

Call for Expressions of Interest for The University of Texas at Austin In-Residency Ph.D. Research Internships 2026/2027

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The present Call for Expressions of Interest (Eol) is launched according to Regulation no 913/2021¹ of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, I.P. (FCT), which sets out the rules and requirements for awarding financial assistance to individuals undertaking Knowledge and Technology Transfer Activities.

The Call targets **Ph.D. students enrolled in doctoral programs at Portuguese Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) who, at the start of the internship, are in their second year or beyond**. Selected candidates will have the opportunity to **spend six to twelve months at The University of Texas at Austin**, under the mentorship of UT Austin faculty or researchers. During their stay, students will engage in translational research activities within at least one of the UT Austin Portugal Program's core R&D areas, with the aim of enriching both their Ph.D. journey and doctoral work.

The Eol submission period will run from **April 7, 2026, to May 21 May 28, 2026 (23:59 UTC+1)** and **all visits must start between September 1 and December 31, 2026, and be completed by December 31, 2027**. The research internship period at UT Austin should align with the university's academic calendar as much as possible to ensure participants make the most of their stay.

Context

The **UT Austin Portugal Program** is a Science and Technology partnership between FCT and The University of Texas at Austin, supported by the Ministry of Education, Science and Innovation, in close collaboration with the Council of Rectors of Portuguese Universities (CRUP). The Program was renewed at the end of 2024 for a new six-year period by the 24th Portuguese Constitutional Government, launching Phase 4 with four autonomous yet closely interconnected scientific areas: Nanotechnologies, Advanced Computing, Space-Earth Technologies, and Clean Energy.

Under the Management and Coordination Agreement "*Acordo para a Gestão e Coordenação do Programa UT Austin Portugal 2026-2030 | CoLab*", signed between FCT and the **Instituto de Engenharia de Sistemas e Computadores, Tecnologia e Ciência – INESC TEC**, the latter is the Program's managing organization in Portugal, being accountable for the overall management and implementation of the Program's activity plan, including this Call for Eol.

1. Purpose of the Call

Through this Call, the Program will select second-year or higher (at the time of the start of the internship) Ph.D. students enrolled in doctoral programs at Portuguese HEIs to undertake R&D activities at UT Austin. Selected students will be mentored by a UT Austin faculty member or researcher, acting as a host and advisor, and will develop work aligned with one of the Program's designated scientific areas, as described below.

¹ "Regulamento de Atribuição de Subsídios a Atividades de Transferência de Conhecimento e Tecnologia"

Work plans proposed with the applications must demonstrably connect to the student's doctoral research while meaningfully contributing to advancing the state of the art in those areas or leveraging their cutting-edge knowledge to drive progress across other scientific fields.

- **Advanced Computing: *Scaling tools for energy-efficient Advanced Computing***

Advanced Computing has been instrumental in placing Portugal at the forefront of the European HPC landscape. Through its collaboration with UT Austin's Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC), Portugal has become a leader in high-performance computing. Advanced Computing will continue to focus on topics such as AI, machine learning, and quantum computing, leveraging Portugal's digital infrastructure and research expertise. The rapid growth of artificial intelligence has led to an unprecedented need for computing power. Sustainable Advanced Computing, focused on promoting efficient large-scale computing for artificial intelligence and scientific discovery, emerges as a natural, overarching challenge.

The Priority Research Topics to tackle under this area are:

- *Low-precision hardware built for AI for scientific computing problems.*
- *Greener, more efficient, and sustainable AI tools.*
- *Translational AI research.*
- *Future computing paradigms.*

- **Clean Energy: *Addressing climate neutrality through Clean Energy***

This area focuses on leveraging the complementary expertise between Portugal and UT Austin in sustainable energy systems, hydrogen production, and renewable energy integration. It mobilizes complementary scientific competencies in Portugal and at UT Austin in areas such as sustainable energy systems, energy market modelling and simulation, advanced simulation of cyber-physical systems, and reliability analysis of energy systems.

The Priority Research Topics to tackle under this area are:

- *Climate-neutral cities.*
- *Greening industry.*
- *Future energy networks & systems.*

- **Nanotechnologies: *Advancing critical materials discovery through Nanotechnology advancements***

Nanotechnologies have been a long-standing area of the Program and was first introduced in 2013. Nanotechnology research and commercialization have contributed to the development of advanced lithium-ion batteries, nanomaterials for medicine, and smart nano-based fabrics, among others. Significant new opportunities exist in accelerating materials discovery and rational design of new critical materials for a myriad of applications.

The Priority Research Topics to tackle under this area are:

- *Advanced batteries.*
- *Green hydrogen-based economy.*
- *Advanced environmental technologies.*
- *Semiconductor packaging.*
- *Smart textiles.*

- **Space-Earth Technologies: Exploiting Space technology and data for Earth applications**

Space-Earth Technologies became a core area in the third phase of the Program. It involves collaboration between Portuguese and US researchers to improve our understanding of Earth systems, natural disasters and climate change through satellite and space-based observation technologies. The Program envisions future partnerships between Space-Earth technologies and other scientific fields, such as advanced computing and nanotechnologies.

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The Priority Research Topics to tackle under this area are:

- *Terrestrial applications enabled by space.*
- *Technology for sensing and solutions in space.*
- *Future energy networks and systems.*
- *Technology for enabling space activities and engineering operations.*

2. Visiting Period at UT Austin: Objectives and Duration

Selected applicants will carry out research at UT Austin, gaining access to advanced resources, expert mentorship, and collaborative networks to strengthen their Ph.D. work. The visiting period is expected to lead to lasting outcomes, enhancing the quality and visibility of the doctoral research well beyond the stay at UT Austin.

Funded internships should offer a springboard to collaborative work (e.g., joint publications, joint applications, potential participation of the host in the applicant's Ph.D. dissertation committee – subject to approvals by the respective universities and institutional roles involved) between the visiting Ph.D. researcher, their Ph.D. supervisor in Portugal, and their UT Austin host well beyond the visiting period at UT.

Internships **must last from six months to twelve months** and **start between September 1 and December 31, 2026, and be completed by December 31, 2027**. The in-residency period at UT Austin should align as much as possible with UT Austin's [academic calendar](#) to ensure participants make the most of their stay.

3. Beneficiaries and Eligibility Rules

Eligible applicants must comply with the following criteria at the time of submission of their EoI and throughout their stay at UT Austin:

- a) Hold Portuguese nationality or, in the case of non-Portuguese citizens, have permanent residence in Portugal.
- b) Be enrolled in a Ph.D. Program at a Portuguese Higher Education Institution (HEI) for at least twelve months before the start of their stay at UT Austin.
- c) Commit to full-time dedication to the internship program during their stay at UT Austin and confirm that they have obtained authorization from their home institution to participate in this visiting period.
- d) Ensure that the financial assistance granted by this internship program does not conflict with any other secured sources of funding.²

² Candidates with scholarships funded directly or indirectly by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology must check directly with this entity, not the Program, whether they can receive additional funding under this mobility initiative.

Applicants who do not meet the above required criteria or fail to submit any of the mandatory documents listed in the section **“Application Procedure and Deadline | Mandatory Documents”** of this announcement will be ruled ineligible. Their EoI will not be evaluated.

4. Identification of Host (Advisor) at UT Austin

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During the application period, candidates will work with their Ph.D. supervisors in Portugal and their proposed UT Austin host (advisor) to define a research topic within the UT Austin host’s group that is synergistic with their ongoing Ph.D. body of research and can be feasibly incorporated into their dissertation. The proposed UT Austin host (advisor) will also be asked to provide a statement of support for the candidate’s application.

Therefore, together with their Ph.D. supervisor in Portugal, candidates should proactively look for potential hosts at UT Austin and contact them in advance to prepare their application.

- UT Austin’s faculty directory can be found **here** - Academics tab.
- Texas Advanced Computing Center’s staff directory can be found **here**.

The Program is also available to assist candidates in this search through one of the following contacts:

- UT Austin Office (bravo@austin.utexas.edu).
- Portugal Office (research@utaustinportugal.org).

5. Financial Support to Admitted Applicants

Admitted candidates will benefit from financial support made available through funding secured in both Portugal and at UT Austin.

a) Support through the Program’s Office in Portugal

In Portugal, the support provided will take the form of a **mobility allowance** for the duration of the exchange, corresponding to **€ 2100/month** (two thousand one hundred euros).

Additionally, the Portuguese office will **reimburse visiting researchers for mandatory health insurance** during their stay at UT Austin, up to €168 per month.

Admitted applicants will be granted **Visiting Researcher** status at INESC TEC and will sign a contract outlining the support provided during the mobility period at UT.

The financial package granted by the Program’s office in Portugal, in the form of a mobility allowance, may be used to cover mobility-related expenses, and no receipts will be required as proof of spending. Health insurance costs, however, will be reimbursed by INESC TEC upon submission of the appropriate reimbursement form. Related claims submitted after January 31, 2027, will not be accepted.

b) Support through the Program’s Office at UT Austin

Local Accommodation in Texas - In addition to the mobility allowance and health insurance granted through the Program’s office in Portugal, admitted candidates will be offered free housing by UT Austin. UT Austin will guarantee free accommodation for the entire residency, thereby providing participants with a safe and enjoyable place to stay while in Austin. Participants opting for other accommodation options, such as private rental housing, will not receive additional funding, though.

Travel - UT Austin will arrange and cover the cost of one round-trip airfare (economy class) from Portugal to Austin.

SEVIS Fee - SEVIS stands for the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System. It maintains current information on nonimmigrant students, exchange visitors, and their dependents (i.e., all those in F or J status). To travel to the USA and participate in the Program's internships at UT Austin, admitted candidates will need to apply for a J-1 Scholar Visa at the US Embassy in Portugal. To this end, they will need to get a SEVIS Number, a unique identifier assigned by the US Government. UT Austin will cover the SEVIS fee.³

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6. Call Total Budget

The total funding for this Call on the Portuguese side is € 166 660,00.

7. Application Procedure and Deadline

Mandatory Documents:

Applicants must fill out this [online application form](#) with the following documents attached:

- **Personal Curriculum** (information available on [CIÊNCIAVITAE](#) and a [one-page CV synopsis](#))
- **Work Plan:** together with the Ph.D. supervisor in Portugal, the Ph.D. candidate should meet with the potential host (advisor) at UT Austin to discuss both parties' expectations regarding the work plan and its outcomes. Work plans should not exceed four pages and should:

Identify key stakeholders

- Identify the host (advisor) at UT Austin and the Ph.D. supervisor in Portugal.

Define the research framework

- Include: title; keywords; abstract; and a state-of-the-art review.

Set objectives and relevance

- Clearly state the objectives.
- Demonstrate the relevance of the object of study.

Detail the work plan

- Provide a detailed description of the plan, including tasks to be carried out and how they fit within the scope of the doctoral work.

Ensure alignment and fit

- Fit the candidate's research needs and goals within their doctoral work.
- Align with one of the scientific areas of the UT Austin Portugal Program (see Section 1: Purpose of the Call).

Support with references

- Include bibliographic references.

³ Kindly note that the SEVIS is different from the VISA fees. Applicants are responsible for Visa fees.

- **One-page motivation letter**, in which the candidate outlines the reasons for applying and for selecting UT Austin as the host institution, including how the proposed host environment supports their research objectives and enhances the potential for scientific contribution, economic and societal impact, and opportunities for knowledge transfer.
- **Statement of support from the Ph.D. supervisor in Portugal**, stating agreement with the work plan proposed by the candidate and endorsing the collaboration with the UT Austin faculty/researcher acting as host (advisor). The statement must include the Ph.D. supervisor's CIÊNCIA ID and must not exceed one page.
- **Statement of support from the host (advisor) at UT Austin**, who will mentor the candidate during the mobility period. The statement must 1) include the URL of the host's UT Austin online profile for further details about the host's academic background and research interests and 2) must clearly indicate that the potential host and the Ph.D. supervisor in Portugal agree with the work plan proposed by the candidate (one page maximum).
- **Highest Degree Certificate with final classification.**⁴
- **Evidence of Portuguese Citizenship (or Proof of Permanent Residence in Portugal for Foreign Nationals only).**
- **Proof of Enrollment in a Ph.D. Program in Portugal and the respective start date.** This must be on official letterhead paper and signed or stamped by the candidate's Higher Education Institution in Portugal.

Proof of English Proficiency:

Candidates should be proficient in English. Although no proof of evidence will be required at the application stage, admitted candidates will be asked to attest to their proficiency for visa application purposes. Refer to section **12. Establishing English Proficiency for the J-1 Scholar Visa** of this Call to learn more about this requirement.

Deadline:

EoI must be submitted **no later than May 21 May 28, 2026.**

8. Evaluation

Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Criterion A: Merit of the applicant (30%):** Assesses the applicant's academic and research track record.
- **Criterion B: Merit of the work plan (40%):** Focuses on the scientific quality, feasibility, originality of the research proposal and its alignment with the Program's scientific areas.

⁴ For degrees earned from foreign Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), candidates will be required to present proof of degree recognition by a Portuguese HEI as laid out in Article no. 8 of Regulation no 913/2021.

- **Criterion C: Strength of the support and motivation letters (30%):** measures the overall strength of support and motivation letters, broken down by advisor's merit, host conditions of the advisor's research group, and the candidate's rationale for the host institution's choice.

Evaluation process

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The evaluation, selection, and notification process will be coordinated by the Program, which is responsible for ensuring the scientific quality of the peer review process. The process will be implemented in strict accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of Regulation no 913/2021, with FCT being consulted at various stages of the process to reinforce compliance with applicable rules and adherence to FCT's fundamental principles for proposal assessment. Furthermore, all potential conflicts of interest (Col) will be duly safeguarded.

The evaluation will be conducted initially by four dedicated evaluation panels, one for each of the scientific areas: Advanced Computing, Clean Energy, Space-Earth Technologies, and Nanotechnologies. Each panel will comprise at least three researchers affiliated with Portuguese institutions, selected based on their recognized scientific merit and experience. Each panel will assess the eligible applications individually within its respective area. Subsequently, a joint consolidation meeting will be held involving all panels to establish the final ranking of applications.

Applicants are strongly encouraged to consult the evaluation procedure, criteria, and scoring methodology in [Annex 1](#).

To be eligible for funding, an EoI must receive a minimum qualifying score of 3.

The evaluation process is expected to last up to eight (8) weeks. All applicants will be notified by e-mail of the final score of their EoI and their entitlement or non-entitlement to funding under this program.

List of Experts per Scientific Area:

Chair: Ricardo Fonseca (ISCTE – IUL)

Advanced Computing

- Ricardo Fonseca (ISCTE – IUL)
- Pedro Alberto (University of Coimbra)
- Francisco Maia (University of Porto)

Clean Energy

- Pedro Salomé (International Iberian Nanotechnology Laboratory)
- Paulo Branco (Instituto Superior Técnico)
- Bernardo Silva (University of Porto)

Nanotechnologies

- Killian Lobato (University of Lisbon)
- Fátima Montemor (Instituto Superior Técnico)
- André Pereira (University of Porto)
- Hugo Águas (NOVA University Lisbon)

Space-Earth Technologies

- Vasco Mantas (University of Coimbra)

- Maria João Costa (University of Évora)
- Anna Guerman (University of Beira Interior)

9. Filing of complaints or appeals after notification of the decision

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Under paragraph 9, Article 11 of Regulation no 913/2021, the period for preliminary hearings will be dismissed. Nevertheless, applicants have the right to lodge a complaint or an appeal within a maximum of 15 working days after receiving the notification email. Complaints or appeals must be submitted in writing to the Program's Board of Directors (leadership@utaustinportugal.org).

10. Requirements for granting financial support

For the period of the internships, INESC TEC will confer upon admitted applicants the **status of Visiting Researchers**, whereby they will be subject to INESC TEC's applicable internal policies. Additionally, before the commencement of their internships, they **will sign a Financial Assistance Contract with INESC TEC that complies with Article 13 of Regulations no 913/2021 and will entitle them to receive financial support as laid out in No. 6 of this Announcement.**

Contract signing and financial support are contingent upon admitted candidates continuing to meet the eligibility criteria under which their Expressions of Interest were accepted. Candidates must inform the Program of any changes to their eligibility status.

All visits must start between September 1 and December 31, 2026, and be completed by December 31, 2027. The research internship period at UT Austin should align as much as possible with the UT Austin academic calendar to ensure that participants make the most of their stay.

11. Financial Assistance Contract

The Financial Assistance Contract sets out the **rights and duties of admitted applicants, INESC TEC, and designated supervisors** according to Articles 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of **Regulation no 913/2021**.

Admitted applicants must sign the contract before the start of their internship at UT Austin in order to receive an upfront installment intended to support their initial settling-in period.

The remaining amount - representing the total mobility allowance minus the initial payment - will be paid as follows:

- **For visiting periods of six months**, the remaining amount will be paid in a single installment during the first month at UT Austin.
- **For visiting periods longer than six months**, the remaining amount will be divided into two installments: the first during the first month after the visit begins, and the second in month six.

In the event of withdrawal or early termination of the mobility period, applicants must reimburse the portion of funds corresponding to the uncompleted period.

Also, if admitted candidates fail to comply with any requirements established by this Call and **Regulation no 913/2021**, sanctions will be applied, according to Article 22 of the same regulation.

12. Establishing English Proficiency for the J-1 Scholar Visa

To apply for a J-1 Scholar Visa, UT Austin will accept from admitted candidates the following as proof of English proficiency in one of the following ways:

- Copy of a diploma, or other signed documentation, that confirms the exchange visitor earned a degree from an institution of higher education that operates in English.
- Approved English test score taken within the last five years:
 - TOEFL score of at least 79; or
 - IELTS score of at least 6.5.

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Texas Global [English Language Center](#) (ELC) interview: You will receive an email with instructions to sign up for an exam time with the ELC. The cost of the interview is \$80 and will be covered by the Program's office at UT Austin (contact person: Julia Nelson - julia.nelson@austin.utexas.edu).

To learn if you are from a country exempt from the English Proficiency Requirement, refer to this [page](#).

Proof of English Proficiency will be requested by the Program only after participants are notified of their admission into the Program.

13. Reporting and Acknowledgements

At the end of the visiting period, admitted applicants will be required to submit a report using a provided template. The report should detail the progress made against the objectives outlined in the initial work plan and highlight any relevant achievements. It should be complemented by an overall assessment from the UT Austin host commenting on the participant's performance and accomplishments during the visiting period.

In accordance with the regulation governing this call, UT Austin Portugal's Directors in Portugal will conduct an overall assessment of each internship based on the reports submitted by admitted applicants and the comments of their UT Austin hosts.

Publications or any other scientific outputs resulting from this funding must include an acknowledgement of FCT and the UT Austin Portugal Program.

Since outcomes and impacts may take time to be tracked, the Program, for up to three years following the visiting period, will request funded applicants to complete a brief annual survey (between January and March). The survey will aim to capture the evolution of the advisor-advisee collaboration and identify any outcomes related to the visiting period that were not reflected in the immediate post-visit report.

14. Non-Discrimination and Equal Access Policy

FCT and INESC TEC promote a policy of non-discrimination and equal access. No applicant shall be privileged, benefited, disadvantaged, or deprived of any right or exempt from any duty on the basis of ancestry, age, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family situation, economic condition, education, social origin or status, genetic heritage, reduced working capacity, disability, chronic illness, nationality, ethnic origin or race, place of origin, language, religion, political or ideological convictions, or trade union membership.

15. Confidentiality and Privacy Policy

Before proceeding with Eol submission, applicants are advised to read the **Program's Privacy Policy** carefully.

16. Contacts

For help with UT Austin scientific advisors searching:

- UT Office - bravo@austin.utexas.edu | Portuguese Office - research@utaustinportugal.org.

For general inquiries about the Call:

- research@utaustinportugal.org.

Annex I

Evaluation Procedure

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1. Introduction

The evaluation, selection, and notification process will be coordinated by the UT Austin Portugal Program, which is responsible for ensuring the scientific quality and integrity of the peer review process. The process will be implemented in strict accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of Regulation no 913/2021, with FCT consulted at various stages to reinforce compliance with applicable rules and adherence to FCT's fundamental principles for proposal assessment. Furthermore, all potential Conflicts of Interest (Col) will be duly safeguarded.

2. Evaluation Process Overview

The evaluation will be conducted initially by four dedicated evaluation panels, one for each of the scientific areas: Advanced Computing, Clean Energy, Space-Earth Technologies, and Nanotechnologies. Each panel will comprise three researchers affiliated with Portuguese institutions, selected based on their recognized scientific merit and experience. Each panel will assess the eligible applications individually within its respective area. Subsequently, a joint consolidation meeting will be held involving all panels to establish the final ranking of applications.

A detailed description of the process is provided in no. 4 of this document.

3. Evaluation Criteria

Applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

- **Criterion A: Merit of the Applicant (30%):** Assesses the applicant's academic and research track record.
- **Criterion B: Merit of the Work Plan (40%):** Focuses on the scientific quality, feasibility, originality of the research proposal and its alignment with the Program's scientific areas.
- **Criterion C: Strength of the support and motivation letters (30%):** measures the overall strength of support and motivation letters, broken down by advisor merit, host conditions of the advisor's research group, and the candidate's rationale for the host institution's choice.

A detailed breakdown of each evaluation criterion is provided below.

A: Merit of the Applicant (30%)	Key Documents in addition to Application Form	Score
A1. Academic background and relevance (50%)	CIÊNCIAVITAE, CV synopsis, and Highest Degree Certificate with Final Grade	0-5
A2. Research experience and achievements (50%)		0-5
B: Merit of the Work Plan (40%)	Key Documents in addition to Application Form	
B1. Assessment of the demonstrated relevance of the object of study (30%)	Work Plan	0-5
B2. Scientific quality, originality and feasibility of the proposed work plan (55%)		0-5
B3. Alignment with at least one of the Program's scientific areas in Phase 4 (15%)		0-5
C: Strength of the Support and Motivation Letters (30%)	Key Documents in addition to Application Form	
C1. Assessment of the scientific expertise, experience, and suitability of both the Portuguese supervisor and the UT Austin advisor/host (50%)	Support Letters	0-5
C2. Assessment of the distinctiveness and adequacy of the UT Austin advisor's research group resources and environment to support the proposed research (25%)	Support Letters	0-5
C3. Candidate's justification for applying and selecting UT Austin as the host institution (25%)	Motivation Letter	0-5

4. Evaluation Stages

The evaluation of applications will be conducted in two stages, combining individual expert assessment with score consolidation and cross-panel validation.

A single Chair will oversee the evaluation process across all scientific areas. This Chair will be responsible for monitoring the consistency of evaluations, identifying significant discrepancies, and coordinating any necessary exchanges between evaluators.

Stage 1 - Individual Assessment:

Each evaluator will assess the applications of their area individually, assigning a score to each award criterion on a scale from 0 to 5.00⁵.

0	FAILS	Fails to meet the criterion.
1	POOR	The criterion is inadequately addressed, and there are serious weaknesses.

⁵ There will be no thresholds per individual evaluation criterion, but there will be a threshold for the overall weighted score, rounded to two decimal places.

2	FAIR	The criterion is broadly addressed but with significant weaknesses.
3	GOOD	The criterion is well addressed but with a number of shortcomings.
4	VERY GOOD	The criterion is very well addressed, with a few shortcomings.
5	EXCELLENT	The criterion is successfully addressed with no or minor shortcomings.

The weighted score per evaluator will be calculated according to the following formula:

Weighted Score: (Criterion A x 0,30) + (Criterion B x 0,40) + (Criterion C * 0,30).

Upon completion of the individual evaluations, the Program and the Chair will review the submitted scores to identify any significant discrepancies between evaluators.

In such cases, the evaluators concerned may be invited to engage in a targeted exchange of views, conducted either in writing or through a brief meeting, with the aim of clarifying their assessments. Following this exchange, evaluators may revise their scores, if deemed appropriate. The final scores submitted after this step will be considered definitive.

The Executive Team of the Program's Office in Portugal will then compile the definitive individual scores assigned by all evaluators within each area and calculate, for each application, an aggregated classification corresponding to the average of the three evaluators' weighted scores, as follows:

Final Score = (Weighted Score₁ + Weighted Score₂ + Weighted Score₃) / 3

Based on these aggregated scores, the team will produce a preliminary ranking of applications to be presented at the joint consolidation meeting. In the event of ex-aequo proposals, the priority outlined below will be used to rank applications that achieve the same score.

- Merit of the Work Plan – Priority 1.
- Merit of the Applicant – Priority 2.
- Strength of the Support and Motivation Letters – Priority 3.

Only applications meeting the minimum qualifying score of three (3) are considered eligible for funding.

Stage 2- Consolidation Meeting:

The four panels will convene at the joint consolidation meeting to ensure that the interpretation of the award criteria across areas is harmonized and to formally endorse a unified ranked list of applications. The panels will be assisted by two representatives from the Program's governing bodies, one from UT Austin and another from Portugal, with no conflicts of interest with the candidates under review and acting as non-voting observers. The observers' role is to ensure alignment with the Program's objectives and UT Austin's hosting standards. They shall not influence or participate in the final scoring or ranking of applications.

5. Feedback to Applicants

The evaluation process is expected to last up to eight (8) weeks. All applicants will be notified by e-mail about the final score of their Eol and their entitlement or non-entitlement to funding under this program.