

The Polytechnic Institute of Leiria, Polytechnic Institute of Cavado and Ave, both from Portugal, and Technological University of the Shannon (TUS), Republic of Ireland, will accept applications to the PhD degree in Digitalisation Engineering, for both national and international students, under the following conditions:

**1. Numerus clausus**

**1.1.** Total number of places for 2025/2026: 25

**1.2.** Places for the 1<sup>st</sup> call / 1<sup>st</sup> phase: 9

**1.3.** Places for the 1<sup>st</sup> call / 2<sup>nd</sup> phase: 10 + places left from previous phase

**1.4.** Places for the 2<sup>nd</sup> call: 6 + places left from previous phase(s)

**2. Entry and admission requirements**

**2.1.** People who can apply:

- a) Holders of master's degree or a legal equivalent;
- b) Holders of a foreign higher education diploma, granted after a second cycle of studies, under the principles of the Bologna Process, by a State, which has subscribed this process;
- c) Holders of a foreign higher education diploma, that is recognized as meeting the objectives of the master's degree by the technical and scientific council board of the school where the candidate has applied for;
- d) Holders of a bachelor's degree who have a particularly relevant academic or scientific curriculum that is recognized as certifying the skills to attend this cycle of studies by the institution's competent board of school where the candidate has applied for;
- e) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional curriculum that is recognized as certifying the skills to attend this cycle of studies by the institution's competent board of the school where the candidate has applied for;

**2.2.** The only effect of the recognition referred to in b) to e) of point 2.1 is to grant access to the PhD degree and does not give its holder the equivalence to a master's degree or the recognition of that degree.

**2.3.** Candidates must have basic training in Engineering or Science and Technology.

**3. International Candidates**

**3.1.** International candidates are considered to be those who:

- i) Do not hold Portuguese/Irish nationality or nationality of one of the other member states of the European Union;
- ii) Are not family members of Portuguese/Irish nationals or nationals of a member state of the European Union<sup>1</sup>;
- iii) Have not legally reside in Portugal/Ireland for more than two years, uninterruptedly, on 01/01/2025, as well as the children who reside with them<sup>2</sup>;
- iv) Are not beneficiaries, on 01/01/2025, of a status of equal rights and duties attributed under an international treaty granted between the Portuguese/Irish State of which they are nationals.

**4. Selection criteria**

**4.1.** Regarding the applications submitted under Section 2.1, the score assigned to candidates, for the purpose of ranking, is represented on an integer numerical scale from 0 to 200, according to the following formula:

$$\text{Score} = [0.7 \times (\text{Curriculum Vitae}) + 0.25 \times (\text{presentation and motivation letter}) + 0.05 \times (\text{recommendation letter(s)})]$$

**4.2.** The evaluation of the Curriculum Vitae will take into consideration:

- 1) The adequacy and merit of the academic curriculum, particularly considering the final grades in first and second cycle courses, or equivalents, in areas relevant to Digitalization Engineering, such as Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Science, or related fields, mobility/exchange programs involving other universities, and results from internationally recognized standardized tests;
- 2) Scientific Experience, particularly participation in research projects, scientific publications, participation in conferences and scientific events, scientific awards, and other indicators of scientific activity and involvement;
- 3) Relevant experience and demonstration of proficiency in written and spoken English;
- 4) Other extracurricular activities, cultural, sports, or volunteer work, and community service that the candidate considers should be taken into account.

<sup>1</sup> For this purpose, family members are those established in Lei n.º 37/2006, dated August 9: i) The spouse of an European Union citizen; ii) Those living in a legal non-marital partnership with an European Union citizen, or those who have a relation with an European Union citizen, which is duly certified by the competent body of their Member State; iii) Lineal descendants under the age of 21 or those who are under the care of an European Union citizen;

the same applies to lineal descendants of the spouse or the partner indicated in the previous paragraph; iv) Lineal ascendants under the care of an European Union citizen; the same applies to lineal ascendants of the spouse or the partner indicated in the paragraph ii).

<sup>2</sup> The time of residence under a student permit is not taken into consideration.

The score assigned to the Curriculum Vitae is represented on an integer numerical scale from 0 to 200, according to the following formula:

Curriculum Vitae = 0.5 x academic curriculum + 0.25 x scientific curriculum + 0.2 x (relevant experience + proficiency in written and spoken English) + 0.05 x (extracurricular activities).

**4.3.** The candidate's presentation, including the motivation letter and interview<sup>3</sup> (if deemed necessary by the Steering Committee), will be used to assess the candidate's degree of alignment and commitment to the objectives of this doctoral program and the projected future impact after completing the program.

**4.4.** In the recommendation letters (up to two), the credibility and relevance of the observations contained therein will be valued, particularly in assessing other characteristics of the candidate's profile and background that help evaluate their work qualities, initiative, and degree of autonomy.

**4.5.** After applying the formula from section 4.1:

- Candidates who score less than 95 points on the integer numerical scale from 0 to 200 will be automatically excluded.
- In the event of a tie, the highest score in the academic curriculum will be used as the first tiebreaker, followed by the highest score in the scientific curriculum.

## 5. Application

**5.1.** The application must be submitted to only one institution, where the candidate intends to carry out their doctoral work, through <http://www.candidaturas.ipleiria.pt/>, <https://estudar.ipca.pt/candidaturas/>, or [www.tus.ie](http://www.tus.ie), and it is only considered valid after the upload of the documentation listed in section 5.2 and the payment of the application fee within the established deadline.

**5.2.** Supporting documents<sup>4</sup>:

The list of documents necessary for the application process is presented below, and those indicated in b), c) and d) are considered mandatory, and their absence may lead to exclusion:

a) Detailed *Curriculum Vitae*, and other documents that the candidate considers relevant to access their academic merit. All information indicated in the application which is relevant to assess the curriculum merit must be proven by presenting the corresponding certificates, under penalty of not being considered in the evaluation of the application;

b) ID card and VAT number. Foreign candidates may present another identification document that indicates their nationality. If candidates manifest their opposition to the reproduction/copy of the identification document, they must request an appointment with the Academic Services, within the deadline established for the application, to show the identification document in person;

c) Academic certificate, indicating the degree awarded and the final classification. Candidates holding a foreign qualification must instruct the application with an official statement issued by the Higher Education Institution where they completed the academic degree, indicating the academic degree, the final classification, and the used assessment scale;

d) Certificate of the curricular units of the degrees owned by the candidate, as well as the classification and credits;

e) Presentation and motivation letter from the candidate.

f) Recommendation letters.

**5.3.** Candidates not placed due to lack of vacancy can, however, request the transition of their application to the next phase (if any) on the application platform, with no additional cost.

**5.4.** Once all phases of the competition are completed, late applications may be accepted upon a well-founded request, provided that there are conditions for integration.

## 6. Calendar and enrolment

### 6.1. Calendar

Period	1 <sup>st</sup> Call / 1 <sup>st</sup> Phase	1 <sup>st</sup> Call / 2 <sup>nd</sup> Phase	2 <sup>nd</sup> Call / Single Phase
Applications	17.03.2025 - 30.04.2025	01.07.2025 - 29.08.2025	06.01.2026 - 30.01.2026
Publications of results	21.05.2025	16.09.2025	16.02.2026
Enrolment	26.05.2025 - 30.05.2025	18.09.2025 - 23.09.2025	18.02.2026 - 23.02.2026

**6.2.** Placed candidates who do not enroll within the established deadlines lose the right to their respective place, but may, however, reapply for the study cycle at a later phase, should this occur.

**6.3.** The enrollment and registration of the International Student are only confirmed after a single payment corresponding of 40% of the total base tuition fee, plus the enrollment fee.

## 7. Credits for previous training and professional experience

As established in the applicable legislation and in the Institute's regulations, candidates who intend to continue their studies may request that their previous training and professional experience be considered for the application, at the moment of the application.

<sup>3</sup> The scheduling for the interview will be sent by e-mail for the address referred in the application.

<sup>4</sup> The presentation of the originals may be required at any time. For foreign qualifications, the documents must be authenticated by the official education services of that country and recognized by a Portuguese consulate or have the Hague Convention apostille, under penalty of exclusion. The same should happen with regard to translations of documents

whose original language is not Spanish, French, English or Italian (translation into one of these languages is mandatory). Students must present a certificate issued by a competent authority proving their knowledge of the course language, or an equivalent, at a level equal to or higher than B2 (CEFR). If they do not provide the certificate at the time of application, they may be required to undergo a language assessment and may be required to reach the required level within the deadline set by CCCE.

**8. Starting date:** Students enrolled in the 1<sup>st</sup> call will start their activities in the 1<sup>st</sup> semester 2025/26, and students enrolled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> call will start their activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2025/26.

**9. Regime and days:**

**Regime:** Daylight Classes.

**Days:** Weekdays.

**10. Prerequisites:** not applicable

Instituto Politécnico de Leiria,

O Presidente,  
Carlos Manuel da Silva Rabadão

Technological University of the Shannon

President,  
Vincent Cunanne

**11. Language:** English.

**12. Minimum number of students for the degree:** To be defined

**13.** Detailed information on objectives, study plan, admission and entry conditions, selection and ranking criteria and working conditions can be found at [www.ipleiria.pt](http://www.ipleiria.pt), [www.ipca.pt](http://www.ipca.pt) and [www.tus.ie](http://www.tus.ie).

Instituto Politécnico do Cávado e do Ave,

A Presidente,  
Maria José da Silva Fernandes