

Research Studentships (for Master or Integrated Master students)

Applications are open for 1 (one) Research Studentship(s), within the framework of project/R&D institution (DCLGP), (2022.06596.PTDC), financed by national funds through FCT/MCTES (PIDDAC), under the following conditions:

Scientific Area: Computer Science and Engineering: Human-Computer Interaction

Admission Requirements: To be enrolled at an integrated master or a master.

Workplan: Portuguese Sign Language (Língua Gestual Portuguesa – LGP) is very young relative to other languages, being officially recognised in 1997. Often, deaf individuals, communities or professionals decide on what signs to use on a local or temporal basis. Thus, multiple signs for the same term are often created, used and/or lost. Such lack of standardization creates obstacles for language growth as well as learning, communication, and collaboration between LGP signers. This is especially relevant when new vocabulary arises without an obvious corresponding sign. Examples of terms include the covid-19 pandemic or technological advances such as generative AI; both terms do not have an obvious sign, leaving the Deaf community in need of tools and mechanism to agree on meaningful signs. In the case of LGP, the small size and geographic dispersion of the signers presents major obstacles to this sort of natural language growth.

In this project, we want to empower Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing communities to take ownership of LGP through a community-based web platform. This work will build on an existing web dictionary and augmenting it with crowdsourcing features for proposal, discussion, and deliberation about new signs. Users will be able to post videos of signs, participate in discussions, and reach a consensus about the most appropriate sign of a given term. Agreed signs will be added to the official dictionary, making it a community-driven living resource.

The candidate will be part of a multidisciplinary team composed of designers, linguists, developers, and LGP signers.

The candidate of this scholarship is expected to conduct three main tasks: First, User research to understand governance requirements related to LGP growth. Second, the candidate will Extend an existing LGP web dictionary with crowdsourcing capabilities. Third, the candidate will evaluate the solution with target users. S/he will engage in an iterative and user-centred development process with the Deaf community.

Legislation and Regulations: Statute of Scientific Research Fellow, approved by Law nr. 40/2004, of August 18, as worded by Decree-Law nr. 123/2019, of August 28; FCT Regulation for Research Studentships and Fellowships, available on <https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/docs/RegulamentoBolsasFCT2019.pdf> and <https://dre.pt/application/file/a/127230968>.

Workplace: The work will be developed at the Interactive Technologies Institute / LARSyS of Associação do Instituto Superior Técnico para a Investigação e Desenvolvimento (IST-ID), under the scientific supervision of Prof. Hugo Miguel Aleixo Albuquerque Nicolau, Principal Investigator, Associate Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), researcher at ITI/LARSyS.

Duration: The research fellowship(s) will have the duration of 12 months (not renewable). It's expected to begin in 09/2024.

Monthly maintenance allowance: According to the values for Research Fellowships awarded by FCT in Portugal (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Tabela-de-Valores-SMM_atualizacao-2024.pdf), the amount



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of the monthly maintenance allowance is € 990.98, being the payment method an option of the Fellow by Wire Transfer/Check.

Selection methods: The selection methods will be the following: Curriculum evaluation based on academic record of the candidate and interest for the following areas of research: Human-Computer Interaction, Accessibility, and Education Technologies. The top three candidates may be interviewed, with the respective weight of 50% to the curricular evaluation and 50% for the interview.

Composition of the selection Jury: Hugo Nicolau (Associate Professor, IST); Nuno Nunes (Full Professor, IST); Valentina Nisi (Full Professor, IST).

Announcement/ notification of the results: The final evaluation results will be communicated to all applicants by email.

Deadlines and procedures of complaint and appeal. A complaint may be lodged from the final decision within 15 working days, or an appeal to the Executive Board of IST-ID within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification

Application deadline and formalization: The call is open from July 24 until August 6, 2024.

It is mandatory to formalize applications with the submission of the following documents: i) B1 Form – Fellowship application (<https://ist-id.pt/concursos/bolsas/>); ii) *Curriculum Vitae*; iii) academic degree certificate, where applicable; iv) proof of enrollment at an degree course (Master or Integrated Master); v) motivation letter;

Applications must be submitted to the email: hugo.nicolau@tecnico.ulisboa.pt



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