ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE GRANTING OF RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR MASTER STUDENTS

Job Offer: Research Fellowship for Master

Position reference: Fellowship- PTDC/COM-OUT/0243/2021

Main research area: Communication Sciences

Euraxess:

Objective and Scope

Job Description:

Universidade Lusófona do Porto, established by COFAC - Cooperativa de Formação e Animação Cultural. CRL, hereby announces a call for the award of 1 (one) Master grant, in the area of Communication Sciences, under the FCT Research Grant Regulations (RBI) and the Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI). The grant will be funded by the research project "Youth, News and Digital Citizenship/ Jovens, Notícias e Cidadania Digital - YouNDigital (PTDC/COM-OUT/0243/2021)", funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) and developed at the R&D Unit CICANT - Research Center for Applied Communication, Culture and New Technologies (5260).

YouNDigital aims to understand young people’s attitudes and practices concerning news and digital citizenship. It is expected to understand their news interests and needs better, socialisation processes for news consumption in the family, school, or peer group context, and their experiences as “produsers” of news. This project is anchored in a participatory action-research approach combining quantitative methods through an initial online survey with a central focus on qualitative methods. The project foresees the design and production of a Web App containing gamification elements and a digital newsroom.

Type and number of grant(s) to be awarded: 1 (one) Master research grant, reference - PTDC/COM-OUT/0243/2021

Scientific field(s): Communication Sciences

Funding Source: The grants related to the grant components are funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) under the Project “Youth, News and Digital Citizenship/ Jovens, Notícias e Cidadania Digital - YouNDigital (PTDC/COM-OUT/0243/2021), concluded between FCT and the R&D Unit CICANT - Research Centre in Applied Communication, Culture and New Technologies (5260).

Applicants: The Master Research Grant is intended for candidates already enrolled or who meet the necessary conditions to enroll in a Master Program in Communication Sciences. It is not required at the time of application that the candidate is already enrolled, but this must be done before the scholarship is contracted. If there are candidates already enrolled (including those attending a course), they shall apply to the competition on an equal footing with those who are not enrolled. The work will be developed at CICANT (Universidade Lusófona - Porto) in the project “Youth, News and Digital Citizenship/ Jovens, Notícias e Cidadania Digital - YouNDigital (PTDC/COM-OUT/0243/2021) funded by FCT.
2. Eligibility of applicants: The following are eligible to apply to this call: National citizens or citizens of other European Union Member States; Citizens of third countries; Stateless persons; Citizens benefiting from political refugee status.

Candidate Admission Requirements:
- Bachelor's degree in the study area of Communication Sciences or related areas;
- To be permanently and habitually resident in Portugal, a requirement applicable to both Portuguese and foreign citizens;
- Not to have benefited from a Master grant directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration;
- Proficient command of Portuguese and English.

Application Admissibility Requirements
It is indispensable, under penalty of non-admission to the Call, to attach the following documents to the application:
- Curriculum vitae of the candidate in PDF format, indicating the electronic address;
- Certificates of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification obligatorily and, if possible, the grades obtained in all subjects taken. Alternatively, declaration of the candidate's honour (Link) that declaring to have completed the degree required in the announcement by the application deadline;
- Any other documents that the candidate may consider relevant for the assessment of their merit;
- Recognition of Foreign Degrees and Diplomas - In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to ensure the application of the principle of equal treatment of candidates holding foreign and national academic degrees. It is mandatory to recognize those degrees and to convert the respective final classification into the Portuguese classification scale. The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas and the conversion of the final classification into the Portuguese classification scale may be requested in any public higher education institution or in the Directorate General of Higher Education (DGES, only in the case of automatic recognition). Regarding this matter, we suggest consulting the DGES portal at the following address https://dges.gov.pt/pt;
- The documents proving the possession of academic degrees and diplomas, or the respective recognition when they have been awarded by foreign higher education institutions, may be waived during the application stage, being replaced by a declaration of honour from the candidate (Link), and this condition will only be verified during the scholarship contracting stage. This declaration must certify facts that occurred prior to the application;
- The application and all documents associated with it must be written in Portuguese. The letter of motivation must be written in Portuguese and in English.

Preferential admission requirements:
Preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate that they have:
- a) Academic and professional experience skills in the areas of Communication Sciences, with a special focus - at least partially - on youth and news, digital citizenship, audience and reception studies, media literacy, media and news literacy, and/or journalism;
- b) Academic and professional experience capacity in research network construction and the development or implementation of training activities;
- c) Academic and/or professional experience in participating in projects;
- d) Experience in dissemination activities to different audiences and in creating dissemination products;
- e) Experience in qualitative methodologies;
f) Capacity to assist in research activities (such as production of reports, conduct interviews, making transcriptions and data analysis);
g) Experience in producing multimedia materials;
h) Excellent knowledge of Portuguese and English languages, both written and spoken, is required;
i) Collaborative teamwork, deadlines fulfilment, and ethical skills;
j) In tie situations, preference is given to applications from Lusófona Master’s degree students.

Applicable legislation and regulations:


Contracting entity:


Unit for hosting research work and scientific guidance:

The work will be carried out at CICANT - Research Centre for Applied Communication, Culture and New Technologies (ref: 5260)/ Universidade Lusófona do Porto, under the scientific supervision of PI Maria José Brites, the Co-PI, Teresa Sofia Castro, and the other project’s team members.

Duration of the grant(s):

The grant will have a duration of 6 months and can be renewed up to a maximum of 27 months.

Amount of the monthly maintenance allowance:

The amount of the SMM corresponds to 875,98 euros/month, in accordance with the table of values of the FCT, I.P. grants (Table of monthly maintenance allowances of the FCT I.P. Research Grants Regulations). Payment is made between the 1st and the 8th of each month by transfer to the IBAN/NIB of the grant recipient indicated in the contracting process.

Other benefits:

Reimbursement of Voluntary Social Insurance, corresponding to the 1st Step of the contributory base (for grants lasting 6 months or more) and Personal Accident Insurance.

Exclusive regime:

The performance of functions as a Master research fellow is carried out on an exclusive basis, under the terms of article 5 of the Research Fellow Statute and applicable research grant regulations.

Deadline for applications and how to submit applications:

The call is open from the 1st of August to the 29th of August at 18 h00 (Lisbon time). Applications and supporting documents for the application set out in this call for applications must be submitted by email to cicant@ulusofona.pt, with the subject of the email Master research fellow Communication Sciences
application “Youth, News and Digital Citizenship/ Jovens, Noticias e Cidadania Digital - YouNDigital (PTDC/COM-OUT/0243/2021)”. Each candidate may submit only one application under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted. The provision of false statements, non provision of the required documents or plagiarism by the applicants will lead to the withdrawal of the application without prejudice to the adoption of other sanctionary measures.

The scholarship is scheduled to begin on the 1st of October, 2022.

**Evaluation and selection criteria and procedure**

For the purposes of the decision on the award of the scholarships, the candidates will be ordered according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the two criteria of the merit classification (Curriculum vitae and motivation letter), translated by the following formula:

- Criterion A (with a weight of 80%)
  - Integrated evaluation of the curricular and/or professional production;
  - fulfilment of the requirements specified in "preferential admission requirements";
  - other professional/academic/research experience relevant to YouNDigital

- Criterion B (with the weight of 20%)
  - Motivation letter in Portuguese and in English.

For the purposes of the decision on the award of the scholarships, the candidates will be ordered according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the two criteria, translated by the following formula:

\[
\text{Merit Classification} = (80\% \times A) + (20\% \times B)
\]

For tie-breaking purposes, the candidates will be ranked on the basis of the marks attributed to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence: criterion A, and criterion B.

The Jury may decide to invite the 5 best-classified candidates to an interview, in which case the following evaluation sub-criteria shall apply

- a. Interpersonal skills (20%)
- b. Demonstrated knowledge in the area of the competition (50%)
- c. Motivation (20%)
- d. Language Skills (10%)

The grading of the Interview will be obtained by applying the following formula:

\[
\text{Interview} = a + b + c + d
\]
In case the interview is held, the final classification of the Merit and Interview will be obtained by applying the following formula:

\[ \text{Final Classification} = (\text{Merit} \times 0.7) + (\text{Interview} \times 0.3) \]

If the interview is not held, the final classification will correspond to 100% of the evaluation obtained in the Candidate Merit.

The jury may not award the scholarship if the quality of the candidates is inferior to the desired quality, establishing a minimum score for awarding the scholarship the score of 70 points.

**Composition of the Selection Board**
- **President**
  - Maria José Brites
- **Effective members**
  - Teresa Sofia Castro
  - Ana Oliveira
- **Substitute members**
  - Vanessa Rodrigues

Should the President of the Jury be unable to attend, he shall be replaced by the first effective member, and the alternate member shall be appointed to replace the effective member.

**Dissemination of results:**
The final evaluation results will be published through a list ordered by the grade obtained, posted in a visible and public place of the University, as well as on the institutional website of CICANT - [https://cicantulusofona.pt/](https://cicantulusofona.pt/) - and also by email to all candidates. The notification will be sent to the email address used/indicated by the candidates when submitting the application. The selected candidate must express in writing his/her intention to accept the scholarship. In case of non-acceptance, the scholarship will be awarded to the candidate in order of final ranking.

**Complaint and appeal procedures:**
If the result is unfavourable to the granting of the requested scholarship, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to give their opinion, if they wish, in a prior hearing to the interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and 122 of the Administrative Procedure Code (DL nº 4/2015 of 7 January). A complaint may be lodged against the final decision, within 15 working days, addressed to the President of the Jury.

**Requirements and mandatory documents for the Grant Award:**
Research grant contracts are entered into directly with FCT. The following documents must be submitted, when the grant is awarded for contracting purposes:
- Copy of civil, fiscal and, when applicable, social security identification document(s);
- Copy of the academic degree certificates of the academic degrees held;
- Presentation of the record of recognition of the foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
• Document proving the enrolment and/or registration in the Master Programme in the areas identified in the present Notice;

• Curriculum vitae;
• Motivation Letter in Portuguese and English.

The award of the grant is also subject to: fulfilment of the requirements outlined in this Announcement; the result of the scientific evaluation; no unjustified breach of duties by the grant recipient under a previous grant contract funded, directly or indirectly, by FCT; FCT budget availability. Failure to submit any of the documents needed to complete the grant contracting process within 6 months of the date of communication of the decision to award a conditional grant will result in the expiration of the grant and the termination of the process.

Non-Discrimination Policy and Equal Access

The Universidade Lusófona and CICANT promote a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, whereby no applicant may be privileged, benefited, prejudiced, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the grounds of, namely, ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation marital status, family situation, economic situation, education, origin or social condition, genetic heritage, reduced capacity to work, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and trade union membership.