

Atlantic Security Award 2026

The [Luso-American Development Foundation](#) (FLAD), the [Atlantic Centre](#) (AC) and the [National Defence Institute](#) (IDN) will award two researchers in the field of Security and Defense in the Atlantic. The selected research projects will be developed for a period of eight months beginning in 2026.

Objective and scope

This call aims at selecting two researchers whose research projects demonstrate the capacity to contribute to the advancement of knowledge on topics related to current Security and Defense issues in the Atlantic in a broad perspective.

Key topics that can be addressed are:

- Impact of public policies on Atlantic security and defense;
- The nexus between environment, security, and development;
- Transnational threats to the Atlantic space;
- Exercise of sovereignty and capacity-building in the maritime domain;
- Security cooperation and competition dynamics, from the local to the global level;
- Maritime security, ocean governance and the security of ocean infrastructure.

Accepted topics for research are not limited to the ones listed above.

Applicant eligibility

At the time of application:

- The applicant must hold a PhD, or equivalent degree, for no longer than 10 years.
 - The counting of the years after the PhD degree will take maternity into consideration: to the number of years after acquiring a PhD degree, 18 months are subtracted for each child born after the conclusion of the degree.
- The research projects submitted for this grant must fall under the general category of security and defense in the Atlantic.

Application process

The call is open from **March 19th to May 8th, 2026**, 11:59 PM (Continental Portugal Time, UTC).

Applicants will be notified of the decision by June 15th, 2026.

Applications must be submitted through the online form available here:

<https://flad.my.salesforce-sites.com/CandidaturaMain?language=en>.

Please note that only applications submitted through this form will be considered.

Candidates are required to upload the following documents (in English or in Portuguese):

- Detailed *curriculum vitae*;
- Document certifying that the candidate holds a PhD degree;
- One recommendation letter;
- Cover letter (in English or Portuguese)
- Detailed research plan proposal (see Annex A for guidelines)

Applicants can only submit one application per call.

Selection committee

Applications will be reviewed by the following selection committee:

- Francisco Proença Garcia, Professor at IEP Católica
- Bernardo Calheiros, Atlantic Centre
- Patrícia Daehnhardt, Advisor at the National Defence Institute

Review process and selection criteria

Applications are reviewed by the Selection Committee, who will assess them based on the following selection criteria:

- Researcher's academic record and qualifications

- Relevance of the project to the institutions organizing the award and originality of the proposed research;
- Clear identification of research goals, indicators of scientific implementation (preparation of scientific contributions and participation in meetings, conferences, or other scientific applied research events), outputs, and research timeline;
- Potential of the researcher and the project;
- Potential for the research project to evolve into a project with practical application;
- Proven ability to conduct independent research

If applicable, members of the selection committee must declare in writing the existence of conflicts of interest during the evaluation process, which should be recorded in the minutes.

In the selection process, preference will be given, in this order, to nationals of Atlantic Centre member countries and to nationals of other Atlantic countries. For one of the awards, priority will be given to a Portuguese applicant.

The jury's decision is final and cannot be appealed. The name of the winners will be made known through an official document to be published on the websites of the three institutions.

Expected research outputs

Researchers awarded with this grant are expected to:

- 1) submit one Atlantic Centre policy brief on the topic of research;
- 2) submit one peer review publication with the main findings of the research project in one of the outlets of the National Defence Institute and participate in two Expert Groups meetings;
- 3) submit one final report (in English or Portuguese), up to 90 days after the end of the research period, indicating the activities that were developed, the main findings of the research, and the list of partners that the project engaged.

Terms of the grants

Duration

The two selected candidates will receive a grant for a research period of eight months beginning in 2026.

Funding

Each of the two selected candidates will receive a grant of 15,000 €, to be transferred at the beginning of the research period.

Location

Excluding fieldwork and meetings or conferences that require travelling, each selected researcher is expected to remain in his/her country of residence. However, if the project requires it, IDN will host the researcher in Lisbon. In this latter case, the round trip and accommodation expenses in Lisbon are supported by the researcher.

Publications and activities

Publications resulting from research activities supported by the Atlantic Security Award must contain the following acknowledgement: “Supported by the Atlantic Security Award from the Luso-American Development Foundation, the Atlantic Centre and the National Defence Institute”, while associated activities should make use of the corresponding graphic materials.

Any questions regarding this call should be directed to FLAD, through the following email address: relacoes.transatlanticas@flad.pt.

ANNEX A

Atlantic Security Award 2025

Guidelines for the detailed research proposal

The research plan proposal for the Atlantic Security Award must include the following elements:

- i) Title of the project
- ii) Identification of the theme and goals of the project
- iii) State of the art
- iv) Methodology
- v) Impact or practical application potential of the research
- vi) Planned activities
- vii) Expected outcomes
- viii) Performance indicators
- ix) Reference to ethical issues that may arise from the research and how they will be addressed (especially relevant, though not limited to, any fieldwork to be carried out)
- x) Research project timeline for the eight months

The proposal must also comply with the following writing requirements:

- Be written in English or in Portuguese
- Not exceed 4,000 words