

Call for Applications for the Award of One Research Fellowship

Summary of the Call

A call for applications is now open (reference: DISRUPT/05/BI/2026) for the award of one (1) Research Fellowship for students (as defined in point 5 of this Call), within the scope of the project “Discovering the interference of parental cellphone’ s use on parenting and child’ s emotions”, project reference 2024.15654.PEX, hosted by the William James Center for Research. The project is funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT), with financial support from national funds.

1. Área(s) Científica(s): Psicologia

2. Funding

This Research Fellowship is funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P./MCTES, through national funds.

3. Candidate Profile

Mandatory Requirements

- a) A Master’s degree in Psychology, preferably in Clinical Psychology, or in related fields deemed relevant by jury for the performance of the duties and implementation of the research plan, with a final grade of at least 15 (on a 0–20 grading scale);
- b) Candidates must be enrolled, or meet the conditions to enroll, in a study cycle leading to the award of a Master’s or Doctoral degree, or be enrolled in a non-degree training course, in accordance with the applicable legal framework and institutional regulations in force.

Preferential Criteria

Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate one or more of the following:

- a) Proven experience participating in scientific research projects in Psychology, particularly in the field of parenting behaviours and child development;
- b) Participation in national or international scientific research projects, including active collaboration in the implementation and analysis of empirical studies, as well as in the preparation and writing of scientific publications in Psychology;
- c) Experience in quantitative statistical data analysis, including proficiency in dyadic analyses, moderation, or mediation models;
- d) Experience in observational assessment and coding of parenting behaviours and children’s emotional expression;
- e) Participation in scientific communications (e.g., poster presentations) at national and international conferences;
- f) Interest in pursuing a PhD in areas related to the research project;
- g) Proficiency in spoken and written English.

4. Mandatory Requirements for Admission to the Call

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

- a) Certificate/diploma of completion of the Master's degree indicating the final grade;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- c) Motivation letter explaining the reasons for applying and outlining future career plans (maximum two pages).

Only candidates who have completed the study cycle leading to the Master's degree by the application deadline will be admitted.

If the certificate/diploma is not yet available, a sworn declaration stating that the candidate has completed the required qualifications by the application deadline will be accepted, provided that the certificate/diploma bears a date no later than the end of the application period. The award of the Research Fellowship is conditional upon presentation of official proof of academic qualifications at the contracting stage.

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

If recognition has already been requested but is still pending, the candidate may submit a sworn declaration stating that recognition has been requested and that it will bear a date no later than the end of the application period.

Recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas, as well as conversion of final grades to the Portuguese grading scale, may be requested at any Portuguese public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, in cases of automatic recognition). Further information is available at: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

5. Requirements for Signing the Research Fellowship Contract

At the time of signing the Research Fellowship contract, the selected candidate must be enrolled in a PhD programme or in a non-degree course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.

In the case of diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions, and where a sworn declaration has been submitted stating that recognition will be obtained by the end of the application period, the candidate must present proof of recognition of the academic degree in Portugal, dated prior to the end of the application period, as indicated in point 4 of this Call.

For the conclusion of the Research Fellowship contract, the selected candidate must also provide: a personal data form, Ciência ID, a copy of an identification document, and a declaration confirming exclusive dedication to the fellowship.

False statements constitute grounds for cancellation of the application, without prejudice to the adoption of further legal measures.

6. Work Plan

The Research Fellow will provide transversal support across all phases of the research project, including data collection in various contexts, data management and analysis, and support for additional activities aligned with the overall scientific objectives of the project.

In particular, the selected candidate will be responsible for:

Conducting participant screening and recruitment procedures, including initial contacts, verification of eligibility criteria, and follow-up throughout the study;

Providing administrative and project management support, including data organisation, document digitisation and archiving, session scheduling, logistical support, study dissemination, and other relevant administrative tasks;

Administering questionnaires, research instruments, and semi-structured interviews, as well as programming research tasks within ongoing studies;

Conducting baseline assessments and laboratory-based observational sessions in accordance with established protocols;

Processing, coding, and analysing data collected within the project;

Preparing and organising materials, equipment, and consumables necessary for the implementation of the studies;

Ensuring proper management of collected data, including organisation, monitoring, and tracking of participant information, in compliance with ethical and confidentiality standards;

Supporting the training, supervision, and coordination of research assistants, contributing to the consistent implementation of project procedures.

Additionally, the Research Fellow will participate in complementary activities, including weekly lab meetings, relevant literature reviews, statistical analysis of quantitative data collected during the project, preparation of scientific communications, dissemination of project results at scientific meetings, science communication events and social media, and preparation of manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed scientific journals.

7. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

This call is governed by:

Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August, as amended by Decree-Law no. 123/2019 of 28 August (Statute of the Research Fellowship Holder – EBI);
Regulation no. 950/2019 of 29 November, published in the Portuguese Official Gazette (Diário da República), no. 241, Series II, of 16 December (Regulation on Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology – FCT);
Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16 August (Legal framework for the recognition of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions);
ISPA – Instituto Universitário Regulation on Research Fellowships; And other applicable legislation.

8. Workplace and Scientific Supervision

The Research Fellowship contract will be established 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, where necessary, at other locations required for the implementation of the work plan, under the scientific supervision of Professor Eva Diniz, PhD.

9. Duration of the Fellowship

The fellowship will have an initial duration of 12 months and may be renewed for additional one-year periods up to the maximum duration of the project, subject to budget availability and in accordance with the maximum duration limits established in Article 6(4) and (5) of the FCT Regulation on Research Fellowships.

The expected starting date is March 2026.

10. Monthly Allowance and Other Benefits

The monthly maintenance allowance, under an exclusive dedication regime, amounts to €1,309.64, in accordance with the table of fellowship amounts directly awarded in Portugal by FCT, I.P., and subject to applicable updates. Payment will be made monthly by bank transfer to the Research Fellow.

The Research Fellow will benefit from personal accident insurance and, if not covered by any social protection scheme, may ensure access to social security through adherence to the voluntary social security scheme (Decree-Law no. 40/89 of 1 February; Article 10 of the EBI).

11. Application Submission

The call is open from 20 February 2026 until 5 March 2026, at 23:00 (Lisbon time). Only applications submitted and received within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be submitted by email to:

candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt, Cc: wjrc@ispa.pt Subject line:
DISRUPT/05/BI/2026.

Applications must include the documents listed in point 4:

- a) Copy of the Master's degree certificate/diploma in Psychology or related fields, indicating the final grade;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV);
- c) Motivation letter explaining the reasons for applying and outlining future career plans (maximum two pages).

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

Candidates may be excluded from the procedure if the application is incorrectly submitted or if the required eligibility criteria are not properly documented.

False declarations will be punished in accordance with the law.

12. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The evaluation and selection process will be based on the candidate's merit and will consider the following weighted criteria:

Curricular Evaluation: Academic qualifications (20%), based on the final grade indicated in the Master's degree certificate;

Motivation Letter: Motivation and interest in the field, and familiarity with the variables studied in the project, as evidenced in the CV and motivation letter (30%);

Interview: Demonstrated scientific knowledge and suitability of the candidate's background to the position (50%).

Applications will be evaluated and ranked on a 0–20 scale.

The final classification will be calculated according to the following formula:

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

In the event of a tie, the President of the jury will have the casting vote.

Should none of the candidates demonstrate a suitable profile for the implementation of the work plan, the jury reserves the right not to award the fellowship.

Note regarding Criterion A (Curricular Evaluation)

If more than one Master's degree in Psychology or equivalent Psychological Sciences (with an equivalent number of ECTS credits) is submitted, the jury will decide which degree(s) are most relevant to the work plan and should therefore be considered for evaluation purposes.

For evaluation purposes, the jury will consider that the candidate holds the minimum classification required for obtaining an academic degree in Portugal (10 out of 20) when the submitted Portuguese diploma/certificate does not indicate the final classification.

The jury will also consider the minimum classification (10 out of 20) when a sworn declaration is submitted stating that the candidate has completed the required qualifications by the application deadline but does not yet present the diploma/certificate, as indicated in point 4 of this Call.

The minimum classification (10 out of 20) will likewise be considered when academic degree documents issued by foreign higher education institutions have not yet been formally recognized in Portugal and/or the final grade has not been converted to the Portuguese grading scale, as indicated in point 4.

13. Composition of the Selection jury

President: Professor Eva Diniz, PhD, Assistant Professor and Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário;

Effective Member: Professor Tânia Brandão, PhD, Assistant Professor and Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário;

Effective Member: Professor Manuela Veríssimo, PhD, Full Professor and Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário;

Alternate Member: Dr. Carolina Santos, Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário;

Alternate Member: Professor Marília Fernandes, PhD, Assistant Professor and Researcher at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário.

14. Communication of Results

All candidates will be notified by email of the minutes of the evaluation process, sent to the email address provided for this purpose, with confirmation of delivery. Notifications will be made by email in accordance with Articles 112(1)(c) and 113(5) of the Portuguese Administrative Procedure Code.

15. Prior Hearing, Complaints and Appeals

Following communication of the provisional results list, candidates have 10 working days to submit comments under the prior hearing procedure, in accordance with Articles 121 and following of the Administrative Procedure Code.

The final decision will be issued after analysis of the statements submitted during the prior hearing phase. Once notified of the final decision, the selected candidate has 10 working days to formally accept the awarded Research Fellowship in writing. Failure to do so within this period, without justified reason, will be considered a waiver or withdrawal.

A complaint may be lodged within 15 working days, or an appeal may be submitted to the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days, both counted from the date of notification.

If the selected candidate withdraws or declines the fellowship, the jury may notify and award the fellowship to the next ranked candidate(s), in accordance with the final ranking list.

16. Model of the Fellowship Contract and Final Report

The template of the Research Fellowship contract, as well as the template of the final report to be prepared by the Research Fellow and the scientific supervisor, and the respective evaluation criteria, are available in the ISPA – Instituto Universitário Regulation on Research Fellowships (Annexes 2, 3, 4 and 5).

17. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

ISPA actively promotes a policy of gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring the prevention of any form of discrimination.

The terms “candidate”, “researcher”, “doctoral holder”, and similar expressions used in this document are not intended to indicate gender.

Under Decree-Law no. 29/2001 of 3 February, candidates with disabilities shall be given preference in the event of equal ranking, which prevails over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare, under oath, their degree of disability, type of disability, and communication methods to be used during the selection process, in accordance with the aforementioned legislation.

18. Personal Data Protection

By submitting the application, the candidate provides the necessary information and consent for the processing of personal data strictly for the purposes of this recruitment procedure, including collection and integration into the respective database, for the duration of the procedure, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

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