

ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE AWARD OF A RESEARCH INITIATION FELLOWSHIP

(whose scope of application is the FCT Research Grant Regulations)

Title: Research Initiation Fellowship – R2U_22; 2 vacancies

Reference: R2U_2026_22_BII_METRICS (2)

A call for applications is open for 2 (two) research initiation grant(s) at the Mechanical Engineering and Resource Sustainability Center (METRICS), within the scope of the I&D project “R2U Technologies Modular Systems”, Reference R2U Technologies. Projeto n.º48 -METRICS, financed by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (RRP) and the Next Generation EU European Funds, through the Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation – IAPMEI, I.P., under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Chemical and Biological Engineering

Recipient category: Students enroll in:

- Research initiation grants (BII) are intended for initial I&D activities by students enrolled in a higher vocational technical course, a bachelor's degree, an integrated master's degree or a master's degree, with the aim of starting their scientific training by taking part in I&D projects to be developed in national institutions.

Requirement for granting the fellowship:

- Candidates may apply without prior enrollment in the course for which the scholarship is open. The requirement to be enrolled on a degree or non-degree course will be verified on the date the scholarship is awarded.
- Scholarships will only be contracted if the successful candidates present valid proof of enrolment on a degree or non-degree course, depending on the type of scholarship being applied for, issued by a Higher Education Institution, respectively indicating the academic year in progress or its duration (start and end).

Applicants' eligibility: Applicants must meet the eligibility conditions set out in Article 9º of the FCT I.P. Research Grant Regulations (2019), nº 950/2019, of 16-12-2019, of FCT I.P.

Nationals or citizens of other European Union member states, third-country nationals, stateless persons, and citizens with political refugee status are eligible to apply for this competition.

Candidate eligibility requirements:

- Preferential Requirements: Attendance in the Bachelor degree in Biological Engineering, or equivalent

Workplan and objectives to be achieved: The fellowship recipients are expected to join the energy conversion technology research team. The workplan include an assessment of users' physiological performance as a function of their comfort state. The activities carried out will be evaluated based on execution reports.

When applicable, the work plan aims to consolidate the scientific training of the research fellow in the framework of the course conferring a degree or academic diploma.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Research Fellow Statute (EBI), approved by Law n°. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording and FCT Research Fellowship Regulation, approved by Regulation n° 950/2019, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, of December 16, 2019, in its current wording, and Scientific Research Fellowship Regulation (RBIC) of the University of Minho, approved by order n° 4998/2025, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, n° 81, of April 28, 2025 Amended and republished through amendment statement no. 634/2025/2, published in the Official Gazette, 2nd series, no. 132, of July 11.

Host/Contracting institution and scientific supervision: The workplan will be carried out in the Mechanical Engineering and Resource Sustainability Center (MEtRICs) of University of Minho, located in the Azurém Campus, Guimarães, under the scientific supervision and coordination José Carlos Fernandes Teixeira, Full Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering at the University of Minho, Principal Investigator of the project and director of the MEtRICs Center.

Fellowship duration: The grant will take place for a period of 3 months, with a provisional starting date in March of 2026. The fellowship grant may, eventually, be renewed up to the maximum limit allowed by the project and/or applicable legislation.

Amount of the research grant: The amount of the grant corresponds 651,12 €/month, according to the table of FCT grants in the country (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores>) and the table of values of the Scientific Research Scholarships of the University of Minho, updated annually by decision of the Management Board.

Payment is made until the 23rd of each month, through bank transfer to the fellowship holder's NIB indicated in the contracting process.

Other benefits: Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Insurance, if the candidate chooses to receive it, corresponding to the 1st Tier of the contribution base (for scholarships of 6 months or more) and Personal Accident Insurance.

Exclusivity regime: The grantee will perform the activities under exclusivity, as foreseen in article 5° of the Research Fellow Statutes and applicable regulations.

Selection panel: The selection panel has the following composition:

President: Doctor José Carlos Fernandes Teixeira (Full Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Minho).

Effective members: Doctor José Mendes Machado (Associate Professor with Habilitation at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Minho) and Doctor João Pedro Mendonça Assunção Silva (Assistant Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Minho).

Substitute members: Doctor Pedro Alexandre Moreira Lobarinhas (Assistant Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Minho) and Doctor Delfim Fernandes Soares, (Assistant Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering, School of Engineering, University of Minho).

The first effective member will substitute the President of the selection panel in case of impediment, being nominate the first substitute member in the place of the first effective member.

Criteria and procedures for applications assessment and selection: The applications assessment will focus on the candidate's Merit, following evaluation criteria, valued on a scale of 0 to 5 values:

Applicant Merit - AM (100%):

- A. Academic path (considering the classifications of academic degrees), with a weighting of 45%;
 - 1. Average Grade of the Course's Curricular Units, with a weighting of 50%;
 - 2. Course Scientific Area, with a weighting of 50%
- B. Personal curriculum (considering professional and scientific background), with a weighting of 45%;
 - 1. Experience participating in projects and awards, with a weighting of 50%;
 - 2. Knowledge of thermal systems, with a weighting of 50%;
- C. Motivation letter, with a weighting of 10%.

The final classification of the applicant's merit with the achieved through the following formula:

$$AM=(A*0,45) + (B*0,45) + (C*0,10) \text{ in which,}$$

$$A= (A.1*0,50) + (A.2*0,50), \text{ and,}$$

$$B= (B.1*0,50) + (B.2*0,50)$$

Note: Applicants with degrees obtained abroad must present proof of recognition of qualifications in Portugal and conversion of the final classification obtained in them to the Portuguese classification scale or declaration under the terms indicated in the previous point. Candidates who do not comply with one of these provisions, the selection

panel will assign “0” in the grade of the graduation and/or master course. Candidates will be evaluated on the remaining parameters.

Application deadline and submission: The call for applications is open from **18/02/2026** till **04/03/2026** or is open for a period of 10 working days from the date of publication on the Euraxess portal.

Applications must be submitted by email to sec-metrics@dem.uminho.pt, indicating the reference number of the competition in the subject line. Only applications submitted within the established deadline and accompanied by the following documents will be accepted:

- Candidate's updated curriculum vitae;
- Certificates of the academic degrees obtained or, if applicable, the candidate's declaration of honor that he/she has completed the degrees required in the notice by the application deadline (not applicable to research initiation grants).

For degrees obtained abroad, the record of recognition of the academic degrees and record of the conversion of the respective final classification to the Portuguese classification scale must be presented, or, alternatively, a declaration of honor from the candidate.

This declaration must attest to facts that occurred prior to the application. In the event of a discrepancy between the information contained in the declaration and the documentation submitted for the purposes of contracting the scholarship, only the information contained in the latter will be considered. If it is found that the documents proving the academic degree and diploma, or their recognition under the terms of Decree-Law n. ° 66/2018, of August 16, do not correspond to the classifications awarded in the assessment of the academic career and may consequently alter the candidate's ranking, the scholarship will not be contracted;

- Proof of the grades obtained in the Curricular Units of the higher professional technical course, bachelor's degree, or integrated master's degree.
- Letter of motivation;
- Other documents that the candidate considers relevant to the evaluation process.

Form of publication/notification of results: The results of the evaluation are published in a single list (by final score obtained), posted in a visible and public place in the host unit, as well as by email to all candidates, attaching, for this purpose, the minutes of the jury's deliberations, within a maximum period of 90 working days from the deadline for submission of applications.

Candidates are informed, at a preliminary hearing, in accordance with Articles 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code, of the likely outcome of the final decision, and may comment within 10 working days of this notification.

An appeal may be lodged against the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal may be lodged with the highest executive body of the funding entity within 30 days, both after the respective notification (Article 12(n°6) of the FCT Research Grant Regulations).

Within 10 working days of notification of the grant award, the applicant must declare their acceptance in writing. In case of non-acceptance, the next highest ranked applicant will be notified immediately.

Fellowship contractualization: The scholarship is awarded through the signing of a contract between the University of Minho and the scholarship recipient, in accordance with point 2.4 of the Rules for the Award and Management of Scholarships

https://www.fct.pt/wpcontent/uploads/2022/03/Normas_de_Atribuicao_de_Bolsas_2021.pdf and the draft contract in Annex II of the University of Minho's Scientific Research Scholarship Regulations (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2025/04/081000000/0027500295.pdf>).

The contract can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required for the type of scholarship, which must occur within a maximum period of 6 months, including proof of academic degrees or diplomas, as well as enrollment in non-degree study cycles or courses, as applicable.

Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has 60 working days to sign the scholarship contract. Once received by the scholarship holder, the contract must be returned, duly signed, within 15 working days.

Term and cancellation of fellowship contracts: Without prejudice to the other causes provided for in the FCT I.P. Research Grant Regulations and the Research Grant Holder's Statute, the grant will cease on completion of the contracted work plan, as well as on expiry of the period for which it was granted or renewed.

The **final report** must be submitted to the scientific advisor, in accordance with the defined objectives and evaluation criteria, no later than 60 working days after the end of the scholarship and must be drawn up in accordance with Annex I of the Regulations of the University of Minho (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2025/04/081000000/0027500295.pdf>).

Non-discrimination and equal access policy: Universidade do Minho actively promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

ANNEX I:

Declaration of Honor

Academic qualifications

I, (full name), candidate for the vacancy for the award of a (type of scholarship), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. notice), declare on my honor that I have completed the academic degree of (academic degree), qualifying for the type of scholarship in the competition, namely the course (designation), by the (University conferring the degree), on the date XX/XX/XXXX, with a final average of XXXXX values on the YY scale.

As it is not possible for me to present proof of qualifications until the end of the competition, I declare that I undertake to present the aforementioned certificate at the conclusion of the scholarship contract, in the event that I am selected for the vacancy in the competition.

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

(full name)

ANNEX II:

Declaration of Honor

I, (full name), bearer of identification document number (XXXX), candidate for a research grant (type of grant), within the scope of the project (name or reference of the project), published on the Euraxess portal, with the reference (ref. call for proposals), declare on my honor that (I have not received any research grants to date / I have received the following research grants) under the Research Grant Holder Statute.

University	Financing Entity	Project	Type of grant	Duration	Start	End

As this is true, I hereby date and sign this declaration.

(Place), (date).

(full name)

