

## **FLAD SCIENCE AWARD – ATLANTIC**

FLAD is launching the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the FLAD Science Award – Atlantic for researchers working in Portugal aiming to develop a collaborative effort with researchers in the USA.

### **1. OBJECTIVE**

The Atlantic research encompasses complex and multidisciplinary studies towards the better understanding of the interactions between oceans, atmosphere and space, under climate change. This research should promote new domains and sustainable activities across and within the Atlantic basin.

The objective of the FLAD Science Award is to increase the awareness on the Atlantic research fields, by providing support to high-quality young researchers intending to develop their research plans in Portugal in close interaction with leading USA groups.

Recognizing the multi-dimensionality of this field of research, a call for applications will be launched every year, in specific topics of large but coherent domains, namely: technology/engineering; environment and natural sciences; humanities and social sciences.

Additional information on each call can be found attached to this document.

### **2. SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE**

A Scientific Committee is defined in order to provide FLAD with independent scientific coordination and advice. The Scientific Committee is comprised of the following experts:

- Miguel Miranda (Executive Director of AirCentre, Professor at Faculdade de Ciências/UL)
- Pedro Camanho (President of LAETA, Professor at Faculdade de Engenharia/UP)
- Rui Ferreira dos Santos (Professor, CENSE – Centro de Investigação em Ambiente e Sustentabilidade, Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (CENSE, FCT-NOVA))
- Elsa Henriques (Professor at Instituto Superior Técnico/UL)

### **3. APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY/INDEPENDENCE**

At the time of application:

- The applicant must hold a PhD, or equivalent degree, for no longer than 8 years. The counting of the years after the PhD degree will take maternity and paternity leaves into consideration. In the case of maternity, 18 months are subtracted to the number of years after acquiring a PhD degree for each child born after the conclusion of the degree. In the case of paternity, the months of demonstrated leave will also be considered.
- The applicant must be an integrated member or collaborator of an R&D Unit recognized by FCT (Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology) in one of the fields of this call.

- The applicant must provide evidence of having conducted independent research of high quality. Additional information regarding the scientific quality of the Portuguese hosting institution must also be provided.
- The applicant's hosting R&D Unit must declare its support of the applicant and of the research plan and must describe the available resources that will be made available to develop the intended work.
- Detailed information is also required on the interaction with USA researchers/institutions.
- Eligibility is not restricted by citizenship.
- Applicants can only submit one application per call.

#### 4. APPLICATION AND REVIEW PROCESS

FLAD Science Award applications are reviewed by the Scientific Committee. The application/review process takes place in two phases. In the first phase, an initial review of the scientific/professional curriculum of the applicant is conducted, in conjunction with a general review of the research proposal. The top ranked applicants will then be invited to submit a research plan proposal that encompasses 3 years of work.

Each application will be assigned (at least) two reviewers for each phase of the application process, who will evaluate the application, based on the following Selection Criteria:

1. **Researcher Excellence and Independence:** This includes the researcher qualifications as regards the academic background, research experience, capacity to perform independent research, other achievements and publication track-record in the field.
2. **Relevance of the research project:** This includes the relevance of the research proposal for positive contributions for the Atlantic context in economical, societal and/or environment terms.
3. **Scientific Merit of the proposal:** This includes the contribution for overcoming scientific gaps, the quality of the underlying scientific hypothesis, the experimental design, and the likelihood of the proposed research to produce significant new results to enhance the sustainability of Atlantic exploration.
4. **Research Environment:** This includes the availability of resources needed for the research program, quality and commitment of the supporting institution.
5. **Interaction with USA researcher(s) and institution(s):** This includes the profile of the USA researcher and of the institution, together with the relevance and commitment in the interaction.

Each criterion will be scored from 1 to 5 (with decimal increases). The final score will be the arithmetic mean of the scores from the five criteria.

The Scientific Committee may consider interviewing the top ranked candidates for finalizing their relative positions.

#### 5. TERMS OF THE GRANTS

##### Duration

The grants are awarded for three years. FLAD retains the right to decide on renewal

each year, upon receiving a satisfactory progress report and in accordance with the opinion of the review committee.

### **Amount**

The total amount of the award is €250,000. The funding will be made available in three annual instalments: €70,000 in the first year, €90,000 in the second year, and €90,000 in the third year. Indirect costs may represent up to 20% of the total awarded amount. The contracting of human resources is supported and encouraged.

The first-year grant is made available upon execution of the Contract Agreement.

The following year grants are disbursed after a positive evaluation of the annual progress report.

All amounts are transferred to the Portuguese R&D Unit where the applicant researcher is integrated.

## **6. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

### **Progress Reports**

Recipients of FLAD Science Award are required to submit a progress report, outlining the project's accomplishments during the first 11 months of the grant, and be available for presentation and dissemination actions. Second- and third year funding is contingent upon favorable evaluation of the previous year's progress report.

### **Final Scientific Report**

The final scientific report, a brief summary of progress toward the achievement of originally stated aims, is due 60 days after the end of the project.

### **Financial Reports**

Annual financial reports will be due two months after the end of each project year.

## **7. PUBLICATIONS**

Publications resulting from research activities supported by FLAD grants (or other public/private project presentations) must contain the following acknowledgement: *"Supported by (Insert project title of the grant and reference number) from the Fundação Luso-Americana para o Desenvolvimento"*.

## **8. PATENTS**

Grants are awarded with the understanding that FLAD will receive written notification from the applicant of the filing of any letters of patent for any discovery made based on work funded by FLAD.

## FLAD SCIENCE AWARD – ATLANTIC

### CALL 2027 – Technology/Engineering Driven research

#### ANNEX

To better understand changes in the Atlantic and its ecosystems, and to support its sustainable exploitation, the importance of technology/engineering driven research is recognized, particularly as regards the creation and development of transversal tools and strategic solutions for the current and expected challenges in the context of human activity in the Atlantic.

The CALL 2027 of the FLAD Science Award – Atlantic is dedicated to maritime science and technology as a means to stimulate innovation and strengthen the sustainable development of the ocean economy.

Key topics that can be addressed are:

- Science and technology to promote a healthy and clean ocean, addressing the Atlantic as a natural ecosystem asset;
- Future impact of climate change on human populations in the Atlantic coastal regions and design of mitigation or adaptation actions, including citizen participation;
- Assessing the value of the Atlantic natural assets and ecosystem services, and its contribution to blue economy, making use of extensive data and advanced economic analysis;
- Environmental and Energy transition strategies for islands or isolated areas;
- Sustainable maritime transportation and logistics, in the context of increasing digital transformation;
- New approaches to planning, monitoring and managing of Atlantic spaces, including the preservation of critical ecosystems, making use of observation methods involving low-cost satellite systems or advanced sensing devices, combined with data science and artificial intelligence;
- Enabling technologies, including intelligent underwater robotics, unmanned shipping, acoustic communications, sensors or data analysis.

#### HOW TO APPLY - CALENDAR

##### Step 1

- **Open from June 1 to June 30, 2026, 11:59 PM** (Continental Portugal Time, UTC+00:00)
- Applications must be submitted to FLAD by online form available here [https://flad.secure.force.com/CandidaturaMain?language=pt\\_PT](https://flad.secure.force.com/CandidaturaMain?language=pt_PT)
- Documents to be uploaded:
  - Applicant Biographical Sketch (template provided).

**Results of Step 1 (candidates elected) announced by September 20, 2026.**

## **Step 2**

- **Open from September 21 to October 21, 2026**, 11:59 PM (Continental Portugal Time, UTC+00:00)
- Applications must be submitted to FLAD by online form available here [https://flad.secure.force.com/CandidaturaMain?language=pt\\_PT](https://flad.secure.force.com/CandidaturaMain?language=pt_PT)
- Documents to be uploaded:
  - Applicant Biographical Sketch (template provided)
  - US Collaborator Biographical Sketch (template provided)
  - US Collaborator declaration (acceptance and collaboration)
  - Term of Responsibility (signed by the Responsible Portuguese Institution Official).

**Interviews of the top ranked candidates.**

**Results to be announced to candidates by the end of 2026.**

**The public announcement of the winner and the award ceremony will take place in 2027.**