

CALL FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS (AE2020-0026)

INESC TEC is now accepting grant applications to award 1 Research Initiation Grant (BII) within the scope of the INESC TEC LA, funded by National Funds through FCT - Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P., project (reference UIDB/50014/2020), for 36 months.

1. GRANT DESCRIPTION

Type of grant: Research Initiation Grant (BII)

General scientific area: COMPUTER SCIENCE

Scientific subarea: Informatics

Grant duration: 6 months, starting on 2020-06-15, with the possibility of being renewed for a maximum term of one year.

Scientific advisor: Fábio André Coelho

Workplace: INESC TEC, Braga, Portugal

Maintenance stipend: € 412,00, according to the table of monthly maintenance stipend for FCT grants, paid via bank transfer. Grant holders may be awarded potential supplements, according to a quarterly evaluation process (Articles 19, 21 and 22 of the Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC and Annex II), up to a maximum limit of 50% of the monthly maintenance stipend.

Costs attributable to INESC TEC may include registration, enrolment or tuition fee stipend, either directly or through reimbursement, during the grant duration.

The grant holder will benefit from health insurance, supported by INESC TEC.

2. OBJECTIVES:

This grant pursues work within the field of solutions for distributed databases. Today, query optimisation mechanisms are good candidates to consider the latest trends in machine and deep learning, producing adjustments and forecasts to reduce query execution costs, and adjust query execution plans. In this grant, the goal is to adopt machine learning techniques, particularly deep reinforcement learning strategies within the query optimiser of distributed SQL queries.

3. BRIEF PRESENTATION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME AND TRAINING:

- State of the art review regarding the internals of distributed databases, namely their query optimisers.
- Design of machine learning techniques, considering reward functions to autonomously adjust query execution;
- Implementation of a Proof-of-concept prototype that introduces reinforcement learning techniques within the query optimiser;
- Performance evaluation and continuous improvements;

4. REQUIRED PROFILE:

Admission requirements:

Enrolled student in the "Mestrado Engenharia Informatica" - Masters degree in Informatics Engineering
The awarding of the fellowship is dependent on the applicants' enrolment in study cycle or non-award courses of Higher Education Institutions.

Preference factors:

Knowledges and experience with PostGreSQL and its query optimiser;

Minimum requirements:

- Knowledge and experience with Apache Calcite;
- Solid knowledge of distributed systems;
- Solid knowledge with Java programming language;
- Proficiency in Portuguese and English language (written and spoken) ;

5. EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS AND SELECTION PROCESS:

Selection criteria and corresponding valuation: the first phase comprises the Academic Evaluation (AC), based on the criteria referred to in Article 12 of the Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC, while the second phase comprehends the Individual Interview (EI). All factors are evaluated on a scale of 0 to 100, taking into account the applicants' merit, suitability and conformity with the preference factors.

The weight of the AC factors are as follows: Academic Qualifications (FA, 50%), Scientific Publications (PC, 10%), Experience (EX, 20%) and Motivation Letter (CM, 20%).

Candidates who score less than 50 points in the AC average will be considered excluded on absolute merit. The top five candidates approved on absolute merit will be qualified for the individual interview. The Final Grade (CF) is obtained by the weighted average of AC (70%) and EI (30%).

The Selection Jury is composed of the following members:

President of the Jury: Fábio André Coelho
Full member: Ricardo Pereira Vilaça
Full member: João Tiago Paulo
Substitute member: José Orlando Pereira

Release of results and prior hearing: the results of the selection process, as well as the terms and procedures for prior hearing, will be released to the applicants by email, under the terms referred to in Article 13 of the Regulations for Studentships and Fellowships of INESC TEC.

6. FORMALISATION OF APPLICATIONS:

Application Documents:

1. Motivation letter;
2. Curriculum Vitae (must include the list of previous fellowships, their type, beginning and end dates, funding entities and host institutions);
3. Certificate or diploma degree dully recognised in Portugal;
 - Documents proving the awarding of academic degrees and diplomas, or the according recognition - in cases of academic degrees or diplomas granted by a foreign higher education institution - can be dismissed in the application process, and replaced by the applicant's declaration of honour, with the verification of said condition taking place during the grant's hiring stage.
4. Proof of enrollment in a degree awarding study cycle or in a non degree awarding Higher Education program.
 - The proof of enrollment may be presented just during the grant hiring stage.
5. Signed declaration stating not having benefited from any other research fellowship (Article 5, no. 5)
6. Documental evidence to support the country of residence, residence permit or other legally equivalent document, in cases where the applicant is a foreigner or non-resident in Portugal - valid until the beginning of the grant.
7. Other supporting documents relevant to the final assessment.

Failure to deliver the required documents within the 90-day period after the date of the notice of the conditional awarding of the grant implies its cancellation.

Application period: From 2020-05-15 to 2020-05-28

Submission of applications: the application will be formalised by submitting the form available in the *Work With Us* section of INESC TEC website.

7. BINDING LEGISLATION AND REGULATION

The hiring process shall comply with the current legislation regarding the Research Grant Holder Statute, approved by Law no. 40/2004 of August 18, in its current wording, as well as by the Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC and for [FCT Grants Regulation in force](#).

For more information, please check the Regulations for Grants of INESC TEC and relevant annexes at www.inesctec.pt/bolsas

