

PRÉMIO

Maria de Sousa

6th edition - 2026

REGULATION

Jury

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Application deadline:

1st January to 31st May of 2026



ORDEM
DOS MÉDICOS

Bial
FOUNDATION

COM O AUTO PATROCÍNIO
DE SUA EXCELÊNCIA
UNDER THE HIGH PATRONAGE OF THE
PRESIDENT OF THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC



O Presidente da República

PREAMBLE

With the purpose of paying homage to the physician and great researcher Maria de Sousa, whilst contributing to research in the area of Health Sciences, the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation promote, in exclusive partnership, the Maria Sousa Award, which is aimed at recognising and supporting young Portuguese scientific researchers, who are up to 35 (thirty-five) years old, in research projects in the area of Health Sciences, including a mandatory internship at an International Centre of Excellence.

In 2026, the Maria de Sousa Award will distinguish one or more scientific research projects.

Article 1 – Scope

This Regulation establishes the terms and conditions applicable to the funding of research projects ("Grants") in the field of Health Sciences ("Research Projects"), in the scope of the Maria de Sousa Award, established by the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation.

Article 2 – Eligible Applicants

- 2.1.** The Maria de Sousa Award is open to Portuguese citizens who are scientific researchers, living in Portugal or abroad, and are at maximum 35 (thirty-five) years old on the date their application is submitted. Applications must be submitted individually, and applications by groups of researchers shall not be accepted.
- 2.2.** Applicants who meet the requirements outlined in this Regulation, including those defined in Article 2.1, and who have other research project(s) supported by the Bial Foundation under the Grants Program for Scientific Research that are currently ongoing, may apply for the current edition of the Maria de Sousa Award. However, they will only be able to benefit from the Support under the Maria de Sousa Award (2026 edition) after the successful completion of the ongoing project(s), and, in any case, the deadlines set out in Article 3.1 of this Regulation must be observed.
- 2.3.** Members of the governing bodies and employees of the Portuguese Medical Association, the Bial Foundation, or any of the Bial Group companies, in Portugal or in other countries, may not submit applications for the Maria de Sousa Award. The submission of applications for the current edition of the Maria de Sousa Award (2026) is also barred to researchers who have benefited from financial support granted by Bial Foundation under previous editions of the Maria de Sousa Award.

Article 3 – Application Requirements

- 3.1.** Applications to the Maria de Sousa Award are free of charge and must:
 - (i) Have as its scope a research project in the area of Health Sciences that meets the following cumulative requirements: (a) start between 1st January and 31st October of 2027, (b) have a maximum execution period of 2 (two) consecutive years, (c) must be developed in a Host Entity (distinct from the International Centre of Excellence) and (d) must necessarily include an internship at an International Centre of Excellence

abroad (in a country other than the Host Entity's country), which must have a minimum duration of 4 (four) months and must be carried out during the period of execution of the research project ("Research Project").

For the purposes of this Regulation, "Host Entity" is considered to be the institution, in Portugal or abroad, in which the research work by the Applicant will effectively take place, and "International Centre of Excellence" a public or private institution, of higher education or of another similar nature, which is dedicated, among others, to scientific research in the area of Health Sciences, and which aims to promote quality research, in a sustained and organised manner according to the best international practices, and which is distinguished by its degree of excellence and impact in the area of Health Sciences, in which the internship referred to in item (d) above will be carried out.

For clarity, the Host Entity and the International Centre of Excellence cannot be the same entity and must be located mandatorily in different countries.

- (ii) Consist of Research Projects outlined by the Applicant (projects in which there is a path of independence and individual creativity are valued), not violating third party rights, namely intellectual property rights, Applicants being solely responsible for any violations committed by them.

- 3.2.** Applications without a Host Entity and without an international internship at an International Centre of Excellence will not be accepted.
- 3.3.** Each Applicant shall be responsible for the submitted application and shall ensure its compliance with the provisions of this Regulation and the legislation and other rules applicable to the Research Project presented, under penalty of exclusion.
- 3.4.** The submission of applications by the Applicant implies their acceptance and binding to the terms of this Regulation.
- 3.5.** The Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation reserve the right to exclude, at any time, applications that do not comply with the provisions of this Regulation, namely those that violate applicable rules and legislation and/or general principles of good practice, ethics and scientific integrity and/or that violate the rights of third parties, such as those of intellectual property, protection of personal data and/or, in case of judicial/administrative decision, that impose their exclusion.

Article 4 – Application Process

- 4.1.** The opening of each edition of the Maria de Sousa Award shall be announced in the media and on the Internet, mentioning, namely, the deadline and form of submission of applications.
- 4.2.** Applications, prepared in Portuguese or English, must be submitted electronically by 11:59 p.m. (Lisbon time) on May 31, 2026, by filling out the electronic application form (submission of the annexes that are an integral part of it) available in www.bialfoundation.com, in accordance with the other conditions set out in the announcement mentioned in paragraph 4.1.

- 4.3. The Bial Foundation and the Portuguese Medical Association are not responsible for the possible non-receipt of applications resulting, in particular, from possible service interruptions or network failures or breach of security in the applicants' e-mails, and/or failures, technical problems, errors and delays in communications that prevent the timely and complete submission of applications.
- 4.4. When submitting the application electronically, all fields on the application form must be filled in and all requested documents must be submitted, in PDF format, with a maximum of 35 MB each, including in particular, the Researcher's identification, the title of the Research Project, the identification of the Host Entity, the identification of the International Centre of Excellence, the researcher's motivation in developing the Research Project (including, if applicable, indication of conflict of interests with members of the Jury), the presentation/abstract of the Research Project, its timetable and cost estimate (which must be appropriate to the research project presented), the declaration of acceptance of development of the Research Project issued by the Host Entity and the *Curriculum Vitae* of the Applicant.
- 4.5. When the presented Research Project involves animals and/or human beings and/or data or biological products derived from them, the Applicant must include this in the Application Form, which must, mandatorily and under penalty of exclusion, be accompanied by documentary proof of its submission for approval by the competent Ethics Commission(s)/Entity(ies), or if such approval already exists, the Applicant must submit the necessary authorisation(s), in accordance with good practices and applicable legislation.
- 4.6. The processing of applications will be exclusively electronic, without prejudice to the eventual materialisation of the Research Funding Agreements or the request for the presentation of original documents, under the terms set out in this Regulation.

Article 5 – Assessment of Applications

- 5.1. Bial Foundation shall assess the conformity of the submitted applications with the provisions of this Regulation and with the electronic application form. Applications that fail to comply with the requirements foreseen in this Regulation shall be excluded.
- 5.2. The assessment of the applications will be the responsibility of a Jury composed of 5 (five) persons ("Jury") of recognised scientific merit, to be consensually appointed for each edition, by the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation, being one of them the president and the others being members.
- 5.3. The Jury may invite the Applicant to clarify any aspect of their application that raises doubts, as well as to review their Application, in order to enable its complete and adequate analysis.
- 5.4. The decisions referred to in the previous paragraphs are taken by majority vote and are not subject to appeal. In case of a tie, the President of the Jury has the casting vote.
- 5.5. The Jury may select up to 5 (five) applications and respective Research Projects, which will be awarded a Grant up to a maximum monetary amount of €30,000.00 (thirty thousand euros) each. However, the Jury reserves the right not to select any application if it considers that

none of the submitted applications meets the required quality and recognised scientific merit requirements.

- 5.6. The members of the Jury will declare their conflict of interest in the case of applications presented by people with whom they have any other form of collaboration. If the conflict of interests is confirmed, the member of the Jury in question will not participate in the assessment of the respective Research Project(s).
- 5.7. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of their applications by October 31, 2026.
- 5.8. The results will be publicly announced at the Maria de Sousa Award ceremony. The members of the Jury and the winning applicant(s) must keep the attribution of any Award confidential until the date of the aforementioned public announcement.

Article 6 – Acceptance deadline; formalities

- 6.1. Within 15 (fifteen) days from the notification by the Bial Foundation of the selection of the Research Project(s) as winner(s) of the Maria de Sousa Award, the applicant(s) must send to the Bial Foundation a duly signed statement, confirming acceptance of the Maria de Sousa Award under the terms of this Regulation, which includes acceptance of the Grant and the draft of the Research Funding Agreement to be signed between the Portuguese Medical Association, the Bial Foundation, the Grant Holder and the Host Entity (“**Agreement**”), the date of the effective start of the Grant, which will, in any case, be subject to the signature of said Agreement.
- 6.2. The Bial Foundation reserves the right to ask the applicant(s) to deliver originals of the documents submitted electronically with the application, within a minimum period of 10 (ten) working days, under penalty of automatic annulment of the award decision of the Maria de Sousa Award.
- 6.3. Failure to timely provide the documentation referred to in the previous paragraphs is equivalent, under the terms of this Regulation and the applicable legal provisions, to the waiver of the Grant, the Jury being able to select another application in its place.

Article 7 – Grants Amount

- 7.1. The applicant(s) whose application wins (“Grant Holder”) will benefit from a Grant up to a maximum monetary amount of €30,000.00 (thirty thousand euros), which will be paid by the Bial Foundation directly to the Host Entity, by wire transfer to the bank account held by the Host Entity, indicated in writing to the Bial Foundation, under the terms set out in this Regulation and in accordance with what is defined in the Agreement.
- 7.2. The Grant translates into the attribution of a subsidy under the terms and conditions described in this Regulation and in the Agreement which, together with this Regulation, shall govern the terms and conditions of the attribution of the Grant. The draft of the Agreement will be made available by the Bial Foundation to the Grant Holder after notification of the selection of the Research Project as winner of the Maria de Sousa Award.

- 7.3.** The Grant will consist of the payment to the Host Entity of the Grant Holder, in two or more phases, of a pecuniary amount to be determined, within the framework of the amount previously established pursuant to article 7, depending on the specific needs of the Research Project and under the terms approved. At least 10% (ten percent) of the total amount of the Grant will be paid by the Bial Foundation to the Host Entity of the Grant Holder only after approval of the final scientific report of the Research Project.
- 7.4.** The amount of the Grant must be exclusively allocated to the development of the Research Project, and may, among others, cover eligible expenses such as: (i) human resources (except those excluded in Article 7), like applicant's own expenses and/or third parties expenses; (ii) acquisition of goods, services and consumables; (iii) equipment necessary for the execution of the Project (except hardware); (iv) international internship (travel, accommodation and living expenses); (v) missions (participation in congresses and other scientific events); (vi) other costs (scientific publications).
- 7.5.** No overheads will be accepted or borne by the Bial Foundation. Equally, under no circumstances are meal, holiday, Christmas or any other subsidies or payments of any kind not expressly provided for in this Regulation considered due.

Article 8 – Research Funding Agreement

- 8.1.** The Grant shall be allocated under the conditions described in the Agreement, substantially defined in the terms of the draft made available to the Grant Holder.
- 8.2.** If applicable, the applicant must provide the Bial Foundation, before signing the Agreement, with a copy of the approval of the Research Project by the competent ethics entity(ies) and commission(s)/authority(s), as well as a declaration confirming acceptance of the international internship issued by the International Centre of Excellence. No Agreement will be issued and signed without such documents being previously provided to the Bial Foundation.
- 8.3.** The Agreement does not create or entitle any employment or labour relationship, nor does it configure any agent or partner contract or services agreement between the Grant Holder and the Portuguese Medical Association, or between the Grant Holder and the Bial Foundation.
- 8.4.** Without prejudice to the liability that may arise from the applicable legislation, the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation are not responsible for damages or losses suffered by applicants or Grant Holders as a result of their application under the terms set out in this Regulation or the receipt and use of the Grant.

Article 9 – Obligations of the Grant Holders

- 9.1.** The Grant Holders covered by this Regulation are subject to the following obligations:
- a) Perform the Research Project under the terms (i) described in the application and (ii) agreed in the Research Funding Agreement, which cannot be unilaterally changed;

- b) Timely accomplish the timeline and work plan presented in the application and to exclusively allocate the Grant to the development of the Research Project;
- c) Comply with the internal operating rules of the Host Entity and the International Centre of Excellence;
- d) To promptly inform the Bial Foundation of the occurrence of any fact or event that may adversely affect or impact the normal development of the Research Project or agreed timelines;
- e) To provide a scientific final report on the Research Project;
- f) To provide, together with the Host Entity, financial report(s) (to be defined according to the projects specificities), together with supporting documents for the respective expenses, in the terms to be defined in the Agreement;
- g) Deliver to the Host Entity where the Research Project was completed, at the end of the Research Project, the equipment acquired with the support of the Grant awarded by the Bial Foundation in the scope of the Maria de Sousa Award; if the Research Project is not completed or in case the Host Entity is not interested in such equipment, it shall be delivered to the Bial Foundation;
- h) Comply with other obligations arising from the law, this Regulation, and the Agreement, as well as respect the general principles of good practices, ethics and scientific integrity.

9.2. The Bial Foundation will promptly notify the Portuguese Medical Association of all facts and events communicated to it by the Grant Holders, under the terms of this Regulation, which it deems relevant, and which may have a material impact on the development of the Research Project.

Article 10 – Publications and Grant Mention

10.1. All published work or oral presentations made by the Grant Holder, by virtue or as a consequence of the Grant awarded in the scope of the Maria de Sousa Award to develop the Research Project, shall expressly mention that such works or presentations were supported by the Portuguese Medical Association and by the Bial Foundation, in the scope of the Maria de Sousa Award.

10.2. The Grant Holders covered by the Maria de Sousa Award and by this Regulation grant to the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation express authorisation and a free of charge, perpetual license, without geographical limits and transferable to use, reproduce, distribute, disseminate, publish and make available to the public, without limitation of means, place or form, including without limitation, on its Internet pages, social networks and other electronic platforms accessible to the public (including, without limitation, the pages www.ordemosmedicos.pt and www.bialfoundation.com), the Final Scientific Report issued at the conclusion of the Research Project, in whole or in part, in their original or translated language, allowing any user to access it at any time, free of charge and without content

restrictions, provided that the correct attribution of authorship and origin is safeguarded and, as such, authorising, under the same terms, the deposit of the Final Scientific Report in the documentary repositories (in physical and/or electronic/online format) of the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation.

- 10.3. The provisions in the preceding paragraphs shall not affect nor prejudice in any case the recognition and protection of the legally established intellectual property rights.
- 10.4. Without prejudice to the provisions of the previous paragraphs, the Grant Holders are the holders of the intellectual property rights over the results of the Research Project and work resulting from it, being solely responsible for protecting the intellectual property rights over the results of their work and Research Projects.
- 10.5. The Grant Holders recognise Bial Foundation's right to send copies of the documents related to the present Regulation and Grant to any authorities and/or entities that may request them under the terms of the applicable legislation, as well as Bial Foundation's right to publicise and disclose the attribution of the Grant in the terms it deems necessary and/or convenient, namely, communicating the amount of the Grant and the identity of the Grant Holders to the competent authorities.

Article 11 – Failure to Complete the Research Project

- 11.1. Failure to complete the Research Project represents a breach of this Regulation and of the Agreement and determines the application of the sanctions provided for in Article 12 of this Regulation.
- 11.2. Non-submission of the Final Report is equivalent, for legal purposes and those of this Regulation, to non-completion of the Research Project, and shall, therefore, be considered as a breach, under the terms of the previous paragraph.

Article 12 – Sanctions

- 12.1. If the Grant Holder withdraws from the Research Project, they are obliged to refund to the Bial Foundation the amount granted by it under the terms set out in this Regulation, in whole or in part, depending on what the Bial Foundation decides in the specific case.
- 12.2. The Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation may cancel the Grant, in case of breach of this Regulation and/or the Agreement. If the Grant is cancelled under the terms set out in this Regulation and in the Agreement, the Grant Holder will be obliged to refund the sums attributed thereto, in whole or in part, as decided by the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation in that particular case.

Article 13 – Personal Data

The personal data requested from each Applicant are adequate and strictly necessary for the purpose of the Maria de Sousa Award and shall be processed lawfully and with respect for the principle of good faith, in accordance with the Privacy Policy available on the website www.bialfoundation.com and with the information regarding the processing of personal data

contained in the application form. Applicants have the right to access and update their personal data and exercise other rights in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. For this purpose, they may directly contact the organisation of the Maria de Sousa Award via e-mail at privacy@bialfoundation.com. Applicants are responsible for any personal data eventually contained in the development of the Research Project, namely if it contains photographs, videos and/or special categories of data, such as genetic data, relating to health or sex life, or that reveal the racial or ethnic origin, and must ensure compliance with the applicable legislation on the protection of personal data, obtaining (when applicable) the consent of each of the participants.

Article 14 – Miscellaneous

- 14.1.** This Regulation is governed by Portuguese law and comes into force after its publication on the websites of the Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation.
- 14.2.** Any matter not specifically set forth in this Regulation shall be resolved by the Portuguese Medical Association and by the Bial Foundation. The Portuguese Medical Association and the Bial Foundation are responsible for amending this Regulation.
- 14.3.** Any disputes arising from the Maria de Sousa Award, namely regarding the interpretation or application of this Regulation, shall be submitted to the Porto district court.