

**Call For Applications For  
Up to 12 Doctoral Scholarships 2021/2022**

**Guidelines**

**Announcement**

Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) opens a call for applications for up to twelve **(12) Ph.D. Scholarships** (Bolsas de doutoramento - BD) to take place in Portugal and at Carnegie Mellon University in the framework of the CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs in the following fields:

- [Computer Science \(CS\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Electrical and Computer Engineering \(ECE\)](#)<sup>2</sup>
- [Engineering and Public Policy \(EPP\)](#)<sup>3</sup>
- [Human-Computer Interaction \(HCI\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Language Technologies \(LTI\)](#)<sup>1</sup>
- [Robotics \(CS/R\)](#)<sup>4</sup>
- [Software Engineering \(SE\)](#)<sup>1</sup>

Successful candidates to the CMU Portugal Dual Degree Ph.D. Programs spend up to two years at CMU and up to three years at a University in Portugal. At the end of their successful program the candidates get two Ph.D. degrees, one awarded by CMU and the other by the partner University in Portugal. Details of the Dual Degree Ph.D. programs are available in the url's above, for additional information regarding each Dual Degree Ph.D. Program see the [CMU Portugal website](#)

Applications are submitted directly through the Ph.D. program admissions website of each Department at CMU (see above) and applicants should indicate their interest in the corresponding Dual Degree Ph.D. program in the framework of the CMU Portugal Program. The FCT Scholarship will only be granted if the candidates are accepted by a Ph.D. Program at CMU and by a partner Portuguese University. Successful applicants may have to submit additional documentation to be awarded the FCT scholarship, see full details below.

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<sup>1</sup> Computer Science (CS), Human and Computer Interaction (HCI), Language Technologies (LTI), Software Engineering (SE): <https://www.cs.cmu.edu/doctoral-admissions>

<sup>2</sup> Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): <https://www.ece.cmu.edu/admissions/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): <https://www.cmu.edu/epp/prospective/doctoral-studies/doctoral-application/index.html>

<sup>4</sup> Robotics: <https://www.ri.cmu.edu/education/academic-programs/doctoral-robotics-program/how-to-apply/>

## Dual Degree Ph.D.'s available and application deadlines

Below is a list of Dual Degree Ph.D.'s available through the CMU Portugal Program, and their respective **application deadlines**.

- Computer Science (CS): October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE): October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Engineering and Public Policy (EPP): October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Human and Computer Interaction (HCI): October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Language Technologies (LTI): October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Robotics: October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)
- Software Engineering (SE): October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 - December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (11:59 a.m., EST)

Applications submitted before the call deadlines and until a specific date may present reduced application fees. More information is available in the CMU applications page of each Ph.D. Program.

## CMU Portugal Scholarship Process Calendar

Phase	Milestone	Observations	Document Section
<u>A. Application Phase</u>	Take GRE (when mandatory) and TOEFL and prepare other application documents	1 month prior to the applications deadline	<u>1. How to apply and admission requirements</u>
	Submit an online application form in the Ph.D. Program CMU website	Check the specific date for your program	<u>2. Funding Support</u>
<u>B. Selection Phase</u>	Selection of the candidates	January-April 2021	<u>3. Selection process and results announcement</u>
	Informing the candidates about the selection outcome	May 2021	
<u>C. Scholarship Contract and Registration</u>	Formal request for Ph.D. scholarships to FCT and publishing the selection results on the CMU Portugal Program website	June 2021	<u>4. Scholarships request to FCT and announcement of the results</u>
	Students registration at CMU and Portuguese University; scholarship contract	July-September 2021	<u>5. Students registration and scholarship contract</u>
	CMU Portugal Scholarship Starting Date	September 2021	<u>6. Scholarship starting date and beginning of the academic year</u>

## A. APPLICATION PHASE

### 1. Admission Requirements and How to Apply

Pursuant to article 6 in conjunction with article 9 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (RBI) of FCT, Portuguese citizens, citizens of other European Union member states, and third-country nationals holding the academic degree required to enroll in a Ph.D. Program, in accordance with the procedures adopted by Carnegie Mellon University, may apply to this call, taking into account the research areas specified by the CMU Portugal Program available in the [CMU Portugal website](#). Individuals who have previously received an FCT-funded doctoral fellowship, for the same purpose, are not eligible for this call. The Ph.D. candidate's application should satisfy the requirements established in article 10 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of FCT, in accordance with the procedures adopted by Carnegie Mellon University.

The CMU Portugal Program has a decentralized applications process for admission in which each Ph.D. program manages its own application process. **Applications are submitted directly to CMU.** To apply, follow the next steps:

- 1- Determine which dual degree Ph.D. Program you are interested;
- 2- Go the "Admissions and Scholarships" page on the CMU Portugal Program website;
- 3- Select the Ph.D. Program and you will be directed towards that Ph.D.'s applications page in the CMU website.

As a general guideline, students are required to submit the following documents in order to successfully submit an application to a Ph.D. program (*Please note that the admissions requirements will vary from department to department and the information indicated below is general*):

- Carnegie Mellon complete online application form for admission to graduate programs and payment of the non-refundable application fee;
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) when mandatory and TOEFL/IELTS/Duolingo (if the candidate's native language is not English);
- CV;
- Motivation letter;
- 3 recommendation letters;
- Official Diplomas and Transcripts of prior academic record, indicating first class or equivalent standing.

#### GRE and TOEFL tests

Candidates should submit the results of both the "TOEFL" (Test of English as a Foreign Language) and, if required by the Ph.D. Program the "GRE" (general exam of the Graduate Record Examination)<sup>5</sup>. While [TOEFL](#) is preferred the "[IELTS](#)" (International English Language Testing System) or the "DET" ([Duolingo English Test](#)) can be submitted.

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<sup>5</sup> GRE is strongly recommended for Robotics Ph.D.s.; it is optional (but valued) for the Computer Science Ph.D.; it is optional for the Software Engineering and LTI Ph.D.s.; it is not required in ECE, EPP and HCI

Click [here](#) to register in the GRE test. Now GRE offers the possibility of making the test at home, while maintain also the option of making the test on-site. Currently in Portugal, this test can only be taken in Lisbon. GRE Scores are valid for five years; older scores will not be considered. An English proficiency test is required for international applicants whose native language is not English. For the School of Computer Science, candidates who are currently working on or have received a bachelor's and/or a master's degree in the U.S. and whose native language is not English may submit an expired test score up to five years old (from August 20, 2015). For the College of Engineering, candidates who have received a bachelor's and/or a master's degree in the U.S. or are a CMU student or alum do not need to present an English proficiency test. To meet the application deadline, we recommend applicants to take the required tests during October 2020. The scores should be submitted directly to CMU.

## Research Topics

Research topics available for Ph.D. Scholarships, as well as the supervisors at both CMU and Portugal, are defined by the CMU Portugal Program. Hence, candidates do not need to present a work program or an adviser's support letter and CV at the time of application. Financial assistance is granted on the basis of the student's potential for scholarship and creative research, and their fit with the research topics available.

## 2. Financial Support

### 2.1 CMU Portugal Doctoral Program Funding

The dual degree student's funding is supported by FCT through the Carnegie Mellon Program and is available for a period of up to 5 years (2 years during the student's stay at Carnegie Mellon University and 3 years at Portugal). The announcement of the call for scholarships is available in the [FCT Website](#).

### Scholarships Support and Duration

The dual degree Ph.D. programs have a typical duration of 5 years, in order for the student to meet the requirements of both universities involved, thus spending three years in Portugal and two years in the United States of America. Typically, students start the coursework in a Portuguese university – currently there are six Portuguese universities involved (Aveiro, Coimbra, Lisboa, Minho, Nova de Lisboa, and Porto) – then spend a period of time at CMU, in Pittsburgh, in the United States of America, and finally return to Portugal to complete the Ph.D.

The Ph.D. students enrolled in the dual degree Ph.D. program will receive financial support in a form of a Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program Fellowship that will cover tuition fees paid directly to the institution and a monthly stipend. While staying in Portugal, the accepted candidate will receive the fellowship directly from FCT. While pursuing their studies at Carnegie Mellon, the Ph.D. students will receive the FCT funding through the home department of the doctoral program in which they are enrolled.

Once the candidate accepts the admission offer, instructions on the steps to be followed will be provided. Awarded scholarships shall start on the beginning of the 2021/2022 academic year.

## 2.2 Other Sources of Financial Assistance

As an alternative to direct funding from the CMU Portugal Program, candidates to the dual degree doctoral programs may be able to secure financial assistance through a regular FCT Ph.D. studentship supplemented by additional funding at CMU. Prospective students **apply directly** to the program they are interested in. Please see above, in section 1 more information on how to apply. Candidates interested in exploring this and other alternative sources of financial assistance should contact potential advisors in Portugal and at CMU. More information about FCT Ph.D. studentships, and the application process, in particular, is available [here](#).

To know more about other funding opportunities contact us at: [apply@cmuportugal.org](mailto:apply@cmuportugal.org) .

## B. SELECTION PHASE

### 3. Selection process and results announcement

The application, selection, and admission of the candidates are in accordance with the procedures adopted by the corresponding Department at Carnegie Mellon University as well as the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships (article 11). Evaluation is based on the merit and motivation of the applicant as assessed through the application.

Once the set of students admitted for the dual degree program at CMU is found, then these candidates are ranked by the evaluation panel for awarding scholarships and admission in the Portuguese University in the scope of the CMU Portugal Program.

The evaluation panel will have a committee for each one of the Ph.D. Programs available in this call. These committees will be composed at least by 3 professors, from which at least one must be affiliated to CMU and the remainder from a Portuguese University affiliated with the CMU Portugal Program. The evaluation panel will be coordinated by the Directors of the CMU Portugal Program. The evaluation panel will be publicly announced in the CMU Portugal Program webpage after the admissions period is closed and before the beginning of the evaluation process.

The evaluation panel will review the submitted applications, weighting the review elements, and ranking the candidates according to the following criteria: “Academic and Professional Merit” (20%), namely the academic path of the candidate and related activities, as well as the relevant professional experience in the area of the Ph.D.; “Alignment with the CMU Portugal Program” (20%), specifically with the its main areas of action; “Impact in the National Research and Innovation Strategy” (20%), in what regards the potential contribution of the research that will be developed to Portugal; “Motivation Letter” (15%); “Recommendation Letters” (15%); “TOEFL/IELTS/DUOLINGO” (5%)<sup>6</sup>; “GRE” (5%). The GRE will not be considered as an

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<sup>6</sup> It is strongly recommended the reading of the specific requirements of the Ph.D. Program to which the candidate is applying in what regards the acceptance of the IELTS test or Duolingo test

independent evaluation criteria for the Ph.D. Program in which it is optional, as mentioned before. In these cases the criteria “Academic and Professional Merit” will correspond to 25% of the evaluation. The alignment of a candidate to one of the research projects funded by the CMU Portugal Program under the 2019 Call “[Large-scale collaborative research projects](#)”, may constitute a preferable selection criteria. In this case, the evaluation panel will request to the project principal investigators an assessment on the candidate’s adequacy to the scholarship. Individual interviews may also be considered in the final phase of the evaluation.

## **C. SCHOLARSHIP AND REGISTRATION**

### **4. Scholarships request to FCT and announcement of the results**

Based on the list of candidates to be admitted, CMU informs the prospective candidates of their admissions status. Each candidate will be given a deadline to accept or decline the admissions offer. The list of candidates who accepted the offer is sent to the Coordination of CMU Portugal, which then gathers all necessary items, including the evaluation panel report and makes the submission of the formal request for Ph.D. scholarships to the President of FCT. After the FCT approval, results are published in the CMU Portugal website, under the “[Admissions and Scholarships](#)” page.

### **5. Students registration and scholarship contract**

As soon as the CMU Portugal scholarship is approved, both CMU Portugal Coordination Offices in Portugal and at CMU will start the process of registration of the student and also formalizing the student funding in CMU and Portugal. We strongly recommend the reading of the [student guide](#) for all the information concerning the documents that are needed for the FCT contract.

Please note that the FCT scholarship contracts for the students starting at CMU will only be issued and signed when the student moves to Portugal. The student should send a communication to the CMU Portugal coordination office in Portugal 3 months in advance, stating that he/she is going to move from CMU to the Portuguese university.

### **6. Scholarship starting date and beginning of the academic year**

The CMU Portugal scholarship starting date will be September 2021 for the most cases, which coincides with the beginning of the academic year in Portugal in most Universities.

We strongly recommend the reading of the [student guide](#) for more information on the required VISA if you are planning to start the Ph.D. in the United States or residence card if you are planning to start the Ph.D. in Portugal.

**Thank you for your interest in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program!**

Please take a look around to learn more about the CMU Portugal Program. If you have any questions, please visit our [F.A.Q.](#) and [News](#) pages. Should you still have any unanswered questions, feel free to contact us via email: [info@cmuportugal.org](mailto:info@cmuportugal.org).