

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIP

Call for applications – 1 (one) vacancy - CES/02/2026-BI-RuralDecol

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for **1** research studentship (CES/02/2026-BI-RuralDecol) in the project “Rural Decolonization: The Portuguese Revolution and the Liberation of Villagization Camps in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau, 1974-75 [Descolonização Rural: A Revolução Portuguesa e a Libertação dos Campos de Aldeamento em Angola, Moçambique, e Guiné-Bissau, 1974-75]”, reference 2023.10619.25ABR, funded by The National Agency for Science and Technology (FCT), and coordinated by Tiago Castela.

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of the social sciences and the humanities, including research on architecture and urbanism. This project in architecture and urbanism is part of the interdisciplinary research line *(Semi)peripheral Capitalism: Crises and Alternatives*. This line brings together research on the main socio-economic transformations of capitalist societies over the last half century, including architectural and urbanistic transformations, on the position of vulnerability of peripheral and semi-peripheral spaces at various scales, and on the unequal impacts that crises trigger.

a. Project Description:

RuralDecol - Rural Decolonization: The Portuguese Revolution and the Liberation of Villagization Camps in Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau, 1974-75

RuralDecol aims to contribute to an understanding of the lived spatial experience of decolonization in rural Angola, Mozambique, and Guinea-Bissau in the period between the military coup of April 25 in Portugal and the political independence of the three African countries in 1974 and 1975. In particular, RuralDecol focuses on the spatial experience of liberation of the 2 million agriculturalists that lived under conditions of military villagization in the three countries. Although research in architectural history and proximate fields has started addressing the neglected history of wartime villagization camps after 1961, very little is known about the moment of liberation, and how 2 million Guineans, Angolans, and Mozambicans set out to transform their own lives and built environments as the Portuguese soldiers and colonial administrators left to Europe. RuralDecol will foreground interviews with retired military in Portugal, as well as with elders in rural Africa.

Duration of project implementation: 24 months, starting September 16, 2024.

b. Scientific field:

Architecture and Urbanism

Cofinanciado por:

c. Work plan, tasks:

The selected researcher is expected to have the following responsibilities:

- Mapping interviews on the transformations in architecture and urbanism in GIS (Geographic Information System) or in another mapping software, to be made available to scholars, activists, and citizens through the creation of a virtual permanent exhibition, accessible through the RuralDecol microsite;
- Assisting in organizing an online workshop, as well as a one-day conference, to be held in Lisbon.

d. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

Portuguese Law nº 40/2004, of 18 August (Scientific Research Fellow Statute) and following amendments; FCT's (National Agency for Science and Technology) Regulations for Advanced Training and Qualification of Human Resources, and Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies.

e. Work place:

The tasks will be performed at the Centre for Social Studies facilities or in other locations when necessary for the good implementation of the work plan, under the scientific supervision of the Project's Principal Investigator.

f. Duration of the fellowship contract:

The fellowship will last **3** months, expected to start in April 2026.

g. Application dates:

From January 19, 2026, to February 6, 2026.

h. Application process:

Applications must include:

- a one-page letter of motivation in Portuguese or English with the reference of the call (CES/02/2026-BI-RuralDecol), e-mail address, and telephone number;
- short Curriculum Vitae in Portuguese or English (2 pages max.);
- copies of degree certificates (note: candidates must meet the eligibility conditions and conditions indicated in point k.);
- copy of the enrolment for the Master in the academic year 2025/2026;
- other relevant documents for eligibility purposes.

Applications should be sent by email to concursos@ces.uc.pt until the final deadline, and will be valid only after a reading receipt is sent. Applications must include a clear indication of the reference of this call (CES/02/2026-BI-RuralDecol).

SKILLS/ QUALIFICAÇÕES

i. Preferred selection criteria and their weighing:

1. Motivation letter (20%);
2. Previous academic track record (20%);
3. Documented training or experience in architecture or design, and preferably in software that can be used for mapping (such as GIS or CAD) (20%);
4. Good communication skills, including both written expression and public presentations, in Portuguese and English (20%);
5. Teamwork skills, initiative, and availability for participating in project activities (such as seminars) (20%).

The jury reserves the right not to select any candidate.

BENEFITS/CONDIÇÕES

j. Monthly Allowance

The monthly stipend is 1.040,98 euros according with the Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies and at FCT (https://www.fct.pt/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Tabela_valores_SMM_2025.pdf). The payment of the Voluntary Social Insurance and the Personal Accident Insurance adds up to this amount.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA/ELEGIBILIDADE DAS CANDIDATURAS

k. Mandatory requirements

1. Be a master student (see associated conditions in a).
 - a) Applicants must provide proof of enrolment in a master degree course, in the current academic year. If at the time of application, the applicant does not have a valid document proving their enrolment, they must send a declaration of honour in which they state to undertake the enrolment within a maximum period of 30 days after the communication of the results, under penalty of not contracting the scholarship;
 - b) Applicants with an academic degree and diploma issued by a foreign Higher Education Institution must present proof of recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese Higher Education System, (law DL66/2018). Any candidate without the recognition of the degree(s) will be admitted to the competition, but during the evaluation process the selection panel, cannot:
 - i. recognise the candidate's grades and assess according to the possession of such grades;
 - ii. give equivalence to, or validate, the grade of her/his degree;
 - iii. use that note or its conversion as an evaluation parameter.

2. The candidate must be fluent in Portuguese.

In case of selection, the scholarship contract can only be signed after the recognition of the academic degree by the Portuguese authorities, under the terms of the Law-decree n66/2018, August 16. The selected candidate must deliver the recognition of the degree within 30 days after the communication of the results. After the 30 days, the jury may decide to 1) either extend the deadline for the candidate to prove the recognition; 2) assign the fellowship to the second place; 3) or not award the fellowship.

SELECTION PROCESS/PROCESSO DE SELEÇÃO

I. Selection process

Applicants will be selected based on curricular evaluation. In case of similar curricular profiles, the strongest applications will be invited to an interview, held remotely, and conducted in English or Portuguese, meant to assess the applicants' potential to integrate the project's team. In case the jury conducts interviews, each evaluation stage will weigh 50% of the final score.

The jury reserves the right not to award the grant if none of the candidates fits the required profile.

m. Selection panel:

- Tiago Castela (President)
- Ana Drago (Permanent member)
- Vera Polido Baeta (Permanent member)
- Francesca Vita (Substitute member)
- Nsambu Vicente (Substitute member)

n. Communication of Results:

All candidates will receive the results by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become available publicly. After the communication of results, applicants have 10 working days to present a redress to the evaluation and the result by email.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS/INFORMAÇÃO ADICIONAL

Equality of opportunities:

CES abides by the national law that regulates the prevention, prohibition and fighting against discrimination on the grounds of racial and ethnic identity, colour, nationality, family background, territory of origin, and disability.

(Law nº 93/2017, 23 August; Law nº 4/2019, 10 January).

Data protection:

「Edital」



Centro de Estudos Sociais
Universidade de Coimbra

ces.uc.pt

By submitting your application, you are agreeing with the use of your personal data by CES administrative services for the sole purpose of the current call, namely to be contacted directly by CES services and allow the communication of results as in point n. of this call. CES abides by the principles of GDPR.

Contact/Contacto:

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concursos@ces.uc.pt

Cofinanciado por:

