

Call for Applications for the Award of One Research Fellowship for a Master's Degree Holder Enrolled in a Non-Degree Awarding Course

Summary

An open call is hereby announced for the award of one (1) Research Fellowship, reference **SCENTBOND/015/BI/2026**, under 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 the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT), under the 2024 call for exploratory research projects in all scientific domains. The fellowship will be carried out at the William James Center for Research at ISPA – Instituto Universitário.

1. Scientific Area(s): Psychology

2. Funding: Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT), under the 2024 call for exploratory research projects in all scientific domains.

3. Candidate Profile

Mandatory requirements:

- i. The candidate must hold a Master's degree in Psychology or a related scientific field;
- ii. The candidate must be enrolled in a non-degree awarding course by the time of contract signing, as defined in this call.

Preferential factors:

- i. Previous experience in data collection in laboratory settings;
- ii. Previous research experience with psychophysiological measures (e.g., electrocardiography, electromyography, skin conductance response);
- iii. Experience in quantitative data analysis (e.g., SPSS, JASP, R, or similar software);
- iv. Interest in pursuing doctoral studies at the end of the project in scientific areas related to the project;
- v. Proficiency in spoken and written Portuguese and English.

4. Mandatory Requirements for Admission to the Call

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

- a) Copy of the Master's degree certificate/diploma in Psychology or a related scientific field, including the final classification obtained;
- b) Proof of enrolment in a non-degree awarding course **or, alternatively**, a sworn statement declaring that the candidate meets the conditions for enrolment and undertakes to provide the respective proof by the fellowship contracting stage;
- c) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- d) Motivation letter.

Only candidates who prove that they hold a Master's degree by the application deadline will be admitted. In the case of academic degrees awarded by a foreign higher education institution, proof of recognition of the academic degree by a Portuguese higher education institution and proof of conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese grading scale, in accordance with applicable legislation, must be submitted. If the candidate has already requested recognition but is still awaiting issuance, they may alternatively submit a sworn statement clarifying that recognition has been requested and that the respective proof will be provided by the time of contract signing, without prejudice to other applicable legal requirements.

If the candidate is not enrolled or does not formally possess proof of enrolment in a non-degree awarding course by the time of application, they may submit a sworn statement declaring that they are enrolled or meet the conditions for enrolment, undertaking to provide the respective proof by the fellowship contracting stage, without prejudice to the provisions of this call and the applicable regulations.

Failure to submit the documents required under this call, as well as the submission of incomplete, incorrect, or illegible documents, will result in exclusion from the application process.

The provision of false statements constitutes grounds for exclusion from the application process, without prejudice to the adoption of other sanctioning measures under the law.

5. Requirements for Signing the Research Fellowship Contract

By the date of signing the contract, the selected candidate must prove that they hold a Master's degree in Psychology or a related scientific field and are enrolled in a non-degree awarding course, as well as comply with the remaining requirements applicable to this type

of fellowship. The requirement for enrolment in a non-degree awarding course results from the regulatory framework applicable to Research Fellowships awarded to Master's degree holders under this modality.

In the case of diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions, and if the candidate has submitted a sworn statement regarding recognition of the academic degree, they must provide proof of recognition in Portugal and proof of conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese grading scale, where applicable, by the date of contract signing.

For the signing of the research fellowship contract, it will also be necessary to provide a personal data form, Ciência ID, a copy of an identification document, and a sworn statement regarding compliance with the legal framework applicable to research fellowships.

The provision of false statements constitutes grounds for cancellation of the application or fellowship, without prejudice to the adoption of other sanctioning measures.

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 research fellow will collaborate in the development and implementation of research activities within the scope of the project, namely:

- Implementation of experimental protocols for the 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, electrocardiography, 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 presentation system (olfactometer);
- Recruitment and testing of participants;

- Processing, organisation, and statistical analysis of data;
- Preparation of preregistrations and adoption of open science practices;
- Support in the systematisation of results and preparation of scientific dissemination materials.

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 Diário da República no. 241, Series II, of 16 December (Regulation for Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology 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); ISPA – Instituto Universitário Regulation for Scientific Research Fellowships; and other applicable regulations.

8. Workplace and Scientific Supervision

The research fellowship 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, eventually, at other locations necessary for the execution of the work plan.

Scientific supervision will be ensured by the Principal Investigator of the project, Nuno Gomes, PhD, with the collaboration of Inês Mares, PhD (member of the research team).

9. Duration of the Fellowship

The fellowship is expected to last 12 months, eventually renewable for periods up to the maximum duration of the project, subject to the project budget and limited by the maximum duration established for this type of fellowship under article 6, points 4 and 5, of the Regulation for Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology.

The fellowship is expected to begin in July 2026.

10. Fellowship Amount and Other Components

The fellowship amount, for activities carried out under an exclusive dedication regime, corresponds to €1,359.64, in accordance with the table of fellowship amounts directly awarded by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela->

[de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf](#)), subject to applicable updates, and will be paid monthly by bank transfer to the fellow. The fellow will benefit from personal accident insurance and, if not covered by any social protection scheme, may ensure the exercise of the right to social security through adherence to the voluntary social insurance scheme (Decree-Law no. 40/89, of 1 February; article 10 of the EBI).

11. Submission of Applications

The call is open **from 14 May 2026 to 29 May 2026, at 11:00 p.m. (Lisbon time)**. Only applications submitted and received within the established deadline will be admitted.

Applications must be submitted by e-mail to candidaturas.investigadores@ispa.pt, with copy to wjrc@ispa.pt, indicating in the subject field the reference of the call **SCENTBOND/015/BI/2026**.

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents (as indicated in point 4):

- a) Master's degree certificate in Psychology or a related scientific field, including the final classification;
- b) Proof of enrolment in a non-degree awarding course **or, alternatively**, a sworn statement declaring that the candidate meets the conditions for enrolment and undertakes to provide the respective proof by the fellowship contracting stage;
- c) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- d) Motivation letter.

All documents must be attached in PDF format.

Candidates who incorrectly formalise their application or fail to prove the requirements established in this call may be excluded from the admission process.

12. Evaluation and Selection Criteria

The evaluation and selection process will be conducted based on the assessment of the candidate's merit, in three phases, namely curricular evaluation, evaluation of the motivation letter, and interview.

12.1. Curricular Evaluation (CE) – 0 to 20 points

The curricular evaluation will be based on the sum of the scores assigned to the following criteria:

- A) Final Master's degree classification (max. 6 points):

- Final classification between 10 and 13 = 1 point;
 - Final classification of 14 or 15 = 2 points;
 - Final classification of 16 or 17 = 4 points;
 - Final classification equal to or above 18 = 6 points.
- B) Experience in experimental research in Psychology (max. 4 points):
- Dissertation with experimental component only = 2 points;
 - Participation in 1 research project = 3 points;
 - Participation in 2 or more research projects = 4 points.
- C) Experience in experimental methodologies and/or psychophysiological techniques (max. 3 points):
- Training or contact within an academic context = 2 points;
 - Practical experience in a research context = 3 points.
- D) Experience in quantitative data collection, processing, and analysis (max. 3 points):
- Experience within an academic context (e.g., dissertation) = 2 points;
 - Experience within a research project = 3 points.
- E) Experience in programming experimental studies or experimental software (max. 2 points):
- Experience within an academic context = 1 point;
 - Experience in research projects = 2 points.
- F) Proven experience in participant recruitment and management and/or teamwork = 1 point;
- G) Experience in scientific dissemination (e.g., participation in scientific events, communications, or publications) = 1 point.

12.2. Motivation Letter (ML) – 0 to 20 points

The motivation letter will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- A) Motivation and interest in the project's scientific area (0 - 8 points), considering:
- Clarity in demonstrating interest;
 - Knowledge of the scientific area;
 - Justification of the application.
- B) Adequacy of the academic and scientific background to the work plan (0 - 6 points), considering:
- Articulation between previous experience and the planned tasks;
 - Demonstration of relevant skills.

C) Potential for academic development and integration into the research team (0 - 6 points), considering:

- Future goals (e.g., pursuing a PhD);
- Ability to integrate into the research team.

12.3. Admission to the Interview

Candidates obtaining a **minimum classification of 14 points** in the admission score calculated according to the following formula will be admitted to the interview stage:

$$\text{Admission Score} = (\text{CE} \times 60\%) + (\text{ML} \times 40\%)$$

Among the candidates who meet this requirement, **up to a maximum of 2 candidates** corresponding to those with the highest classifications will be invited for interview.

In the event of a tie in the last position eligible for interview, all tied candidates may be invited.

The remaining candidates will be excluded from the selection process.

12.4. Interview (I) – 0 to 20 points

The interview aims to clarify aspects related to the application and assess the candidate's competences, considering the following criteria:

- Research competences and mastery of relevant methodologies (0 - 8 points);
- Adequacy of experience and knowledge to the work plan (0 - 6 points);
- Personal competences, namely communication, autonomy, and teamwork skills (0 - 6 points).

12.5. Final Classification

The final classification (FC) will only be assigned to candidates admitted to the interview and will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$\text{Final Classification} = (\text{CE} \times 40\%) + (\text{ML} \times 30\%) + (\text{I} \times 30\%)$$

12.6. Ranking and Selection

Candidates will be ranked in descending order according to the final classification.

The selection panel reserves the right not to award the fellowship if it considers that none of the candidates presents an adequate profile for the performance of the functions.

12.7. Tie-breaking

In the event of a tie, candidates will be ranked according to the classifications obtained in the evaluation criteria, in the following order:

1. Curricular Evaluation (CE);
2. Interview (I);
3. Motivation Letter (ML).

If the tie persists, the selection panel may decide by majority vote.

13. Composition of the Evaluation Panel

The evaluation panel will consist of:

- Nuno Gomes, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Chair);
- Inês Mares, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Member);
- Magda Saraiva, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Member);
- Lénia Amaral, PhD (Assistant Professor at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, Integrated Researcher at the William James Center for Research; Alternate Member);
- Miguel F. Benrós, MSc (PhD student at ISPA – Instituto Universitário, William James Center for Research; Alternate Member).

14. Communication of Results

All candidates will be notified of the minutes regarding the evaluation process of applications by e-mail to the address provided for that purpose, with proof of delivery notification. Notifications are made by e-mail under articles 112(1)(c) and 113(5) of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

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

Following communication of the provisional list of results, candidates shall have a period of 10 working days to be heard during the prior hearing procedure, under articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure. The final decision shall be issued after analysis of the statements submitted during the prior hearing procedure. Once this decision has been communicated, the selected candidate shall have ten working days to accept the awarded fellowship in writing, failing which, unless a justified reason is invoked

within the referred period, such situation shall be considered as waiver or withdrawal from the fellowship.

A complaint against the final decision may be submitted within 15 working days, or an appeal may be lodged before the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification.

In the event that the selected candidate waives the fellowship or withdraws their intention to accept it, the panel may notify and award the fellowship to the candidate(s) in the subsequent position(s), if applicable, and according to the final ranking list.

16. Fellowship Contract and Final Report Models to be Prepared by the Fellow and Supervisor

The fellowship contract model, as well as the final report model to be prepared by the fellow and the supervisor and the respective evaluation criteria, may be consulted in the Regulation for Scientific Research Fellowships of ISPA – Instituto Universitário (Annexes 2, 3, 4, and 5) at:

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 a policy of gender equality, diversity, and inclusion, scrupulously ensuring the prevention of any form of discrimination. In this sense, the terms “candidate”, “researcher”, “PhD holder”, and other similar terms are not used in this document to refer to the gender of persons.

Under Decree-Law no. 29/2001, of 3 February, candidates with disabilities shall have preference in the event of equal classification, prevailing over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare in the application form, under sworn declaration, the respective degree of disability, the type of disability, and the means of communication/expression to be used during the selection process, under the terms of the referred diploma.

18. Personal Data Protection

In the application, candidates provide the information and necessary consent for the processing of personal data, at the time of application and strictly for the purpose of collection and integration into the database of the recruitment procedure and for the duration thereof, under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulation.

The documents submitted within the scope of this recruitment procedure constitute administrative documents, and access thereto shall be granted in compliance with Law no. 26/2016, of 22 August, in its current wording.