



Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia  
MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR



## **Joint Collaborative Research Programme between Imperial College London and the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology**

The FCT and Imperial College London intend to build research capacity between Portuguese and Imperial College London academics by strategically seed funding research and mobility programmes to allow applicants to engage and develop frameworks to carry out high level frontier research.

Both parties recognise that collaborative activities with European colleagues enable cross-border pooling of research capabilities and sharing of expertise and facilities, the opportunity to appreciate different perspectives as well as access to new environments for impact and exploitation of research outcomes.

The call is open to all areas of science, but applications will be particularly welcome that focus on the following research areas identified by the Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia (FCT) as UK-Portugal synergies: cancer research; infectious diseases; oceans and maritime research; climate change; nanotechnology; space; data science.

This call has an indicative budget of €500,000.00 for 2019/2020, with the aim to seed collaborative activity by supporting 6-10 programmes of activity.

All eligible applications will be considered for funding jointly by FCT and Imperial.

### **1. Scope**

Activities that could be covered may include, but are not limited to:

- Exploratory research, travel costs and other activities that often do not receive financial support at the earliest stages. Funds can be used to support small-scale experiments, data collection, or the development of prototypes.
- Visits between the teams from Portugal and Imperial for academics/faculty, research staff and students to investigate the potential for, initiate, follow-up, or work on a collaborative project or training opportunity.
- 'Hackathon' or other collaborative day or week-long events involving staff and students from both institutions to explore new risky and 'blue skies' research directions and ideas.
- Networking events in Portugal or London such as international workshops and seminars to bring together researchers to strengthen existing collaborations and foster new links.
- Funding for Portuguese PhD students, Post-Docs and PIs to visit Imperial College London research groups for up to three months to learn new techniques, analyse results or undertake other activities.
- Set up of new networks to promote the exchange of ideas, best practice, and other research goals.

## 2. Funding

The Seed Fund's indicative overall budget is up to a total of €500k. Seed Fund Grant requests are not expected to exceed €50,000.00 per application.

### Eligible costs

	<b>Outwards</b>	<b>Inwards</b>
Salary	not eligible	not eligible
Limited research consumables	eligible	eligible
Travel and accommodation	eligible	eligible
Subsistence	eligible	eligible
Bench fees & facilities time	eligible	eligible
Equipment	not eligible	not eligible
Indirect and estate costs	not eligible	not eligible

## 2. Selection criteria

Applications are to be assessed on the basis of an open and quality-based evaluation, but aiming to ensure that successful applications:

- Are likely to make an important contribution to the field
- Are new or are entering a new phase
- Include a balanced exchange between participating teams
- Demonstrate complementarity between participating teams
- Are likely to be sustainable beyond the grant period and demonstrate a pathway to future funding (e.g Horizon Europe).

## 3. How to apply

Proposals will be submitted to the Portuguese FCT, via its own open and competitive application scheme, jointly agreed between FCT and Imperial, and will be launched in periods to be defined by the parts and evaluated accordingly, based on scientific merit.

**One proposal per Principal Applicant per call is permitted.** Each application should have a Principal Applicant based in Portugal and one based at Imperial and should contain:

- A written case for support (maximum 2 pages) to include:
  - A description of the relevant research/training conducted by the Imperial-based individual/group in recent years; A description of the relevant research/training conducted by the Portugal-based individual/group in recent years;
  - A description of the activities and collaboration proposed;
  - Explanation of how the activities proposed will generate demonstrable added value to: (a) Imperial and the Portuguese institution (b) Portugal and the UK.
  - A description of the opportunities available for leveraging funding, especially from overseas sources;



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Imperial College  
London

- A financial summary: Each application should provide information on the requested costs using the budget section of the application template (see 'Funding Requested'). An InfoEd statement is not needed.

Applications must be completed on the template provided and within the page limit stated.

#### **4. Deadline, start dates and duration**

The expected deadline for the call is December 31<sup>st</sup>.