

NOTICE NO. 65/2026

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:** Computer Engineering.
- 2. Admission Requirements:** A Master's degree (or an equivalent academic qualification, EQF Level 7) in Computer Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, or a closely related scientific field is required. The candidate must demonstrate, through their curriculum vitae and supporting documentation, proven experience in all of the following areas: natural language processing and machine translation (sequence-to-sequence modelling, NMT, glosses); deep learning, Transformers, and multimodal modelling; large language models and linguistic contextualization; and systems integration and software engineering for R&D (microservices, gRPC/Protobuf, Git, and integration of AI modules). On-site work at the Visual Computing Lab (NOVA LINCS – UAlg), Building 32, School of Engineering (ISE), Penha Campus, Faro, is mandatory, with full-time dedication and a starting date in September 2026. Proficiency in technical and scientific English is required (minimum B2 level or equivalent).

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 multimodal translation models and natural language processing for sign languages, including (i) sequence-to-sequence machine translation and gloss modelling, with temporal and visual encoders, multimodal fusion, and cross-attention; (ii) linguistic contextualization using large language models, namely fine-tuning for gloss-to-text and text-to-gloss translation; and (iii) systems integration and software engineering for R&D, including the deployment of models within a microservices architecture, with validation of the developed models and systems on sign-language data.

- 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>).
- 5. Workplace:** The work will be carried out on-site at the Visual Computing Lab (NOVA LINCS – UAlg), Building 32, Room 1.50, School of Engineering of the University of Algarve, Penha Campus, under the scientific supervision of Professor Pedro J. S. Cardoso.
- 6. Duration of grant(s):** The grant will last 12 months, with the start date scheduled for September of 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/2021/10/210000000/0013700149.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: merit of the candidate, merit of the work plan (if applicable), merit of the proposed training plan (e.g., academic qualifications, curricular path, required research experience, other admission requirements), with the respective weighting of (indicate the values assigned to each method and their percentage weighting).
- 9.** The evaluation process may include an interview with the candidates or a portion of them, to be selected by the Evaluation Panel, which will have a maximum weighting of 20%.
- 10. 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);
João Miguel Fernandes Rodrigues (1º Vogal efetivo) (Professor Coordenador Principal; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
Jaime Afonso do Nascimento Carvalho Martins (2º Vogal efetivo) (Professor Adjunto; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
Roberto Célio Lau Lam (1º Vogal suplente) (Professor Adjunto; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
Pedro Miguel Mendes Guerreiro (2º Vogal suplente) (Professor Adjunto; Instituto Superior de Engenharia);
- 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 **09/07/2026** to **22/07/2026**.

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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 pcardoso@ualg.pt, Refª. 65/2026. In the aforementioned application, **you must expressly consent to all notifications related to the bidding process being sent to the indicated email address.**

Código de campo alterado

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 requirements;
- (b) Compliance with the work plan, specifically the development of the visual gesture encoding and semi-supervised learning modules;
- (c) Validation of the developed software through testing on sign-language video data.

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, 6 of July of 2026.

The Principal Investigator

Professor (Pedro Jorge Sequeira Cardoso)