

Call for Research Grant Assignment

The University of Coimbra opens a call for the assignment of a research grant, with one position(s), under the project COMPETE2030-FEDER-00645800, title Circular use of plastic wastes for aerogel insulator panels production (aeroZwaste).

The call is governed by this Notice of Opening, the University of Coimbra Research Grant Regulations (RBI-UC), subsidiarily by the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology (RBI-FCT), by the Research Fellow Statute (EBI), by the Norms for Grant Assignment and Management within R&D Projects, by the Code of Administrative Procedure (CPA), all in their current wording, and by other applicable national and community legislation.

Procedure Reference: IT137-2025-323

I - Legal admission requirements

I.I - Grant Recipients:

Graduates in Chemical Engineering enrolled in a master's degree, in the scientific area of Chemical Engineering.

I.II - Ineligible candidates:

Candidates who have already benefited from two research grant contracts with UC in the condition of being enrolled in a master's degree, regardless of whether each contract has reached the maximum legally permitted duration.

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I.III - Eligible for grant assignment if meeting the requirements:

- a) Portuguese nationals or nationals of other EU Member States
- b) Nationals of third countries
- c) Stateless persons
- d) Beneficiaries of political refugee status

When the work plan takes place, in whole or in part, in foreign institutions, only candidates who can prove permanent and habitual residence in Portugal at the start of the grant are eligible.

II - Grant location: Department of Chemical Engineering of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Coimbra

III- Scientific supervision/coordination of the grant: Professor Pedro Nuno das Neves Lopes Simões

IV - Work Plan / Goals to be achieved: Perform bibliographic research, computational and laboratory development, processing and reporting of results, and participation in the dissemination of results within the scope of the following project tasks:

- Molecular modelling studies on the gels aggregation (Quantum mechanics (QM) calculations, Molecular dynamics simulations);
- Aerogels characterization for insulation applications (chemical and structural characterization; thermomechanical characterization, acoustic characterization);
- Dissemination and Exploitation.

V - Initial grant duration: Twelve (12) months

V.I - Renewal Possibility: Possibly renewable

VI - Funding and financial conditions of the grant

VI.I - Monthly grant amount (paid by bank transfer at the end of each month): 1.040,98€

VI.II - Other financial components of the grant: Not applicable.

VI.III - In addition to the above amounts, voluntary social security (SSV) is included when the grant has a duration of six months or more, corresponding to the first level, if the candidate opts for it, as well as mandatory personal accident insurance.

VI.IV - Funding: The grant(s) assigned under this call will be funded by Foundation for Science and Technology, through national funds and the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Thematic Program on Innovation and Digital Transition (COMPETE 2030), from Portugal 2030 and the European Union | Operation No. 15485 (SGO code), operation code in the Funds Office COMPETE2030-FEDER-00645800.

VI.V - Information and publicity about the funding: In all R&D activities directly or indirectly funded by the grant, namely, in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided in the grant, the mention of financial support from the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) AND the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Innovation and Digital Transition Program (COMPETE 2030) of Portugal 2030 must be expressed.

VII - Selection Methods: Evaluation of the academic record (AR) and Interview (I)

VII.I - AR - In the evaluation of the academic record, the candidates' academic performance will be assessed according to the following weights and criteria:

- Criterion 1 – Absolute merit of curriculum vitae;
- Criterion 2 – Adequacy of the candidate's profile to the work plan to be developed;
- Criterion 3 – Knowledge of foreign languages, particularly English;

VII.II- I – In the evaluation of the interview, candidates' performance will be assessed according to the following weights and criteria:

- Criterion 1 – Knowledge and profile appropriate to the functions to be developed;

- Criterion 2 – Motivation and interest;
- Criterion 3 – Ability to express oneself and verbal fluency.

VII.III- The evaluation of the criteria and the final classification will be based on a scale from 0 to 100, with scores rounded to the nearest hundredth, applying the following formulas:

- AR: $\text{criterion 1} * (40\%) + \text{criterion 2} * (50\%) + \text{criterion 3} * (10\%) = 100\%$
- I: $\text{criterion 1} * (70\%) + \text{criterion 2} * (10\%) + \text{criterion 3} * (20\%) = 100\%$
- Final Classification (FC): $\text{AR} * (70\%) + \text{I} * (30\%) = 100\%$

VII.IV - All candidates who meet the admission requirements are subject to the academic record evaluation, carried out according to the criteria and weights defined in VII.I.

VII.V - Candidates who score below 50 in any selection method will be excluded, and subsequent methods, if any, will not apply to them. Candidates who are duly notified but fail to attend the interview (if applicable) or withdraw at any stage will also be excluded.

VII.VI - All candidates who score above 50 in the AR will proceed to the next method, i.e., the interview.

VII.VII - Tie-breaking criteria: In the event of a tie in the rankings, candidates will be ordered in descending order as follows:

- a) Based on the score obtained in the first method applied;
- b) Based on the score of their academic qualifications.

VII.VIII - All provisional and final jury decisions must be justified, recorded in minutes, and published on <https://apply.uc.pt/>.

VII.IX - Jury Composition:

President: Professor Pedro Nuno das Neves Lopes Simões

Effective Members: Professora Luísa Maria Rocha Durães e Professora Ana Clotilde Amaral Loureiro da Fonseca

Alternate Members: Professor Jorge Fernando Brandão Pereira e Professora Andreia Sofia Carvalho Pereira

VII.X - Selection reserve list: the reserve list consists of candidates approved in all selection methods who do not secure one of the available vacancies under this procedure. The reserve list is valid for 3 months

VIII- Application Submission

Candidates must access and register on the electronic platform <https://apply.uc.pt/> to submit their application, selecting the procedure to which they wish to apply.

Documents uploaded for the application must be in portable document format (PDF).

Applications are submitted by completing the sections available in the electronic platform "Apply UC" under "My Application."

VIII.I- Mandatory documents to attach when applying:

- Curriculum Vitae, duly updated, dated, and signed;
- Copy of academic degree certificates.
 - a) If the possession of a degree is a requirement for the grant, candidates holding a degree obtained abroad must, by the end of the application period, provide proof of recognition or evidence that it has been requested, as per Decree-Law No. 66/2018 of August 16. Failure to present degree recognition at the time of contract signing, as per the RBI-UC, will result in exclusion.
 - b) If duly justified, documents proving the possession of academic degrees and diplomas, or their recognition, may be waived at the application stage and replaced by a candidate's sworn statement. However, until the grant agreement stage, the respective proofs must be submitted under penalty of exclusion.
 - c) Proof of enrollment in a degree or non-degree course may be waived at the application stage and replaced by a sworn statement from the candidate. However, the required proof must be submitted by the grant agreement stage under penalty of exclusion.
- Whenever possible, documentation proving prior grant benefits should also be attached to the application.

VIII.II- Other documents to attach when applying:

- Any other elements the candidate considers relevant.
- Motivation Letter.

VIII.III - All application documents must be submitted in Portuguese and/or English. When the originals are in another language, a translation into one of these languages must be provided.

VIII.IV - Applications that are not properly completed or do not meet the admission criteria defined in the applicable legislation and this notice will not be accepted.

VIII.V - No documents required for the application may be submitted after the application deadline.

VIII.VI - Without prejudice to the penal provisions of the law, false statements made by candidates or grant holders regarding relevant matters for the grant award or renewal, or for the evaluation of its progress, will result in its cancellation.

IX – Application deadline: 20/08/2025 to 02/09/2025

X - Activity Regime: The grant does not create or constitute a legal-labor relationship. It is carried out under an exclusive dedication regime, and the grantee is awarded the Research Grantee Status, as stipulated in the EBI and the RBI-UC.

XI - Notification of Candidates: All notifications will be made through the electronic platform [Apply UC](#), under the terms of subparagraph c) of paragraph 1 and subparagraph b) of paragraph 2 of Article 112 of the CPA and Article 22 of the RBI-UC. The notifications will take effect after being made, as provided in Article 113 of the CPA.

XII - Under Articles 121 and 122 of the CPA and Article 22 of the RBI-UC, candidates may, if they wish, submit comments regarding the jury's decisions within 10 business days, through the "Audiência dos Interessados" option in the platform's procedure section.

XIII - Candidates may also submit a complaint within 15 business days or an appeal to the UC's highest-ranking official within 30 business days, both following the respective notification, under Articles 191 and 192 of the CPA.

XIV - Selected candidates must declare in writing, within five business days of notification, their acceptance of the grant and confirm that they meet the requirements to accept the proposed start date of the grant contract. Unless a justifiable reason is provided, failure to provide this declaration within the stipulated time will be considered a renunciation of the grant. In case of renunciation or withdrawal by the selected candidate, the next candidate on the final classification list will be notified.

XV - The full competition process can be consulted by candidates, subject to prior scheduling, by sending an email to the Human Resources Management Service at: sgrh@uc.pt.

XVI - In compliance with subparagraph h) of Article 9 of the Constitution, the University of Coimbra, as an employer, actively promotes a policy of equal opportunities between men and women in terms of employment access and career progression, ensuring that any form of discrimination is strictly avoided. It encourages underrepresented minorities in each area to apply.

Accordingly, no one may be privileged, benefited, disadvantaged, or deprived of any right or exempted from any duty on the grounds of ancestry, age, sexual orientation, gender, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs, or trade union membership.

The University of Coimbra also promotes measures to facilitate the balance between professional, family, and personal life, recognizing the efforts of its employees and fostering motivation.

XVII- The grantee must submit annual activity reports for each renewal and at the end of the grant contract, as stipulated in Article 7 of the RBI-UC, subject to an opinion issued by the respective supervisor(s). The report models, performance evaluation criteria, and the grant contract model are those approved under the University of Coimbra's Research Grant Regulations.

