

BRU-Iscte Seed Funding for Early-Career Researchers' Projects

Regulation

Article 1 – Subject Matter

This document establishes the operating rules for the BRU-Iscte *Seed Funding* for Early-Career Researchers' Projects.

Article 2 – Objectives

To encourage the submission of innovative proposals from early-career researchers who are integrated or associated members of BRU-Iscte or students enrolled in one of BRU-Iscte's doctoral programmes.

Article 3 – Amount, Submission Rounds, and Duration

1. The competition will start in 2026 and is open to submissions twice a year, with four evaluation moments until the end of 2027. Each evaluation moment will consider applications as follows:
 - a. The first round considers project proposals submitted up to **June 15, 2026**;
 - b. The second round considers project proposals submitted up to **November 15, 2026**;
 - c. The third round considers project proposals submitted up to **June 15, 2027**;
 - d. The fourth round considers project proposals submitted up to **November 15, 2027**.
2. The competition funds projects up to a maximum value of € 20,000 (twenty thousand euros). Unattributed funds in one round may be allocated to the subsequent round of the competition until the total budget reserved for this call – € 80,000 (eighty thousand euros) – is spent.

3. The maximum duration for each of the funded projects is 24 months, starting from the date of signing the acceptance agreement.

Article 4 – Eligibility

Principal Investigators (PIs) must be either:

- Students enrolled in one of BRU-Iscte's doctoral programmes, or
- Members of BRU-Iscte (Integrated or Associated), who have completed their PhD less than 5 years ago.

Article 5 – Submission of Applications

Applications can be submitted at any time using the provided online form <https://bru.iscte-iul.pt/research/applications/seedfunding/>, but no later than November 15, 2027.

Only applications that include all the required elements in the application form will be accepted.

Article 6 – Evaluation Criteria

The evaluation of proposals will be carried out by a panel of three members appointed by the Scientific Committee of BRU-Iscte. The evaluation of projects is based on the following criteria:

1. Scientific quality and innovation of the proposal (40%);
2. Potential for societal impact (20%);
3. Execution capacity and adequacy of resources (20%);
4. Scientific merit of the PIs (20%).

Article 7 – Results

1. The selected projects in each evaluation round will be announced within two to three months after the cut-off date for each round.

2. The results will be communicated via email to the PIs and published on the BRU-Iscte website.

Article 8 – Obligations of the Beneficiaries

1. Signing the acceptance agreement within 10 business days after notification of the results.
2. Presentation of:
 - a) Progress report (at the end of the first 6 months);
 - b) Interim report (after the first 12 months), which will be assessed by the evaluation panel and may result in a reduction of funding in case of a negative assessment;
 - c) Final report due within 30 days of project completion.
3. The funding is exclusively for expenses directly related to the execution of the project.
4. Any omissions or exceptional situations will be resolved by the Scientific Committee of BRU-Iscte.
5. Applying implies full acceptance of these rules.
6. Outputs and dissemination activities resulting from the project should acknowledge the funding scheme with the following disclaimer:

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7. Any presentations or materials must also clearly show the FCT logo.