

**Call for Application**  
**N.º 03/2024**  
**ATTRIBUTION OF A RESEARCH GRANT FOR A PHD STUDENT**  
**ON NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS**

The **Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon** (ICS-ULisboa) is an internationally recognised multi-disciplinary institute for social sciences, undertaking cutting-edge research in Anthropology, Demography, Economics, Geography, History, Political Science, Social Psychology, and Sociology. ICS-Ulisboa collaborates with the wider university in research and graduate studies, and with international partners through competitive research projects.

ICS-ULisboa opens a call for applications for 1 (one) research grant for a PhD student, as part of the NATURESCAPES research project, funded by Horizon Europe, grant agreement no. 101084341), under the supervision of Dr Bina who is ICS's PI for the project.

The research grant can be of the "in-country grant" or "mixed grant" type, depending on whether the work plan takes place entirely or partially in a national institution (depending on whether it is an in-country grant or a mixed grant, respectively).

### **Thematic description**

The doctoral student will work in a multi- and transdisciplinary team on a Horizon Europe research and innovation programme **NATURESCAPES: Nature-based solutions for climate resilient, nature positive and socially just communities in diverse landscapes**, which is coordinated by Utrecht University, and which includes 10 partners from nine countries.

NATURESCAPES addresses the pressing challenge of realising the transformative potential of nature-based solutions (NBS) for climate change, biodiversity loss and social justice.

Nature-based solutions (NBS) are interventions designed to use the properties of nature to address multiple sustainability challenges, notably climate change, and contribute to biodiversity. Despite their growing popularity, we lack an understanding of the synergies and trade-offs that multiple NBS bring and of who benefits and under which conditions. The challenge of implementing NBS remains significant. We need to understand how NBS can support transformative change on the ground. Moving beyond individual NBS to the naturescapes that they generate, the project will advance the assessment of synergies and trade-offs that NBS generate. Naturescape is the assemblage of NBS within a landscape whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and societal factors.

The NATURESCAPES programme aims to: 1) **Advance** knowledge through novel approaches to evaluate landscape scale synergies and trade-offs of NBS assemblages for climate, biodiversity and communities; 2) **Evaluate** the socio-political conditions and dynamics of NBS implementation to identify the values, visions, governance, finance and engagement needed to

support effective and just naturescapes; and 3) **Enable** the transformative potential of NBS by examining, developing and trialling diverse theories of change, interventions and training designed to address systemic, structural and capacity constraints.

The successful PhD candidate will be **working in a team of up to three other PhD candidates and three post-docs** involved in NATURESCAPES. Together, they will be contributing to the research on mapping, on existing imaginaries of nature, exploring co-governance and co-finance arrangements capable of supporting transformative naturescapes in conditions of socio-economic disadvantage, inequality, and risk. This work will draw on extensive case study data from naturescapes in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the United States, which represent vulnerable communities and regions such as old-industrialised, low-income, outermost, or disaster-hit areas. The position includes active collaboration and knowledge co-creation with various stakeholders and organisations within and outside the project including knowledge institutes, international networks, municipalities, policy makers, businesses, non-governmental organisations, community groups and citizens.

ICS is responsible for Work package WP3 – Mobilising and Contesting Naturescape Futures and Imaginaries, together with Lund University. The successful PhD candidate will support case study work for NATURESCAPE, including data collection in two of the twelve NATURESCAPE cities, and will define her/his individual doctoral project within the broad scope of WP3. More detail in Section 3 below.

An easy-to-read version of this call is available at [ICS website](#).

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## **1. Scientific Area (and relevant themes):**

Social Sciences, or other fields relating to these thematic areas: imagined futures, sociotechnical imaginaries, policy and politics of sustainable transformations, nature-based transformations, urban nature-based solutions.

## **2. Eligibility criteria:**

### **2.1. Candidates should possess as mandatory requirements:**

**2.1.a)** Applicants should hold an undergraduate degree or a Masters degree in Social Sciences, or other fields relating to these thematic areas: imagined futures, sociotechnical imaginaries, policy and politics of sustainable transformations, nature-based transformations, urban nature-based solutions;

**2.1.b)** Proof of enrolment in a PhD or Declaration of Commitment to enrol in a PhD in Social Sciences, or other fields relating to these thematic areas: imagined futures, sociotechnical imaginaries, policy and politics of sustainable transformations, nature-based transformations, urban nature-based solutions;

**2.1.c)** Applicants will have a strong **research interest and experience** within **two or more** of these research fields: imagined futures, sociotechnical imaginaries, policy and politics of sustainable transformations, nature-based transformations, urban nature-based solutions;

**2.1.d)** Applicants registered in PhD programmes that entail a first year of taught courses, should apply only if they have completed such first year by 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024.

### **2.2. Candidates should have the following preferential requirements:**

**2.2.a)** Have the following **research management skills and experience**: (i) Proven ability to work independently and to self-organize; (ii) Experience in archival and documentary research, interviews and participatory methods; (iii) Experience in critically reviewing literature, grey literature and primary data; and (iv) Knowledge in processing and analyzing qualitative and quantitative data;

**2.2.b)** Have **experience in writing academic papers** and research project **reports**. An international publication record in the field, as documented by own (can be as co-author) publications would be an asset for applicants for the PhD;

**2.2.c)** Have the following **language skills**: (i) English language proficiency (equivalent to Common European Framework of Reference-CEFR level C1 or higher); and (ii) Some proficiency in either Swedish, Italian, or Portuguese, at least in reading and analysing text for case studies, would be an asset.

### **3. Work plan:**

The main duties of the doctoral candidate are to devote her/himself to their research studies which includes participating in NATURESCAPES and pursuing their own doctoral research project, and to pursue selected training courses necessary for her/his doctoral research project.

Being part of the NATURESCAPES project, the position includes conducting high-quality social science research, publishing in international scientific journals, providing relevant recommendations to societal actors, supporting the development of user oriented outputs, and organising and participating in project related events together with other project partners working with ICS-Ulissboa (Lund University and Trinity College Dublin), and beyond.

Specific tasks of the doctoral student include:

- Conducting literature review on values and meanings of nature and how these are manifest in imaginaries and futuring techniques related to NBS and naturescapes;
- Contributing to develop an analytical framework on the role of imaginaries and futuring techniques in mobilising meanings and values of nature, and what transformative change these may entail;
- Conducting case studies of naturescapes in two of the following locations: Lisbon, Gothenburg, Cagliari and Phoenix (including field data collection and report writing) to trace the evolution of naturescape imaginaries over 20 years to reveal and categorise the values and meanings attached to nature in official and everyday discourse. Methods will include archival and documentary research, interviews and participatory methods;
- Contributing to the comparative analysis report of imaginaries in diverse naturescapes;
- Supporting the development of user oriented outputs, of impact and communication activities throughout the project;
- Contributing to initiatives related to practices of transformative change for Naturescapes.

### **4. Applicable legislation and regulations:**

4.1. Law no. 40/2004, of 18 August, amended by Decree-Law no. 202/2012, of 27 August, by Decree-Law no. 233/2012, of 29 October, by Law no. 12/2013, of 29 January, by Decree-Law no. 89/2013, of 9 July, and by Decree-Law no. 123/2019, of 28 August (Research Grant Holder Statute).

4.2. Regulations of the University of Lisbon Research Grant Regulations, approved by Dispatch no. 6238/2020 published in Diário da República, 2.a série, no 113, of 12 June, amended by Dispatch no 8061/2022 published in Diário da República, 2.a série, no 126, of 1 July and, alternatively, the Research Grant Regulations of the Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT, I.P.), Regulation no. 950/2019, Diário da República, 2a série, no 241, of 16 de December.

## **5. Workplace:**

For candidates to a PhD Scholarship the workplace will depend on the place where you register for a PhD and agreement with Doctor Olivia Bina; teleworking arrangements, regular online meetings, and up to a maximum of four ad hoc in presence meetings in Lisbon may be agreed with the candidate.

## **6. Scientific Orientation:**

Doctor Olivia Bina, responsible for the project under the scope of the present tender.

## **7. Duration of the grant:**

A bolsa terá a duração de seis meses, eventualmente renovável por períodos iguais ou diferentes ao máximo de 48 meses.

## **8. Amount of monthly maintenance allowance and Social Security:**

8.1) The monthly maintenance allowance is paid monthly by bank transfer.

8.2) If the work programme takes place entirely in Portugal ("in-country scholarship"), the monthly maintenance allowance is €1,259.64 (one thousand two hundred and fifty-nine euros and sixty-four cents).

8.2) If the work plan takes place partly in Portugal and partly abroad ("mixed scholarship"), the monthly maintenance allowance corresponds to €1,259.64 (one thousand two hundred and fifty-nine euros and sixty-four cents) for periods in Portugal and €2,068.65 (two thousand sixty-eight euros and sixty-five cents) for periods abroad. In this case, the maximum period abroad will be 24 months.

8.3) All values quoted here are exempt from income tax, paid monthly by bank transfer;

8.4) The grant holder to be hired may exercise his/her right to social security by joining the voluntary social security scheme, under the terms foreseen in the Research Grant Holder Statute, with ICS-ULisboa assuming the charges resulting from the contributions foreseen in that Statute.

## **9. Assessment criteria (selection methods and their evaluation):**

The selection of the candidates to PhD Scholarship will be made according to the eligibility criteria listed in item no. 2 of this announcement, considering:

9.1) **Curriculum evaluation**, in view of the project requirements and the specific nature of the research work to be developed, valued between 1 to 10 points (worth 25%);

9.2) **Letter of Motivation**, valued between 1 and 10 points (worth 25%);

9.3) The **research project** is valued between 1 and 10 points (40%).

9.4) An **interview** is valued between 1 and 10 points (10%).

The three candidates with the best scores in the assessment (curriculum evaluation, letter of motivation and the research project) will be interviewed, provided they score 4.5 points or more.

#### **10. Composition of the Selection Board:**

Doctor Olivia Bina (President), Doctor Roberto Falanga (1st Effective Member, who will replace the President in her absences and impediments), Doctor Lavinia Pereira (2nd Effective Member), Doctor Simone Tulumello (1st Substitute Member), Doctor Marco Allegra (2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute Member).

#### **11. Prior hearing and notification of interested parties:**

All candidates will be notified of the final result of the evaluation, sent to the email address used to send their application, and/or by mail, to the address on the Personal Data Form in Annex, through a list in descending order of the final evaluation obtained. Candidates may exercise the right of prior hearing, in writing, within ten working days from the notification. For that purpose, candidates may request the minutes to be sent by e-mail or consult the procedure documents in person at the Institute during office hours.

#### **12. Deadline for receipt of applications:**

The call is open from **26 February to 15 March 2024**.

#### **13. Instructions on how to apply:**

13.1 Applications should be **sent by e-mail**, to the address [recrutamentos@ics.ulisboa.pt](mailto:recrutamentos@ics.ulisboa.pt), with the following subject heading: "Concurso de Bolsas de Investigação n.o 03/2024"), under penalty of not being considered for the competition.

13.2 The applications shall be accompanied by the following documents and failure to submit any of these will result in your exclusion from the competition (it will not be possible to submit any of the following documents after the deadline set in item 12 above):

(13.2.a) **Personal Data Form and Declaration of Consent** for Communication of the Results via e- mail (see attached form);

(13.2.b) Detailed **Curriculum Vitae**; and where applicable, submit a digital copy of your master thesis or of an academic paper;

(13.2.c) **Motivation Letter**, maximum 2 pages long, that outlines: (i) the reasons why you are interested in the position; (ii) in what way the research project corresponds to your interests, educational background and experience; and (iii) how you can contribute to meet each of the requirements outlined in item 2 above.



(13.2.d) A **research project** linked to one or more areas listed under item 2.1.b, including: a working title, a detailed research statement where you clarify the motivation, aim and scope of the research, a succinct literature review, a proposed set of research questions and theoretical framework, a section on research methods & design enabling you to answer the research question. The proposal must specify the University and Department where you propose to register, and should be maximum 8 pages long, including bibliography.

(13.2.e) Contact information of three **referees**;

(13.2.f) **Proof of enrolment** in a PhD programme **or Declaration of Commitment** to enrol in a PhD programme, according to paragraph b) of point 2.1 of this Call;

(13.2.g) **Document(s) proving that the candidate fulfils the required conditions** for the type of grant being offered (see item 2.1.a above). How to meet this requirement will depend on where you obtained your degree:

(13.2.g1) If you hold a Portuguese degree that qualifies you for this position, please enclose the relative certificate(s) ensuring they show a final average or overall grade;

(13.2.g2) If the degree that qualifies you for this position was not issued by Portuguese higher education institutions (i.e. obtain abroad in Europe or overseas), please enclose both the original certificate(s) of the required academic degree showing a final average or overall grade, and:

- a certificate that proves that you have applied for an official recognition of the degree. You can obtain such certificate of recognition here: <https://www.dges.gov.pt/recon/formulario>;

- or the actual certificate recognition, if already obtained;

- or a declaration of honour by the candidate that she/he will obtain the recognition of the degree until the contract signature.

(13.2.g3) The presentation of the proof of having obtained the academic degree recognition or equivalence or the academic degree registration is a mandatory condition for signing the contract.

**14. Information about ICS ULisboa and the respective activities are available at:**  
[www.ics.ulisboa.pt](http://www.ics.ulisboa.pt)

Lisbon, 26 of February 2024

The Director, Prof. Dr. Marina Costa Lobo



## **ANNEX**

### **PERSONAL DATA AND DECLARATION OF CONSENT FOR COMMUNICATION OF RESULTS VIA E-MAIL**

Full name:

Citizen Card / Identity Card / Passport no:

Valid until: //

Nationality:

Full address

Postal Code: e-mail:

I consent to all such communications and/or notifications in connection with this call being made to the e-mail address used to send my application.

(Place and date) of 2024 (Signature of candidate)

### **ACADEMIC HABILITATIONS**

[name], holder of the civil identification/passport/visa/residence card number [XXXXXX], applicant to the research grant published by Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa, under the I&D project [title and reference], published in the Euraxess portal, reference [tender reference], hereby declares that, if selected, I will apply for a PhD in XXXX

As this is true, this declaration will be dated and signed by me.

(Place and date) of 2024 (Signature of candidate)