



Federal University of Rio Grande of Norte - UFRN
Dean of Graduate Studies Programs - PPG

CALL 02/2025 – PPG

SELECTION PROCESS – Ph.D. Program for Foreign Students

The Deanship of Graduate Program (PPG) at the Federal University of Rio Grande of Norte (UFRN), in accordance with the UFRN Internationalization Plan (Resolution nº 052/2018 – CONSEPE/UFRN) and its Internationalization Policy (Resolution nº 189/2017 – CONSEPE/UFRN), aiming to qualify human resources and strengthen the international partnership, announces the call for Foreign Students for Ph.D. Programs.

I. Ph.D. Program

I.1 – Time for completion: 48 months.

I.2 – Students must complete mandatory hours and get approval in core and non- core disciplines, as assigned by the student's supervisor.

I.3 – On the Qualifying Examination: Ph.D. students must to complete and get approval in the Qualifying Exam up to the 18th month of Graduate Studies Programs. As a qualifying requirement, students must provide an in-depth written document surveying the research area focused accompanied by a public oral presentation to be enquired by the Examination Committee. The written document should include a detailed review of the current literature, the experimental design and the methodology to be applied. Oral examination is intended to provide the Examination Committee with evidence of your research understanding and capabilities and allow the committee to give you useful feedback on your research direction. The presentation of preliminary results is expected and strongly recommended.

I.4 – On the thesis: The thesis must be presented up to the 48th month of Ph.D. Program. It should consist of an original contribution to the scientific field and must be written in English.

I.5 – On the dedication time: The Ph.D. Program requires exclusive and full dedication.



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I.6 – On the Portuguese language: During the first semester, applicants are recommended to attend Portuguese classes for international students held by the university aiming to provide them the ability to communicate and performing basic activities of daily living as needed.

I.7 – Students might have the option to attend the first classes in English, according to the calendar and planning the Program in which they were admitted.

II. OFFER OF ADMISSION

II.1 – Graduate Programs will provide up to five extra PhD positions specifically to international students, beyond those annually offered by each Program.

II.2 – Participating Graduate Programs at the Current Call are:

1. Bioinformatic (<https://posgraduacao.ufrn.br/PPGBIONE>)
2. Computer Science (<https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/portal.jsf?id=73>)
3. Ecology (https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/apresentacao.jsf?lc=pt_BR&id=4846)
4. Languages Studies (<https://posgraduacao.ufrn.br/ppgel>)
5. Materials Science and Engineering (<https://posgraduacao.ufrn.br/ppgcm>)
6. Nursing (<https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/portal.jsf?id=412>)
7. Physics (<https://ppgf.fisica.ufrn.br/>)
8. Psychology (<https://posgraduacao.ufrn.br/ppgps>)
9. Psychobiology (https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/apresentacao.jsf?lc=pt_BR&id=367)

II.3 – Scholarships will be granted according the availability of funding from the Graduate Program elected by the candidate.

II.4 – For enrolment in additional Graduate Programs not listed above, please see Appendix 2.

III. APPLICATION PERIOD

III.1 – Applications will be open from June 1st, 2025 to May 31st, 2026, and must be sent to the e-mail print@ppg.ufrn.br.



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III.2 – Application Procedures:

III.2.1 – Registration Form will be available electronically in the website of participant Programs (item II.2) and in the follow address: <http://www.ppg.ufrn.br/>

III.2.2 – General Application Form is available attached at the end of this CALL 02/2025 – Ph.D. Program for international students (Appendix 1).

III.2.3 – Applicants will be asked to fill the form with the subject CallPhDForeignStudent and return it by e-mail to the address print@ppg.ufrn.br.

III.2.4 – For registering applicants must attach the following documents:

- a) Registration form filled out completely in PDF format (Appendix 1);
- b) Curriculum in Research Gate (ORCID) Platform (PDF format);
- c) Link for the ORCID registration (PDF format);
- d) Copy of valid passport (PDF format);
- e) Copy of the Undergraduate certificate or equivalent, issued by an institution authorized for that purpose (PDF format);
- f) Copy of the master's degree, if applied (PDF format);
- g) Recommendation letter in PDF format from the institution where the candidate has completed the last grades (undergraduate and master degree);
- h) Doctoral thesis proposal (PDF format).

IV. SPECIFICS REQUIREMENTS

Candidates must observe specific requirements related to the Graduate Program (item II.2.) they are applying to, as listed in the annexes to this call.

V. SELECTION PROCESS

V.1 – An evaluating Committee will be assigned by each Program aiming to select foreign candidates for the Ph.D. Program. The decision will be announced within 30 days after the candidate's registration.



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V.2 – The selection process will be conducted through the following steps:

V.2.1 – Appraisal of the documentation submitted and the candidate's Curriculum;

V.2.2 – Evaluation of the thesis project presented using as criteria the originality, and adequacy to the program's research lines, laboratory infrastructure for its implementation and guidance capacity;

V.2.3 – Technical Interview performed through video-conferencing tools previously scheduled by the Evaluating Committee.

V.3 – Substantiated Final Report delivered by the Evaluating Committee at the end of the selection process accepting or not the candidate.

V.4 – The selection process result will be announced in the program's website and communicated to the applicants by e-mail.

V.5 – After the results announcement, approved candidates will have 180 days to be present for the completion of registration procedures.

VI. ENROLLMENT

VI.1 – The applicant must submit the original documents (academic and private documents) for enrollment.

VI.2 – Candidates are responsible for the application with government agencies to require International Student Visa when needed.

VI.3 – The candidate is responsible for registering at the Federal Revenue Secretariat to request CPF (Code for Individual Registration); at Federal Police Office to request RNE (National Register for Foreigners) and for opening the bank account, if awarded with a scholarship.

VI.4 – This Call is valid from the date of its publication and replaces any call previously published.

Natal, June 10, 2025

Prof. Rubens Maribondo do Nascimento
Deanship of Graduate Programs – PPG/UFRN



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APPENDIX 1

**CALL 02/2025 - PPG - SELECTION PROCESS - Ph.D. PROGRAM FOR FOREIGN
STUDENTS' REGISTRATION FORM**

PERSONAL INFORMATION				
First name:	Middle name:	Last name:		
Date of birth (month, day, year):				
City of birth:	Country of birth:			
Passport number:				
E-mail:				
Mother's full name:				

INFORMATION TO THE Ph.D AT UFRN	
Program (Please see the Call 02/2025- PPG):	
Research line (choose one line listed in the Call, if any):	
Did you contact a supervisor? (Yes or no):	
Supervisor:	E-mail:

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION - MASTER DEGREE	
Course:	
Title of the dissertation:	
Supervisor:	E-mail:
Period of the course (from month, years to month, year):	
University:	
City and Country:	

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION - UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE	
Course:	
Period of the course (from month, years to month, year):	
University:	
City and Country:	

SEND THIS FORM AND THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED TO print@ppg.ufrn.br WITH THE SUBJECT

CallPhDForeignStudent



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APPENDIX 2

ADDITIONAL GRADUATE PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR ACCESS UNDER REQUEST

APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCES

Administration
Social Sciences
Tourism

BIOCIENCES

Biotechnology
Development and Environment (PRODEMA)
Molecular Biology and Biochemistry
Systematic and Evolution

BRAIN INSTITUTE -ICE

Neurosciences

EDUCATION

Education

EXACT AND EARTH SCIENCES

Climate Sciences
Demography
Geodynamics and Geophysics
Science and Mathematics Teaching

HEALTH SCIENCES

Dental Sciences
Health Sciences
Nursing in Health Care
Public Health
Pharmaceutical Sciences
Physiotherapy

HUMAN SCIENCES, LANGUAGES AND ARTS

Philosophy
Geography
History
Media Studies
Social Anthropology
Social Sciences

INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC POLICIES

Regional and Urban Studies

INSTITUTE OF CHEMISTRY

Chemistry

TECNOLOGY

Architecture and Urbanism
Chemical Engineering
Computational and Electric Engineering
Petroleum Science and Engineering



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APPENDIX 3

Applicants to Bioinformatic must fulfill the following requirements:

- A. Pursue an Undergraduate or Master's Degree in a university/institute ranked by international rankings (to be analyzed for validation by the Evaluation Committee)
- B. Present a certificate of proficiency in English by TOEFL (Institutional Testing Program (ITP) or Internet-Based Test (IBT) or Certificate of Proficiency in English from the University of Cambridge
- C. Present the pre-proposal for Ph.D. thesis, with up to 15 pages, with the scientific subject/topic suited to the PPg-Bioinfo research lines (Genomics, Systems Biology, and Development of products and process), including the indication of intended supervisor. The project should contain:
 - 1. Proposal Identification with Title, research line, name of the candidate, and intended advisor (suggestion)
 - 2. Abstract
 - 3. Description and Justification of the problem to be addressed
 - 4. Goals and objectives
 - 5. Summary of Methodology and research approaches
 - 6. Expected results and impacts
 - 7. References
 - 8. Schedule
 - 9. Estimated Budget (if any, report funding and the support agency)
 - 10. Keywords



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APPENDIX 4

Applicants to Ecology Program must fulfill the following requirements:

- A. Pursue an Undergraduate or Master's Degree in a university/institute ranked by international rankings (to be analyzed for validation by the Evaluation Committee) in Ecology, Biology, Environmental Engineering or in the field of Natural Sciences.
- B. Present the pre-proposal for Ph.D. thesis, with up to 10 pages, with the scientific subject/topic suited to the Ecology Program and containing:
1. Proposal Identification with Title, research line, name of the candidate, and intended advisor (suggestion)
 2. Abstract with keywords
 3. Description and Justification of the problem to be addressed
 4. Goals and objectives
 5. Hypothesis
 6. Summary of Methodology and research approaches
 7. Expected results and impacts
 8. References
 9. Schedule
 10. Estimated Budget (if any, report funding and the support agency)
- C. The Committee will evaluate the technical and scientific suitability of the proposal to the capacity of the Program and the technical quality of the text (structure, coherence, research problem and methodological adequacy). The candidates will be approved in the project evaluation if they obtain grade equal to or higher than 7.0 (seven).
- D. The presentation of the project and the curriculum vitae (20 min) and enquiry by the Evaluation Committee (30 min) are mandatory. The date will be scheduled by the Coordination of the Ecology Program and informed with at least 48 hours in advance by the email registered in the application form. Approval requires a grade equal to or higher than 7.0.
- E. If the presentation and the project questioning are approved, the candidates will have their curriculum vitae evaluated and graded.
- F. The Evaluating Committee will assign each candidate a Final Grade (FG) according to the following formula: $FG = [(0.4 \times \text{project grade}) + (0.3 \times \text{project presentation grade}) + (0.3 \times \text{proportional grade of curriculum})]$.



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APPENDIX 5

Applicants to Computer Science must fulfill the following requirements:

A. Pursue an Undergraduate or Master's Degree (desirable) at an internationally graded university/institute (to be analyzed/validated by the Evaluation Committee)

B. Present a pre-proposal for Ph.D. thesis, with up to 10 pages, with the scientific subject/topic suited to one or more research lines of PPgSC (see table below). The project must contain:

1. Proposal Identification: title, research line, candidate's name and research area.
2. Abstract.
3. Description and Justification of the problem to be addressed.
4. Goals and objectives.
5. Summary of Methodology and research approaches.
6. Expected results and impacts.
7. Motivation for pursuing a PhD in Computer Science.
8. References.

Computational Intelligence and Visual Computing • Artificial Intelligence • Computer Vision • Image Processing • Machine Learning • Metaheuristics • Optimization
Computing Foundations • Non-classical Logic • Uncertainty modeling • Formal languages and Models of Computation
Integrated and Distributed Systems • Cloud-to-Things continuum:ubiquitous/Clud/Edge/fog Computing • Internet of Things • Middleware • 5%G networks • Software-defined networks (SND) and network function virtualization (NFV) • Smart city application • Embedded System Design • Reconfigurable Architectures • Multiprocessor System on Chip and Network on Chip
Programming Languages and Formal Methods • Graph Query languages • Program Synthesis • Domain-Specific Languages • Parsing Techniques • Software Energy Efficiency
Software Engineering • Computer-Human Interaction • Experimental Software Engineering • Requirements Engineering • Software Analytics • Software Architecture • Software testing



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APPENDIX 6

Applicants to Graduate Program in Nursing:

- A. Applicants must pursue undergraduate and master's degree in nursing (to be analyzed for validation by the Evaluation Committee)
- B. The candidate must submit the thesis project with up to 10 pages (except for the abstract, the title page and references) containing: the title, abstract, introduction/justification, objectives, summarized method, expected results, timetable of the project and references. The project must be presented in PDF format, page A4, source Times New Roman, size 12. The text must have a spacing of 1.5 cm throughout the document. The lines and pages must be continuously numbered. The project must include one of research lines below:
- a. Technological development in health and nursing
 - b. Nursing in health surveillance
- C. Evaluation of the project: the EC will evaluate the adequacy of the project to the technical and scientific capacity of the Program (adherence to the Program's lines of supervision) and the technical quality of the text (structure, coherence, research problem and methodological adequacy). To the approval candidates must obtain a grade equal to or higher than 7.0 (seven). See supervisors research area at https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/equipe.jsf?lc=en_US&id=412
- D. The presentation of the project and the curriculum vitae (20 min) is mandatory, on a date to be scheduled in the timeframe of 30 days from the validation of application. The candidate will be informed by the email registered in the application form, with at least 48 hours in advance. After the presentation, the candidate will answer the questions of the Evaluation Committee (up to 20 min). To the approval candidates must reach a grade equal/higher than 7.0 (seven).
- E. If the presentation and the project questioning are approved, the candidates will have their curriculum vitae evaluated and graded.
- F. The Evaluation Committee will attribute a Final Grade (FG) to each candidate according to the following formula: $FG = [(0.4 \times \text{project grade}) + (0.3 \times \text{grade of project's presentation}) + (0.3 \times \text{grade proportional to the curriculum vitae})]$. Thus, the FG has 40% of the project's content, 30% of the grade of presentation/questioning of the project, and 30% of the grade equivalent to the candidates' curriculum vitae.



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Applicants to Physics must consider the Research Lines listed to each Area as follows:

ASTRONOMY • Formation, structure and stellar evolution • Magnetism, Nucleosynthesis, Stellar Multiplicity • Magnetic Fields in Astrophysical Plasmas • Extragalactic Astrophysics • Gravitational Wave Astronomy • Instrumentation in Astronomy	
CONDENSED MATTER (THEORETICAL) • Quasiperiodic Systems • Quantum Magnetism • Photonic and Magnonic Crystals • Many Bodies Theory • Nanostructured Systems	CONDENSED MATTER (EXPERIMENTAL) • Optical Spectroscopy • Magnetism and magnetic materials • Nanostructured Materials • Quasicrystals • Semiconductors • Superconductivity • Scientific Instrumentation
COSMOLOGY • Alternative Theories of Gravitation • Dark Energy • Large Scale Structures • Gravitational Waves • Observational Tests of cosmological models • Particle Physics and Astroparticles	
FIELD THEORY • String Theory and Quantum Gravitation • Low Power Systems • Statistical Theory of Fields	
QUANTUM INFORMATION • Quantum Correlations • Quantum Protocols For information Processing • Fundamentals of Quantum, Causality and Machine Learning • Experimental Implementations	
STATISTICAL PHYSICS AND COMPLEX SYSTEMS • Numerical Modeling of Physical and Biological Systems • Oil Physics • Disorderly Systems • Complex Networks	



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APPENDIX 8

Applicants to Graduate Program in Psychology:

A. The candidate must submit the thesis project with up to 10 pages (except for the abstract, the title page and references) containing: the title, abstract, introduction/justification, objectives, summarized method, expected results, timetable of the project and references. The project must be presented in PDF format, page A4, source Times New Roman, size 12. The text must have a spacing of 1.5 cm throughout the document. The lines and pages must be continuously numbered. The topic of the project must correspond to one of the Program's following Lines of Supervision:

- Health, Labor and Development
- Psychology, Politics and Sociospacialities

B. Evaluation of the project: the committee will evaluate the adequacy of the project to the technical and scientific capacity of the Program (adherence to the Program's lines of supervision) and the technical quality of the text (structure, coherence, research problem and methodological adequacy). The candidates will be approved in the project evaluation if they obtain grade equal to or higher than 7.0 (seven). To know the lines of research of the supervisors, access the website: https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/apresentacao.jsf?lc=pt_BR&id=64.

C. The presentation of the project and the curriculum vitae (20 min) is mandatory, on a date to be scheduled in the timeframe of 30 days from the validation of the Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte | UFRN Vice- Presidency of the Graduate Program | PPG application. The candidate will be informed by the email registered in the application form, with at least 48 hours in advance. After the presentation, the candidate will answer the questions of the Evaluation Committee (40 min). The candidates' approval relies on obtaining a grade equal to or higher than 7.0 (seven).

D. If the presentation and the project questioning are approved, the candidates will have their curriculum vitae evaluated and graded.

E. The Evaluation Committee will attribute a Final Grade (FG) to each candidate according to the following formula: $FG = [(0.4 \times \text{project grade}) + (0.3 \times \text{grade of project's presentation}) + (0.3 \times \text{grade proportional to the curriculum vitae})]$. Thus, the FG has 40% of the project's content, 30% of the grade of presentation/questioning of the project, and 30% of the grade equivalent to the candidates' curriculum vitae.



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Applicants to Psychobiology:

A. Have to submit the thesis project with up to 10 pages (except abstract, cover page and references) containing: title, abstract, introduction / justification, objective and hypotheses, summarized methodology, expected results, project schedule and references. The project must be presented in PDF format, A4 page, Times New Roman font size 12. Pages should follow the standard 2.54 cm on all margins. The text should have 1.5cm spacing throughout the document. Lines and pages should be numbered continuously. The project theme must suit to one of the following Program's research lines:

- Behavioral analysis of animal cognition
- Evolutionary approaches to human behavior
- Animal communication and sensory ecology
- Social behavior and ecology
- Behavioral Endocrinology
- Psychobiology of cognitive processes
- Psychopharmacology
- Biological rhythms and behavior

B. Project evaluation: the commission will evaluate the adequacy of the project to the technical and scientific capacity of the Program (adherence to the Program's research lines) and the technical quality of the text (structure, coherence, valid hypotheses and methodological adequacy). Will be approved in the project assessment for those candidates that obtain a grade equal to or higher than 7.0 (seven). To be aware of the supervisors' research lines, visit the website: https://sigaa.ufrn.br/sigaa/public/programa/apresentacao.jsf?lc=pt_BR&id=367.

C. It will be mandatory to present the project and curriculum (lasting for 20 min), on a date to be scheduled within 30 days from the validation of the application. The candidate will be informed by e-mail registered in the application form at least 48 hours before. After the presentation candidate will answer questions from the Evaluating Committee (lasting for 40 min). For approval candidates must obtain a grade equal to or higher than 7.0 (seven).

D. Applicants will have their curriculum evaluated and scored if approved on the project presentation and questioning,

E. The Evaluating Committee will assign each candidate a Final Grade (FG) according to the following formula: $FG = [(0.4 \times \text{project grade}) + (0.3 \times \text{project presentation grade}) + (0.3 \times \text{proportional grade of curriculum})]$. Accordingly, FG has 40% of the project contents, 30% of the project presentation/questioning grade, and 30% of the of candidates' curriculum equivalent grade.



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RUBENS MARIBONDO DO NASCIMENTO

PRO-REITOR(A) - TITULAR

PPG (11.23)

Matrícula: ###502#9

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