

NOTICE N.º 021/2025

OPEN CALL FOR RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION WITHIN THE TERMS LAID DOWN OF THE REGULATIONS FOR RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ALGARVE

TITLE: 1 Research Grant

It is now open a call for one Research Grant within the project 101080665 ASP-belong, funded by Horizon Europe, with the following conditions:

Research Field: Computer Science

Admission Requirements:

Graduation in Computer Science, Informatics Engineering, or Automation and Computer Integrated Technologies, or related area.

Speaking and writing proficiency in English and Portuguese Languages.

To be enrolled, or have the conditions to be enrolled in the Master in Informatics Engineering at University of Algarve.

Preference is given to candidates with experience in game development, and/or experience in Unity 3D and C#.

Work Plan:

This work will take place in the context of the project ASP-belong, and aims to continue the evaluation and development of a Serious Game, named LINA, which uses Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence and Collaborative Puzzles to increase sense of belonging for children in a classroom setting. More specifically, the main goals are:

- a) Development of tools for mapping the social space within a classroom (i.e, determine existing relationships between classmates).
- b) Provide technical support for user tests with the Serious Game LINA in schools.
- c) Design and implement an automated system for peer and group matching based on social space and a set of policies and constraints.
- d) Data collection and training of a machine learning model for peer and group matching.

Applicable legislation and regulations: Statute of the Scientific Research Fellow, approved by Law nº 40/2004, of August 18, in the current wording conferred by Decree-Law nº 123/2019, of August 28 and the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Algarve (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/21000000/0013700149.pdf>).

Working place: The work will be developed at Faculty of Science and Technology from the University of Algarve, under the supervision of professor João Dias.

Duration of the grant: The grant will have a first contract of 12 months duration, beginning on April 2025. The contract may be renewed.

Value of monthly maintenance allowance: The monthly maintenance allowance corresponds to 1040,98 euros. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

Selection criteria will be as follows: In accordance with nº2 of the article 11º of the FCT Research Grants Regulation, the selection criteria will be:

Applicant's merit (80%).

Motivation letter (20%).

The final classification of candidates is expressed in a scale 0-20, with 1 decimal place. The Jury reserves the right to not attribute the research grant to candidates with a score inferior to 12.

The tender jury shall comprise the following members:

- João Dias (President) (Prof. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);
- Paula Ventura Martins (Effective member) (Prof^a. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);
- Marielba Zacarias (Effective member) (Prof^a. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);
- Helder Daniel (Replacement member) (Prof. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);

Publication and notification of the results: Final results will be publicized through an ordered list according to the final grade and posted in a conspicuous and public local of Faculty of Science and Technology and communicated to the applicants by e-mail to the addresses indicated by each candidate.

Deadline for applications and submission forms: the call is open from **03/04/2025 to 16/04/2025**.

Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:

Official identification document (simple copy or legal equivalent). If you have a nationality other than Portuguese, you should present a residence permit, permanent residence certificate or long-term resident status, valid on the scholarship start date, any of which may be replaced, in its absence, by a declaration of commitment. However, one of the previous must be delivered at the contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the granting of the scholarship;

Copy of the qualification certificates of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all subjects taken;

If the candidate has been awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must conform to the rules established in Decree-Law no. 66/2018 of August 16, and all required formalities must be complied with up to the date of termination deadline for submission of the application. If the completed process is not found until the end of the application deadline, the candidate must prove that he / she has requested the recognition of the degree.

Curriculum Vitae;

Passport or identification card for European applicants (copy);

Taxpayer Identification Number (NIF), if you have a nationality other than Portuguese, it must be submitted during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;

Other documents considered important

The Application Request, dated and signed, must be addressed to the President of the Evaluation Panel (<https://www.ualg.pt/sites/default/files/documentos/2022-12/anexo-iii-requerimento-para-candidatura-bolsa-en.pdf>) to the following address: A/C. Prof. João Dias, Universidade do Algarve / Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, campus de Gambelas, 8005-139 Faro, Ref.^a 101080665 ASP-belong or by email to jmdias@ualg.pt. If the Application Request is sent by email, the applicant must duly express his/her consent that all notifications regarding this application are sent to the email address given.

-Supporting documents stating that the applicant gathers all the requirements for this grant, namely the enrolment certificate in an awarding degree study cycle or in a postgraduate course;

-Supervisor Declaration taking the responsibility for the Work plan supervision, according to article 5^o-A of the Statute of Scientific Research Fellow, as well as assuring the necessary conditions for the development of the work plan and in compliance with article 13 ^o of the Statute of Scientific Research Fellow;

-Declaration of the Grant acceptance;

-Declaration of commitment stating the exclusivity regime

Complaints and Appeal Deadlines and procedures

On the decision for granting the Research Grant, candidates may, if they wish, comment on the hearing of interested parties, within 10 working days, under the terms provided for in the Administrative Procedure Code.

From the practice or omission of any act of the evaluation panel, candidates can complain to the body, within 10 working days.

The final decision of the evaluation panel can be appealed to the Rector within 15 working days after the respective notification.

Scholarship contract

With the applicant(s) selected, and after receiving all the required documentation, a scholarship contract will be signed in accordance with the attached model.

Assessment of the scholarship holder(s)

At the end of each period of duration of the scholarship contract, the activity developed by the scholarship holder(s) is evaluated by the supervisor, by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached model:

- a) Compliance with working hours and attendance;
- b) Compliance with the work plan;
- c) Support given to the research and development needed for the ASP-belong project.

University of the Algarve reserves the right to cancel this application procedure if by any means the contract celebration with the funding entity is not established.

University of Algarve, 25 March 2025

Scientific Coordinator

Doutor João Miguel de Sousa de Assis Dias