Universidade Politécnica de Coimbra

NOTICE

i2a Politécnico de Coimbra

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF A CALL FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH INITIATION GRANT (BII) — 1 POSITION

Reference/PRBI/39/2026

A call is open for the award of one (1) Research Initiation Grant (BII) for a student enrolled in a study programme leading to a Master's degree at a higher education institution, within the scope of the PERLID-POL project – Reading Profile and Digital Literacy in Polytechnic Higher Education, funded through IGNIT Projetos@IPC, promoted by UPC through the Applied Research Institute (i2A) of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, to join the PERLID-POL project — Reading Profile and Digital Literacy of Students in Initial Teacher Education in Polytechnic Higher Education, under the following conditions:

The grant aims to implement and develop the following activities:

1) Support the administration, follow-up and monitoring of the questionnaire survey on reading practices, representations of reading, reading engagement and digital literacy among students in initial teacher education at the institutions involved in the project;
2) Contribute to the creation, organisation, validation and maintenance of the project database, as well as to the descriptive statistical analysis of the data collected;
3) Support the preparation and conduct of interviews, transcribe them and prepare them for content analysis;
4) Contribute to the preparation of scientific presentations and to the writing and submission of at least one scientific article arising from the work carried out.

General Scientific Area: Didactics of Reading and/or Didactics of Portuguese

Admission Requirements (Eligibility Criteria):

- Hold a Bachelor's degree in Basic Education or an equivalent academic degree;

- Be enrolled, by the date the grant contract is signed, in the Master's in Teaching in the 1st Cycle of Basic Education and in Portuguese and History and Geography of Portugal in the 2nd Cycle of Basic Education, or in the Master's in Pre-School Education and Teaching in the 1st Cycle of Basic Education;

- Not exceed, upon entering into this grant contract, including any renewals, a cumulative period of 12 months under this type of grant, whether consecutive or non-consecutive;

- Not have previously received another research grant directly or indirectly funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P.;

- Candidates holding foreign qualifications must provide proof of recognition of their degree in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018, August 16.

Preferred Qualifications (Considered in the Assessment, but Not Grounds for Exclusion):

- Previous experience in research activities in the fields of didactics of reading, digital literacy and didactics of Portuguese in initial teacher education contexts;

- Experience in data collection and processing (questionnaire surveys, interviews and content analysis);

- Proficiency in quantitative and/or qualitative data analysis tools;

- Previous participation in research projects, supported by a statement from the institution or the researcher in charge;

- Authorship or co-authorship of scientific presentations or publications in the field.

Work Plan:

The work plan forms part of the PERLID-POL project, which adopts a comparative approach across several institutions to characterise the reading profile of students in initial teacher education at the Faculty of Education of the Technical University of Porto and the Schools of Education of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra and the Polytechnic University of Viana do Castelo, linking reading practices, representations of reading and reading engagement with digital literacy and digital reading. The grant holder will join the Coimbra branch team and support the administration and monitoring of the questionnaire survey, the organisation, validation and processing of the database, the conduct and transcription of interviews and their preparation for content analysis,

as well as the preparation of scientific dissemination outputs. The work will take place at the School of Education of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra.

The work is expected to lead to the scientific dissemination of the results, namely through the submission of at least one scientific article in the field of reading and/or digital literacy and/or initial teacher education.

Grant Duration:

The grant has a duration of 6 months, potentially renewable for three months periods, up to a maximum of 12 months, on an exclusive, full-time basis, in accordance with the Research Grant Holder Statute and the FCT Research Grants Regulation in force, with an expected start date of 1 January 2027 and an expected end date of 30 June 2027.

Monthly Maintenance Allowance:

€701.12, according to the FCT, I.P. table of research grant rates in Portugal (www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores), paid monthly by bank transfer.

This amount is supplemented by voluntary social insurance contributions corresponding to the first tier, if the candidate chooses to enrol. Personal accident insurance will also be provided.

Workplace:

The work will be carried out at PEdLab – Laboratory of Educational Practice, Artifacts, and Usability in Teaching and Learning, at the Coimbra Branch of inED, based at the School of Education of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, under the scientific supervision of Professor Natália de Jesus Albino Pires, Principal Investigator of the PERLID-POL project.

Selection Criteria:

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the candidate's merit, in accordance with the following criteria and weightings, with each parameter scored on a scale of 0 to 100 points:

A. Academic merit (30%)

A1. Final Bachelor's degree grade — 15%

A2. Grades obtained in course units in Portuguese, language didactics and literacy — 10%

A3. Academic record in the Master's programme in which the candidate is enrolled — 5%

B. Relevance of the curriculum vitae to the work plan (55%)

B1. Documented experience in research activities in the field of the work plan — 20%

B2. Documented experience in data collection and processing — 15%

B3. Additional training relevant to the work plan — 10%

B4. Scientific or dissemination outputs in the field — 10%

C. Motivation letter (15%)

C1. Relevance to the work plan and clarity of the stated objectives — 10%

C2. Connection with the candidate's academic and training background — 5%

The Final Score (FS) is calculated using the formula $FS = 0.30 \times A + 0.55 \times B + 0.15 \times C$.

Only curriculum vitae entries duly supported by documents attached to the application will be considered.

In the event of a tie, preference will be given first to the score obtained under criterion B and then to the score under criterion A. If the tie persists, the selection panel will interview the tied candidates solely to break the tie.

The selection panel reserves the right not to award the grant if no application achieves a Final Score of at least 60 points.

This call is governed by the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination in access, and no form of discrimination against candidates will be permitted.

Composition of the Selection Panel:

The selection panel will comprise the following professors, all of whom hold doctoral degrees:

Permanent Members:

Professor Natália de Jesus Albino Pires (Chair)

Professor Sónia Maria de Brito Costa

Professor Marta Saracho-Arnáiz

Substitute Members:

Professor Fernando Manuel Lourenço Martins

Professor Gonçalo Maia Marques

Application Documents:

Applications must include the following documents:

- Application form available on the internet page for this competition at https://www.ipc.pt/bupc/concursos/form/concursos_bolseiros

- The candidate's motivation letter;

- A detailed curriculum vitae;

- Document(s) proving that the candidate holds the academic degree and/or diploma(s) required for the call. Candidates holding foreign qualifications must provide proof of their foreign academic degree and diploma in accordance with Decree-Law No. 66/2018, August 16;

- Proof of registration and enrolment in a study programme leading to a Master's degree or, alternatively, a declaration on honour that the candidate will enrol by the date the grant contract is signed;

- An academic transcript listing the grades obtained in the Bachelor's degree course units and, where applicable, in the Master's programme currently being attended;

- Documents supporting the experience and training listed in the curriculum vitae (statements from the institution or the researcher in charge, training certificates, and evidence of publications or presentations);

- A declaration on honour that, upon entering into this grant contract, the candidate will not exceed a cumulative period of 12 months under this type of grant, whether consecutive or non-consecutive, and has not previously received another research grant directly or indirectly funded by FCT, I.P.;

- One recommendation letter (optional).

Application Deadline:

The application period is 10 working days, beginning on the first working day following publication of this announcement, from 16/11/2026 to 27/11/2026.

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

This announcement will be published on the websites of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra and the School of Education, as well as on the EURAXESS portal.

Applications must be submitted exclusively in digital form. All accompanying documents must be in Portable Document Format (PDF), except for documents whose submission in other digital formats is specified.

Applications must be completed by filling in the sections available at the web address indicated above.

When applying, candidates must expressly identify any confidentiality restriction applicable to a classified document that discloses a commercial or industrial secret, or a secret relating to literary, artistic or scientific property. Otherwise, the document concerned may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates when consulting the application file.

Candidates must provide only the data strictly necessary for their application, in accordance with this announcement, and must conceal any personal data contained in the documents submitted. Otherwise, such data may be freely accessed by any of the other candidates when consulting the application file.

Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

The grant is governed by:

Law No. 40/2004, August 18 (Research Grant Holder Statute), as amended by Decree-Law No. 202/2012, August 27, and updated by Decree-Law No. 233/2012, Law No. 12/2013, and Decree-Law No. 89/2013;

FCT Research Grants Regulation;

Order No. 5963/2020 (Research Grant Holder Regulation of the Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra), amended by Rectification Declaration No. 742/2020.

The grant contract model and final reports to be prepared by the grant holder and scientific supervisor are included in the annexes of the Research Grant Holder Statute.

Publication/Notification of Results:

The final evaluation results will be published in an alphabetical list by final score, displayed in a visible public location in the cloisters of the School of Education. All candidates will be notified by email for the purposes of the prior hearing of interested parties.

Contact for More Information:

Professor Natália Albino Pires, by email at npires@esec.pt.

Coimbra, 13 November 2026.