

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

Announcement Summary

A call for applications is open (reference **SRENGTHBONDS_011_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;
Excellent communication skills in Portuguese and English.

Preferred Factors:

Training in the VIPP-SD intervention program;
Previous experience in data collection with children, parents, and teachers.

4. Mandatory Requirements for Admission to the Call

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

- a) Certificate/diploma of a Master's degree in Psychology and Developmental Psychopathology, including the final grade;
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Motivation letter.

Only candidates who have completed the study cycle leading to a Master's degree by the application deadline will be admitted. If candidates do not yet have the certificate/diploma, a sworn statement will be accepted declaring that they have completed the required qualifications by the application deadline and that the certificate/diploma will be dated no later than that deadline. The granting of the fellowship will be conditional upon the presentation of proof of academic qualifications at the contracting stage.

In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, proof of recognition of the 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 August 16.

If the candidate has already requested recognition but is still awaiting issuance, they may submit a sworn statement declaring that recognition has been requested and will be dated no later than the application deadline.

Recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of final grades can be requested at any public higher education institution or at the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, for automatic recognition).

5. Requirements for Signing the Scholarship Contract

The selected candidate must be enrolled in a Master's program or 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, at the time of signing the contract.

If foreign diplomas are involved and a sworn statement has been submitted, proof of degree recognition in Portugal must be presented by the contract date, with a date prior to the application deadline, as stated in section 4.

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

False declarations are grounds for exclusion from the application process and may lead to further sanctions.

6. Work Plan

VIPP-SD is a short-term video-feedback intervention for caregivers of children aged 1 to 6 years, promoting positive parenting and sensitive discipline. It increases parental sensitivity, strengthens parent-child attachment, and prevents or reduces child behavioral problems. Proven effective, it targets at-risk parents and vulnerable children, breaking cycles of disadvantage and promoting socio-emotional development and well-being.

The fellow will carry out the following activities:

- Establish contact with potential partners (associations, schools, daycare centers, health units, and social networks) to present the project and recruit participants;
- Conduct research and literature review (e.g., systematic review);
- Collect data from children, parents, and teachers;
- Develop online questionnaires (Qualtrics) and databases (Excel, SPSS);
- Analyze and process data (SPSS; AMOS);

- Discuss and present results – scientific dissemination through participation in conferences and preparation of scientific reports, as well as dissemination to target audiences (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 grant contract will be signed with ISPA, CRL. Work will be carried out at the William James Center for Research (host institution), at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, and possibly other locations necessary for the work plan, under the scientific supervision of Professor Manuela Veríssimo.

9. Duration of the Grant

The grant will last 8 months starting in May 2026, potentially renewable up to the maximum duration of the project, subject to budget availability and legal limits.

10. Scholarship Amount and Other Components

The monthly stipend, for exclusive dedication, is **€1359.64**, according to the FCT scholarship table (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.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 **April 14, 2026, to April 27, 2026, until 11:00 PM** (Lisbon time). Only applications submitted and received within the deadline will be considered.

Applications must be submitted by email to **candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt**, indicating in the subject line the reference **SRENGTHBONDS/011/BI/2026**.

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents (as indicated in section 4):
a) Copy of the Master's certificate/diploma in Psychology and Developmental Psychopathology, including the final grade;

If applicable, candidates holding an Integrated Master's degree certificate/diploma issued by an institution that does not distinguish the classification of the 1st cycle (Bachelor's

degree) from the final classification of the 2nd cycle (Master's degree) must also submit detailed academic records, including the grades for each course unit (and respective ECTS credits) of the Integrated Master's program (as per note 5 of section 12 of this call).

If applicable, and in accordance with section 4 of this call, proof of recognition of Bachelor's degree qualifications awarded by foreign higher education institutions and conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese grading scale must be submitted. Alternatively, a sworn statement declaring that recognition of the academic degree has been requested and will be dated no later than the application deadline may be provided;

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

All documents must be submitted in PDF format.

Candidates who incorrectly formalize their application or fail to provide proof of the required qualifications as specified in this call may be excluded from the selection process.

12. Evaluation Criteria and Selection Methodology

The evaluation and selection process will be based on the assessment of the candidate's merit, according to the following weighted criteria:

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

Applications (and respective evaluation criteria) will be assessed, and candidates will be ranked on a scale from 0.00 to 20.00. The final classification will be calculated using the following formula:

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

In the event of a tie, candidates will be ranked based on the scores obtained in each evaluation criterion, with the following order of precedence: Criterion B – Previous experience in data collection, reporting and presenting results, and experience in the publication process, according to the candidate's CV; Criterion C – Motivation and interest in the field, according to the candidate's motivation letter; and Criterion A – Academic qualifications, based on the final grade indicated in the certificate.

Candidates with a final score below ten (10) points will be automatically excluded ("Excluded") and will not be considered for the granting of the fellowship, as the Jury considers they do not possess the appropriate and necessary skills for the award of the doctoral grant.

Note regarding the assessment of Criterion A:

1 – If more than one Master’s certificate in Psychology or equivalent Psychological Sciences (with an equivalent number of ECTS credits) is submitted, the Jury will decide which academic degree(s) are most appropriate to the work plan and should therefore be considered under Criterion A. The remaining degrees may be considered under Criterion B – personal curriculum.

2 – For evaluation purposes, the Jury will consider that the candidate has the minimum classification (10 out of a maximum of 20) required to obtain an academic degree in Portugal when the submitted Portuguese diploma/certificate does not include the final grade of the Bachelor’s degree;

3 – The Jury will consider that the candidate has the minimum classification (10 out of 20) when a sworn statement is submitted declaring completion of the required qualifications by the application deadline, but no diploma/certificate is presented (as indicated in section 4 of this call);

4 – The Jury will consider that the candidate has the minimum classification (10 out of 20) when the submitted foreign academic degree documents are not recognized in Portugal and/or the final grade has not been converted to the Portuguese grading scale (as indicated in section 4 of this call);

5 – If the candidate submits an Integrated Master’s diploma/certificate that does not distinguish the classification of the 1st cycle (Bachelor’s degree) from the final classification of the 2nd cycle (Master’s degree), the evaluation of Criterion A will consider the weighted average of the grades obtained in the course units of the first three years (1st cycle). Candidates in this situation must therefore submit a certificate/diploma detailing the academic record, including the grades for each course unit (and respective ECTS credits).

In the event of a tie, the Jury has the casting vote.

The final classification is expressed on a scale from 0 to 100, with one decimal place.

13. Jury Composition

- Professor Maria Manuela Pedro Veríssimo, PhD (Full Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Chair);
- Professor Marília Solange Ornelas Fernandes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Full Member);
- Professor António José Freitas dos Santos, PhD (Full Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Alternate Member);
- Professor Carla Sofia Rodrigues Dias Fernandes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Full Member);

- Professor Maryse de Melo Guedes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Alternate Member).

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:

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