

# Call for PhD Grants

Opening Notice  
2023 Edition



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## ACRONYMS

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>MPP</b>     | MIT Portugal Program  |
| <b>MPP2030</b> | MIT Portugal Partnership 2030   |
| <b>CV</b>      | Curriculum Vitae  |
| <b>FAQs</b>    | Frequently Asked Questions  |
| <b>EBI</b>     | Research Fellowship Holder Statute (acronym in Portuguese)              |
| <b>FCT</b>     | Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P.                            |
| <b>RBI</b>     | FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships (acronym in Portuguese) |

## USEFUL LINKS

MPP webpage for the Call for PhD Grants - 2023

<https://www.mitportugal.org/education/2023-call-for-phd-grants/>

FAQs

<https://www.mitportugal.org/education/2023-call-for-phd-grants/#FAQs>

CIÊNCIA ID

<https://www.ciencia-id.pt>

CIÊNCIAVITAE

<https://cienciavitae.pt>

SlideRoom Applicant Help Center

[https://help.liaisonedu.com/SlideRoom\\_Applicant\\_Help\\_Center](https://help.liaisonedu.com/SlideRoom_Applicant_Help_Center)

## Call Opening Notice for

### MPP2030-FCT PhD Research Grants

The MIT Portugal Program (MPP) opens a call to award 10 (ten) research grants, hereinafter referred to as MPP2030-FCT Research Grants, in the strategic area of the MPP of Climate Science & Climate Change, under the FCT Research Fellowship Regulation (RBI; abbreviation in Portuguese) and the Research Grant Holder Statute (EBI; abbreviation in Portuguese).

The grants will be financed by the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) under the Collaboration Protocol signed between FCT and the MIT Portugal Program (under the responsibility of University of Minho).

#### 1. APPLICATION

**The call is open between February 22, 2023 and March 22, 2023, 5 pm (Lisbon time).**

The applications and supporting documents for the candidacy listed in this Notice must be submitted, mandatorily, through the digital platform available at <https://mitportugal.slideroom.com/#/permalink/program/70747>

The application is filled out directly on the online platform, and is always available for viewing and editing until the moment the candidate submits the application. After submission, the candidate cannot cancel the application or make any changes.

Each applicant can only submit one (1) application, under penalty of cancellation of all applications submitted.

The candidate must be the author of the submitted application. False declarations or plagiarism by candidates are reasons for excluding the application, without prejudice to the adoption of other measures of sanctioning nature.

## 2. TYPE AND DURATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

MPP2030-FCT Research grants for doctorates are intended to finance the carrying out, by the fellow, of research activities **leading to obtaining the academic Doctor degree in Portuguese universities**, under exclusive dedication. These scholarships do not confer any academic degree awarded by MIT - Massachusetts Institute of Technology, nor do they guarantee periods of research at this American institution.

The research activities leading to obtaining the academic Doctor degree will take place at the host institution listed by the candidate in the application, which will be the host institution of the fellow without prejudice to carry out work in collaboration between more than one institution.

The research activities leading to obtaining the academic Doctor degree must be within the framework of the strategic research area of MPP of **Climate Sciences and Climates Change**. Furthermore, it may have a link to the other strategic areas of MPP, namely:

- Earth Systems: from Oceans to near Space
- Digital Transformation in Manufacturing
- Sustainable Cities

And

- Data Science

The work plan must take place entirely or partially in a national institution (scholarship in the country or mixed scholarship, respectively).

The duration of the scholarships is, as a rule, annual, renewable up to a maximum of four years (48 months), and a scholarship cannot be awarded for a period of less than 3 consecutive months.

In the case of mixed grants, the period of the work plan that takes place in a foreign institution cannot exceed 24 months.

### 3. RECIPIENTS OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

MPP2030-FCT Doctoral Research Grants are intended for candidates already enrolled in a PhD Program or candidates who satisfy the required conditions to enroll in a Doctoral Program of a Portuguese University, and who intend to develop research activities leading to the achievement of a Doctor degree.

### 4. ADMISSIBILITY

#### 4.1 Candidate's Admissibility Requirements

Can apply for this call:

- National citizens or citizens of other member states of the European Union;
- Citizens of third States;
- Stateless persons;
- Citizens enjoying political refugee status.

To apply for the Doctoral Research Scholarship it is necessary to:

- hold a Graduate (*licenciatura*) or Master's degree;
- live in Portugal permanently and habitually, if the work plan associated with the scholarship is partially carried out in a foreign institution (*mixed* scholarships), a requirement applicable to both nationals and foreigners;



- not having benefited from a PhD scholarship or a PhD studentship in industry directly funded by FCT, regardless of its duration;
- not having a PhD degree.

## 4.2 Application Admissibility Requirements

It is essential, under penalty of not being admitted to the call, to attach the following documents to the application:

- Elements of the identity card / citizen card / passport;
- [CIÊNCIAVITAE](#) account;
- Candidate's *Curriculum vitae* exported through the [CIÊNCIAVITAE](#) platform;
- Certificates of qualification of the academic degrees held, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all subjects taken, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how s/he completed the graduate or master's degree by the end the application deadline (**March 22, 2023, by 5 pm - Lisbon time**);
- Registration of recognition of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions and registration of the respective final classification conversion to the Portuguese classification scale, or, alternatively, the candidate's declaration of honor on how he obtained the recognition of the foreign degree equivalent to a graduate or master's degree until the end of the application period (**March 22, 2023, by 5 pm - Lisbon time**);
- Letter of Motivation;
- Letters of Reference (mandatory two - 2) **to be submitted directly by the references** until the end of the call (**March 22, 2023, by 5 pm - Lisbon time**). The candidate will identify two references for the letters (name, institution and email) during the application. The references will be contacted automatically by the Slideroom platform, by email, to submit the letter of reference. The candidate is responsible for monitoring the process and ensuring that all letters are submitted by the references by the end of

the competition (**March 22, 2023, by 5 pm - Lisbon time**). The letters of reference must refer to the call (MPP2030- FCT, edition 2022);

- CV of the supervisor team members affiliated with Portuguese Research and Higher Education institutions exported through the CIÊNCIAVITAE platform;
- Write the application and all documents associated with it, including letters of motivation and recommendation, in English or Portuguese.

Regarding the aforementioned admissibility requirements, the following should be noted:

- Only candidates who have completed the cycle of studies leading to the graduate or master's degree until the end of the application period (**March 22, 2023, by 5 pm - Lisbon time**) will be admitted;
- In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to candidates who hold foreign and national academic degrees, the recognition of these degrees and the conversion of the respective final classification is mandatory for the Portuguese classification scale;
- The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale can be requested in any public higher education institution, or in the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, abbreviation in Portuguese; only in the case of automatic recognition). Regarding this matter, it is suggested to consult the DGES portal through the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt>;
- The awarding of the scholarship is always dependent on the presentation of proof of ownership of the academic qualifications required to grant the scholarship.

## 5. WORK PLAN AND SCIENTIFIC SUPERVISION OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS

The candidate must present a detailed work plan about the thesis plan that s/he intends to carry out, in case s/he is awarded the MPP2030-FCT PhD scholarship. In this work plan, the candidate must include:

- the main scientific area;
- title of the work plan;
- keywords;
- abstract;
- review of the state-of-the-art;
- goals;
- detailed description of the work plan and tasks;
- thesis plan framework within the MIT Portugal strategy. If applicable, the candidate should mention participation in research projects funded by MIT Portugal Program and/or existing collaborations with the MIT;
- timeline;
- bibliographic references.

It should be noted that the curricular component of the doctoral program is not considered an integral part of the work plan.

The candidate must also list:

- the host institution;
- the doctoral program in which (s)he is enrolled or will enroll;
- the name(s) of the advisor(s) and their affiliation(s);
- the adequacy of the advisor team.

Each candidate can have a maximum of three associate advisors, one being the principal advisor (mandatory) and the other two co-advisors (optional). Excluding exceptional circumstances, duly explained, the advisor and co-advisors must be associated with at least one of the host institutions in order to guarantee a continuous and fruitful work with the candidate.

Any Ph.D. researcher, who is fully engaged in his/her activity, can be a scientific advisor or co-advisor.

## 6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The assessment takes into account the candidate's merit, the merit of the work plan and the merit of the hosting conditions.

Applications considered admissible will be scored on a scale of 0-20 in each of the following evaluation criteria:

– **Criterion A - Candidate's merit, weighting 40%;**

**Subcriterion A1.** Academic Path (which reflects the scores of academic degrees), weighing 50% of the candidate's merit;

**Subcriterion A2.** Personal curriculum (which reflects the scientific and professional, and academic, when applicable), weighing 40% of the candidate's merit;

**Subcriterion A3.** Motivation letter, weighting 10% of the candidate's merit.

The classification of Criterion A will be obtained by applying the following formula:

$$\text{Criterion A} = (0,5 \times A1) + (0,4 \times A2) + (0,1 \times A3)$$

Additional details on the scores to be assigned to candidates in Criterion A are given in the Annex I of this opening notice.

– **Criterion B - Merit of the Work Plan, weighting 40%;**

In this criterion, the candidate's proposal will be evaluated in its work plan component, which includes the reasoned relevance of the object of study, the scientific quality of the state-of-the-art review, the methodology of the work plan, and its feasibility. How the work plan contributes to the MIT Portugal strategy will also be assessed, and pre-established links with the MIT Portugal Program and/or MIT shall be taken into consideration.

Additional details about the classification to be assigned to candidates in criterion B are given in Annex II of this opening notice.

– **Criterion C - Merit of Host Conditions, weighting 20%;**

In this criterion, the panel will evaluate the scientific merit and the experience of the advisor(s) in the scientific area of the application, as well as their suitability for the candidate's supervision to obtain the academic Doctor degree, quality and adequacy of the conditions of host institution(s); and demonstration, made by the candidate, of the reasons for the choice of the orientation team (advisor(s) and host institution(s)).

Annex III of this opening notice contains further details on the classification to be given to candidates in criterion C.

For the purpose of deciding on the awarding of scholarships, applicants will be ranked according to the weighted average of the classification obtained in each of the 3 criteria, translated by the following formula:

$$\text{Final score} = (0.4 \times A) + (0.4 \times B) + (0.2 \times C)$$

For tie-breaking purposes, candidates will be ranked according to the scores assigned to each of the evaluation criteria in the following order of precedence: criterion A, criterion B, and criterion C.

**Important notes for candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions:**

- Candidates with diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions can apply and will be evaluated using the same criteria as candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, provided that they present, in their application, proof of recognition of academic degrees and the conversion of final classification for the Portuguese classification scale under the terms of the applicable legislation.
- Candidates with foreign degrees who do not show proof of conversion from the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale will be evaluated with the minimum classification (0 points) in subcriterion A1.
- In any case, scholarship contracts with candidates with diplomas issued by foreign institutions will only be concluded upon presentation of proof of recognition of academic degrees and conversion of the final classification, as stated above.

Candidates whose application is evaluated with a final score of less than 14 points are not eligible for a scholarship.

## 7. EVALUATION

The composition of the jury that will evaluate the applications is the following:

- [Chair] Júlia Seixas, School of Science and Technology, NOVA University Lisbon
- António Gomes Martins, Institute for Systems Engineering and Computers, University of Coimbra
- João Carvalho Nunes, University of Wageningen
- Rafaela Matos, Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil
- Rita Cardoso, Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon

The selection panel will assess applications in accordance with the evaluation criteria contained in this Call for Proposals, considering the elements of evaluation.

All the members of the jury, including the Chair, make a commitment to respect a set of responsibilities essential to the evaluation process, such as the duties of impartiality, the declaration of any potential conflict of interest situations and confidentiality. At all times during the evaluation process, confidentiality is fully protected and ensured in order to guarantee the independence of all opinions produced. Applicants with applications submitted to the call in a given scientific area, cannot be supervised by members of the evaluation panel (including the chairman) of that same scientific area.

For each application, a final evaluation score sheet will be produced by the panel in which the arguments that led to the ratings attributed to each of the evaluation criteria are presented in a clear, coherent and consistent manner.

Minutes of the responsibility of all members will be produced at the meetings of the selection panel. The minutes and their attachments must include the following information:

- Name and affiliation of all members of the selection panel;
- Identification of all excluded applications and respective reasons;
- Methodology adopted by the panel for particular cases considered;
- Final Evaluation Score Sheets for each candidate;
- Provisional list of classification and ranking of candidates, in descending order of the final classification, of all applications evaluated by the panel;

- COI statements from all members of the jury;
- Possible delegations of votes and powers due to justified absence.

## **8. DISCLOSURE OF RESULTS**

The results of the evaluation are communicated via email to the email address used by the candidate and indicated in the application.

## **9. DEADLINES AND PROCEDURES FOR PRIOR HEARING, COMPLAINT AND APPEAL**

After communication of the preliminary list of results of the evaluation, the candidates have a period of 10 working days to, if they wish, give their opinion at the prior hearing of interested parties, under the terms of articles 121 and following of the Code of Administrative Procedure.

The final decision will be rendered after the analysis of the pronunciations presented at the previous hearing of interested parties. 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 member of 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.

## **10. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDING REQUIREMENTS**

Research scholarship contracts are celebrated directly with FCT.

The following documents must be sent, when granting the scholarship, for the purposes of contracting:



- Copy of the civil, tax and, where applicable, social security identification document(s)<sup>1</sup>;
- Copy of the certificates of qualifications of the academic degree(s) held;
- Presentation of the registration record for the recognition of foreign academic degrees and conversion of the respective final classifications to the Portuguese classification scale, if applicable;
- Document proving enrollment and registration in the Doctoral Program to be attended by the fellow;
- Statement by the supervisor(s) assuming responsibility for supervising the work plan, pursuant to Article 5-A of the Research Fellow's Statute (template to be made available by FCT);
- Document proving the candidate's acceptance by the institution where the research activities will take place, guaranteeing the required conditions for its good development, as well as the fulfillment of the duties provided for in article 13 of the Research Fellow's Statute (template declaration to be made available by FCT);
- Updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime (template declaration to be made available by FCT).
- Commitment statement signed by the candidate and the advisor, stating that, regardless of the host institution in which the fellow is registered, s/he will participate in the activities developed by MIT Portugal Program, as well as respond to requests addressed to her/him (e.g., requests for information) for monitoring the student's individual process (template to be made available by MPP).

The granting of the scholarship is still dependent on:

- compliance with the requirements set out in this Opening Notice;
- the result of the scientific evaluation;

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<sup>1</sup> Alternatively, the candidate may opt for presenting these documents in person at the funding agency, which will keep the elements contained therein that are relevant for the validity and execution of the contract, including the civil, fiscal and social security identification numbers, as well as the validity of the respective documents.

- the absence of unjustified non-compliance with the grantee's duties under a previous scholarship contract financed, directly or indirectly, by FCT;
- FCT's budget availability.

Failure to deliver any of the documents necessary to complete the scholarship contracting process, within 6 months from the date of communication of the conditional scholarship decision, implies the expiration of the referred scholarship and the termination of the process.

## **11. FINANCING**

The payment of the scholarships will begin after the applicants return the duly signed scholarship contract, which must occur within a maximum period of 15 working days from the date of reception.

The grants awarded under this call will be financed by the FCT with funds from the State Budget and, when eligible, with funds from the European Social Fund, through the Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion Program (PDQI, in Portuguese), in accordance with the regulations established for this purpose.

## **12. SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS**

Scholarship recipients receive a monthly maintenance allowance in accordance with the table in Annex I of the RBI.

The scholarship may also include other components, under the terms set out in article 18 of the RBI and at the amounts provided for in its Annex II.

All scholarship holders benefit from personal accident insurance for research activities, supported by FCT. All scholarship holders who are not covered by any social protection regime can ensure the exercise of the right to social security through adherence to the

voluntary social insurance regime, under the terms of the Social Security System's Contributory Scheme Code, ensuring FCT the charges resulting from contributions under the terms and with the limits provided for in article 10 of the EBI.

### **13. PAYMENTS OF SCHOLARSHIP COMPONENTS**

Payments due to the grantee are made by bank transfer to the account listed by the grantee. The monthly maintenance allowance is paid on the first business day of each month.

The payments for the registration, enrollment or tuition components are made by FCT directly to the national institution where the fellow is enrolled in the PhD.

### **14. SCHOLARSHIP RENEWAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS**

The renewal of the scholarship always depends on a requirement submitted by the fellow, within 60 working days prior to the renewal start date, accompanied by the following documents:

- statements issued by the advisor(s) and by the host institution(s) on the monitoring of the grantee's work and the evaluation of his activities;
- updated document proving compliance with the exclusive dedication regime;
- document proving the renewal of enrollment in the cycle of studies leading to the Doctor degree.

### **15. INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY OF THE SCHOLARSHIP**

In all R&D activities directly or indirectly financed by the scholarship, namely, in all communications, publications and scientific creations, as well as theses, carried out with the support provided by the scholarship, the mention of financial support from FCT and the Social European Fund must be expressed, namely through the Northern Regional Operational

Program (NORTE 2020), the Regional Operational Program of the Center (Centro 2020) and the Regional Operational Program of Alentejo (Alentejo 2020). For this purpose, the FCT, MCTES, FSE and EU insignia must be inscribed in the documents referring to these actions, according to the graphic rules of each operational program.

The dissemination of results of research funded under the RBI must comply with the rules for open access to data, publications and other research results in rule at the FCT.

In all scholarships, and in particular in the case of actions supported by community funding, namely from the FSE, monitoring and control actions may be carried out by national and community bodies in accordance with the applicable legislation in this matter, having the grantees the obligatoriness to collaborate and provide of the requested information, which includes surveys and evaluation studies in this area, even if the scholarship has already ceased.

## **16. NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL ACCESS POLICY**

FCT promotes a policy of non-discrimination and equal access, so that no candidate can be privileged, benefited, harmed or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty due, namely, to ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, economic status, education, origin or social status, genetic heritage, reduced work capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic or race origin, territory of origin, language, religion, political or ideological beliefs and affiliation union.

## **17. APPLICABLE LEGISLATION AND REGULATION**

The call is governed by the present Opening Notice, by the FCT Research Scholarship Regulation, approved by Regulation No. 950/2019, published in the II Series of the DR of December 16, 2019, by the Research Scholarship Statute approved by the Law 40/2004, of August 18, in the current wording, and by other applicable national and community legislation.

## ANNEX I - Criterion A (Candidate's Merits) - Details

### Subcriterion A1 - Academic Path

The score for this sub-criterion is determined based on the final classifications that appear in the academic degree certificates presented by the candidate in the application form: (i) Licenciatura + Master / Integrated Master; (ii) Licenciatura only; or (iii) Masters only, according to Table 1.

**Table 1 - Reference table for defining the score for subcriterion A1 - Academic Path.**

| <u>Final Grade Average</u>   | <u>Final Grade</u>   | <u>Final Grade</u>   | <b>Sub-criterion A1 Score</b> |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Graduate (<i>licenciatura</i>) + Master degrees</b><br><br>(Pre- or Post- Bologna)<br><br><i>or</i><br><br><b>Integrated Master degree</b><br><br>(300-360 credits) | <b>Graduate degree (<i>licenciatura</i>)</b><br><br>(Pre- or Post- Bologna)<br><br>(180 credits) | <b>Master</b><br><br>(Pre- or Post- Bologna)<br><br>(90 - 120 credits) |                               |
| ≥ 17   | -  | -  | <b>20</b>                     |
| 16   | -  | -  | <b>18</b>                     |
| 15   | ≥ 17   | -  | <b>16</b>                     |
| 14   | 16   | ≥ 17   | <b>14</b>                     |
| ≤ 14   | 15   | 16   | <b>12</b>                     |
| -  | 14   | 15   | <b>10</b>                     |
| -  | ≤ 14   | 14   | <b>8</b>                      |
| -  | -  | ≤ 14   | <b>6</b>                      |

**Note:** the classification to be considered is the one contained in the respective degree certificates submitted at the time of application. In the case of qualification certificates whose final classification is presented with decimal places, it will be rounded to the nearest unit according to: when the decimal place is equal to or greater than 5, it will be rounded up in excess; when the decimal point is less than 5, the value will be maintained. In the case of calculating the simple arithmetic average between the degree classification and the master's classification, the classifications contained in the certificates (even if they

have decimal places) will be considered, with rounding being performed after obtaining the result of such average.

In order to apply the scores provided in Table 1, it is mandatory to submit, in the application area, the following documents:

- a) Certificate of qualifications of academic degrees, specifying the final classification and, if possible, the classifications obtained in all courses carried out. In “post-Bologna” training, you must present the certificates of the 1st and 2nd cycle of studies or, if it is not a bi-stage training, the integrated master certificate. In “pre-Bologna” courses, you must present the licenciatura and master certificates.
- b) In the case of academic degrees awarded by foreign higher education institutions, and in order to guarantee the application of the principle of equal treatment to candidates holding foreign and national academic degrees, the recognition of these degrees and the conversion of the respective final classification for the Portuguese classification scale is mandatory.
- c) The recognition of foreign academic degrees and diplomas as well as the conversion of the final classification to the Portuguese classification scale may be required in any public higher education institution, or in the Directorate-General for Higher Education (DGES, only in the case of automatic recognition). Regarding this matter, it is suggested to consult the DGES portal through the following address: <http://www.dges.gov.pt/>

For the purposes of applying Table 1, the following is considered:

- a) The final score of "licenciatura + masters", in a pre or post-Bologna, results from the simple arithmetic average of the final grade obtained in the 1st cycle [180 credits (ECTS)] / graduate degree (*licenciatura*) and the final grade obtained in 2nd cycle [90-120 credits (ECTS)] / master's degree, by applying the following formula:

$$\text{Final Score (graduate + masters)} = \frac{\text{1st cycle final grade (graduate)} + \text{2nd cycle final grade (masters)}}{2}$$

- b) In the case of integrated masters conferred by institutions that do not issue certificates with discrimination of the final grades of 1st and 2nd cycles, the final classification registered in the degree certificate is considered after completion of the cycle of studies [300 to 360 credits (ECTS)].
- c) If an integrated master's certificate [300-360 credits (ECTS)] and a pre-Bologna or 2nd cycle master's degree is presented, the final classification of the integrated master's degree must be considered.
- d) In the case of presentation of only licenciatura or master's certificate(s), the classifications in the respective columns of Table 1 apply.
- e) When candidates present more than one comparable licenciatura and/or master's degree (equivalent number of ECTS credits), it is up to the panel to decide which academic degree(s) is most suitable for the work plan and which should, therefore, be considered for the calculation of the classification of the academic path (subcriterion A1). For example, if a candidate presents a graduate certificate and more than a master's certificate, the panel should consider the master's that best fits the work plan. However, if a candidate presents certificates of integrated master and master of 2nd cycle of studies (without a degree certificate or 1st cycle of studies), the panel will necessarily have to consider the integrated master to calculate the classification of the academic path, as previously indicated. The evaluation panel should consider the other course(s) presented by the candidate in the evaluation of subcriterion A2, valuing his/her personal curriculum. In any case, the methodology decided and applied by the panel must be explained in the respective evaluation reports and in the minutes.
- f) For the purpose of calculating subcriterion A1, certificates that specify only a qualitative classification (for example, pre-Bologna master's degrees), it will be converted in the terms expressed in Table 2, for the purposes of calculating the final average (degree + master's degree) and consequent determination of the classification of the academic path (by applying Table 1).

**Subcriterion A1 will be assigned a classification of zero values (A1 = 0) in all cases that are not included in the situations provided in Table 1. Some examples are identified:**

- a) When certificates of qualification proving either the degree of master's degree or the degree of master (national or foreign) are not submitted, in the application stage, and are replaced by a declaration of honor from the candidate stating that (s)he completed the licenciatura's or master's degree by the end of the application period;
- b) When both national, undergraduate and master's certificates do not contain mention of the final classification obtained (neither qualitative nor quantitative);
- c) When both certificates obtained abroad, undergraduate and master's, are not recognized or the respective final classifications are not converted to the Portuguese classification scale.

**Tabela 2 – Conversion table for qualitative classifications.**

| Qualitative Classification               | Converted Classification |
|--|--------------------------|
| Excellent                                | 18                       |
| Very Good with Distinction               |                          |
| Praise and Distinction                   |                          |
| <i>Magna Cum Laude / Summa Cum Laude</i> |                          |
| Very Good                                | 16                       |
| Approved with Distinction                |                          |
| Good with Distinction                    |                          |
| <i>Cum Laude</i>                         |                          |
| Good                                     | 14                       |
| Approved / Approved by Unanimity         |                          |
| Fair                                     | 12                       |



## Subcriterion A2 - Personal Curriculum

In assessing this subcriterion, the evaluators must analyze and weigh the candidate's curriculum holistically, assessing in an integrated manner the merit of his academic, scientific and professional path. In this analysis, evaluators should consider:

- academic results that were not included in the calculation of subcriterion A1 - Academic Path (provided that the qualification certificates are attached to the application and, in the case of degrees obtained abroad, the respective recognition of degree / equivalence);
  - publications published in journals and/or presented at conferences, being considered only publications that have already been published, presented or accepted (provided that they are available in electronic format on the respective journal's page). The number of authors of the article, the candidate's relative position among the authors, and the journal's recognition in the scientific area to which the candidate is applying are aspects that will be considered in the evaluation.
  - Participation in scientific research projects.
  - Professional experience.
  - Relevant internationalization experiences, training in addition to the courses already evaluated in criterion A1, and other relevant experiences resulting from the candidate's training and professional activity.

Recommendation letters (mandatory documents) should also be considered, as well as the quality of the document or artistic achievement that the candidate presented as the most representative and relevant in his/her scientific/professional career.

Regarding letters of recommendation, the jury must pay attention to the nature of the document in relation to the generalities / peculiarities shared there.

The classification to be given in this sub-criterion must reflect a global and integrated view of the candidate's personal curriculum and must be justified in a detailed, clear and consistent manner.

### **Subcriterion A3 - Motivation Letter**

The classification to be given in this sub-criterion should take into account:

- the clarity with which the candidate identifies the reasons behind his/her candidacy;
- the maturity with which (s)he envisages carrying out the proposed research activities;
- the candidate's justification for selecting a more representative document.

### **ANNEX II - Criterion B (Merit of the Work Plan) - Details**

In this criterion, the candidate's proposal will be evaluated in respect to its work plan component, which includes:

- the reasoned relevance of the object of study;
- the scientific quality of the state of the art review;
- the methodology of the work plan and its feasibility;
- the contribution to MPP strategy.

In the analysis of the fundamental relevance of the object of study, the evaluation panel should consider the progress of the proposal in view of the state of the art, as well as the applicability and expected impact of the object of study.

Regarding the scientific quality of the state of the art review, the evaluation panel should consider its clarity, the bibliographic support, the current limitations and the definition of the opportunity explored by the proposal.

Regarding the methodology to be applied in the work plan, the evaluation panel must take into account its detail and reasoning.

In the feasibility component of the plan, the jury must analyze the adequacy of the presented methodologies and the proposed objectives, and the submitted schedule. It should also be considered the evaluation, if applicable, of the risk analysis of the proposed project, and contingency measures to overcome possible difficulties in accessing the data, for example.

In the contribution to MPP strategy, the jury should consider if the work plan is expected to present relevant data to advance this strategic area of the MIT Portugal Program - Climate Science and Climate Change – and link to the other MPP strategic areas, if applicable. In case of existing pre-established collaborations with MIT or participation in MPP funded projects, the jury should value these collaborations in their assessment.

### **ANNEX III - Criterion C (Merit of Reception Conditions) - Details**

In this criterion, the panel will evaluate:

- the scientific merit and the experience of the advisor(s) in the scientific area of the application, as well as their suitability for the candidate's supervision to obtain the academic degree of doctor;
- quality and adequacy of the host institution(s) conditions;
- and demonstration, made by the candidate, of the reasons for the choice of the supervisory team, consisting of supervisor(s) and host institution(s).

The evaluation of the supervisory team should focus on the scientific merit of the members that constitute it, through the analysis of the respective CVs submitted in the application.

In the component of host conditions, the evaluation panel should be based on the analysis of the demonstration made by the candidate regarding the means available at the host institution(s) and their suitability for their work plan.

Regarding the adequacy of the supervisory team, the reviewers should take into account the existence of the necessary skills to monitor the projects, the complementarity of skills

between members (in the case of co-supervisors) as well as the relevance of the participation of several members on the supervisory team.