

The image shows a close-up, top-down view of a riverbed. The water is clear and blue, revealing a dense field of smooth, rounded river stones in various shades of grey, tan, and brown. On the right side, there is a distinct vertical boundary where the water is shallower, and the stones are more densely packed and appear greener, possibly due to algae or moss growth. The overall scene is serene and natural.

**Ic. Transverse
and Innovative
Projects**

Interuniversity Programme for Scientific Capacity Strengthening

Component of the Education and Scholarships Department

[€320 000]

The Interuniversity Doctoral Programme in Mathematics was begun in 2007 and was planned to last for three academic years. It came into being through the combined efforts of the scientific committees of the Department of Pure Mathematics of the Faculty of Science of the University of Porto and the Department of Mathematics of the Faculty of Science and Technology of the University of Coimbra, who wished to set up a postgraduate teaching programme that could become a benchmark of quality in research into mathematics and therefore sought to gain international recognition for the schools.

In 2009, three students attended this interuniversity doctoral programme on scholarships provided by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. This support took the form of the payment of their fees, a monthly subsidy and the corresponding social security contributions.

Under the scope of this interuniversity programme, a competitive application process was set up to award “Support for Interuniversity Doctoral Programmes”. This is designed to encourage closer cooperation between Portuguese university departments that, already endowed with undeniable academic merit, will in this way be able to find platforms making it possible to create doctoral programmes that are not only competitive in international terms, but also attractive for both Portuguese and foreign students and researchers. The aim is to provide high-quality programmes of advanced training through the consequent combination of specialist skills and capacities.

Two projects were selected for funding under this process of “Support for Interuniversity Doctoral Programmes”:

- › Interuniversity Doctoral Programmes in Ageing and Degeneration of Complex Biological Systems – Faculty of Medicine of the University of Coimbra/Faculty of Medical Sciences of the New University of Lisbon/School of Health Sciences of the University of Minho;
- › Doctoral Programme in Plant Biology (BioPlant) – Department of Botany, Faculty of Science of the University of Porto/Department of Biology of the University of Aveiro/Department of Biology of the University of Minho.

Component of the Science Department

[€60 000]

Under the scope of this same programme, a component was established that would provide support for the recruitment of mid-career scientists with recognised curricula in this area to engage in research work at Portuguese universities.

The support that has been provided to the Faculty of Medical Sciences of the New University of Lisbon since 2007 was continued, with the aim of encouraging the development of scientific research projects in the area of cellular and molecular biology.