

NOTICE N.º 045/2025

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

TITLE: one research grant for Master degree holders

It is now open a call for one research grants for Master degree holders within the project BRINGTRUST, funded by the Program P2030, with the following conditions:

Research Field: Computer Science

Admission Requirements: Have a Master Degree in Computer Science Engineering, Computer Science or a closely related field.

Work Plan:

General Objective

To design, implement, and validate a secure runner architecture based on the principles of isolation, ephemerality, and full encryption, using approaches such as hardware enclaves, infrastructure as code (IaC), and zero-trust network policies.

Specific Objectives

- Conduct a state-of-the-art survey on secure execution, focusing on enclaves (e.g., Intel SGX), homomorphic encryption, and tools such as Harden-Runner, Kntrl, and similar.
- Refine technical requirements for secure runners (based on project deliverables E2.1/E2.2).
- Design a modular and extensible secure runner architecture with isolation, logging, and ingress/egress policies.
- Perform security, performance, and resilience testing, including attack simulations (e.g., data exfiltration, privilege escalation).
- Contribute to scientific publications and project deliverables of the BringTrust project.

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 for Research Grants of the Universidade do Algarve - (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>).

Working place: The work will be developed at Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática da Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade do Algarve, jointly with the Researchers Simão Melo de Sousa and Joel Guerreiro.

Duration of the grant: The grant will have a first contract of 12 months duration, beginning on august 2025. The contract may be renewed until the end of the project, taking into account the Regulation of Research Grants of the University of Algarve (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>).

Value of monthly maintenance allowance: The monthly maintenance allowance corresponds to 1309.64 euros. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer.

Selection criteria will be as follows: Curriculum Evaluation with the respective maximal score of 100.

In accordance with nº2 of the article 11º of the Regulations for Research Grants of the University of Algarve, the selection criteria will be the applicant's merit (incl. academic degree and experience; research experience), with the respective scoring of 100.

The evaluation process may include one interview, to all or some candidates selected by the panel, weighting a maximum of 20% of the total score.

The tender jury shall comprise the following members:

- Simão Melo de Sousa (Professor Catedrático, DEEI/FCT/UAlg) - President
- Joel Guerreiro (Professor Adjunto, ISE /UAlg) – Effective member
- José Valente de Oliveira (Professor Associado com Agregação, DEEI/FCT/UAlg) – Effective member
- Hélder Daniel (Professor Auxiliar, DEEI/FCT/UAlg) - Substitute member

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 the DEEI of the Sciences and Technology Faculty of the Algarve University 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 **14/07/2025 to 25/07/2025**.

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 degree 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>). By email to the Scientific Coordinator spsousa@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 5º-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) Fulfillment of the established work plan
- b) Publications made during the scholarship period

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, 08/07/2025

Scientific Coordinator

Doutor Simão Melo de Sousa