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Universidade de Coimbra

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Call for applications - CES/12/2026-BI-(UN)PROTECT Student Fellowship (one position)

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for 1 Student Fellowship the project “(Un)Protect - State (Un)Protection and Racialization in Portugal: a study of the impact of child and youth protection system on Black and Roma women”, with the references COMPETE2030-FEDER00726400 and 2023.17685.ICDT, funded by the financial support from the FEDER and Portuguese national funds through FCT, and coordinated by Silvia Maeso.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The project is part of the research line *Democracy, Justice and Human Rights*, which aims to analyse the persistence of systems of oppression that are intertwined in the structures of racism, heteropatriarchy and capitalism and examine the socio-legal, socio-political and socio-cultural resistances that, in the framework of the modern State and beyond, mark the present of anti-discrimination policies and the constitution of alternative grammars of dignity.

Project Description:

(Un)Protect - State (Un)Protection and Racialization in Portugal: a study of the impact of child and youth protection system on Black and Roma women

(Un)Protect is an innovative study of the interrelationship between the child/youth state protection system and racialisation in Portugal, focusing on its impact on the lives of Black and Roma women. The project builds on the team’s work on institutional racism, law and public policies, to analyse this interrelationship in three areas: the production of expert knowledge, the justice system and the experience of Black and Roma women.

Expected duration of the project execution: from June 1st, 2025 to May 30th, 2028.

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b. Scientific field:

Social Sciences, with a focus on Critical Race Theory and Sociology of Law.

c. Work plan, tasks:

The selected candidate is expected to contribute primarily to Activity 3 – “The Justice System: Minor and Family Public Prosecution Services and Court of Appeals” within (Un)Protect project.

More specifically, s/he/they will contribute to:

- To analyse Processes of Promotion and Protection (PPP) and judicial decisions by Family and Minors Courts of First Instance;
- To analyse case-law of Appeal Courts concerning decisions on the institutionalization of children and placement for adoption;
- To analyse jurisprudence of superior courts (Constitutional Court and Supreme Court of Justice) concerning protection measures;
- To conduct interviews with professionals of the justice system and the system of promotion and protection;
- To participate in scientific events and other relevant dissemination activities;
- To collaborate in the elaboration of dissemination materials;
- To support the research team in the project management, such as the organisation of scientific and training events, communication with collaborating stakeholders and reporting activities.

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

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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, Silvia Maeso.

f. Duration of the contract:

The fellowship will last 12 months, starting desirably in July 2026, if all administrative conditions meet.

g. Application dates:

From the **15th of May to the 1st of June, 2026**. After June 1, 2026, applications will not be considered for evaluation.

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h. Application process:

Applications must include:

- a) A letter of intent/motivation in Portuguese with the contest reference (CES/12/2026-BI-(UN)PROTECT), e-mail and phone number (max. 2 pages);
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae in Portuguese or English, highlighting the experience in fields such as Critical Studies of Race and Racism, Critical Race Theory and Sociology of Law;
- c) Copies of degree certificates (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point k.);
- d) A copy of the Master's dissertation (pdf file) and other relevant scientific contribution (such as publications in scientific journals, books and/or conference proceedings);
- 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/12/2026-BI-(UN)PROTECT) and the applicant's name.

SKILLS/QUALIFICATIONS

i. Preferred selection criteria and their weighing:

Applicants must demonstrate expertise on the topic of the project, by fulfilling the following criteria:

1. Academic background in the Social Sciences and Humanities (with preference for the areas of Sociology, Anthropology, Law and Political Science) and the adaptation of the academic and/or professional trajectory to the project's activities and objectives (50%);

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2. Master's thesis addressing the central themes of the project, namely race, racism, and socio-legal approaches to race (20%);
3. Excellent language skills in both oral and written Portuguese and English, including the ability to independently write in these languages (15%);
4. Experience in qualitative data collection and analysis, in particular, in case-law analysis (10%);
5. Availability for national travel to implement research activities (5%).

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

BENEFITS

j. Monthly Allowance

The monthly stipend is 1359,64 euros according with the Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies and at FCT (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.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);

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2. Hold a bachelor's and Master's degree in the area of Social Sciences and Humanities with preference for the areas of Sociology, Anthropology, Law and Political Science or other related fields before the deadline of this tender (see associated conditions in b).

Applicants with an academic degree or diploma issued by a foreign institution must provide proof of recognition of the academic degree in Portugal, under Decree-Law no. 57/2016, of August 29th, altered by Law no. 57/2017 of July 19th. Any applicant without recognition of the degree (s) may be admitted to the competition, but during the application evaluation process, the jury may not:

- i. recognise the applicant's degrees and evaluate according to their possession of such degrees;
- ii. give equivalence, or consider valid, a degree that is not recognised and registered;
- iii. use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

In case of selection, the 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 the 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 contract.

3. Proficiency in 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

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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:

- Silvia Maeso (President)
- Danielle Pereira de Araújo (permanent member)
- Marcos Vinícius Lustosa Queiroz (permanent member)
- Ana Rita Alves (substitute member)
- Fernando Fontes (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.

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).

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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

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