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Universidade de Coimbra

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Call for applications

Research Scholarship (one position) - CES/05/2026-BI-PRISE

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for 1 research scholarship (CES/05/2026-BI-PRISE) in the project “PRISE - Positive eneRgy dIstrict Step ahEad”, participant on the Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership, funded by the European Union through Programa Regional do Centro 2021-2027 (Centro 2030), reference CENTRO2030-FEDER-03655600, and coordinated at CES by Cláudia Pato de Carvalho.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The project is part of the research line 5 - *Urban Cultures, Sociabilities and Participation*, that focuses on urban cultures and modes of organization and regulation of social, cultural, political, and economic life in urban territories.

Project Description:

Positive Energy Districts (PED) are a cornerstone of city-wide strategies for achieving urban sustainability and climate-neutrality, focusing on producing more energy than they consume through renewable energy integration, energy efficiency and flexibility, and systemic management. This project aims to develop an interdisciplinary, scalable framework for valorising potential PED areas within European cities, integrating energy planning with urban planning. At its core, PRISE bridges energy and urban planning, linking bottom-up community needs with top-down urban strategies through a spatially grounded, data-enhanced approach.

Expected duration of project execution: 36 months, started January 1st, 2026

b. Scientific field:

Social Sciences and Humanities with a focus on Environmental and Sustainability Sciences

c. Work plan, tasks:

The selected candidate is expected to contribute primarily to **WP2 and WP3**, within PRISE project.

More specifically, s/he will contribute to:

- Compiling, synthesising and analysing existing evidence and data and tools relevant to sustainable urban development;
- Designing an interdisciplinary stakeholder engagement methodology to foster collaborative governance and co-creation in sustainable urban transformation processes;
- Assisting in data collection, processing, and qualitative and/or quantitative analysis;



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- Supporting the preparation of deliverables (e.g., impact assessment reports, innovation plans, techno-economic analysis);
- Contributing to consortium governance through active participation in coordination meetings, strategic discussions, and joint implementation activities;
- Collaborating in dissemination and communication activities;
- Providing research and organisational support to CES team members in the overall implementation of WP2 and WP3 tasks.

d. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

Portuguese Law nº 40/2004, of August 18 (Scientific Research Fellow Statute) and the following amendments; FCT's (National Agency for Science and Technology) Regulations for Advanced Training and Qualification of Human Resources, and Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies.

Template of the fellowship contract:

https://ces.uc.pt/oportunidades/bolsasemprego/Minuta_Contrato_Bolsa_CES.pdf

Template of the final activities report:

https://ces.uc.pt/oportunidades/bolsasemprego/E_Relatorio_actividades.pdf

e. Work place:

The workplace is the Centre for Social Studies' facilities in Coimbra or in other locations when necessary for the good implementation of the work plan, under the scientific supervision of the Project's Principal Investigator, Cláudia Pato Carvalho.

f. Duration of the contract:

The fellowship will last 12 months, starting in May 2026, if all administrative conditions meet. The fellowship contract may be extended for equal or different periods, depending on the evaluation of the work carried out, the project's financial provisions, and scientific needs.

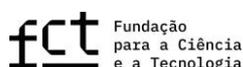
g. Application dates:

From 12th to 27th of March, 2026. After the 23h59 of March 27, no applications will be considered.

h. Application process:

Applications must include:

- a) A letter of intent/motivation in English with the contest reference (CES/05/2026-BI-PRISE), e-mail and phone number (max. 2 pages);
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Copies of degree certificates; (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point k.)



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- d) One academic paper of the applicant's authorship, in English (preferably) or in Portuguese (an article in a scientific journal or in conference proceedings, a chapter of a book, or a Bachelor or Master's thesis; note: in case of a co-authored text, the applicant's contribution should be indicated);
- e) Other relevant documents for eligibility purposes.

Applications should be sent by email to concursos@ces.uc.pt by the final deadline. The subject line of the application email must indicate the reference for this call (CES/05/2026-BI-PRISE) and the applicant's name.

SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS

i. Preferred selection criteria and their weighing:

1. Previous experience in qualitative and/or quantitative research methods applied in social sciences (40%);
2. Previous experience in supporting national and international or EU-funded research projects, preferably in the fields of social sciences and humanities and/or environmental sustainability sciences (20%);
3. Demonstrated knowledge or interest in ecological urban transitions (10%);
4. Experience in the preparation of technical reports, deliverables, and organisation of research outputs (10%);
5. Fluency in English and Portuguese (10%);
6. Strong organisational and time management skills, including the ability to manage priorities and meet tight deadlines (5%);
7. Availability for national and international travel (5%).

The jury reserves the right to not select applicants for the vacancy, if the applicants do not have the adequate quality and profile in terms of absolute merit.

BENEFITS

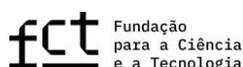
j. Monthly Allowance

The monthly stipend is 1309,64 euros according with the Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies and at FCT (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf). The payment of the Voluntary Social Insurance and the Personal Accident Insurance adds up to this amount.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

k. Mandatory requirements

1. Be a PhD student in the year 2025/2026 or have a master's degree and be enrolled in a course that does not confer an academic degree but is part of the educational project of a higher education institution (see associated conditions in a);
 - a) Applicants must provide proof of enrolment in a PhD or non-academic degree course, in the current academic year. If at the time of application, the applicant does not have a valid document proving their enrolment, they must send a declaration of honour in which they state to undertake the



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enrolment within a maximum period of 30 days after the communication of the results, under penalty of not contracting the scholarship.

- b) Applicants with an academic degree and diploma issued by a foreign Higher Education Institution must present proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System, (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of the degree(s) will be admitted to the competition, but during the evaluation process the selection panel, cannot:
- recognise the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
 - give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
 - use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

In case of selection, the fellowship contract can only be signed after the recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese authorities, under the terms of the Law-decree n66/2018, August 16. The selected candidate must deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the results. After 30 days, the jury may decide to 1. either extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition; 2. assign the fellowship to the second place; 3. or not award the fellowship.

2. Be proficient in English and Portuguese.

SELECTION PROCESS

I. Selection process

The selection of the candidate will be made based on the curricular evaluation and, if the jury decides to be necessary, the best-positioned applicants can be short-listed for an interview. The interviews can be carried out in person or remotely. The interview is meant to clarify aspects related to the curriculum and previous experience, the candidate's ability to integrate into the project, motivation and interest, and communication. When applying the two methods of selection, curricular evaluation and interview, each will have a valuation of 50% in the final classification.

The jury reserves the right to not select applicants for the vacancy, if the applicants do not have the adequate quality and profile in terms of absolute merit.

m. Selection panel:

- Cláudia Pato de Carvalho (President)
- Neide P. Areia (permanent member)
- Leandro Barros (permanent member)
- Gustavo Garcia (substitute member)
- Gonçalo Canto Moniz (substitute member)

n. Communication of Results:

All candidates will receive the results by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become available publicly. After the communication of results, applicants have 10 working days to present a redress to the evaluation and the result by email.

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ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Equality of opportunities:

Equality of opportunities: CES abides by the national law that regulates the prevention, prohibition and fighting against discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic identity, colour, nationality, family background, territory of origin, and disability. (Law nº 93/2017, 23 August; Law nº 4/2019, 10 January).

Data protection:

By submitting your application, you are agreeing with the use of your personal data by CES administrative services for the sole purpose of the current call, namely to be contacted directly by CES services and allow the communication of results as in point n. of this call. CES abides by the principles of GDPR.

Contact:

Centro de Estudos Sociais
Colégio S. Jerónimo, Apartado 3087
3000-995 Coimbra, Portugal
concursos@ces.uc.pt

