

The Polytechnic of Leiria (IPLeiria), the Polytechnic of Cávado and Ave (IPCA) and the *Technological University of the Shannon* (TUS), Ireland, hereby inform that applications to the cycle of studies leading to the PhD degree in Digitalization Engineering are accepted for national and international students, under the conditions specified below (in accordance with Portuguese legislation):

1. Fixing vacancies

- 1.1. Total number of vacancies for the 2026/2027 academic year: 25
- 1.2. Number of vacancies for the 1st call / 1st phase: 9
- 1.3. Number of vacancies for the 1st call / 2nd phase: 10 + remaining vacancies
- 1.4. Number of vacancies for the 2nd call (Single phase): 6 + remaining vacancies

2. Admission requirements

2.1. The following may apply:

- a) Holders of a master's degree or legal equivalent;
- b) Holders of a foreign higher academic degree, conferred following a 2nd cycle of studies organized in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Process by a State adhering to the Process;
- c) Holders of a foreign higher academic degree that is recognized as meeting the objectives of the master's degree by the Technical-Scientific Council of the School;
- d) Holders of a bachelor's degree, holders of a particularly relevant academic or scientific curriculum that is recognized as attesting the ability to carry out this cycle of studies by the Technical-Scientific Council of the School where the application was made;
- e) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional curriculum, which is recognized as attesting to the ability to carry out the study cycle by the Technical-Scientific Council of the School where the application was made.

2.2. The recognition referred to in points 2.1(b) to (e) has the effect only of granting access to the cycle of studies leading to a doctoral degree and does not confer on its holder the equivalence to a master's degree or the recognition of such a degree.

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

3. International Applicants:

3.1 International candidates are 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 or nationals of a Member State of the European Union¹;
- iii) do not legally reside in Portugal/Ireland for more than two years, uninterruptedly, on 01/01/2026, as well as the children who reside with them²;
- iv) are not beneficiaries, on 01/01/2026, of equal rights and duties granted under an international treaty granted between the Portuguese/Irish State and the State of which they are nationals.

4. Ranking criteria

4.1. Regarding the applications submitted under 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:

$$\text{Grade} = [0.7 \times (\text{Curriculum Vitae}) + 0.25 \times (\text{cover and motivation letter}) + 0.05 \times (\text{letter(s) of recommendation})].$$

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

- i) The adequacy and value of the academic curriculum, taking into account, in particular, the final grades in first and second cycle courses, or equivalent, in areas relevant to Digitalization Engineering, namely Electrical and Computer Engineering and Computer Engineering, or related, mobility/exchange actions involving other universities and results of internationally recognized standardized tests;
- ii) Scientific Experience, particularly, participation in research projects, scientific publications, participation in scientific conferences and events; scientific awards, other indicators of scientific activity and involvement;

¹For 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).

²The length of residence in Portugal with a residence permit for study is not relevant for this purpose.

iii) Relevant experience and demonstration of written and spoken proficiency in English;

iv) Other activities of an extracurricular, cultural, sports, or volunteer work and community service nature that the candidate deems should be taken into account.

The classification to be attributed to *the Curriculum Vitae* translates into an integer numerical scale from 0 to 200, according to the following expression:

$Curriculum Vitae = 0.5 \times \text{academic curriculum} + 0.25 \times \text{scientific curriculum} + 0.2 \times (\text{relevant experience} + \text{written and spoken proficiency in English}) + 0.05 \times (\text{extracurricular activities})$

4.3. The candidate's presentation, including the motivation letter and interview³ (if deemed necessary by the Coordination Committee of the Study Cycle - CCCE) will be used to assess the candidate's degree of alignment and commitment to the objectives of this doctoral program and the impact it projects in future terms after the completion of the doctoral program.

4.4. In the letters of recommendation (up to two), the credibility and relevance of the observations contained therein will be valued, in the assessment of other characteristics of the candidate's profile and path, which allow the evaluation of their work qualities, their capacity for initiative and their degree of autonomy.

4.5. After applying the formula in point 4.1:

i) Candidates who obtain a classification lower than 95 points, on the entire numerical scale from 0 to 200, will be automatically excluded.

ii) In the event of a tie, the best classification in the academic curriculum will be used as the first tiebreaker criterion and then the best scientific curriculum.

5. Application

5.1. The application must be submitted only at an institution, where the candidate intends to develop his/her doctoral work, in

<http://www.candidaturas.ipleiria.pt/>,

<https://estudar.ipca.pt/candidaturas/> or www.tus.ie and is only considered valid after uploading the documentation contained in point 5.2 and paying the application fee within the established deadline.

5.2. Documents to be submitted⁴:

The following are the list of documents necessary for the instruction of the application process, and the documents indicated in paragraphs a), 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) Civil identification document and tax identification number. Foreign applicants may present another civil identification document indicating their nationality. If the candidate expresses his/her opposition to the reproduction/copy of the identification document, he/she must request an appointment with the Academic Services, within the deadline established for the application, to present the identification document in person;

c) Certificate of qualifications indicating the degree with which you are applying and the respective final classification. The candidate holding a foreign qualification 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, as well as the evaluation scale used.

d) Certificate of the subjects of the study cycles that the candidate holds, as well as the classification and respective credits;

e) Cover letter and motivation of the candidate.

f) Letters of recommendation.

5.3 Candidates who are not placed due to lack of vacancy may request, on the application platform, the transition of their application to the next phase (if any), at no additional cost.

5.4 Once all phases of the competition have been completed, applications may be accepted after the deadline, upon duly substantiated request, provided that the conditions for integration are verified.

³The call for the interview will be made by email to the address indicated in the application.

⁴You may be required to submit your originals at any time. For qualifications obtained abroad, the documents must be authenticated, under penalty of exclusion, by the official education services of the respective country and recognized by a Portuguese consular authority or bring the Hague Convention apostille.

The same must apply 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 attesting to knowledge of the language of the course, or equivalent, with a level equal to or higher than B2 (CEFR). If they do not present the certificate at the time of application, they may undergo a level assessment and may be required to reach this level within the deadline set by the CCCE.

6. Calendar and Enrollment

6.1. Calendar

Period	1st Entry/ 1st Phase	1st Entry / 2nd Phase	2nd Entry / Single phase
Deadline Application	21.03.2026 - 30.04.2026	01.07.2026 - 28.08.2026	04.01.2027 - 29.01.2027
Publication of results	15.05.2026	9.09.2026	12.02.2027
Enrollment and Application	18.05.2026 - 29.05.2026	10.09.2026 - 15.09.2026	15.02.2027 - 19.02.2027

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 enrolment and registration of the International Student are only confirmed after a single payment corresponding to 40% of the total basic tuition fee, plus the registration fee.

7. Accreditation

Candidates may, under the terms provided for by law and in the regulations of the Institution, with a view to continuing their studies, request accreditation of training and professional experience, at the time of application.

Polytechnic of Leiria

The President,
Carlos Manuel da Silva Rabadão

Technological University of the Shannon

President,
Vincent Cunanne

8. Start of the course: Students enrolled in the 1st Intake start teaching activities in the 1st semester 2026/27 and those in the 2nd Intake in the 2nd semester 2026/27.

9. Regime and days of operation:

Regime: Daytime

Days of operation: Week days.

10. Prerequisites: Not applicable.

11. Language used in teaching: English.

12. Minimum number of students for the course to operate: Not applicable.

13. Detailed information on objectives, study plan, access and admission conditions, selection and ranking criteria and operating conditions can be consulted in www.ipleiria.pt, www.ipca.pt and www.tus.ie.

Polytechnic of Cávado and Ave

The President,
Maria Alexandra Pereira da Silva Malheiro