Call for Applications to the PhD Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences

Academic Year 2026/2027

The Scientific Council of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon, following a proposal from the Scientific-Pedagogical Committee of the PhD Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences, hereby announces the opening of the application and admission process for the **PhD Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences** for the **2026/2027 academic year**.

The PhD Programme in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon focuses on translational research aimed at the discovery of new therapeutic targets, drug development and design, pharmaceutical development, pre-clinical research, and drug safety assessment

This interdisciplinary programme is supported by a highly qualified academic and research staff and developed through institutional and international cooperation.

The programme has a duration of **4 years** (**8 semesters**) and corresponds to **240 ECTS credits**. The **first year** consists of the **Doctoral Course**, while the remaining years are dedicated to research leading to the preparation of an original doctoral thesis.

The study programme was officially published in Portugal's Diário da República under Order No. 7396/2024

1. **Programme Coordinator**

   Professor Maria Alexandra de Oliveira Silva Braga Pedreira de Brito.

2. **Admission Capacity**

2.1. National and European Union students: 25 vacancies

2.2. International students: 5 vacancies

2.3. Unfilled places are automatically transferred between application phases and admission categories.

3. International Student Status

An international student is defined as a student who **does not hold Portuguese nationality**, under applicable legislation. The following are **not considered international students**:

a) Nationals of an EU Member State or a State party to the European Economic Area Agreement;
b) Family members of portuguese nationals or EU/EEA nationals;
c) Individuals legally residing in Portugal for more than two consecutive years as of 1 January of the year in which they intend to enter higher education;
d) Individuals benefiting from equal rights and duties under an international treaty or agreement signed by Portugal;
e) Applicants entering through special admission regimes regulated by Decree-Law No. 64-A/2023 of 31 July.
f) Applicants should consult the Faculty of Pharmacy website for specific requirements applicable to international students.

4. Language

Activities will be conducted mainly in **Portuguese**, although some sessions may be taught in **English**.

Assessment materials may be submitted in **Portuguese or English**, or in another language previously agreed upon with the supervisor.

Applicants are advised to possess English language skills suitable for doctoral-level research, corresponding to at least **Level B1 of the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR)**.

5. Application Schedule

5.1. First Phase

Application period: **1 February to 30 April 2026**

Results announcement: **by 5 June 2026**

Enrolment and registration: **11-12 June 2026**

Announcement of remaining vacancies: **by 16 June 2026**

5.2. Second Phase

Application period: **22 June to 15 September 2026**

Results announcement: **by 2 October 2026**

Enrolment and registration: **13-14 October 2026**

Announcement of remaining vacancies: **by 16 October 2026**

5.3. Third Phase

Application period: **19 October 2026 to 15 January 2027**

Results announcement: **by 5 February 2027**

Enrolment and registration: **15-16 February 2027**

5.4. The results of the various stages will be published on the website of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon.

5.5. Applicants may **submit a reasoned appeal within five working days of the publication of the results** for each stage, as specified in the relevant phase.

6. Assessment and Ranking Criteria

6.1. Applicants are evaluated on a **0–100-point scale** according to:

a) Academic degree classification and academic record: **up to 45 points**

b) Scientific and professional curriculum: **up to 15 points**

c) Previous research experience: **up to 15 points**

d) Quality and relevance of the research proposal: **up to 15 points**

e) Motivation letter: **up to 5 points**

f) Interview (when applicable): **up to 5 points** Applicants obtaining a final score of 60 points or higher are considered eligible.

6.2. An interview may be conducted whenever the Scientific-Pedagogical Committee deems it necessary for a more comprehensive assessment of the application.

6.3. In cases where an interview is not conducted and considering that it constitutes an optional criterion weighted at up to 5 points, the minutes shall expressly state that the maximum score of 100 points remains unchanged, with the 5 points allocated to the interview being redistributed among the remaining previously defined evaluation criteria through the allocation of one additional point to each of items (b) to (f). Such redistribution shall be decided prior to the beginning of the ranking process, applied uniformly to all applicants, and duly justified, thereby ensuring transparency, fairness, and comparability of the scores awarded.

6.4. Applicants who obtain a final **score of 60 points** or higher shall be considered eligible**.**

6.5. In the event of a tie in the final ranking, preference shall be given to the applicant with the higher score in the criterion **Academic Degree Classification and Academic Record.**

7. Admission Requirements

Eligible applicants include:

a) Holders of a **Master's degree or legally equivalent qualification**;

b) Holders of a **Bachelor's degree with an especially relevant academic or scientific record, recognised by the Scientific Council**;

c) Individuals with an especially **relevant academic, scientific, or professional curriculum**, recognised by the Scientific Council as demonstrating the capacity to undertake doctoral studies.

8.Application Procedure

8.1. Applications must be submitted exclusively through the Faculty of Pharmacy's online application platform.

8.2. Applicants must submit:

a) Proof of academic qualifications obtained;

b) Updated Curriculum Vitae;

c) Motivation letter;

d) Research proposal;

e) Proposed Doctoral Course Plan (1st year);

f) Identification document;

g) Declaration on honour (international students);

h) Supervisor's Curriculum Vitae (if external to the Faculty of Pharmacy).

8.3. Failure to submit mandatory documents results in **automatic exclusion from the application process**.

8.4. Degrees obtained abroad must be officially **recognised in Portugal according to applicable legislation.**

9.Completion of the PhD Course

9.1. The first year corresponds to the PhD Course, during which students must successfully complete all curricular units.

9.2. Assessment includes a public presentation and discussion of the work developed.

9.3. Successful completion of the PhD Course is required for progression within the programme.

9.4. Following successful completion of the Doctoral Programme, the student must register the doctoral thesis topic in accordance with the terms established in the following article

10. Registration of the Thesis Topic and Progression

10.1. After successfully completing the PhD Course, students must register their doctoral thesis topic.

10.2. The application for registration of the doctoral thesis topic must be accompanied by the identification of the supervisor(s).

10.3. The student shall submit the application for registration of the doctoral thesis topic through the Fénix Academic Office within 60 working days following the completion and approval of the Doctoral Programme.

10.4. Upon a duly justified request by the student and a favorable opinion from the supervisor, an **additional period of up to six months** may be granted for the submission of the application for admission to the thesis defense, during which the student's enrolment shall remain active.

10.5. If the student does not submit the application for admission to the thesis defense within the additional period granted, they shall be required to apply for re-enrolment, and the tuition fee regime in force shall apply.

10.6. Failure to submit the application for registration of the doctoral thesis topic within the established deadline, or within any additional period granted, shall result in the student being assigned the status of “not assessed” in the first year of the study programme, with no progression in the programme.

10.7. A student in the situation described in the previous paragraph may re-enroll once only in the first year of the PhD programme, subject to payment of the applicable tuition fee, should they wish to continue their studies and submit the application for registration of the doctoral thesis topic.

11. Fees and Tuition

11.1. Application fee: **€75** (non-refundable)

11.2. Annual tuition fee for **2026/2027**: **€2,750**

12. Doctoral Scholarships

Applicants may apply for doctoral scholarships funded by the **Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)**, under the conditions established by that institution.

13. Preliminary Rejection

Applications will be automatically rejected if they:

a) submitted after the deadline;

b) Lack mandatory documentation;

c) Do not meet admission requirements.

14. Data Protection

Personal data collected during the application process will be processed exclusively for admission management purposes, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

15. Final Provisions

Any doubts or omissions arising from the application of this notice shall be resolved by the Director of the Faculty of Pharmacy of the University of Lisbon.

Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Lisbon

The Director

Signed with a Qualified Digital Signature by:
MARIA DA GRAÇA TAVARES REBELO DE SOVERAL RODRIGUES
Diretora da Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa
Faculdade de Farmácia da Universidade de Lisboa
Com poderes de representação da entidade de acordo com o artigo 16º do Despacho 9404/2024
Date: 14-08-2026 15:08:44

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(Professor Maria da Graça Soveral Rodrigues)