

Call for Expressions of Interest for Visiting Scholars at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) under the MIT Portugal Program

Applications submission from 23 February 2026 to 31 March 2026

The MIT Portugal Program through University of Minho, as host institution “*Entidade de Enquadramento*”, and with the support of *Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia* (FCT) is announcing a Call for Expressions of Interest under the Visiting Scholars Program, for visits to Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) under the MIT Portugal Program.

The present Call for Visiting Scholars is launched according to Regulation no 913/20211 of 15 October of the Portuguese Foundation of Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT), which sets out the rules and requirements for awarding financial support to individuals undertaking Knowledge and Technology Transfer Activities.

The Call is aimed at **faculty members, researchers, and Master’s or PhD students** affiliated with institutions in Portugal who wish to be considered for **short-term research period (3¹-7 months)** at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The application submission period will run from **February 23, 2026 to March 31, 2026 (23:59, Lisbon time), and all visits must be completed by December 31, 2026.**

MIT Portugal will support visiting periods through the project “*Acordo para a Gestão e Coordenação do Programa MIT Portugal 2026*” under FCT regulations “[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)”, pending on funding available by FCT/ Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (MCTES) through national funds and under the following conditions:

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1. FRAMEWORK

The MIT Portugal Program (MPP) is a strategic international partnership between Portuguese universities and research institutions, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the Portuguese government, as well as partners from industry and other non-academic institutions.

Under the Management and Coordination Agreement “*Acordo para a Gestão e Coordenação do Programa MIT Portugal 2026*”, signed between FCT and the University of Minho – the latter being the

¹ Requests for research periods shorter than three (3) months may be exceptionally considered upon the submission of a duly justified request. Such periods may not be shorter than one (1) month and are restricted to faculty members only.

Program's host organization in Portugal responsible for the overall management and implementation of the Program's activity plan, including this Call for Visiting Scholars – this call is launched.

This call has a budget envelope that will provide financial support to scholars visiting for a period running between three (3¹) to seven (7) months which must start by no earlier than June 1st, 2026, and end before December 31st, 2026.

2. OBJECTIVES

Under the Visiting Scholars Program, beneficiaries can spend three (3¹) to seven (7) months working in research at MIT (Cambridge, MA, USA), being mentored by leading faculty and researchers, while immersed in the University's culture. Through the Visiting Scholar Program, beneficiaries will have the status of visiting students or visiting scholars at MIT.

Applicants admitted to the scheme will benefit from an immersive experience in MIT's ecosystem to explore and develop institutional/faculty/departmental-level collaborations, engage in interdisciplinary and collaborative research with scientific peers and acquire and transfer new knowledge. Funded visiting periods should offer a springboard to collaborative work (e.g. joint publications, joint projects) between hosts and visiting researchers well beyond the visiting period at MIT.

3. BENEFICIARIES AND ELIGIBILITY RULES

To be eligible for visiting period, applicants must be proficient in English and comply with the following criteria at the time of submission of their applications and throughout their stay at MIT:

- a) Hold Portuguese nationality or, in the case of non-Portuguese citizens, have permanent residence in Portugal.
- b) Hold a Master's or Doctoral degree or, if not, be enrolled in a Master's or Doctoral Program in Portugal.
- c) Be officially affiliated with a non-business entity of the research and innovation ecosystem, namely:
 - i. Higher education institutions, including their institutes and R&D units;
 - ii. State Laboratories, Associated Laboratories, or international laboratories headquartered in Portugal;
 - iii. Private non-profit institutions whose main activity is R&D, including Collaborative Laboratories (CoLABs) and Technology and Innovation Centers (CTIs);
 - iv. Other public or private non-profit institutions engaged in or participating in scientific research activities;
- d) Have a MIT faculty willing to support the application and host the candidate for the indicated period.

If the candidate has a valid work contract with a company or institution which is expected to overlap with the internship under the Visiting Students Program, then it should request to that entity a declaration in which the company or institution acknowledges and supports the candidate's application to the Program.

Applicants who do not meet the required criteria for application submission and fail to submit any of the mandatory documents listed in the section "APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE" of this announcement will be ruled ineligible. Their applications will not be evaluated.

By the time the placements start, scholars must also be allocated to the exchange under a scheme of exclusive dedication. Nevertheless, the Program is not in a position to prevent the organization of an admitted candidate from providing them with financial assistance in addition to the allowance received through the Program.

It is the participants' sole responsibility to check and notify the MIT Portugal Program about potential conflicting issues concerning their full-time participation in the exchange and the receipt of other funds prior to signing a contract with the Program. The same holds true for any changes in the mandatory requirements for which the applicants were ruled eligible at application submission.

Candidates with fellowships funded directly or indirectly by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology must check directly with this entity, not the Program, whether they can receive additional funding under this mobility initiative.

Failure to comply with the eligibility rules may result in the non-allocation or cancellation of the financial assistance foreseen under this Call.

4. LEGISLATION FRAMEWORK

The current call is open under FCT regulations “[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)” (Regulamento nº913/2021 - Diário da República n.º 201/2021, Série II de 2021-10-15, páginas 84 - 92).

5. DURATION

Internships must last from three (3) months (minimum) to seven (7) months (maximum) and start between June 1st, 2026 and be completed by December 31st, 2026. Requests for research periods shorter than three (3) months may be exceptionally considered upon the submission of a duly justified request. Such shorter periods may not be less than one (1) month and are restricted to faculty members only.

6. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The monthly amount of the internship is two thousand and five hundred euros (2.500,00 €). Apart from the monthly internship stipend, the beneficiaries will also have their health insurance covered up to one hundred and fifty euros (150,00 €) per month while at MIT, and will also receive a one-time travel fee of one thousand euros (1.000,00€). The beneficiaries' rights and duties are fully described in articles 15 and 18 of FCT's “[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)” regulations.

7. SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION

The activities developed under the Visiting Scholars Program will be overseen by the MIT Portugal Program Co-Director Alexandre Ferreira da Silva, Assistant Professor at University of Minho and MIT Portugal Program Co-Director João Pedro Barreto, Associate Professor at University of Coimbra. The beneficiaries will hold a courtesy appointment at University of Minho while the visit is ongoing.

The beneficiaries will be also integrated into a Department and/or Research Center at MIT and will have a MIT Faculty host. Before application submission, applicants must have identified the MIT faculty or researcher who will act as their scientific host and supervisor. Thus, applicants are encouraged to proactively look for potential hosts at MIT and contact them in advance because before the application submission. The call website

<https://mitportugal.org/competitive-calls/2026-call-for-expressions-of-interest>

provides online resources that potential applicants may use to identify suitable MIT hosts to contact. The Program is also available to assist candidates in this search through the following contact: info@mitportugal.org

The supervisors and host institution rights and duties are described in articles 16, 17, 19 and 20 of FCT's “[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)” regulations.

8. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation and selection of the candidates will take place in accordance with articles 11 and 12 of FCT's “[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)” regulations.

Applications will be evaluated by the MIT Portugal Program Directors on a scale from 0 to 5, based on the following criteria:

- Analysis of the applicant's motivation and support letters (20%);
- Scientific robustness and quality of the proposed work plan (25%);
- Curriculum vitae of the applicant (35%);
- Alignment of the proposed work with the main research areas of the MIT Portugal Program (20%).

The assessment of the documents and curricular components will account for 85% of the final evaluation. The remaining 15% will result from an interview, for which a selected group of top-running candidates will be invited based on the results of the initial evaluation.

The selection process is expected to take one month after the application deadline, and all the applicants will receive feedback by email.

The final evaluation results will be publicized through an ordered list in the MIT Portugal Program website page, and the candidates will be notified of the jury's decision by email.

9. EVALUATION PANEL

The evaluation process will be overseen by the MIT Portugal Program Directors and will involve an evaluation panel, whose members are:

- Rodrigo Ventura, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon
- Ana Sofia Guimarães, University of Porto
- Marta Lopes, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra
- Miguel Cerqueira, International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory
- Manuel Cabral Reis, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro
- André Mendes de Carvalho, NOVA University Lisbon
- Susana Sargento, University of Aveiro
- Georgina Miranda, University of Aveiro
- José Gaspar, Instituto Superior Técnico, University of Lisbon

10. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND DEADLINE

The application period will open on February 23rd, 2026 and close on March 31st, 2026. All applications should be submitted through an online application form available

<https://mitportugal.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/87698/zJnrcYrIBK>

with personal information, period of visit, work plan, hosting department at MIT and supervisor at MIT. For further information, please contact the MIT Portugal Program at info@mitportugal.org.

The supporting documents listed below must be submitted in pdf. form. Applications without the requested documents may not be considered and supporting documents presented in another format will not be considered by the evaluation panel.

The following documents should be attached to the online application form:

- a) Motivation Letter
- b) Support statement from the host at MIT.
- c) Support statement from the school/department lead, project PI or student advisor from a Portuguese Higher Education Institution.
- d) Detailed curriculum vitae, exported from CIÊNCIAVITAE platform.
- e) Statement of work (maximum 3 pages), including an annex with a detailed Gantt chart aligned with the statement of work.
- f) Contract statement, Declaration of enrolment or declaration of registration in a Portuguese Higher Education Institution Master Program in the case of candidates who are master/PhD students.
- g) Degree certificates*.

* For candidates with degrees granted by foreign higher education institutions, it is mandatory to have the recognition of the degree and the final classification conversion to the Portuguese scale. For more information, please visit <https://www.dges.gov.pt/en/pagina/degree-and-diploma-recognition>.

11. CONTRACT

A contract between University of Minho and the beneficiaries will be celebrated according to the FCT's "[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)" regulations, article 13.

12. INTERNSHIP REPORT AND SANCTIONS

Until 60 work days after the successful completion of the research period at MIT, beneficiaries will have to present to MIT Portugal a report which details the activities that were developed under the Visiting Scholars Program, together with assessments from the national supervisor/faculty lead/supporter and MIT host (in accordance with articles 18 to 20 of FCT's "[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)" regulations).

In case the beneficiaries do not fulfil any of the regulation's requirements, sanctions may take place according to article 22 of FCT's "[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)" regulations.

13. NOTIFICATION, PRIOR HEARING, COMPLAINT AND APPEAL DEADLINES

In accordance with FCT's "[Subsídio a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia](#)" regulations (article 11, paragraph 9), there will be no hearing of interested parties' period.

From the final decision, a complaint can be filed within 15 working days, or, alternatively, an appeal may be filed within 30 working days, both counted from the respective notification. Candidates who choose to submit a complaint must address their pronouncement to the FCT Board of Directors with delegated competence. Candidates who choose to submit an appeal must address the same to the FCT Board of Directors.

14. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY

University of Minho actively promotes a policy of nondiscrimination and equal access, so that no candidate may be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic situation, education, social origin or condition, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions and trade union membership.

Under the terms of D.L. No. 29/2001, of February 3, a disabled candidate has a preference when in equal classification, which prevails over any other legal preference. Candidates must declare on the application form their respective degree of disability, the type of disability and the means of communication / expression to be used in the selection process, under the terms of the aforementioned diploma.