(BL305/2024_IST-ID)

Research Studentships (Master or Integrated Master students)

Applications are open for 1 (one) Research Studentship(s), within the framework of project DCitizens: Fostering Digital Civics Research and Innovation in Lisbon, Grant Agreement 101079116, financed by European Commission funds through the European Research Executive Agency (REA), 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: This project scholarship centers on enhancing and expanding DCitizens web platform, a digital resource designed to empower communities through interactive and inclusive tools. The primary objective is to transform the platform into a comprehensive solution for bilingual education in Portuguese Sign Language (LGP) and Portuguese, with a focus on accessibility, user engagement, and innovative design.

By building on the platform's existing features, including its web dictionary and community-driven functionality, the project will integrate an educational game tailored for mixed-ability classrooms. This will provide an engaging tool for inclusive bilingual learning while further establishing the platform as a versatile resource for educators, students, and the Deaf community.

The candidate will collaborate with a multidisciplinary team comprising designers, developers, linguists, and LGP signers to accomplish the following tasks:

1. **User Research**: Conduct a detailed investigation into the needs of classrooms and community members to inform the development of platform features. This will include identifying requirements for LGP and Portuguese bilingual education.

2. **Platform Development and Game Integration**: Focus on maintaining and enhancing the **DCitizens web platform** by incorporating a mixed-ability educational game. This game will complement the platform's existing tools, such as its web dictionary and crowdsourcing features, while offering an interactive approach to learning.

3. **Evaluation and Iterative Improvement**: Test the platform's new features, including the educational game, with educators, Deaf and hearing students, and the broader community. User feedback will guide iterative improvements, ensuring the platform meets accessibility and usability standards.

By prioritizing the DCitizens web platform, this project underscores its role as a central tool for addressing the lack of digital resources for LGP learners. While the platform is tailored to the needs of Deaf and hearing children in primary schools aged 6–10 years, its development emphasizes scalability and adaptability, supporting a wide range of educational and community-building purposes.

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; IST-ID Research Fellowships Regulation, available on https://ist-id.pt/files/sites/43/regulamento-de-bolsas-da-ist_id-2.pdf .

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 will have the duration of 12 months (not renewable). It's expected to begin in 01/2025.

Monthly maintenance allowance: the amount of the monthly maintenance allowance is € 990.98, being the payment method of the Fellow by wire transfer.

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 Web Development (e.g., SveltKit). 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.

Application deadline and formalization: The call is open from December 16 until December 20, 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, dina.dionisio@tecnico.ulisboa.pt