

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

Announcement Summary

A call is open (reference **ADDICTRESPONSE/02/BI/2026**) for the award of 1 (one) Research Scholarship (BI) for students (as specified in point 5 of the notice), within the project “Getting away from your addiction: On the role of attentional disengagement” (project reference: 2023.17370.ICDT), hosted at the William James Center for Research and funded with the financial support of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT).

1. Scientific Area(s)

Psychology

2. Funding

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

3. Candidate Profile

Mandatory requirements:

- a) Master’s degree in Psychology, preferably in the subarea of Clinical Psychology, or in related fields deemed relevant by the Jury for the performance of the functions and execution of the research plan, with a final grade equal to or higher than 15 values (out of 20);
- b) Applicants must be enrolled, or meet the conditions required for enrollment, in a study cycle leading to a master’s or doctoral degree, or be enrolled in a non-degree course, under applicable legislation and institutional regulations;
- c) Proficiency in Portuguese, both spoken and written.

Preferential factors:

Candidates presenting one or more of the following will be valued:

- a) Proven experience participating in scientific research projects in Psychology, preferably in Clinical Psychology, particularly in the context of addictive behaviors (e.g., alcohol and/or other psychoactive substance use), and the motivational, cognitive, and self-control processes involved in explaining these behaviors;
- b) Participation in national or international scientific research projects, including active collaboration in the design, execution, and analysis of empirical studies, as well as in preparing and drafting scientific articles focused on understanding the motivational and cognitive processes underlying addictive behaviors;
- c) Experience in statistical analysis of quantitative data, namely using IBM SPSS software, including interaction or moderation analyses through specific macros (e.g., PROCESS Macro for SPSS);

- d) Experience in scientific writing, including preparation of manuscripts for submission to scientific journals and participation in manuscripts in progress;
- e) Participation in scientific communications (e.g., posters) presented at national and international conferences;
- f) Experience in clinical psychology practice, including psychological assessment and intervention with adults, and holding (or being in the final stage of obtaining) the professional license issued by the Portuguese Psychologists Association (OPP).

4. Mandatory requirements for application submission

The following documents must be submitted at the time of application:

- a) Master's degree certificate/diploma indicating the final grade;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- c) Motivation Letter explaining the reasons for applying and outlining future career plans (max. 2 pages);
- d) Letter of Recommendation.

Only candidates who have completed the Master's degree by the application deadline will be admitted. If the certificate/diploma is not yet available, a declaration of honour stating that the degree has been completed by the end of the application period, and that the certificate/diploma will be dated accordingly, will be accepted. Granting of the scholarship is conditional upon presenting the academic qualification documents at the contracting stage.

If the degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, recognition of the academic degree by a Portuguese higher education institution and registration of the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese grading scale must be submitted, in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of 16 August, and paragraph e), no. 2, article 4 of Decree-Law No. 60/2018, of 3 August.

If recognition has been requested but is pending, the candidate may submit a declaration of honour stating that the recognition request has been submitted and that the recognized degree will be dated before the application deadline.

Recognition of foreign degrees and conversion of final classifications 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 available at: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

5. Requirements for signing the research scholarship contract

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

For foreign degrees under a declaration of honour, candidates must present the official recognition of their degree, dated before the end of the application period, as specified in point 4.

For contracting, the following additional documents are required: personal data form, Ciência ID, copy of identification document, and a declaration confirming exclusive dedication.

Providing false statements results in cancellation of the application and potential additional sanctions.

6. Work Plan

The tasks associated with this position include support across all phases of the project, from study preparation and execution to data management and administrative support, as well as contributions to other activities aligned with the project's scientific objectives. Specifically, the selected candidate will:

- Support administrative and project management tasks, including data organization, scanning and archiving documentation, scheduling sessions, logistical support, dissemination of studies, and other relevant administrative activities;
- Conduct participant screening and recruitment processes, including initial contact, eligibility verification, and participant follow-up;
- Administer questionnaires, instruments, and semi-structured interviews, as well as program experimental tasks;
- Conduct initial assessments and run laboratory experimental sessions following established protocols;
- Conduct psychological assessments and collect behavioral and psychophysiological data, including EEG when applicable;
- Process and clean collected project data;
- Prepare and organize materials, equipment, and consumables necessary for experimental studies;
- Ensure the management, organization, monitoring, and tracking of participant data while complying with ethical and confidentiality standards;
- Support training, supervision, and coordination of research assistants.

Additionally, the candidate will participate in weekly lab meetings, literature reviews relevant to the project, statistical analysis of quantitative data, preparation of scientific communications, dissemination of project results in academic events and science communication activities, and preparation of manuscripts for scientific journals.

7. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

Law No. 40/2004 of 18 August, updated 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 Grants Regulation – RBI);
Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of 16 August (Recognition of foreign higher education degrees and diplomas); ISPA Research Grants Regulation; and other applicable norms.

8. Place of Work and Scientific Supervision

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

9. Duration of the Scholarship

The scholarship will have an initial duration of 8 months, renewable for one-year periods up to the project's maximum duration, subject to project budget and within the limits established in Article 6, points 4 and 5, of the FCT Grant Regulations.

Estimated start date: February 2026.

10. Monthly Maintenance Allowance and Other Components

The monthly amount, for exclusive dedication, is €1,309.64, according to the table of amounts awarded directly by FCT, subject to applicable updates, and paid by bank transfer. The scholarship holder will benefit from personal accident insurance and may enroll in voluntary social security if not covered by any social protection regime.

11. Submission of Applications

The call is open from **21 January 2026 to 3 February 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**, with wjcr@ispa.pt in Cc indicating in the subject field the reference **ADDICTRESPONSE/02/BI/2026**.

Applications must include the documents listed in point 4, all in PDF format.

Incorrect or incomplete applications and applicants who do not meet the requirements will be excluded. False declarations will be legally penalized.

12. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The evaluation and selection process will assess the merit of the applicant according to the following weighted criteria:

- Curricular Evaluation: Academic qualifications (20%), based on the final grade in the Master's degree in Psychology;
- Motivation Letter: Motivation, interest in the area, and familiarity with the variables studied in the project (30%);
- Interview: Demonstrated scientific knowledge and alignment of the candidate's research interests with the position (50%).

$$\text{Final Classification} = (\text{Curricular Evaluation} \times 20\%) + (\text{Motivation Letter} \times 30\%) + (\text{Interview} \times 50\%)$$

In case of a tie, the jury has a casting vote.

If none of the candidates meets the required profile, the jury may decide not to award the scholarship.

Notes regarding Criterion A:

- 1 – If multiple Master's degrees in Psychology are submitted, the jury will decide which degree(s) best align with the work plan and should therefore be valued.
- 2 – When Portuguese certificates do not specify a final grade, the minimum passing grade (10/20) will be considered.
- 3 – When the candidate submits a declaration of honour but no degree certificate, the minimum passing grade (10/20) will be considered.
- 4 – When foreign degrees are submitted without recognition or without conversion to the Portuguese scale, the minimum passing grade (10/20) will be considered.

13. Jury Composition

President: Dr. Jorge Martins, Researcher, William James Center for Research, ISPA

Effective Member: Dr. Inês Mares, Researcher, WJCR, ISPA

Effective Member: Dr. Magda Saraiva, Researcher, WJCR, ISPA

Alternate Member: Dr. Nuno Gomes, Researcher, WJCR, ISPA

Alternate Member: Dr. Sara Félix, Collaborator, WJCR, ISPA

14. Communication of Results

All candidates will be notified by email, with delivery receipt, according to Articles 112(1)(c) and 113(5) of the Administrative Procedure Code.

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

After the provisional results are communicated, candidates have 10 working days to respond in a prior hearing, as per the Administrative Procedure Code. The final decision will follow after analysis of any statements submitted.

Once the final decision is communicated, the selected candidate has 10 working days to accept the scholarship in writing. Failure to do so without a justified reason will be considered withdrawal.

A complaint may be submitted within 15 working days, or an appeal to the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days.

If the selected candidate declines the scholarship, the jury may award it to the next ranked candidate(s).

16. Scholarship Contract Template and Final Report

The scholarship contract model and the final report templates to be prepared by the scholarship holder and supervisor can be consulted in the ISPA Research Grants Regulation (Annexes 2, 3, 4, and 5):

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 gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring the prevention of any form of discrimination. Terms such as “candidate”, “researcher”, or “doctoral fellow” are used without gender specification. Under Decree-Law No. 29/2001, candidates with disabilities have preference in case of a tie. Applicants must declare their degree of disability and any communication needs in the application form.

18. Personal Data Protection

By applying, the candidate provides the necessary information and consent for personal data processing exclusively for the purposes of the application procedure, under the GDPR. Documents submitted in this procedure constitute administrative documents and will be handled in accordance with Law No. 26/2016, of 22 August, in its current form.