

Terms and Conditions for applications to Merit Scholarships for 3rd Cycle Students of the Iscte Business School, at Iscte-Instituto Universitário de Lisboa – 2026/2027

According to Regulation no. 815/2025 (Regulation for the Award of Scholarships to 3rd Cycle Students of Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon), published in Diário da República, 2nd series, nº 130 dated July 9, 2025, and Deliberation nº 958 dated December 12, 2025, of Conselho de Gestão, the Iscte Business School announces a call for applications for (4) Merit Scholarships. The scholarships are intended to support doctoral students in developing their scientific and pedagogical skills, leading to a PhD degree. The scholarship renewal is subject to the appraisal of the Evaluation Committee and to the availability of funds in the School budget.

I. RECIPIENTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Merit scholarships may be awarded to national and international students who are enrolled and registered for the first time in the 1st year of one of the doctoral programs of Iscte Business School in the academic year 2025/26, or enrolled and registered for the first time in the 1st year of one of the doctoral programs of Iscte Business School in the academic year 2026/27, on a full-time and exclusive dedication basis.
2. In the case of applications from students who are attending the first year of their doctoral program for the first time, the award of the scholarship will also be dependent on the successful completion of all course units of the doctoral program and the research project at the end of the first year, except in doctoral programs where students only receive approval of the research project at the end of the second year.
3. Only applicants who have obtained a grade equal to or higher than fifteen (15/20) in at least one of their academic degrees (Bachelor's or Master's) can apply.
4. Additionally, only students who meet the following conditions are 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 evaluations;

- c. Have no outstanding debts to Iscte.
5. The merit scholarship cannot be accumulated with other scholarships.
6. The award of the merit scholarship is incompatible with the exercise of a dependent or independent work activity, under the conditions set out in the Regulations for the Award of Scholarships to 3rd Cycle Students of Iscte – University Institute of Lisbon.

II. FINANCING

1. The scholarship is awarded on a yearly basis, by academic year, and may be renewed for a maximum of three years after enrolment in the first year of the program, or for the maximum number of years corresponding to the duration of the program.
2. The scholarship takes the form of a subsidy, paid monthly by bank transfer and in accordance with the conditions described in the terms of acceptance signed by the grantee (scholarship contract) and does not contemplate, nor designate, subordinate work relations, nor is it a contract of services rendered. The scholarship contract defines the scientific and pedagogical activities to be carried out.
3. The monthly amount of the Merit Scholarship corresponds to the reference amount established by FCT for national doctoral scholarships, to which can be added the voluntary social insurance corresponding to the first level, should the candidate choose to be awarded it, personal accident insurance and exemption from paying tuition fees. The scholarship does not provide other allowances, such as food subsidy, holiday subsidy, or subsidies for other purposes not included in the Iscte Regulations for Merit Scholarships.

III. AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

Iscte Business School grants three (3) Merit Scholarships available for students enrolled in the PhD programs in Management with 7 Specializations, or PhD in Economics, or PhD in Finance, and one (1) Merit Scholarship for students enrolled in the Doctor of Management (DBA) program, exclusively for the DBA program not held in partnership with other universities.

IV. APPLICATION PERIOD AND COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS

1. The deadline for submitting applications for the Merit Scholarships is 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.

V. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

1. The application must be submitted through Iscte's recruitment platform at <https://recrutamento.iscte-iul.pt/bo/jobs/736>, and include the following documents:
 - a. Application form, available at: <https://recrutamento.iscte-iul.pt/bo/jobs/736>,
 - b. A Motivation letter, in which the candidate should objectively present the reasons for expressing interest in the scholarship, including:
 - i. Their availability for exclusive dedication to the development of their doctoral studies;
 - ii. The motivation behind pursuing the doctorate, indicating whether it aligns with professional development or integration into an academic career (research and/or teaching);
 - iii. Any other elements deemed relevant for the assessment of the expression of interest, which help demonstrate that the candidate meets the necessary conditions to successfully carry out the proposed project.
 - c. Proposed research project which should include a plan for its development and implementation, stating the objectives and motivation (up to a maximum of 1500 words);
 - d. At least two letters of recommendation attesting to the scientific relevance and potential contribution of the proposed research project – at least one of the letters must be from a career academic or researcher, and the second may be from a professional with recognized experience in the field of the doctoral program for which the student is applying for the scholarship.
 - e. An updated Curriculum Vitae, including publications and other relevant scientific activities.
2. The Evaluation Committee may also request applicants to submit any additional documents, as well as any clarifications deemed necessary for the assessment of the applications.
3. Each applicant may submit only one application, under penalty of cancellation of all submitted applications.

4. Applicants can request a review of the results up to 10 working days after the communication of the results.

VI. EVALUATION CRITERIA

1. The Evaluation Committee shall assess and rank 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 following the notification of the scholarship award, the student must formally declare their acceptance of the scholarship under the proposed conditions.
2. Failure to submit the declaration will result in the candidate's exclusion.

VIII. SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL

1. The scholarship may be renewed for a maximum of up to three years after enrollment in the first year of the program, or for the maximum number of years corresponding to the duration of the respective doctoral program, depending on the Evaluation Committee's assessment and the School's budget availability.
2. In the case of a scholarship awarded to a student enrolled for the first time in the 1st year of one of the Iscte Business School doctoral programs in the 2025/26 academic year, its renewal is limited to the remaining number of years, excluding the first year which is already in progress.
3. The scholarship holder must submit a renewal request to the Evaluation Committee no later than 60 days before the start of the new scholarship period.
4. The renewal of the scholarship requires:
 - a. A pass grade in all the curricular units stipulated in the program for the year in question;
 - b. Approval of the thesis project in the curricular year of the respective program, as

well as the successive progress reports if these are conditions for progression to the next year;

- c. Submission of a detailed report of 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.

- d. Submission of a written opinion signed by the supervisor(s).

- 5. Each renewal request will be evaluated by the respective Evaluation Committee in office at the time of the renewal.

IX. EVALUATION COMMITTEE

The members of the Evaluation Committee are Professors João António Rodrigues Madeira, José Manuel Gonçalves Dias, Sofia de Sousa Vale, Nádia Nogueira Simões Crespo e José Carlos Gonçalves Dias.

X. ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The grantee must mention the financial support of Iscte and BRU-Iscte (host research unit) in all scientific publications resulting from the Ph.D. work, during and after the scholarship period.

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 program.

Annex A

1. Students enrolled and registered for the first time in the 1st year of one of the Iscte Business School doctoral programs in the 2025/26 academic year

The evaluation of applications is based on the following criteria:

a. MERIT OF THE CANDIDATE (70%)

- Overall assessment of academic, scientific, and professional curriculum (30%)
- Academic progress in the doctoral program (20%)
 - Average grade of the mandatory curricular units at the end of the 1st year
- 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 of the project for the scientific field	Between 0 and 20
20%	Quality of the state-of-the-art and proposed methodology	
20%	Scientific support for the research problem	
20%	Planning and feasibility of the project	
20%	Contribution to the scientific area, to the scientific 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.

2. Students enrolled and registered for the first time in the 1st year of one of the Iscte Business School doctoral programs in the 2026/27 academic year

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 of the project for the scientific field	Between 0 and 20
20%	Quality of the state-of-the-art and proposed methodology	
20%	Scientific support for the research problem	
20%	Planning and feasibility of the project	
20%	Contribution to the scientific area, to the scientific 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.