_cient_v4.0.pdf

17. Publication of the Call Notice

This notice is published:

- On the EURAXESS platform, in Portuguese and English;
- On the ISPA website, in Portuguese and English;
- On ISPA's social media channels.

18. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

ISPA actively promotes a policy of gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring strict prevention of any form of discrimination. Terms such as “candidate”, “researcher”, “doctoral candidate”, and similar are used without gender specification. Under Decreto-Lei no. 29/2001 of 3 February, candidates with disabilities have preference in case of equal classification, taking precedence over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare, under honour, their degree of disability, type of impairment, and required means of communication/expression, as set out in the law.

19. Personal Data Protection

By applying, candidates provide the necessary information and consent for the processing of their personal data strictly for the purposes of managing the application procedure, under the General Data Protection Regulation.

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