

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

AWARD OF 1 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP FOR A MASTER'S DEGREE HOLDER, REF.: ESS/CIR/LabRP/PREFRAG_RURAL/0571_2_P/BI/2026/20

Applications are invited for 1 Research Fellowship at the Center for Rehabilitation Research – Psychosocial Rehabilitation Laboratory of the School of Health (ESS) of the Technical University of Porto (UTP), within the project “New care model for frailty prevention in depopulated rural areas within Spain–Portugal cross-border cooperation (PREFRAG_RURAL)”, code 0574_PREFRAG_RURAL_2_P, co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund through the Interreg VI-A Spain–Portugal Cooperation Programme (POCTEP) 2021–2027, under the following conditions:

1. SCIENTIFIC AREA

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

2. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

2.1 – General admission requirements for applications to the research fellowship:

- a) National citizen or citizen of another Member State of the European Union;
- b) Citizen of a third country;
- c) Stateless person or beneficiary of political refugee status;
- d) Be in one of the following academic situations:

1) Be a student enrolled in a doctoral programme, with the aim of consolidating their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the corresponding academic degree, whether or not integrated into R&D projects.

2) Hold a Master's degree and, by the date on which the fellowship agreement is signed, be enrolled in a non-degree course integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.

- e) For situations of type 2), candidates who obtained their degree abroad must have the degree recognised in Portugal and the corresponding final grade converted to the Portuguese grading scale, pursuant to Decree-Law no. 66/2018, of 16 August.

2.2 – Specific requirements:

- a) Bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy, with a final grade of 14/20 or higher;
- b) Master's degree in Occupational Therapy, with a final grade higher than 16/20.

2.3 – Preferential factors:

Preference will be given to candidates with experience, knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- a) Management, coordination or technical-scientific monitoring of research, development and innovation projects;
- b) Planning and monitoring of activities, schedules, responsibilities, indicators, deliverables, risks and deadlines;
- c) Participation in funded projects, with particular value placed on experience in European, Interreg, cross-border projects or projects developed by interinstitutional consortia;
- d) Coordination between partners, technical-scientific teams and administrative and financial services, including the organisation of meetings, preparation of minutes and progress reports, and document management;
- e) Participation in projects in the field of Occupational Therapy, preferably aligned with the research lines of the Psychosocial Rehabilitation Laboratory and the Center for Rehabilitation Research;
- f) Research or intervention in the areas of ageing, frailty, functioning, occupational participation, community health, rehabilitation or health promotion;
- g) Participation in projects involving digital technologies, digital health, artificial intelligence, monitoring systems or other innovative solutions applied to health and rehabilitation;
- h) Experience in co-creation processes, end-user involvement and assessment of the usability, accessibility or acceptability of solutions;
- i) Application of quantitative, qualitative or mixed research methodologies, including literature review, protocol preparation, and data collection, management and analysis;
- j) Proven experience in drafting, submitting and publishing scientific articles, preferably in indexed journals, as well as in preparing reports, communications and other technical-scientific outputs;
- k) Use of digital tools for management, communication, collaborative work and document sharing;

- l) Oral and written knowledge of Spanish appropriate for communication with project partners;
- m) Planning and organisational skills, autonomy, initiative, problem-solving ability and ability to meet deadlines;
- n) Good communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills, and ability to liaise with different entities and professional areas;
- o) Ability and availability to undertake occasional travel to partner organisations and project implementation territories in Portugal and Spain;
- p) Availability to start the fellowship on a date compatible with the project implementation needs, to be stated in the motivation letter.

3. WORK PLAN

Collaborate in the implementation of the PREFRAG_RURAL project work plan, with particular emphasis on technical-scientific management, monitoring of activities and research support, namely:

- a) Support the technical-scientific coordination and management of the project, ensuring regular liaison between the Lead Beneficiary, the Portuguese and Spanish partners and the other entities involved;
- b) Support the planning, scheduling and monitoring of project activities, tasks, indicators, results, deliverables, risks and deadlines;
- c) Develop and keep implementation monitoring tools up to date, identifying deviations, difficulties and adjustment needs;
- d) Organise and support face-to-face and remote meetings, including the preparation of agendas, presentations, minutes, decision records and action plans;
- e) Support document management and the use of the consortium's collaborative platforms, ensuring the organisation, updating and sharing of relevant information;
- f) Collaborate in the preparation of implementation reports, monitoring documents and technical-scientific information required to fulfil the project obligations;
- g) Support liaison between the technical-scientific team, the partners and UTP's administrative and financial services;

- h) Collaborate in activities to map resources, capacities and needs, as well as in consultation and co-creation processes with professionals, older people, caregivers and other stakeholders;
- i) Support the development, review and implementation of research, assessment, monitoring and Occupational Therapy intervention protocols;
- j) Collaborate in the preparation and implementation of the pilot projects, including professional training, participant follow-up and application of the defined procedures;
- k) Participate, when necessary, in the multidimensional assessment of frailty, functioning, occupational participation, interests, quality of life and environmental conditions;
- l) Collaborate in the development and validation of the project's digital technologies, including usability, accessibility and acceptability testing with end users;
- m) Support the collection, organisation, processing, analysis and interpretation of data produced within the project;
- n) Collaborate in the assessment of the implementation, impact, sustainability, scalability and replicability of the model developed;
- o) Participate in the drafting, submission, revision and publication of scientific articles, as well as in the preparation of reports, communications, presentations and other technical-scientific outputs;
- p) Support the organisation of training activities, workshops, co-creation sessions, scientific events, and communication, dissemination and knowledge-transfer initiatives;
- q) Participate in meetings, field activities and other initiatives requiring occasional travel in Portugal and Spain.

4. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

- Law no. 40/2004, of 18 August, amended by Decree-Law no. 202/2012, of 27 August, Decree-Law no. 233/2012, of 29 October, Law no. 12/2013, of 29 January, Decree-Law no. 89/2013, of 9 July, Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August, and Decree-Law no. 65/2024, of 1 October.
- Article 37 of Decree-Law no. 63/2019, of 16 May.

- FCT, I.P. Research Fellowship Regulations no. 950/2019, of 16 December, amended by Regulation no. 643/2021, of 14 July.
- UTP Research Fellowship Regulations (P.PORTO/P-001/2020), approved by Order P.PORTO-P-015-2020.

5. SCIENTIFIC COORDINATION

Scientific coordinator: Professor Tiago Filipe Mota Coelho, Adjunct Professor at the School of Health of the Technical University of Porto and integrated member of the Center for Rehabilitation Research – Psychosocial Rehabilitation Laboratory.

6. SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION AND WORKPLACE:

Scientific supervisors: Professor Tiago Filipe Mota Coelho and Professor Ana Raquel Simões de Almeida.

The work will be carried out at the Center for Rehabilitation Research – Psychosocial Rehabilitation Laboratory of the School of Health of the Technical University of Porto.

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7. DURATION AND ACTIVITY REGIME

Research fellowship agreement for 12 months, renewable until the end of the project implementation period, on an exclusive dedication basis, in accordance with the applicable regulations.

8. MONTHLY MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The fellowship amount is €1,359.64, in accordance with the FCT value table currently in force (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>), paid monthly, plus reimbursement of voluntary social insurance, as provided for in the regulations.

9. SELECTION METHOD AND COMPOSITION OF THE SELECTION PANEL

9.1 – Candidate selection methods:

The selection methods will be applied in accordance with the following selection criteria and respective weightings:

- a) Curricular assessment and suitability of the candidate's profile for the work plan – 50%, considering:
 - Academic background and relevant additional training – 25%;
 - Experience in project management, coordination or monitoring – 15%;
 - Research experience in Occupational Therapy, ageing, frailty, digital health or innovation – 30%;
 - Scientific and technical-scientific output, including articles, communications and reports – 20%;
 - Complementary skills, including Spanish language and digital tools – 10%.
- b) Interview – 50%, considering:
 - Motivation and understanding of the project objectives and work plan – 20%;
 - Planning, organisation, priority management and problem-solving skills – 30%;
 - Communication, interpersonal and teamwork skills – 25%;
 - Ability to communicate in Spanish – 15%;
 - Availability and overall suitability for the conditions of implementation of the work plan – 10%.

The final classification will be calculated using the following formula:

$$CF = 0.50 AC + 0.50 ENT$$

Where:

- CF = final classification;
- AC = curricular assessment;
- ENT = interview.

The interview may include a brief communication component in Spanish.

9.2 – Tie-breaking criteria:

In the event of equal final classifications, the following tie-breaking criteria will be applied in descending order:

- a) Higher final grade in the Master's degree;
- b) Higher final grade in the Bachelor's degree;
- c) Higher interview score;
- d) Higher score in the criterion relating to experience in project management, coordination or monitoring;
- e) Higher score in the criterion relating to planning, organisation and management skills;
- f) Higher score in the assessment of the ability to communicate in Spanish.

9.3 – Grounds for exclusion of candidates:

Candidates may be excluded from the selection procedure on the following grounds:

- a) Failure to meet the requirements set out in the call for applications (section 2);
- b) Candidates who obtain a score below 9.5 in any assessment component will be excluded from the selection procedure and will not be assessed in the subsequent component(s);
- c) Failure to attend the interview, where applicable, or failure to provide any additional clarification requested, will be deemed withdrawal from the selection procedure.

9.4 – Composition of the selection panel:

Chair of the Selection Panel – Professor António José Pereira da Silva Marques, Coordinating Professor with Habilitation at the School of Health of UTP.

Full Member – Professor Tiago Filipe Mota Coelho, Adjunct Professor at the School of Health of UTP, who will replace the Chair in the event of absence or impediment.

Full Member – Professor Ana Raquel Simões de Almeida, Adjunct Professor at the School of Health of UTP.

Alternate Member – Professor Maria João Fernandes Trigueiro, Adjunct Professor at the School of Health of UTP.

10. PUBLICATION/NOTIFICATION OF RESULTS

The results of the selection procedure will be communicated electronically to candidates via the e-mail address provided in their application, in accordance with the deadlines established in the UTP Research Fellowship Regulations, and the minutes must be filed by the selection panel on the platform supporting this selection procedure: <https://domus.ipp.pt/concursos/ess/pessoal/>.

11. APPLICATION PERIOD AND SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

11.1. APPLICATION DEADLINE

The call is open for 10 working days, from 23/09/2026 to 07/10/2026.

Publication date: 22/09/2026.

11.2. APPLICATION SUBMISSION

Applications must be submitted by completing the electronic application form available at <https://www.ess.ipp.pt/ess/recrutamento/bolsas-de-investigacao/bolsas-de-investigacao> and submitting it, together with the remaining documents, by the established deadline.

Applications submitted by e-mail or by any other electronic means other than the specified method will be excluded outright.

11.3. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS

- 1) Curriculum Vitae;
- 2) Academic qualification certificates, or the corresponding recognition (including conversion of the final grade) when awarded by foreign higher education institutions, without prejudice to paragraph 1 of the following section;
- 3) Proof of enrolment in a study cycle leading to an academic degree or in a non-degree course, if the candidate is not a UTP student, without prejudice to paragraph 2 of the following section;
- 4) Declaration on honour stating that:
 - (A) The candidate is aware of the UTP Research Fellowship Regulations currently in force and undertakes to comply with them;
 - (B) by entering into the fellowship agreement concerned, the candidate does not exceed the maximum period legally permitted, whether consecutive or non-consecutive.
- 5) Any other documents the candidate considers relevant.

11.4. APPLICATION DOCUMENTS: SPECIFIC CONDITIONS

The supporting documents referred to in item 2 of the previous section, of the following types:

- 1) Evidence of academic degree(s) and diploma(s), or their recognition when awarded by foreign higher education institutions – mandatory whenever holding the degree is an admission requirement or candidate selection criterion; however, it may be waived at the application stage and replaced by a declaration on honour by the candidate, with verification taking place only when the fellowship agreement is concluded;
- 2) Proof of enrolment in a study cycle leading to an academic degree or in a non-degree course, if the candidate is not a UTP student – mandatory whenever enrolment is an admission requirement, with the award of the fellowship being conditional upon valid enrolment within six months from the date on which approval in the scientific evaluation is communicated.

12. COMPLAINT AND APPEAL DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES

A complaint against the final decision may be submitted within 15 working days, or an appeal may be lodged with the Rector of UTP within 30 working days, in both cases following the respective notification, pursuant to Article 12 of the UTP Research Fellowship Regulations currently in force.

13. EXPENDITURE AUTHORISATION

Expenditure Authorisation Request no. PAD-ESS8378

Project Reference: 574_PREFRAG_RURAL_2_P

Project title: New care model for frailty prevention in depopulated rural areas within Spain–Portugal cross-border cooperation (PREFRAG_RURAL)

22 September 2026. — The Director of the School of Health of the Technical University of Porto, Professor José Miguel Silveira Correia Saúde.