



Call Research

2 Research Grants

The Centre for Social Studies (CES) – Associate Laboratory - University of Coimbra (Portugal), opens a call for applications for 2 research grants for candidates with Master degree in the project “*EXCHANGE* - Forensic Geneticists and the Transnational Exchange of DNA data in the EU: Engaging Science with Social Control, Citizenship and Democracy” (Grant agreement no.: 648608), funded by the European Research Council, and coordinated Dr. Helena Machado (https://www.ces.uc.pt/investigadores/cv/helena_machado.php).

CES provides a stimulating intellectual environment in the domain of social sciences and humanities. The Exchange project will be hosted at the research group on Science, Economy and Society – NECES-, which integrates a research line on Social Studies of Science.

Link:

CES: http://www.ces.uc.pt/index.php?id_lingua=2

NECES: <http://www.ces.uc.pt/nucleos/neces/pages/en/presentation.php>

a. Project description:

EXCHANGE aims to study the societal, cultural and political implications of the uses of DNA databases in surveillance systems in the EU. EU Law (Prüm Decision, 2008) obliges all Member States to create the conditions for the reciprocal automated searching and comparison of information on DNA data for the purpose of combating cross-border crime, terrorism and illegal immigration.

The project’s key objectives are: 1. Provide a general picture of the implementation of technological systems for the transnational exchange of DNA data between Member States. 2. Develop in-depth knowledge of forensic geneticists’ and other stakeholders, by resorting to interviews, ethnographic observation and analysis of criminal cases; 3. Conduct a comparative study involving the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the UK.

b. Scientific field: Social Sciences and Humanities.

c. Tasks

1. Conduct field research according to the work plan (section e.);
2. Write and complete a PhD dissertation within the scope of the project’s thematic area. (the PhD fees will be supported by the Exchange project budget);
3. Publish 3 articles in international journals within four years;
4. Participate in conferences, workshops, seminars and other scholarly activities.



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d. Admission requirements and criteria, and their evaluation weighting:

1. A completed MA degree in a field of SSH, in a domain relevant to the project such as Sociology, Anthropology, Criminology, Science and Technology Studies, Political Science, Philosophy, Law or International Relations (25%);
2. Documented training and experience in using qualitative methodologies in the social sciences, and documental analysis (25%);
3. Research experience and/or publications (25%);
4. Proficiency in English (25%).

e. Work plan:

The selected researchers are expected to gather, organize and analyse qualitative data, carry out a critical review of literature, conduct fieldwork, guarantee support in research management and networking with partners, among other tasks needed for a sound management and implementation of the project's goals.

Particularly, the 2 PhDs will be involved in the following tasks: a) Analysis of interviews conducted with scientists, law authorities and representatives of national data protection authority in The Netherlands, Poland, Portugal and the UK; and b) Analysis of documentation related to forensic DNA databases.

f. Applicable Legislation and Regulations:

Portuguese Law nº 40/2004, of 18 August (Scientific Research Fellow Statute) and successive amendments, FCT's (National Agency for Science and Technology) Regulations for Advanced Training and Qualification of Human Resources 2013 (<http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/regulamento.phtml.en>), and Regulations for Fellowships at the Centre for Social Studies (http://www.ces.uc.pt/oportunidades/documentos/Regulamento_de_Bolsas_CES_2008.pdf).

g. Work place:

The tasks will be performed in 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 Principal Investigator.

h. Duration of the grant contract:

The fellowship will last 12 months, starting on the 1st of October of 2015. The grant contract may be extended for equal or different time periods, during four years, depending on the Principal Investigator's assessment on the performance of the fellow and his/her developed activities as defined in their work plan.

i. Monthly allowance:

The monthly stipend is 1.250 euros, based on a full-time position (35 hours per week). The payment of the Voluntary Social Insurance and the Personal Accident Insurance adds up to this amount.



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j. Selection process:

Applicants will be selected based on their curricular evaluation. In case of equivalent curricular evaluations, the strongest applications will be selected for a short-list that will be evaluated through an interview, conducted in English, meant to assess the applicant's potential in integrating the project scientific dynamic and his/her motivation in pursuing studies related to the project's thematic areas.

The panel reserves the right not to select any candidate if agreed that none of the candidates possesses the demanded profile.

j. Selection panel:

- Helena Machado (President)
- João Paulo Dias
- Tiago Santos Pereira

k. Results publication:

All candidates will receive the results by email. The meeting minutes of the selection panel will become available publicly.

l. Application deadline:

Open on: 2nd July 2015 | Deadline: 7th September 2015

m. Application process:

Applications must include:

- a) a letter of intent/motivation in English;
- b) the detailed Curriculum Vitae together with 2 names for potential recommendation letters;
- c) copies of degree certificates and other relevant documents for eligibility purposes (the degree certificate of the qualification must be obtained before the 1st of September 2015); and
- d) two publications (max.).

The applications can be handed personally, at CES' facilities, or sent by postal mail, with stamp due until the final deadline, to the following address, with clear indication of the reference of this call and the name of the applicant:

Centro de Estudos Sociais
Reference: **CES-BI/19/2015**
A/C Helena Machado
Colégio de S. Jerónimo
Largo D. Dinis
Apartado 3087
3000-995 Coimbra
Portugal



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