

BRU-FCT PhD Scholarships

BD_BRU-FCT_01_2026

The Business Research Unit (BRU-Iscte) is awarding **2 doctoral scholarships**, financed through its pluriannual FCT funding (National Foundation for Science and Technology) with the funding reference UID/315/2025.

I. RECIPIENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. The scholarships may be awarded to national and international students who are enrolled or that gather the conditions to be enrolled in one of the PhD programmes run by BRU-Iscte, namely:
 - a. PhD in Economics
 - b. PhD in Finance
 - c. PhD in Management, with seven specialisations.
2. Only applicants who have obtained a grade equal to or higher than fourteen (15/20) in at least one of their academic degrees (Bachelor's or Master's) can apply.
3. Additionally, only applicants who meet the following conditions can be considered for the purpose of awarding the scholarship:
 - a. Obtain a final evaluation score for the scholarship award equal to or higher than 15.5 out of 20;
 - b. Rank among the top 25% of students with the highest final evaluation in the admission results for the respective PhD programme (if the applicant has not yet applied for the PhD programme, they will be admitted conditionally until the evaluation of the admission results are available, which may in turn result in their definite admissibility or exclusion).
4. The **BRU-FCT PhD Scholarship** cannot be accumulated with other full-time scholarships.

II. FINANCING

1. The scholarship is awarded for 12 months and may be renewed annually up to a maximum of 48 months, or until the defence of the doctoral thesis, whichever comes first.
2. The amount of the scholarship, on a full-time basis, is € 1,359.64, in accordance with the table of grants awarded directly or indirectly by FCT, I.P. in Portugal (<https://www.fct.pt/financiamento/programas-de-financiamento/bolsas/>), paid monthly by bank transfer to the grant holder and subject to any applicable adjustments. The scholarship holder will be covered by a personal accident insurance in relation to research activities and may also, if they so wish, exercise their right to social security by joining the Voluntary Social Insurance scheme in accordance with the provisions of the Research Fellowship Statute (EBI), with the funding body

assuming the costs arising from contributions in accordance with the terms and limits set out in that statute.

III. APPLICATION PERIOD AND COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

1. The applications for the BRU-FCT PhD Scholarship are open between **May 11, 2026** and **July 13, 2026**.
2. The evaluation results will be communicated to the candidates via email, sent to the address provided during the application process, by July 31, 2026.

IV. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. The application must be submitted through Iscte Knowledge and Innovation's recruitment platform at <https://recrutamento.iscte-iul.pt/jobs/765> and include the following documents:
 - a. A motivation letter in which the candidate clearly states their reasons for seeking the scholarship, including:
 - i. Their availability for full-time exclusive dedication to the development of their doctoral studies;
 - ii. The motivation for pursuing the doctoral degree, indicating whether it aligns with professional development or an academic career path (research and/or teaching);
 - iii. Any additional information deemed relevant to the assessment that demonstrates the candidate's ability to successfully complete the proposed project.
 - b. Proposed research project which should include a development plan, the objectives and motivation of project (up to a maximum of 1500 words);
 - c. At least two letters of recommendation attesting the scientific relevance and potential contribution of the proposed research project. At least one of the letters must be from an academic or researcher, and the second may be from a professional with recognized experience in the field of the doctoral program. The letters must include the contact details of the individuals writing them, so the Evaluation Committee can reach them if necessary.
2. The Evaluation Committee may request applicants for additional documents and clarifications deemed necessary for the evaluation of the applications.
3. Each applicant is allowed to submit only one application, or all submitted applications will be cancelled.
4. Applicants may request a review of the results within 10 working days after the results are communicated.

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. The Evaluation Committee assesses and ranks the students in accordance with the criteria and weightings set out in Annex A.
2. Candidates are evaluated on a scale from 0 to 20, and those with a final score below 15.5 are not considered eligible for the scholarship.

VII. DEADLINE FOR ACCEPTANCE

1. Within five working days after receiving the award notification, the student must submit a formal declaration accepting the scholarship under the proposed terms.
2. Failure to submit the declaration will result in the candidate's exclusion.

VIII. SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

1. The scholarship may be renewed up to the limits set in number 1 of article II, depending on the Evaluation Committee's assessment and BRU-Iscte's budget availability.
2. The scholarship holder must submit a renewal request to the BRU-Iscte Director no later than 60 days before the start of the new scholarship period, along with a positive letter from the supervisor, for subsequent assessment by the Evaluation Committee and renewal agreement by the BRU Director.
3. The renewal of the scholarship requires:
 - a. Submission of a detailed report on the work carried out and results achieved to date, including at least the following points:
 - i. Development of the project in the aspects referred to in points 1.b and 2.b in Annex A.
 - ii. Scientific publications.
 - iii. Presentations at conferences, workshops, and other events, including URLs of the presentations.
 - b. Submission of a written and signed evaluation report by the supervisor(s).
4. The Evaluation Committee in office at the time of the request will evaluate the renewal request.

IX. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The members of the Evaluation Committee are the BRU-Iscte Director and the Directors of the three PhDs programmes define in article I in office at the time of evaluation.

X. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The grantee must mention the financial support of BRU-Iscte (host research unit) and FCT in all scientific publications and presentations resulting from the PhD work, during and after the scholarship period. The acknowledgement should mention: **'This work was supported by Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, grant UID/315/2025 (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.54499/UID/00315/2025>)'**. Any presentations or materials must also clearly show the FCT logo.

XI. CHANGE OF RESEARCH PROJECT, SUPERVISOR, OR HOST RESEARCH UNIT

The grantee shall not substantially alter the aims of the proposed research project, or the host research unit without the consent of the supervisor and the Scientific Committee of the Doctoral programme.

Annex A

The evaluation of applications is based on the following criteria:

A. MERIT OF THE CANDIDATE (70%)

- Overall assessment of academic, scientific, and professional curriculum (50%)
- Evaluation of motivation for applying for the scholarship (10%)
- Interview (40%)

B. MERIT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT (30%)

The merit of the research project proposed by the candidate is evaluated based on the following criteria:

Weight	Criteria	Points
20%	Relevance and innovation of the project for the scientific field	Between 0 and 20
20%	Quality of the state-of-the-art and proposed methodology	
20%	Contribution of the project to advance scientific knowledge	
20%	Planning and feasibility of the project	
20%	Contribution to the strategic objectives of the research unit, and social impact of the project	

Note: All the assessment parameters shall be graded on a scale of 0 to 20 points.