

Ph. D. Programme on Marine Science, Technology and Management

Call for applications - 1st phase 2019-2020

Deadline: 20th of May 2019

The Ph. D. Programme on Marine Science, Technology and Management - Do*Mar is opening a call for applications for the academic year 2019-2020.

Nature of the doctoral programme

The Do*Mar programme is offered by a consortium of Portuguese and Galician Universities and Research Institutes: Universidades de Aveiro, Minho, Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, Porto, Vigo, Santiago de Compostela and Coruña, the Instituto Español de Oceanografía and the Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas. The School of Biology of the St. Andrews University (Scotland), the Station Biologique de Roscoff of the Université Pierre et Marie Curie (France) and the Instituto de Oceanografia of the Universidade de S. Paulo (Brasil) are associated members of the consortium.

Do*Mar has a duration of 3 years and has 4 curricular branches: i) Ocean Observation and Global Change; ii) Sustainable Use of Marine Resources; iii) Integrated Management of the Sea; and iv) Technological Progress, Engineering and Business Management. This doctoral programme requires a compulsory co-supervision by a professor or researcher at a Portuguese partner and at a non-Portuguese partner. Therefore, a mandatory mobility period and placement at a non-Portuguese institution is involved (minimum 6 months, maximum 24 months). Candidates that successfully complete the programme will receive a joint diploma issued by the Portuguese and Galician universities. A dual diploma may be issued if the mandatory away stay is in one of the associated partners. Additional information on the structure, courses and other training activities of Do*Mar may be found in <http://www.campusdomar-pt-domar.net> and in <http://campusdomar.es/en/doctorado>.

Grants

Do*Mar has been selected for financial support within the 2013 call for funding of Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, IP (FCT) Ph. D. Programmes, being financed with 6 Ph. D. grants (type “bolsa mista”) per programme edition, in a total of 32 grants. The Academic Committee of Do*Mar has the responsibility of selecting the grantees, which will receive their Ph. D. studentships through contracts signed directly with FCT.

Up to 9 Ph. D. grants are available in this call, which will be awarded under the terms of the Portuguese Scientific Research Fellow Statute (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/estatutobolseiro.phtml.en>), approved by Law nº 20/2004 of August 18, in its present formulation, and the terms of the Regulations for Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology

(<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.en>). The grants are expected to start on October 2019, provided that all requirements asked by FCT are fulfilled in due time by the selected candidates.

Who can apply

Candidates of any nationality may apply. Do*Mar will also welcome applicants with degrees outside the natural sciences, especially those wishing to enrol in the branches of Integrated Management of the Sea and of Technological Progress, Engineering, and Business Management. As a general rule, the three following prerequisites for admission to Do*Mar must be met:

- i) A M. Sc. degree with a minimum of 120 ECTS credits; or a minimum higher education training of 300 ECTS credits including at least 120 ECTS credits at the level of a University M. Sc.;
- ii) A minimum admission grade of 14/20 or equivalent for the B. Sc. or undergraduate degree, and of 16/20 or equivalent for the M. Sc.;
- iii) A recent proof of proficiency in the English language.

Exceptionally, candidates with lower grades than those required in ii) above may also be selected, provided they demonstrate, during the selection interview, the motivation and maturity necessary to develop an international research project (see Selection and Ranking Criteria). Candidates also may be selected based on an academic, scientific or professional curriculum recognized by the Academic Committee as adequate for the accomplishment of the Do*Mar training programme.

When and how to apply

This call is open until the 24h00 (Lisbon time) of the 20th of May 2019.

The following documents **must** be submitted:

- i) *Curriculum vitae* of the candidate, indicating previous studies and grades, research experience and professional activities;
- ii) Two letters of endorsement from previous professors, supervisors or employers;
- iii) Motivation letter;
- iv) Research Project Synopsis, briefly describing the motivation, objectives and general methodology, indicating as well the home and host institutions, the supervisors, and the curricular branch in which the applicant wishes to enrol, using the form available in <https://www.utad.pt/estudar/cursos/ciencia-tecnologia-e-gestao-do-mar/> this form has to be subscribed by the supervisor and the co-supervisor;
- v) Copies of the relevant academic degree diplomas;
- vi) Copies of the transcripts of the degrees mentioned in the candidate's *curriculum vitae*, including courses/units/disciplines followed and respective credits and classifications.
- vii) A recent certificate of B2 proficiency in the English language; this certificate can be substituted by a signed declaration that the candidate has the English proficiency necessary for understanding, speaking and writing scientific English at a post-graduate level.
- viii) *Curricula vitae* of the supervisor and co-supervisor.

ix) A certificate that the candidate has resided in Portugal for at least 1 year at the time of application; this certificate has to be submitted by Portuguese and foreign candidates.

The Project Synopsis may include any research topic within the curricular branches of Do*Mar. In order to facilitate identification of research opportunities, a database with information on Ph. D. supervisors and possible research topics is available at <https://www.campusdomar-pt-domar.net/supervisors-and-research-topics>.

The Motivation Letter and the Project Synopsis must be written in English. The CVs, letters of endorsement, academic diplomas and transcripts may be written in Portuguese, Spanish, English or French; if they are written in any other language then they must be accompanied by a Portuguese translation. Copies of foreign academic diplomas must either be authenticated by the official education services of the respective country, recognized by the appropriate Portuguese diplomatic or consular authority, or carry the Hague Appostille Convention.

Applications to the University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro should be submitted online through the URL <https://www.campus.utad.pt/candidaturas/>. The upload of all the documents indicated above is mandatory. Additionally, the applicants must also deliver by post or in person the originals of these documents, or duly authenticated copies, accompanied by a printout of the application receipt issued by the online system, up to three days before the deadline for the selection of the applicants, to Prof. Doutora Edna Cabecinha, Departamento de Biologia e Ambiente, Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, 5000-801 Vila Real, Portugal.

Application fee

The application has a cost of 15€ (non-refundable). Payment may be made through the MultiBanco reference generated by the system.

Important notices for all candidates

- **Candidates must apply to the university in which they want to enroll. Only one application per candidate will be considered; if a candidate submits more than one application, only the first one will be considered.**
- **Incomplete applications will not be considered for evaluation.**
- **Only those applications for which the payment has been made within the indicated deadline will be considered for evaluation.**

Important notice for candidates with diplomas granted by foreign higher education institutions

- **Candidates with diplomas granted by foreign higher education institutions can apply and will be evaluated with the same criteria as candidates with diplomas issued by Portuguese institutions, provided they submit proof,**

during the application, of the academic degrees recognition and conversion of the final grade to the Portuguese grading scale, requested to the Dean of a public Portuguese University, the Head of a Public Polytechnic Institute or the Director-General for Higher Education.

- **Candidates with foreign diplomas that do not present said proof of the degrees recognition will be evaluated with the minimum classification in the criterium “degree grades” as described in the minutes of criteria densification published with this call.**
- **In any case, grant contracts with candidates with diplomas issued by foreign institutions will only be signed subject to the presentation of proof of the academic degrees recognition and conversion of the final grade, as indicated above.**

Evaluation

The evaluation and selection of the candidates will follow the principles of objectivity, fairness, equal opportunity, merit and ability. The aim is to evaluate the proven and the potential academic excellence of the candidates, and will be made in two steps.

1st step

The first step will evaluate the students' academic qualifications, experience, motivation and research objectives based on documental information supplied with the application. The following criteria and weights will be used:

- i) Curriculum Vitae: 40%, including degree grades (20%), and experience measured as number and significance of publications, participation in projects and other relevant components (20%);
- ii) Letters of endorsement: 10%;
- iii) Motivation Letter: 20%, considering its quality and clarity;
- iv) Project Synopsis: 30%, considering its intellectual and scientific merit based on quality, clarity, originality and innovation.

Each of the above criteria will be classified in a 0-20 scale, and the final score will be obtained as the weighted average of the separate scores.

2nd step

In second step, an interview will evaluate the maturity, motivation, availability to carry out an international research project, ability to communicate and intellectual merit of the candidate. Candidates will be classified using a 0-20 scale.

The final ranking of the candidates will be obtained using the formula: Result of the First Step * 50% + Result of the Interview * 50%.

Number of available places

The maximum number of candidates to be admitted to Do*Mar in this call is: Aveiro 12, Minho 8, Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro 4. The number of grants available at these

Universities is: Aveiro 4, Minho 3, Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro 2. These grants will be awarded to the best-ranked applicants to each university.

What is included in the grant

Selected applicants will be awarded monthly stipends and supplementary support that may include tuition fees, relocation costs, travel awards and health insurance, when applicable. Ph. D. studentship stipends and the specific complementary support are detailed in the Regulations for Research Grants of the Foundation for Science and Technology (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.en>).

Financing

The grants awarded under this contract will be financed by funds from the State Budget of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education and, when eligible, by funds from the European Social Fund through the Programa Operacional Temático do Capital Humano, the Programa Operacional Regional do Norte, do Centro or do Alentejo, in accordance with the provisions of the Specific Regulation applicable.

Period of selection of candidates

The 21st of May to the 7th of June 2019.

Communication of results

Results will be communicated by email on the 11th of June 2019. Additionally, the ranked list of candidates can be consulted at <https://www.utad.pt/estudar/cursos/ciencia-tecnologia-e-gestao-do-mar/>.

Preliminary hearing

In the case of an unfavorable award decision concerning the grant (i.e., for applicants not selected to receive grants), the applicant has a period of 10 days after disclosure to be heard by the Selection Panel, by request of a preliminary hearing, pursuant to the Portuguese Código do Procedimento Administrativo.

Communication of decision to pleading candidates

The final decision of the Selection Panel will be communicated to pleading candidates before the 3rd of July 2019. This final decision may be appealed to the Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia, I.P, within 15 days after the respective notification.

Period for enrolment

The 2nd to the 13th of September 2019. Enrollment outside this period will not be allowed. Candidates that miss this enrollment period will have to apply to Do*Mar in the next call (provided such call will be opened).

Universidade de Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro, the 29th of March 2019
The Rector, Prof. António Fontainhas Fernanades