

Post-Doctoral Researcher (1 Vacancy) - Full time

CES/16/2026-PD-COAST

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), invites applications for one (1) Post-Doctoral Researcher position (CES/16/2026-PD-COAST) in the FCT projects “iCOAST - Innovation ecosystems for climate resilience in high-risk coastal communities”, funded by FEDER and national funds with the references through Foundation for Science and Technology with the reference number 14796 and the code of operation at Balcão dos Fundos COMPETE2030-FEDER-00930000 and LISBOA2030-FEDER-00930000, and “CoastARTS - Coastlines as Zones of Ecocultural Crisis: Shaping Resilience through Transnational Performance-based Arts”, funded by CHANSE – Collaboration of Humanities and Social Sciences in Europe, through Foundation for Science and Technology, with the reference HERA/0002/2023. The projects are coordinated by Neide Areia.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The projects are embedded in the research line RISE – Risks, Ecology, and Health, and the Observatory of Risks (OSIRIS).

A. Project Descriptions

The iCOAST project was conceived as an integrated response to the territorial, socio-economic, and ecological impacts resulting from the intensification of coastal erosion processes. These processes stem from the interplay between anthropogenic pressures and climate variability, within the broader context of global change. The project’s territorial living lab is located along the Cova-Gala – Leirosa coastal stretch (Coimbra district), a low-lying area highly exposed to energetic marine wave action and to changes induced by human interventions in the region’s sedimentary and fluvial dynamics.

Grounded in consolidated scientific evidence, iCOAST proposes the implementation of a Coastal Resilience Living Lab (CR-LL) as a territorial innovation ecosystem. This living lab will foster collaboration among citizens, researchers, businesses, and public entities in a co-creative process aimed at the design, prototyping, and scaling of community-based solutions focused on the integrated management of coastal risks and their multidimensional socioecological impacts.

Expected duration of the project execution: from July 25, 2025 to July 24, 2028.

CoastARTS is a transnational research project that explores coastal zones as ecocultural spaces where environmental, social, and symbolic crises converge. Focusing on contexts from the Atlantic Europe and former European colonies, the project investigates how these zones operate simultaneously as material territories of vulnerability and as imaginary landscapes shaped by memory, conflict, and regeneration.

By combining archival, ethnographic, and performance-based methodologies, CoastARTS mobilises artistic practices grounded in performance both as analytical tools to understand past and present coastal crises and as forms of collaborative action with the potential to foster community resilience. In partnership with museums, cultural centres, and performing arts organisations, the project develops and tests innovative methodologies to apply performance-based arts in interdisciplinary and non-academic contexts, aiming to support processes of community-building and social transformation in vulnerable coastal territories.

Expected duration of the project execution: from February 3, 2025 to February 2, 2028.

B. Scientific Field

Social Sciences and Humanities, Environmental Studies, Sustainability Studies, Territorial Studies, or other related fields relevant to the scientific scope and objectives of the projects including, but not limited to, Sociology, Geography, Political Science, Communication Sciences, Economics, Management, Psychology, Urban and Regional Planning, or Development Studies

C. Work plan, tasks:

The successful candidate will have a consolidated academic and research profile in one or more of the scientific fields identified above, combined with a strong capacity to engage with interdisciplinary and territorially grounded research. They are expected to demonstrate methodological sophistication, critical and analytical independence, and the ability to integrate social, environmental, spatial, historical, and cultural dimensions in the study of coastal territories. The role requires proven experience in the design and implementation of research activities, substantive participation in collaborative projects, autonomous management of complex tasks, and effective engagement with academic, institutional, policy, and community stakeholders. Excellent scientific writing, analytical, organisational, and oral communication skills in both Portuguese and English are essential.

The selected candidate is expected to contribute to the scientific and operational implementation of both the iCOAST and CoastARTS projects, under the scientific supervision of the Principal Investigator and in close collaboration with the respective project teams. The work plan will comprise project-specific tasks, as follows:

1. Tasks under the iCOAST project:

- a) Support the implementation and coordination of the Coastal Resilience Living Lab, including the preparation, facilitation, and documentation of participatory activities with local communities, stakeholders, public entities, and other relevant actors;
- b) Contribute to the design, implementation, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative research activities, including surveys, interviews, focus groups, workshops, and other participatory methods;
- c) Support the collection, organisation, management, and systematisation of empirical data related to coastal risk perception, community needs, adaptation behaviours, governance challenges, and local priorities;
- d) Conduct literature reviews and contribute to the theoretical and methodological development of the project, particularly in the fields of coastal risk governance, climate adaptation, community resilience, participatory processes, and socioecological innovation
- e) Contribute to the analysis and interpretation of empirical results, including qualitative content/thematic analysis and quantitative/statistical analysis, according to the candidate's profile and expertise;
- f) Support the development, prototyping, and monitoring of community-based and/or innovative solutions emerging from the Coastal Resilience Living Lab;
- g) Contribute to the preparation of scientific outputs, including articles, reports, policy briefs, conference presentations, and other dissemination materials;

- h) Support communication, knowledge transfer, and engagement activities with scientific, institutional, policy, and community audiences;
- i) Assist in the preparation of project meetings, technical documentation, deliverables, and progress reports;
- j) Contribute to the scaling and transferability strategy of the project's results, including the identification of lessons learned, good practices, and policy recommendations applicable to other coastal contexts.

2. Tasks under the CoastARTS project:

- a) Conduct territorial and spatial analyses of the selected coastal case-study areas, integrating environmental, socio-demographic, land-use, governance, cultural heritage, and historical data;
- b) Design and conduct qualitative fieldwork, including archival and documentary research, semi-structured interviews, oral histories, field observation, and participatory or community-based methods;
- c) Document and analyse local knowledge, collective memories, place attachment, perceptions of environmental change, experiences of territorial transformation, and community responses in the selected case-study areas;
- d) Analyse the relationships between environmental change, territorial inequalities, governance arrangements, environmental conflict, community resilience, and processes of adaptation in coastal areas;
- e) Provide territorial, historical, and empirical inputs to the project's performance-based activities, working collaboratively with artistic, cultural, institutional, and community partners;
- f) Contribute to the preparation of scientific and technical outputs, including academic publications, project reports, policy-oriented materials, conference presentations, maps, methodological resources, and dissemination outputs;
- g) Support the organisation and facilitation of fieldwork activities, project meetings, workshops, public events, and stakeholder engagement initiatives, fostering collaboration with institutional, cultural, and community partners.

D. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

The successful candidates will be hired under Law no. 57/2016, August 29, altered by Law 57/2017, which approves a doctoral hiring regime with a view to boosting scientific and technological employment in all areas of knowledge (RJEC). The hiring will also be governed by the Labour Code approved by Law no. 7/2009 of February 12, as currently worded.

E. Workplace

Research will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities in Coimbra, Portugal, as well as in fieldwork sites in Portugal. Selected researchers will occasionally need to travel to other locations to perform research tasks.

F. Duration of the Contract

The temporary contract ("termo incerto") will be signed for the sole purpose of the execution of the projects and will automatically end with the completion of the activities foreseen in the activity plan. Moreover, according to Article 112 of the Labour Code, paragraph 2 a), a trial period of 30 days is established. The contract will be foreseeably starting in September/October 2026.

G. Application dates

From July 27th to August 17th, 2026. After August 17th (23h59 Lisbon time), 2026, applications will not be considered for evaluation.

H. Application process

Applications must include:

- a) Presentation/Motivation letter with the call reference (CES/16/2026-PD-COAST) of maximum 2 pages in English in which the candidate addresses at least four points:
 - (1) motivation to be part of the CoastARTS/iCOAST projects and the associated research line;
 - (2) how they will execute the project tasks described above;
 - (3) to what extent education and previous experience match the selecting criteria listed;
 - (4) demonstration of oral and written language proficiency in both English and Portuguese (with reference to the context where the candidate learned and perfected both languages or to whether they are native speakers);
- b) Detailed Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Copies of degree certificates. It is mandatory to be holder of a PhD degree by the date to start the contract (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point "K. Mandatory requirements");
- d) one publication that best demonstrates the writing skills of the applicant and their proximity with the CoastARTS/iCOAST projects, in Portuguese or English;
- e) Other relevant documents for eligibility purposes.

Applications should be sent by email to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline. Applications must include a clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/16/2026-PD-COAST).

SKILLS

I. Preferred selection criteria and their weighing

Applicants must demonstrate expertise on the topic of the project, and in the research line listed above, by fulfilling the following criteria:

1. Scientific and curricular trajectory in fields relevant to iCOAST and CoastARTS, assessed through the relevance, quality and originality of the scientific, cultural or artistic outputs selected by the applicant, with particular attention to the last five years - 25%;

2. Research experience related to one or more of the following areas: coastal risks, climate adaptation, environmental conflicts and justice, community resilience, political ecology, ecocultural transformation, participatory governance or place-based innovation - 20%;
3. Demonstrated experience in qualitative, quantitative or mixed-methods research, including one or more of the following: archival and documentary research, oral histories, interviews, focus groups, surveys, participatory methods, arts-based or performance-based research, content or thematic analysis, and statistical analysis - 25%;
4. Experience in the implementation and coordination of national or international research projects, including stakeholder engagement, Living Lab or community-based activities, preparation of scientific and technical outputs, organisation of events, dissemination, reporting and collaborative project work - 20%;
5. Proficiency in Portuguese and English, including the capacity to communicate in scientific, institutional and community-based contexts - 10%.

The jury reserves the right not to select any candidate.

BENEFITS

J. Monthly Salary

The monthly salary for the Full-time, corresponding to 35 hours a week, will be 2408,11 Euros gross (plus months 13 and 14), meal allowance, and all social security charges, in accordance with the Portuguese Labour Code.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

K. Mandatory requirements

a) Applicants must hold a PhD in the subject area indicated above; 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:

- i. recognise the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
- ii. give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
- 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 position to the next candidate for merit; (3) or not award the position.

b) Be proficient in Portuguese and English;

c) Demonstrate expertise on the topics of the project (see criteria A. to C. above).

SELECTION PROCESS

L. Selection Process

Applicants will be selected based on their scientific merit and curricular path. In case of equivalent curricular profiles, the best-positioned applicants will be short-listed for an interview, meant to assess each applicant's potential contribution to the development of the project. If applied, the two stages of evaluation will weigh 90% for the curricular merit assessment and 10% for the interview in the final score. The scale applied to each criterion is 0 to 20.

The jury reserves the right to not select any applicants for the positions, if applications do not meet the necessary standards and/or profiles in terms of absolute merit.

M. Selection Panel

- Neide P. Areia (President)
- Pedro J. M. Costa (Permanent member)
- Alexandre O. Tavares (Permanent member)
- Ana Raquel Matos (Substitute member)
- Paula Freire (Substitute member)

N. Communication of Results

The results of the selection process will be emailed to all candidates, and the meeting minutes of the selection panel will become publicly available.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

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