

NOTICE NO. 029/2026

COMPETITION FOR THE AWARD OF A GRANT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE RESEARCH GRANT REGULATIONS OF UALG AND FCT

Title: 1 Research Grant

A competition is open for the award of one Research Grant (graduated) within the scope of the R&D project 101080665 – ASP-belong – “Augmented Social Play (ASP): smartphone-enabled group psychotherapeutic interventions that boost adolescent mental health by supporting real-world connection and sense of belonging”, Horizon Europe, with the following conditions:

1. **Scientific Area:** Computer Science.

2. **Admission Requirements:**

Graduation in Computer Science, Informatics Engineering, or related area.

Speaking and writing proficiency in English and Portuguese Languages.

Preference will be given to candidates with experience in Unity 3D.

Taking into account paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 (Research Grants) of the Research Grants Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology Or paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5, Research Grants, of the University of Algarve Grants Regulations:

“1. Research grants, hereinafter referred to as BI, are intended for R&D activities by students enrolled in an integrated master's degree, a master's degree or a doctorate, with a view to consolidating their scientific training through the development of research work leading to the award of the respective academic degree, whether or not integrated into R&D projects.

2. The scholarships referred to in this article may also be intended for the performance of R&D activities by graduates or masters enrolled in non-degree courses integrated into the educational project of a higher education institution, developed in association or cooperation with one or more R&D units.”

3. **Project Objectives:**

This work will take place in the context of the project ASP-belong, and aims to design, implement, and evaluate serious games prototypes that incorporate elements of augmented reality, collaborative puzzles, and storytelling, and it involves the following tasks:

- a) Designing and development of collaborative puzzles using augmented reality and proximity detection mechanics.
- b) Implement of a serious game using the collaborative puzzles in Unity 3D.
- c) Usability tests with users.

4. **Applicable Legislation and Regulations:** Research Fellow Statute, approved by Law No. 40/2004 of August 18, as amended by Decree-Law No. 65/2024 of October 1, and the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.pdf>). and the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.diariodarepublica.pt/2s/2019/12/241000000/0009100105.pdf>).

5. **Workplace:** The work will be developed at Faculty of Science and Technology from the University of Algarve, under the supervision of professor João Dias.

6. **Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled for May of 2026. The scholarship contract can be renewed.

7. **Monthly maintenance allowance amount:** The monthly maintenance allowance is €1,090.98. The maintenance allowance will be paid monthly by bank transfer. (<https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2026/03/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM-2026.pdf>).

8. **Candidate evaluation:** In accordance with the provisions of Article 11.2 of the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations OR the Foundation for Science and Technology Research Grant Regulations In the Science and Technology field, the evaluation of candidates will be based solely on the following criteria:

Applicant's merit (80%)

Motivation letter (20%)

10. Composition of the Application Evaluation Board: The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):

- João Dias (President) (Prof. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);
- Paula Ventura Martins (Effective member) (Prof^a. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);
- Marielba Zacarias (Effective member) (Prof^a. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);
- Helder Daniel (Replacement member) (Prof. Auxiliar, Departamento de Engenharia Eletrónica e Informática);.

11. **Publication/Notification of Results:** The final evaluation results will be published on the Ualg website, in a list ordered by the final grade obtained, and the successful candidate will be notified via email.

12. **Application Deadline and Submission Method:** The competition is open from **24/04/2026 to 08/05/2026**.

13. **Applications must be accompanied by the following documents:**

- a) Official identification document (simple copy or legal equivalent). Applicants of non-Portuguese nationality must present a residence permit, permanent residence certificate, or long-term resident status, valid on the scholarship start date. Any of these may be replaced, in its absence, by a declaration of honor by the candidate. However, this must be submitted during the scholarship contracting phase, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b) Curriculum Vitae;
- c) Copy of the qualification certificates for the academic degrees held, specifying the final grade and, if possible, the grades obtained in all courses taken;
- d) Other documents deemed relevant due to the type and modality of the scholarship.
- e) The Application for Application to the Competition, dated and signed, must be addressed to the President of the Competition Evaluation Panel, <https://www.ualg.pt/sites/default/files/documentos/2022-12/anexo-iii-requerimento-para-candidatura-bolsa-pt.pdf>, by email to jmdias@ualg.pt, with reference ASP-belong in

the subject. In the aforementioned application, **you must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding process being sent to the indicated email address.**

14. Documents to be submitted for the scholarship agreement:

- a. Individual Taxpayer Registry (INV) information, if the applicant is a nationality other than Portuguese, must be submitted during the scholarship agreement process, under penalty of forfeiture of the scholarship award;
- b. Documents proving that the applicant meets the requirements for the respective type of scholarship, namely, proof of enrollment and registration and the study cycle or course that does not confer an academic degree;
- c. Declaration of the advisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, in accordance with Article 5-A of the Research Scholarship Statute, as well as guaranteeing the necessary conditions for the successful development of the work and compliance with the duties set forth in Article 13 of the Research Scholarship Statute;
- d. Declaration of Commitment to the Exclusive Dedication Regime.

15. Deadlines and Procedures for Complaints and Appeals:

Candidates may, if they so wish, comment on the draft decision to award the requested scholarship, at a hearing for interested parties within 10 business days, under the terms and for the purposes set forth in Article 121 of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

Candidates have the right to complain to the evaluation panel within 10 business days regarding the commission or omission of any act.

An appeal may be filed against the final decision of the application evaluation panel to the Rector within 10 business days of notification.

16. Scholarship Contract:

After receiving all required documentation, a scholarship contract will be signed with the selected candidate(s) in accordance with the attached template.

17. Evaluation of Fellow(s):

At the end of each fellowship contract period, the advisor will evaluate the fellow(s)' work by applying the following criteria, in accordance with the attached template.

- a) Compliance with working hours and attendance;
- b) Compliance with the work plan;
- c) Support given to the research and development needed for the ASP-belong project.

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the scholarship award procedure, within the scope of the aforementioned Project, whenever funding does not materialize or the scholarship duration exceeds the project completion date.

University of Algarve, April 10th of 2026

The Principal Investigator

Professor João Dias