PUBLIC NOTICE FOR A RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP
Reference PRBI/12/2026

IPC/ i2A is now accepting applications to award two **research initiation grants** within the scope of the project Nr. 24349 "AI4NextGen - Plataforma de Generative AI para a próxima geração das Comunicações Móveis", with the operation code COMPETE2030-FEDER-00712100, financed under the terms of Notice MPr-2023-12 - Scientific Research and Technological Development Projects (IC&DT) – Individual and Copromotion Operations, with financial support from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), through the Innovation and Digital Transition Thematic Programme (COMPETE 2030), Portugal 2030 and the European Union, under the following conditions:

The work aims at the application of Machine Learning methodologies to the automatic detection of SPAM and fraud in voice calls, a growing problem in the context of digital communications. The main objective is to develop intelligent models capable of identifying suspicious patterns through the analysis of multiple call features.

The project foresees the use of simulated and real datasets and will be carried out in close collaboration with WIT Software, one of the leading Portuguese companies specialised in the development of applications and services for mobile operators and telecommunications companies.

The work aims to achieve the following general objectives:

1. Understanding the mechanisms of fraud in voice calls
2. Study of techniques used in voice call fraud detection
3. Implementation and testing of Machine Learning methods for voice call fraud detection

Scientific area: Informatics Engineering

Eligibility Requirements:

- Applicants must be 3rd-year students enrolled in a Bachelor's degree in Informatics Engineering, having completed a minimum of 135 ECTS credits.

Work Plan:

The scholarship holders will be integrated into the technical and scientific team of the project "AI4NextGen", focusing on the development of the following activities:

1. State of the Art

Literature review and analysis of approaches in the field of voice call fraud detection.

2. Identification of Resources and Requirements Analysis

Identification of datasets and intelligent methods that may be used for voice call fraud detection.

3. Proposal of Approaches

Development of intelligent methods for voice call fraud detection.

4. Validation

Testing on simulated data to assess the comparative effectiveness of the developed approaches.

Scholarship Length:

The scholarship, on an exclusive basis, has a duration of 6 months, non-renewable, scheduled to start on March 2026.

Monthly Maintenance Allowance:

651,12 euros, according to the table of scholarships amounts awarded by FCT to positions held in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf). The payment will be made by bank transfer monthly, to the account to be designated by the Fellow. To this amount is added the voluntary social insurance corresponding to the first tier, and a workplace accident insurance contract.

To this amount is added the voluntary social insurance corresponding to the first contribution tier, should the candidate opt for enrolment, as well as personal accident insurance.

Workplace:

The work will be developed at Instituto Superior de Engenharia de Coimbra, Rua Pedro Nunes, 3030-199 Coimbra and at WIT Software, Centro de Empresas de Taveiro, Estrada de Condeixa, 3045-508 Taveiro .

Scientific Supervision:

Professor João Carlos Costa Faria da Cunha, Professor Ana Cristina da Costa Oliveira Alves, Professor Francisco José Baptista Pereira and Professor Simão Pedro Mendes Cruz Reis Paredes

Selection Criteria:

Applications will be evaluated on a scale from 0 to 20 points, based on the following weighting:

1. Curricular Evaluation (50%), composed of: 50% for the average grade of the curricular units completed in the Bachelor's degree in Informatics Engineering; 30% for experience or additional training related to the activities to be carried out; 20% for the motivation letter

2. Interview (50%), to be conducted only with candidates who obtain a Curricular Evaluation score higher than 10 points.

The Jury reserves the right not to select candidates who do not have the appropriate profile to perform the duties.

Jury of Selection:

The jury responsible for the selection process will be composed of the following Professors PhD:

Effective members:

- João Carlos Costa Faria da Cunha

- Ana Cristina da Costa Oliveira Alves

- Francisco José Baptista Pereira

Substitute member:

- Simão Pedro Mendes Cruz Reis Paredes

- Professor Doutor José Manuel Meireles Marinho

Mandatory documents:

Applications must include the following documents:

- Application form available on the internet page for this competition at https://www.ipc.pt/sobre/rh/a-decorrer-bolseiros/

- Identification, residence, identification document number, and tax identification number

- Supporting documents proving that the candidate meets the requirements for the respective type of scholarship, namely academic certificates

- Motivation letter

- Curriculum Vitae, including a list of all completed curricular units of the Bachelor's degree in Informatics Engineering and respective grades, as well as the weighted average grade

Deadline of Application Submission:

The application period will be of 10 working days, **starting on 17/03/2026 and ending on 30/03/2026**.

Candidates must access and register on the website: https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros to submit the application, selecting the procedure for which they intend to apply.

Applications must be delivered exclusively in digital format, in portable document format (pdf), with the exception of documents whose delivery is scheduled in other digital formats.

Application instructions are completed by filling in the sections available at the aforementioned link.

When formalizing the application, if it contains a classified document that reveals commercial or industrial secrets, or secrets relating to literary, artistic or scientific property, the candidate must expressly indicate such reservation, under penalty of the work in question being freely accessed by any one of the other candidates, in consultation with the process.

When submitting the application, the candidate must provide the data strictly necessary for the purpose, under the terms of this public notice, and must hide personal data that may exist in the documentation submitted, otherwise these data may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates, in the process query.

Legislation and applicable Regulation:

The award of this fellowship is based on Law 40/2004, of the 18th of August (Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação

Científica), changed and republished by the Decree-Law 202/2012, of the 27th of August, updated by: Decree-Law 233/2012, Law 12/2013, Decree-Law 89/2013 and Decree-Law 123/2019; the Regulation of the Research Scholarships from Polytechnic of Coimbra Order nº 5963/2020, and the Regulation of the research scholarships from the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I. P.

Information of Results:

The results of the evaluation will be published within 15 working days from the deadline for submission of applications, by sending a communication to the candidates, via email. After the results have been published, candidates will be notified to, if they wish, give their opinion in a prior hearing within a maximum of 10 working days after that date. After this deadline, the selected candidates will have to declare their acceptance in writing. Unless a justifiable reason is provided, failure to make the declaration within the deadline will be considered as a waiver of the scholarship. In case of resignation or withdrawal of the selected candidate, the immediately best ranked candidate will be notified.

For further information please contact:

João Carlos Costa Faria da Cunha. through the email: jcunha@isec.pt

Coimbra, February of 2026