

## Call for Applications for the Award of 1 Post-Doctoral Research Grant (BIPD)

### Summary of the Call

A call for applications is now open for the award of 1 (one) Post-Doctoral Research Grant (BIPD), reference SCENTBOND/06/BIPD/2026, within the scope of the project “*Scent Bonding: Examining Emotional Olfactory Cues of Human Interaction*” (Ref. 2024.16838.PEX - <https://doi.org/10.54499/2024.16838.PEX>), funded by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P., under the 2024 call for exploratory research projects in all scientific domains. The grant will be hosted at the William James Center for Research, ISPA – Instituto Universitário.

### 1. Scientific Area

Psychology.

### 2. Funding

Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P. (FCT), under the 2024 call for exploratory research projects in all scientific domains.

### 3. Candidate Profile

#### Mandatory Requirements:

- PhD in Psychology obtained less than 3 years prior to the application submission date, awarded by an institution other than ISPA – Instituto Universitário, in accordance with the FCT Research Grant Regulations currently in force;

#### Preferred Criteria:

Applicants with one or more of the following qualifications will be valued:

- Research experience in Social Psychology, Experimental Psychology, Emotions, or Emotional Communication;
- Experience in the use of (generalised) linear mixed models;
- Experience in programming and statistical analysis in R;
- Experience with psychophysiological techniques (e.g., facial electromyography, electrocardiogram, electrodermal activity);
- Experience with stimulus presentation software (e.g., PsychoPy) and/or controlled sensory stimulus delivery systems;
- Proficiency in English (spoken and written).

#### **4. Mandatory Requirements for Admission to the Call**

##### 4.1 Mandatory Documents:

For admission to this call, applicants must submit the following documents, under penalty of exclusion:

- a) Certificate/diploma proving the award of a PhD in Psychology;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter.

Only applicants who have completed the doctoral degree by the end of the application deadline will be admitted. The award of the grant is conditional upon presentation, at the contracting stage, of documentary proof of academic qualifications.

If the degree was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, proof of formal 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, under the terms of Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of 16 August and subparagraph e) of paragraph 2 of Article 4 of Decree-Law no. 60/2018 of 03 August.

If the applicant has requested recognition of the degree and is awaiting a decision at the time of application, a declaration on honour confirming submission of the request may be provided. Recognition must be completed by the date of signing the grant contract.

Recognition of foreign degrees and conversion of final classification may be requested from any public higher education institution or from the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, in the case of automatic recognition). Applicants are advised to consult the DGES website: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>.

##### 4.2 Optional Documents:

d) Letter of recommendation attesting to the applicant's scientific merit and suitability for the work plan, which may be considered for evaluation purposes.

#### **5. Requirements for Signing the Research Grant Contract**

In the case of degrees issued by foreign higher education institutions, and where the applicant submits a declaration on honour stating that recognition will be obtained by the end of the application deadline, proof of recognition in Portugal must be presented by the date of signing the grant contract, as indicated in point 4 of this Call.

For the signing of the Post-Doctoral Research Grant (BIPD) contract, submission of the following may also be required: Personal data form; Ciência ID; Copy of identification document; Declaration of exclusive dedication.

False statements constitute grounds for cancellation of the application without prejudice to other applicable sanctions.

## 6. Work Plan

The project “*Scent Bonding: Examining Emotional Olfactory Cues of Human Interaction*” aims to investigate the role of emotional body odours in modulating various dimensions of human interaction through the integration of olfactory and visual cues in experimental paradigms.

The grant holder will be responsible for the development and execution of experimental tasks within the project, namely:

- Implementation of experimental protocols for induction of emotional states (happiness, anger, and neutral condition) and collection of axillary sweat samples;
- Collection, processing, and monitoring of psychophysiological measures (e.g., electrodermal activity, electrocardiogram, facial electromyography) and self-report measures;
- Organisation, storage, and preparation of olfactory stimuli for experimental use;
- Programming and implementation of behavioural paradigms with controlled and synchronised presentation of facial and olfactory stimuli;
- Use and management of an odour delivery system (olfactometer);
- Recruitment and testing of participants;
- Data processing, organisation, and statistical analysis, including modelling with (generalised) linear mixed models;
- Preparation of pre-registrations and adoption of open science practices;
- Preparation of scientific manuscripts and presentation of results at national and international scientific meetings.

## 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, published in the Official Gazette (Diário da República) No. 241, Series II, of 16 December (Regulation on Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., currently in force – RBI); 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); Regulations for Scientific Research Grants of ISPA – Instituto Universitário; and other applicable provisions.

## 8. Place of Work and Scientific Supervision

The grant 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, where necessary, at other locations required for implementation of the work plan.

Scientific supervision will be ensured by the Principal Investigator of the project, Prof. Doctor Nuno Gomes, with the collaboration of the research team members, Prof. Doctor Inês Mares and Professor Doctor Gün R. Semin.

## 9. Duration of the Grant

The grant is expected to last 12 months, starting on 16 April 2026, and may be renewed for up to the maximum project duration, subject to the project budget and limited by the maximum period established in Articles 6(4) and 6(5) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations.

## 10. Remuneration and Other Grant Components

The amount of the grant, for duties performed on an exclusive dedication basis, is €1,851.00, in accordance with the table of grant amounts directly awarded in Portugal by the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT, I.P.), available at: [https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela\\_valores\\_SMM\\_2025.pdf](https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf)

This amount is subject to any applicable updates and shall be paid monthly by bank transfer to the grant holder.

The grant holder will 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 1 February; Article 10 of the Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow – EBI).

## 11. Submission of Applications

The call is open from **2 March 2026 to 16 March 2026, 23:00 (Lisbon time)**. Only applications submitted within the deadline will be accepted.

Applications must be submitted by email to [candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt](mailto:candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt), with copy to [wjrc@ispa.pt](mailto:wjrc@ispa.pt), indicating in the subject line the reference **SCENTBOND/06/BIPD/2026**.

The application must be accompanied by the following documents (as indicated in section 4):

- a) PhD certificate/diploma;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation Letter (max. 2 pages);

A letter of recommendation may also be submitted (optional), in accordance with section 4.2 of this call.

All documents must be attached in PDF format.

Candidates who incorrectly formalise their application or fail to provide proof of the requirements set out in this call may be excluded.

## 12. Evaluation Criteria and Selection Methodology

The evaluation and selection process will be conducted on the basis of the candidate's merit, in accordance with the following criteria and weightings:

- a) Scientific and curricular merit (50%), taking into account:
- Experience in experimental research in Psychology;
  - Experience in statistical data analysis;
  - Experience in experimental methodologies and/or psychophysiological techniques;
  - Scientific output relevant to the project's field.
- b) Motivation letter (25%), taking into account:
- Suitability of the candidate's scientific background to the project's objectives;
  - Demonstration of interest and motivation for the tasks set out in the work plan;
  - Potential for integration into the research team.
- c) Interview (25%), intended to assess:
- Technical skills relevant to the work plan;
  - Knowledge of the methodologies foreseen in the project;
  - Scientific communication skills;
  - Suitability for the scientific context of the project.

Applications will be assessed and scored on a scale from 0.00 to 20.00 points for each criterion. The final classification will be calculated using the following formula:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (A \times 50\%) + (B \times 25\%) + (C \times 25\%)$$

Only the three candidates with the highest scores resulting from the application of criteria a) and b) will be invited for an interview.

In the event of a tie, candidates will be ranked according to the score obtained under criterion a). If the tie persists, the selection panel shall decide by majority vote.

The selection panel reserves the right not to award the grant if it considers that none of the candidates meets the appropriate profile for the implementation of the work plan.

## 13. The Evaluation Panel

The Evaluation Panel will be composed of:

- Prof. Doctor Nuno Gomes (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário; Integrated Researcher at William James Center for Research; Chair)
- Prof. Doctor Inês Mares (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário; Integrated Researcher at William James Center for Research; Full Member)
- Prof. Doctor Lénia Amaral (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário; Integrated Researcher at William James Center for Research; Full Member)
- Prof. Doctor Magda Saraiva (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário; Integrated Researcher at William James Center for Research; Alternate Member)

- Prof. Doctor Gonçalo Oliveira (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário; Integrated Researcher at William James Center for Research; Alternate Member)

#### **14. Communication of Results**

All candidates will be notified of the minutes relating to the evaluation of applications by email to the address provided for that purpose, with an acknowledgement of delivery.

Notifications shall be made by email, pursuant to Articles 112(1)(c) and 113(5) of the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA).

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

Following notification of the provisional list of results, candidates have a period of 10 working days to submit their comments under the right to a prior hearing, pursuant to Article 121 and subsequent provisions of the CPA. The final decision shall be issued after consideration of the statements submitted during the prior hearing stage. Once this decision has been communicated, the selected candidate has 10 working days to accept the grant in writing. Failure to invoke a duly justified reason within that period shall be deemed a waiver of, or withdrawal from, the grant.

A complaint against the final decision 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.

Should the selected candidate waive the grant or withdraw their intention to accept it, the panel may notify and award the grant to the candidate(s) ranked in the subsequent position(s), where applicable and in accordance with the final ranking list.

#### **16. Grant Agreement Template and Final Report Template to be Prepared by the Grant Holder and the Supervisor**

The template for the grant agreement, as well as the template for the final report to be prepared by the grant holder and the supervisor, together with the respective evaluation criteria, may be consulted in the Regulations for Scientific Research Grants of ISPA – Instituto Universitário (Annexes 2, 3, 4 and 5), available at:

[https://intranet.ispa.pt/sites/default/files/users/531/rg102\\_bols\\_invest\\_cient\\_v4.0.pdf](https://intranet.ispa.pt/sites/default/files/users/531/rg102_bols_invest_cient_v4.0.pdf)

#### **17. Publication of the Call for Applications**

This Call for Applications is published:

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

#### **18. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy**

ISPA - Instituto Universitário actively promotes a policy of gender equality, diversity and inclusion, and strictly ensures the prevention of any form of discrimination. Accordingly,

the terms “candidate”, “researcher”, “PhD holder” and other similar terms used in this document are not intended to refer to a specific gender.

Pursuant to Decree-Law No. 29/2001 of 3 February, a candidate with a disability shall be given preference in the event of equal ranking, which shall prevail over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare in the application form, under a statement of honour, their degree of disability, the type of disability, and the means of communication/expression to be used in the selection process, in accordance with the aforementioned Decree-Law.

### **19. Personal Data Protection**

Within the scope of the application, the candidate provides the necessary information and consent for the processing of personal data at the time of application, strictly for the purpose of collection and integration into the database of the recruitment procedure and for the duration thereof, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation.

The documents submitted as part of this recruitment procedure constitute administrative documents and, as such, access to them shall be granted in compliance with Law No. 26/2016 of 22 August, as amended.