

NOTICE NO. 66/2026

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

Title: 1 Bolsa de Investigação - Mestre

A competition is open for the award of 1 Bolsa de Investigação - Mestre within the scope of the R&D project SIGNFLOW: Ecosistema Inteligente de Comunicação e Aprendizagem em Língua Gestual/ Visual Computing Lab, NOVA LINCS – UAlg, ALGARVE-FEDER-03682900 - SIGNFLOW - 27702, funded PT2030-SIID -I&D Empresarial - Copromoção, under the following conditions:

- 1. Scientific Area:** Language Sciences.
- 2. Admission Requirements:** Applicants may apply if they hold a Master's degree (or an equivalent academic qualification, EQF Level 7), preferably in Portuguese Sign Language and Deaf Education, Portuguese Sign Language Teaching, or a directly related scientific field. Applicants may also hold a Bachelor's degree in Portuguese Sign Language, Portuguese Sign Language Translation and Interpreting, or a directly related scientific field; however, in such cases, possession of a Master's degree in the field of Language Sciences or a related scientific area is mandatory.

Taking into account paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 6 of the Research Grants Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology or paragraphs 1 and 2 of Article 5 of the University of the Algarve's Research Fellowship 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:** Development of the linguistic component of the SIGNFLOW project, including the linguistic analysis of Portuguese Sign Language (LGP) and American Sign Language (ASL) as the project's reference languages and, where applicable, comparison with other sign languages; the definition and validation of annotation protocols and glossing conventions; linguistic validation of translations generated by the system; curation of annotated multilingual datasets; collaboration with the Deaf community, interpreters, and end users through co-design sessions and usability pilots; and participation in the preparation of reports and scientific publications.
- 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/2021/10/21000000/0013700149.pdf>).
- 5. Workplace:** The work will be carried out on-site at the Visual Computing Lab (NOVA LINCS – UAlg), Building 32, Room 1.50, at the School of Engineering of the University of Algarve, Penha Campus, under

the scientific supervision of Professors Pedro J. S. Cardoso, Jorge Manuel Evangelista Baptista, and Joana de Carvalho Folgado Lessa.

- 6. Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled for September 2026. The grant contract may be renewed until 30/06/2029, taking into account the University of Algarve Research Grant Regulations (<https://files.dre.pt/2s/2021/10/21000000/0013700149.pdf>).
- 7. Monthly maintenance allowance amount:** The monthly maintenance allowance is €1359.64. 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 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: (a) Applicant's academic and curricular merit; failure to provide evidence of qualifications/certification demonstrating a high level of proficiency in Portuguese Sign Language (LGP) and in Portuguese (the latter requirement applying only to non-native speakers of Portuguese) constitutes an exclusion criterion. Proficiency in these languages must correspond to QECRL/CEFR Level C1. Native speakers of Portuguese may replace this requirement with a sworn declaration. Preference in the ranking of candidates will be given to applicants demonstrating proficiency in English at QECRL/CEFR Level B2 or higher (0–20 points; 40%). (b) Demonstrated experience or technical expertise in the linguistic analysis of Portuguese Sign Language; the definition and validation of annotation protocols and glossing conventions; the linguistic validation of translations generated by automated systems; and the curation of annotated multilingual datasets. Relevant experience also includes collaboration with the Deaf community, interpreters, and end users in co-design activities, usability testing, and solution validation, as well as participation in the preparation of technical reports and scientific publications (0–20 points; 40%). (c) Interview (0–20 points; 20%), intended to assess the suitability of the candidate's profile for the project objectives, motivation, communication skills, and proficiency in Portuguese Sign Language. The interview will include the participation of a Portuguese Sign Language Interpreter, who will provide a technical assessment regarding the level of proficiency demonstrated by the candidate for the purpose of evaluating this specific requirement. Candidates obtaining a score below 10 points in the assessment of academic and curricular merit will not be admitted to the interview stage. The Evaluation Panel reserves the right not to award the research grant to candidates whose final score is below 13 points.
- 9. Composition of the Application Evaluation Board:** The Application Evaluation Board is composed of three full members and one alternate (all PhDs):

Pedro Jorge Sequeira Cardoso (Presidente) (Professor coordenador; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);

Jorge Manuel Evangelista Baptista (1º Vogal efetivo) (Professor associado com agregação; Faculdade de Ciências Humanas e Sociais);

Joana de Carvalho Folgado Lessa (2º Vogal efetivo) (Professor coordenador; Escola Superior de Educação e Comunicação);

João Miguel Fernandes Rodrigues (1º Vogal suplente) (Professor coordenador principal; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);

Jaime Afonso do Nascimento Carvalho Martins (2º Vogal suplente) (Professor adjunto; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);

10. 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.

11. Application Deadline and Submission Method: The competition is open from **09/07/2026 to 22/07/2026**.

12. 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 pcardoso@ualg.pt, Ref.ª 66/2026. In the aforementioned application, **you must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding process being sent to the indicated email address.**

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. Scholarship Contract:

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

16. 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 the established working schedule and attendance requirements;
- (b) Compliance with the work plan, specifically regarding linguistic validation, dataset curation, and co-design activities involving the Deaf community;
- (c) Validation of pilot studies and usability reports involving Deaf participants.

The University of Algarve reserves the right to cancel the fellowship award process, within the scope of the Project in question, whenever funding is not awarded or the scholarship duration exceeds the project completion date.

University of Algarve, 06 of July of 2026

The Principal Investigator

Professor (Pedro Jorge Sequeira Cardoso)