

NOTICE
COMPETITION FOR ACCESS AND ADMISSION TO THE
MASTER'S DEGREE STUDY CYCLE IN
Innovation in Food Systems and Nutrition – Distance
Learning and Face-to-Face Regimes
2026/2027

The Polytechnic Institute of Leiria (IPLeiria) informs that applications are open for the cycle of studies leading to the master's degree in Innovation in Food Systems and Nutrition, for national and international students, under the conditions specified below:

1. Fixing vacancies

Total	1st Phase	2nd Phase	3rd Phase
25	25	Remaining places	Remaining places

2. Conditions of access and admission

2.1. The following may apply:

- a) Holders of a bachelor's degree or legal equivalent in Dietetics and Nutrition, Nutrition Sciences and related areas;
- b) Holders of a foreign higher academic degree, conferred following a 1st cycle of studies organized according to the principles of the Bologna Process by a State adhering to this Process in Dietetics and Nutrition, Nutrition Sciences and related areas;
- c) Holders of a foreign higher academic degree in Dietetics and Nutrition, Nutrition Sciences and related areas that is recognized as meeting the objectives of the bachelor's degree by the Technical-Scientific Council of the School;
- d) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional curriculum, which is recognized as attesting to the ability to carry out this cycle of studies by the Technical-Scientific Council of the School;
- e) Students who are in the process of completing the degree course in the areas of training whose possession is required for admission to the course and who declare this fact in the application.¹

2.2. The recognition referred to in points b) to d) of point 2.1 has the effect only of access to the cycle of studies leading to the master's degree and does not confer on its holder the equivalence to the bachelor's degree or the recognition of that degree.

3. International Applicants:

3.1 For the purposes of the provisions of this notice, an international student is a student who does not have Portuguese nationality, without prejudice to the provisions of the following numbers. Anyone who is in any of the following situations is not considered an international student:

- a) Is a national of a Member State of the European Union (EU) or of a State Party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area (EEA);

¹ IPLeiria students are exempt from presenting this proof, as provided for in no. 5.3 of this Notice.

- b) Is a family member of a Portuguese national or a national of another EU Member State or of a State Party to the EEA Agreement, regardless of their nationality²;
- c) Not being covered by the previous paragraphs, he has been legally residing in Portugal for more than two years, uninterruptedly, on 1 January 2026, as well as the respective children who legally reside with him. The time of residence with a residence permit for study is only relevant during the period in which the student is attending secondary education in Portugal;
- d) Is the beneficiary, on 1 January 2026, of a status of equal rights and duties granted under an international treaty or agreement entered into between the Portuguese State and the State of which it is a national.

3.2. International applicants must submit their application within the scope of the 1st and 2nd phase of application, except if they apply for the 3rd phase under paragraphs a) and b) of paragraph 2.1, or hold a residence permit in Portugal.

4. Ranking criteria

4.1. Regarding the applications submitted under paragraphs a), b), c) and e) of number 2.1:

The classification to be attributed to the candidates, for ranking purposes, translates into an entire numerical scale from 0 to 200, according to the following expression:

$$\text{Classification} = [0.40 \times \text{final classification of the 1st cycle course} + 0.20 \times \text{affinity} + 0.40 \times \text{bonus}] \times 10$$

Where:

Affinity is the proximity of the area of the 1st cycle course that the candidate holds with the area of the course to which he/she is applying, expressed on a scale of 0 to 20;

Final grade of 1st cycle course is the final grade of 1st cycle course up to 20 points;

Bonus is a classification to be awarded up to 20 points, if it is considered that the candidate has a relevant scientific or professional curriculum.

4.2. Regarding the applications submitted under paragraph d) of number 2.1:

The classification to be awarded to the candidates, for ranking purposes, translates into an entire numerical scale from 0 to 200 and evaluates the academic, scientific and/or professional curriculum of the candidate, according to the following expression:

$$\text{Classification} = (0.2 \times \text{school curriculum} + 0.4 \times \text{scientific curriculum} + 0.4 \times \text{professional curriculum}) \times 10$$

Where:

School curriculum weights the candidate's academic career (academic qualifications held), on a scale of 0 to 20 points;

Scientific curriculum considers the candidate's participation in congresses, seminars, projects and technical studies, as well as the technical-scientific production (e.g. articles and books), awards and similar elements, in a scientific area relevant to the study cycle in question, on a scale of 0 to 20 points;

Professional curriculum considers the candidate's training and professional activity, in an area relevant to the study cycle in question, on a scale of 0 to 20 points.

In the event that the jury determines that an interview should be conducted with the candidates, the classification to be awarded, for ranking purposes, translates into an entire numerical scale from 0 to 200, evaluates the candidate's academic, scientific and/or professional curriculum and the respective interview and is calculated from the following formula:

$$\text{Classification} = [0.15 \times \text{school curriculum} + 0.25 \times \text{scientific curriculum} + 0.25 \times \text{professional curriculum} + 0.35 \times \text{interview}] \times 10$$

² For these purposes, family members are those who are considered to be so under the terms of Law No. 37/2006, of 9 August, namely: i) the spouse of a citizen of the Union; ii) The partner with whom a citizen of the European Union lives in a de facto union, constituted under the terms of the law, or with whom the citizen of the Union maintains a permanent relationship duly certified, by the competent authority of the Member State where he resides; (iii) the direct descendant under 21 years of age or who is dependent on a citizen of the European Union, as well as that of the spouse or partner within the meaning of the preceding subparagraph; (iv) the dependent direct ascendant of a citizen of the European Union, as well as that of the spouse or partner within the meaning of point (ii).

Where:

School curriculum, *scientific curriculum* and *professional curriculum* weigh in the terms mentioned above.

Interview, classified on a whole numerical scale from 0 to 20, evaluates the following items: ability to express, critical sense, motivation and sense of responsibility, according to the following:

Ability to express itself – Measures the current of thought manifested through oral/written language, its fluency, transparency of ideas and logical sequence of reasoning;

Critical sense – Appreciates the innovative nature of the options taken and their reasoning, as well as the ability to argue in hypothetical or real scenarios;

Motivation and sense of responsibility – Evaluates the nature, intensity and permanence of motivations, interests and tastes.

4.3. Tiebreaker: best final classification of the 1st cycle course.

5. Nomination

5.1. The application must be submitted in <https://inforestudante.ipleiria.pt> and is only considered valid after uploading the mandatory documentation and paying the application fee provided for in the table of fees, made within the established deadline.

5.2. Documents to be submitted³:

The documents necessary for the instruction of the application process are submitted exclusively *online*, and those indicated in paragraphs b), c) and d) are considered mandatory, under penalty of exclusion:

- a) *Detailed Curriculum Vitae* and other documents that the candidate considers relevant for the assessment of his/her curricular merit. All the information indicated in the application relevant to the assessment of curricular merit must be proven by the presentation of the respective certificates, otherwise it will not be considered in the evaluation of the respective application;
- b) Valid civil identification document. Foreign applicants may present another civil identification document indicating their nationality. If the candidate expresses opposition to the reproduction of the document, he/she must request assistance from the Academic Management Services, within the application deadline, for face-to-face exhibition of the document;
- c) Certificate of qualifications indicating the degree with which the applicant is applying and the respective final classification. In the case of holding a foreign qualification, the candidate must instruct the application with an official statement issued by the higher education institution where he/she completed the academic degree, which includes the academic degree, the respective final classification and the evaluation scale used. Failure to prove the final classification of the academic degree, under the terms referred to, determines the attribution of the final classification of 100 points on a scale of 0 to 200. In the case of training carried out at IPEiria, students are exempt from presenting the document referred to in this paragraph.
- d) Candidates must present a declaration of honour assuming the knowledge of the English language necessary to attend the course;
- e) Other documents, for foreign candidates, related to proof of equivalence to a national student, when applicable.

5.3. Candidates who submit their application under paragraph e) of paragraph 2.1 and do not submit, until 20.04.2026 (1st phase), until 28.07.2026 (2nd phase) or until 09.09.2026 (3rd phase), proof of the required qualifications, are excluded in the phase to which they apply. They can, however, on the

³ You may be asked to submit the original documents at any time. When the documents presented do not include an electronic authentication code that allows their confirmation, and in the case of qualifications obtained abroad, they must be duly authenticated by the official education services of the respective country and recognized by a Portuguese consular authority or apostilled under the Hague Convention. The same procedure applies to translations of documents whose original language is not Spanish, French or English, and a translation into one of these languages is mandatory.

application platform, request the transition of their application to the next phase, if any, at no additional cost.

5.4. Candidates who are not placed due to lack of vacancy may, through the application platform, request the transition of their application to the next phase, if any, at no additional cost, as long as it remains unchanged.

5.5. Candidates who are not placed due to lack of vacancy may be called to enrol, at the stage in which they apply, if there is a vacancy later.

6. Calendar and Enrollment

6.1. Timing

Period	1st Phase	2nd Phase	3rd Phase
Application deadline	26.02.2026 -31.03.2026	09.06.2026 - 14.07.2026	17.08.2026 - 02.09.2026
Publication of Results	23.04.2026	30.07.2026	10.09.2026
Enrollment and registration	29.04.2026 - 07.05.2026	31.07.2026- 11.08.2026	11.09.2026- 16.09.2026

6.2. Placed candidates who do not enroll within the established deadlines lose the right to the respective vacancy, however, they may reapply for the study cycle at a later stage if it occurs.

6.3. The student's enrolment and/or enrolment are only confirmed after the payment of the first instalment of the tuition fee, including enrolment or registration fee, except for those who are candidates for scholarships under the social support system for the attendance of courses taught in higher education institutions, in which case the payment of the tuition fee can be deferred until the decision of the process and the payment of the first installment of the scholarship. In the case of International Students, in the year of enrollment the amount due corresponds to 30% of the total base tuition fee, plus the registration fee.

7. Crediting

Candidates may, under the terms provided for by law and in the institution's regulations, request the accreditation of training and professional experience, with a view to continuing studies, and should, for the purposes of better organization of the academic path, submit this request preferably at the time of application.

8. Course start: 15 October 2026

9. Place where face-to-face teaching activities take place: School of Health of Leiria

10. Regime and days of operation: Distance Learning regime. Synchronous classes - Weekdays from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm (time zone - Lisbon). Face-to-face classes – Week to be defined in June 2027

11. Prerequisites: Not applicable

12. Language used in teaching: English and Portuguese

13. Minimum number of students for the course to operate: 15

14. Detailed information on objectives, study plan, access and admission conditions, selection and ranking criteria, operating conditions and tuition fees can be consulted in www.ipleiria.pt.

15. In the event that there are still vacancies after the completion of all application phases, late applications may still be accepted, upon request, provided that there are conditions for academic integration in the course.

Polytechnic Institute of Leiria,
The President,
Carlos Manuel da Silva Rabadão