

Call for Research Fellowships

(BOLSA BI)

The Nursing School of Coimbra (ESEnC) opens a call for 1 (one) research fellowship under the project “Digital Person – AI-enhanced person-centred illness assessment and management at distance in outpatient oncology”, ref. COMPETE2030-FEDER-00926800, no. 14765. The fellowship will be funded by the Compete2030 program and co-funded by the European Union, under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Nursing Sciences, Health Sciences, Social Sciences, and allied areas.

Grant recipients/Admission requirements: Applicants must hold a master’s degree in relevant scientific areas, including Nursing Sciences, Health Sciences, Social Sciences, and allied areas, and be enrolled in a doctoral program.

Although applicants must be enrolled in a cycle of studies leading to an academic degree, they are not required to be enrolled at the time of application. However, proof of enrolment must be provided by the time the grant is awarded. Applicants must only meet the requirements to enroll in the program. Applicants already enrolled (including those attending a program) will compete on equal terms with those not enrolled in a program.

Preferred requirements: Previous participation in research projects, grants or relevant academic activities; scientific productivity (articles, communications, reports); experience in health, cancer care, and digital health contexts; experience in qualitative research (interviewing, clinical observation, focus groups); proficiency in spoken and written Portuguese and English; ability to write technical reports, scientific articles, and presentations for diverse audiences (scientific, professional, community).

Motivation and suitability: Clarity and relevance in the motivation letter; alignment between the applicant’s interests and the project tasks; ability to participate in multidisciplinary teams and work with Health professionals and representatives of patients undergoing treatment; proactivity,

organization, critical thinking and commitment with person-centered research practices; motivation and work profile will be evaluated based on the motivation letter and the interview.

Work plan: To carry out R&D activities under the project “Digital Person – AI-enhanced person-centred illness assessment and management at distance in outpatient oncology” that contribute to the following tasks:

Task 1 – Literature review and scientific evidence synthesis.

Task 2 – Support to the preparation and execution of Delphi panels and interviews with people undergoing cancer treatment.

Task 5 – Field work with clinical teams: participant observation, focus groups, support in training workshops.

Task 6 – Assistance with usability testing and data collection for the clinical validation phase (qualitative and quantitative approaches).

Task 7 – Active participation in technical and scientific dissemination actions (reports, publications, events).

Applicable laws and regulations: The grant will be awarded in accordance with the Research Fellow Statute (Law no. 40/2004 of 18 August and Decree-Law no. 123/2019 of 28 August) and the current legislation and Regulation of Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT), I.P (Regulation no. 950/2019 of 16 December 2019 <https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>).

Activity Regime: The grant does not create or establish a legal employment relationship. It will be awarded on an exclusive dedication regime. The grant recipient will be considered a fellow in accordance with the current Research Fellow Statute and the FCT Research Fellowship Regulations, both in their current wording.

Workplace: The work will be carried out at the Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing., in ESEnC Campus C, Coimbra.

Grant duration: The grant will be awarded for 12 months on an exclusive dedication basis. It is planned to start in October 2025.

Renewal: According to paragraph 4(c) of Article 6 of the FCT Research Fellowship Regulations, these fellowships may be renewed for an equal period up to the project’s closing date in May 2028, corresponding to a maximum of 32 months.

Monthly maintenance stipend: The grant amounts to € 1,309.64 according to the table of monthly maintenance stipends for FCT grants (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf).

The monthly stipend is paid by bank transfer at the end of the month. (The Voluntary Social Security (first level of the contribution scale) will be added to this amount if the grant recipient so chooses, as well as the personal accident insurance).

Selection methods: The selection methods will be as follows (see annex):

Formula: **Final Classification = Curriculum Evaluation = 90% and Interview = 10%**

Candidates whose Curriculum Evaluation score places them in the top quartile will be called for the interview stage. If there are no candidates in this quartile, the jury reserves the right to decide whether to conduct interviews.

The final classification will result in a ranking on a 0-20-point scale. The ranking will be determined by calculating the weighted arithmetic mean of the scores obtained in each selection method to the thousandths.

The fellowship will not be awarded if none of the candidates achieve a final score of at least 10 points.

Composition of the jury:

Chair:

Filipa Isabel Quaresma Santos Ventura, Ph.D. Professor

Effective members:

Liliana Sousa Baptista, Ph.D. Researcher

Paulo Jorge dos Santos Costa, Ph.D. Professor

Substitute member:

Elaine dos Santos Santana, Ph.D. Researcher

Application: Applications must include the following documents: *Curriculum Vitae*, motivation letter, copy of supporting documents attesting to the qualifications and final grade (or other proof of qualifications), and other relevant supporting documents, namely attesting English proficiency; document attesting active enrollment in the doctoral program. Candidates with academic degrees obtained abroad must present a Certificate of Recognition according to the legislation in force (Decree-Law no. 66/2018, published in *Diário da República*, 1st series, no. 157, of August 16th). This document is required only at the contracting stage.

All documents listed above must be sent in PDF format. Applications submitted by other means (e.g., delivered by hand or sent by postal mail) will not be accepted.

Submission: Applications must be submitted by e-mail to investiga@esenfc.pt, with the reference subject "UICISA_Digital_person_2025".

Application deadline: The call is open from July 11 to 24, 2025.

Additional information: The final results will be sent to the candidates via e-mail within 90 working days after the deadline for application submission. The ranked list of candidates will be published on the ESEnFC website (<https://www.esenfc.pt/pt/page/3684/165>). The selected candidate will be notified by e-mail.

Candidates can request a prior hearing within 10 working days after notification of the final results. Once the selection process is completed, the fellowship contract will be drawn up in accordance with the contract template made available by FCT. At the end of the fellowship, the fellow and the supervisor must submit a final report based on the established assessment criteria.

Selection reserve list: The ESEnFC reserves the right to call on unsuccessful candidates, by ranking order, to recruit additional fellows necessary for the same project within 12 months after notification of the final ranking list. If the selected candidate cannot meet the conditions required within one month of notification of the final ranking list, the ESEnFC reserves the right to cancel the call (in the case of a single candidate) or contact the next candidate to fill in the vacancy.

For further information or questions, please contact:

Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing (UICISA: E)

E-mail: investiga@esenfc.pt

Telephone: 239 487 217

Nursing School of Coimbra. Campus C, 1st. floor.

The Chair of the Jury

June 30, 2025

Filipa Isabel Quaresma Ventura

Privacy and personal data treatment policy available at <https://www.esenfc.pt/pt>

ANNEXX

Evaluation Grid

Curriculum evaluation (90%)

Criteria	Subcriterium	Maximum Score
A1. Academic qualifications (25 pts)	A.1.1. Master's degree	10–13 points: 4 pts
		14–15 points: 6 pts
		16 points: 8 pts
		17 points: 9 pts
		18–20 points: 12 pts
		No score: 6 pts
	A.1.2. Bachelor's degree	10–13 points: 2 pt
		14–15 points: 4 pts
		16–17 points: 6 pts
		18–20 points: 9 pts
		No score: 4 pts
	A.1.3. Additional postgraduate training (not leading to a degree)	2 pts per relevant training (max. 4 pts)
A2. Experience in research activities relevant to the project (25 pts)	A. 2.1. Member of funded project team in the area of oncology and digital health	4 pts per participation as a fellow (a) (max. 8 pts)
		1 pt per participation as collaborator (max. 7 pts)
	A. 2.2. Member of funded project team in any other area	2 pts per relevant experience (max. 6 pts)
	A.3.1. Certified training in qualitative research methods (e.g., interviews, observation, focus groups)	2 pts per experience (max. 4 pts)
A3. Scientific productivity relevant to the project (20 pts)	A3.1. Articles	Articles in indexed journals (Scopus or similar): 3 pts/article (max. 12 pts)
	A3.2. Other articles or books/book chapters	Articles, chapters/books: 1 pt each (max. 4 pts)
	A3.2. Presentations at scientific events	Presentations/proceedings: 0.5 pt each (max. 4 pts)
A4. Linguistic proficiency (Maximum 5 pts)	English language	A1 – 1 pt
		A2 – 1.5 pts
		B1 – 2 pts
		B2 – 3 pts

		C1 – 4.5 pts
		C2 – 5 pts
A5. Civic engagement, volunteering and community involvement that is relevant to the project (5 pts)	A5.1. Certified participation in projects with a social impact (such as communities, NGOs, and associations)	1 pt per project (max. 5 pts)

Interview (10%)

Subcriterion	Maximum Score	Description
B1. Ability to understand the context of the Digital Person project	5 pts	After a brief oral presentation of the project. The candidate's ability to understand and critically think about the project is assessed, as well as the project's connection with the candidate's academic path.
B2. Motivation and suitability for the project	10 pts	Clarity of professional goals and interest in the themes of the project.
B3. Communication skills and critical thinking	5 pts	Clarity and fluency of speech, as well as the ability to argue.

The following formula will be used to assign a value between 0 and 20 points, with the decimal point being rounded to the thousandths: $FC = (Total\ A \times 90\ \%) + (Total\ B \times 10\ \%)$.