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Centro de Investigação e Estudos de Sociologia

CIES_BD_DNAI_2025

Call for applications for a scholarship for doctoral students

The **Center for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-Iscte) at Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa** is offering one (1) scholarship for a doctoral student as part of the project "DNAI – Digital Narratives and Artificial Intelligence: Comparative Analysis of Audiovisual Content and Transparency in Algorithmic Categorization," with reference number 2024. 07707.IACDC, supported by the Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR), under the terms of Call for Applications (AAC) No. 04/C05-i08/2024, funded by the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Communication Sciences

Admission requirements:

Applicants must hold a bachelor's and master's degree in any of the Social Sciences and be enrolled in a PhD program in Sociology (in accordance with Article 6 of the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (Reg. No. 950/2019).

If the qualification was awarded by a foreign higher education institution, it must be recognized by a Portuguese higher education institution, in accordance with the provisions of Article 25 of Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16, which approves the legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and subparagraph e) of paragraph 2 of Article 4 of Decree-Law No. 60/2018, of August 3, and any formalities established therein must be completed by the date of hiring.

Further information can be obtained at: https://www.dges.gov.pt/pt/pagina/reconhecimento?plid=374

Preferential factors:

Experience in research in the field of digital media ecosystems, with a focus on the functioning of platforms and social networks, algorithmic mediation, and the social impacts of artificial intelligence.

a) Competence in designing simple AI models and developing tools for the automatic collection and categorization of visual or audiovisual content.

b) Familiarity with digital research methodologies, combining qualitative and quantitative techniques.

c) Knowledge of European policies and regulations relevant to AI regulation, namely the Digital Services Act (DSA), the Code of Conduct on Disinformation, and the AI Act, with potential impact on the regulation of algorithms and digital platforms.

d) Fluency in spoken and written English

Work plan:

The fellowship holder will support the technical and methodological implementation of the DNAI project, with a particular focus on the collection, comparison, and analysis of human and algorithmic ratings of audiovisual content. The main tasks include:

1. Literature review and analysis

- Theoretical exploration of algorithms, AI, and content categorization;
- Systematization of key concepts: algorithmic bias, transparency, accountability.

2. Support in data collection and organization

- Selection of audiovisual materials for classification;
- Structuring of database with descriptions made by authors and peers.

3. Implementation and exploitation of analytical tools

- Application of tools such as Whisper (OpenAI), CLIP, or NLP libraries for automated categorization;

4. Comparative analysis and synthesis

- Analysis of convergences/divergences between human and algorithmic categorization;
- Identification of biases based on social, political, or identity context.

5. Scientific and institutional dissemination

- Support in writing technical reports and scientific articles;
- Participation in webinars, podcasts, and creation of digital promotional materials.

Duration of the scholarship:

The scholarship will last for 6 months, starting in August 2025.

Applicable legislation and regulations

Statute of Scientific Research Fellows, as amended by Decree-Law No. 123/2019, of August 28, Regulations on Research Fellowships of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I. P., Regulation No. 950/2019, Decree-Law No. 66/2018, of August 16 (Legal regime for the recognition of academic degrees

and higher education diplomas awarded by foreign higher education institutions) and other applicable rules.

Workplace and scientific supervision:

The work will be carried out at the Center for Research and Studies in Sociology (CIES-Iscte) of Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon, under the scientific supervision of Professor Carla Baptista (FCSH of Universidade Nova de Lisboa), IR of the project, and Professor Gustavo Cardoso (Iscte - University Institute of Lisbon).

Monthly maintenance allowance:

The amount of the scholarship, on an exclusive and full-time basis, corresponds to **€1,309.64**, according to the table of scholarships awarded directly or indirectly by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf), paid monthly by bank transfer to the holder. The scholarship holder may also be reimbursed for the amount corresponding to Voluntary Social Security, if they join this scheme.

Selection methods:

The selection process will be based on curriculum evaluation. If several candidates demonstrate that they have the appropriate profile to carry out the work plan, the jury reserves the right to invite the three highest-ranked candidates in the curriculum evaluation to an interview, which will account for 40% of the final score. If the jury considers interviews unnecessary, the curriculum evaluation will have a final weighting of 100%. The curriculum evaluation criteria are based on:

a) the adequacy of the academic background to the project objectives (30%);

b) research experience in the areas covered by the project (30%);

c) demonstrated experience in the items indicated in the preferential factors (40%).

The evaluation of candidates' curricula will be carried out in accordance with the criteria indicated, on a scale of 0 to 20.

The jury reserves the right to:

a) invite the highest-scoring candidate for the position in question, following the order established in the final ranking list, whenever the selected candidate does not meet the requirements for formalizing the contract or in case of unavailability;

b) not award the scholarship if none of the candidates match the desired profile.

Composition of the jury:

The selection of candidates will be carried out by a jury composed of: Dr. Gustavo Cardoso (Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa), who will chair, and members Dr. Carla Baptista (FCSH da Universidade Nova de Lisboa) and Dr. Vania Baldi (Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa).

Form of publication/notification of results:

The results of the evaluation will be published through a list of admitted and excluded candidates and a final ranking list, with all candidates being notified by email. The period for interested parties to be heard will run for 10 working days following the communication of the results.

Application deadline and form of submission:

The competition is open **from June 30 to July 11, 2025**.

Applications must be formalized by submitting the following documents on the Iscte – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa recruitment platform at: https://recrutamento.iscte-iul.pt/jobs

 i) Letter of motivation describing the reasons for interest in the position, as well as the research interests most closely related to the project area;

 ii) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;

 iii) Copy of bachelor's and master's degree certificates, with detailed course grades;

 iv) Proof of enrollment in a study program leading to a doctoral degree or, alternatively, a sworn statement that you will be able to present this document on the date of signing the contract.

 v) Other relevant supporting documents, including letter(s) of recommendation.

Applications sent by other means will not be considered.