

## **PhD in Psychology**

### **Selection and Ranking Criteria for Candidates 2026/2027**

On the ninth day of December of the year two thousand and twenty-five, the Applications Review Committee met for the selection and ranking of candidates for the PhD in Psychology. The Committee was composed of Professor César Lima, PhD, Professor Margarida Garrido, PhD, and Professor Marília Prada, PhD, with the purpose of defining the selection and ranking criteria for candidates to the PhD in Psychology for the academic year 2026/2027.

The Committee resolved to approve the following selection and ranking criteria for candidates:

#### **I. ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1 — Eligible applicants for the PhD programme include:

a) Holders of a Master's degree or legally equivalent qualification in scientific areas considered appropriate by the Scientific Committee of the PhD programme, namely:

i) Psychology;

ii) Other related fields.

b) Holders of a Bachelor's degree or legally equivalent qualification, provided they have an academic or scientific curriculum that is particularly relevant and demonstrates the capacity to undertake doctoral studies;

c) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional background that is recognised as demonstrating the capacity to undertake this cycle of studies.

2 — Additional admission requirements include proficiency in the English language and availability to attend in-person teaching.

## II. SELECTION AND RANKING CRITERIA

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**A) Holders of a Master's degree or legally equivalent qualification** in scientific areas considered appropriate by the Scientific Committee of the PhD programme, namely (i) Psychology or (ii) other related fields

**A.1 — Academic curriculum assessment**, totalling 6 points (30%), based on the following criteria:

- a) Final Bachelor's degree grade on a 0–20 scale × 0.15
- b) Final Master's degree grade on a 0–20 scale × 0.15

**A.2 — Scientific curriculum assessment**, totalling 5 points (25%), based on the following criteria:

- a) Participation in research projects (with duration and type of activities taken into account):
  - High participation: 2 points
  - Medium–low participation: 1 point
- b) Scientific publications, up to a maximum of 3 points:
  - Each scientific article indexed in Scopus/WoS: 1.5 points
  - Each other publication: 0.5 points

**A.3 — Professional curriculum assessment**, totalling 3 points (15%), based on the following criteria:

- Experience with direct relevance to the PhD project (same area): 3 points
- Experience with indirect relevance to the PhD project (related area): 1.5 points

**A.4 — Motivation Letter assessment** for undertaking the PhD in Psychology, evaluated on an integer scale from 0 to 20 points and worth a total of 6 points (30%). This assessment considers the reasons underlying the application, the proposed potential research topic, justification of its relevance and originality, and justification of its alignment with the research areas of CIS-Iscte.

Selection and ranking include an individual interview conducted in English by the Applications Review Committee, in order to further assess motivation. The interview may be waived based on the analysis of the application documents.

**A.5 — Final score** will be presented on a 0–20 scale, resulting from the following weighted formula: (academic curriculum + scientific curriculum + professional curriculum + motivation letter assessment).

**A.6 — In the event of a tie**, the following tie-breaking criteria shall apply, in order of precedence:

- Candidate merit (sum of the raw scores of criteria 1+2+3);
- Motivation Letter merit (raw score of criterion 4).

**B) Holders of a Bachelor's degree or legally equivalent qualification**, provided they have an academic or scientific curriculum of exceptional relevance demonstrating capacity to undertake doctoral studies

The consideration of applications from holders of a Bachelor's degree is exceptional and requires a prior opinion from the Applications Review Committee, which will assess the exceptional relevance of the curriculum and the capacity to undertake the PhD in Psychology. If accepted, the application will be assessed according to the following criteria:

**B.1 — Academic curriculum assessment**, totalling 4 points (20%):

a) Final Bachelor's degree grade on a 0–20 scale  $\times$  0.2

**B.2 — Scientific curriculum assessment**, totalling 6 points (30%), based on the following criteria:

a) Participation in research projects (considering duration and type of activities):

- High participation: 2 points
- Medium–low participation: 1 point

b) Scientific publications, up to a maximum of 4 points:

- Each scientific article indexed in Scopus/WoS: 1.5 points
- Each other publication: 0.5 points

**B.3 — Professional curriculum assessment**, totalling 4 points (20%), based on the following criteria:

- Experience with direct relevance to the PhD project (same area): 4 points
- Experience with indirect relevance to the PhD project (related area): 2 points

**B.4 — Motivation Letter assessment**, on a 0–20 integer scale, totalling 6 points (30%), considering the same elements described in A.4.

Selection and ranking include an individual interview conducted in English by the Applications Review Committee, which may be waived following document analysis.

**B.5 — Final score** will be presented on a 0–20 scale, resulting from the weighted sum of: (academic curriculum + scientific curriculum + professional curriculum + motivation letter assessment).

**B.6 — In the event of a tie**, the following criteria shall apply, in order of precedence:

- Candidate merit (sum of the raw scores of criteria 1+2+3);
- Motivation Letter merit (raw score of criterion 4).

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**C) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional background recognised as demonstrating capacity to undertake this cycle of studies**

The consideration of applications from candidates with an academic, scientific or professional background recognised as adequate is exceptional and requires prior approval from the Applications Review Committee. If accepted, applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

**C.1 — Scientific curriculum assessment**, totalling 8 points (40%), based on the following criteria:

a) Participation in research projects:

- High participation: 3 points
- Medium–low participation: 1.5 points

b) Scientific publications, up to a maximum of 5 points:

- Each scientific article indexed in Scopus/WoS: 1.5 points
- Each other publication: 0.5 points

**C.2 — Professional curriculum assessment**, totalling 6 points (30%), based on the following criteria:

- Experience with direct relevance to the PhD project (same area): 6 points
- Experience with indirect relevance to the PhD project (related area): 3 points

**C.3 — Motivation Letter assessment**, on a 0–20 integer scale, totalling 6 points (30%), considering the same elements described above.

Selection and ranking include an individual interview conducted in English by the Applications Review Committee, which may be waived following document analysis.

**C.4 — Final score** will be presented on a 0–20 scale, resulting from the weighted sum of: (scientific curriculum + professional curriculum + motivation letter assessment).

**C.5 — In the event of a tie**, the following criteria shall apply, in order of precedence:

- Candidate merit (sum of the raw scores of criteria 1+2);
- Motivation Letter merit (raw score of criterion 3).

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**III. MINIMUM CLASSIFICATION**

Applicants with a final classification below 10 points will not be admitted.

#### **IV. HOLDERS OF FOREIGN DEGREES**

Applicants holding certificates or diplomas issued by foreign higher education institutions must ensure that the documents submitted with their application:

- Indicate the final grade obtained for the degree and the corresponding grading scale; if no final grade is indicated, a score of 10 points will be assigned;
- Are accompanied by documentation proving the curricular units completed to obtain the degree, respective grades and course duration;
- Are accompanied by a certified translation when written in a foreign language other than Spanish, French, English or Italian.

Admitted candidates holding foreign qualifications are admitted conditionally and are subject to internal recognition of the qualification for the continuation of studies, in accordance with current legislation.

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#### **V. DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED WITH THE APPLICATION**

Applications are submitted exclusively online. The following documents must be attached:

- a) Curriculum vitae;
- b) Copy of certificates of all academic qualifications with respective grades;
- c) Digital photograph;
- d) Copy of national identity card or equivalent document (for nationals), or passport (for foreign applicants);
- e) Copy of tax identification card or equivalent document;
- f) Motivation Letter, in accordance with the provided template, indicating the reasons for the application, a proposal for a potential research topic, a substantiated justification of the relevance and originality of the proposed research topic, and justification of its alignment with the Research Unit.

Applications that do not include the above-mentioned documents will proceed to the next phase. If missing documentation is not submitted by the end of the subsequent application phase, the application will be excluded.

Approved applications that are not admitted due to lack of available places will be carried over to the next phase, if applicable, and re-ranked. In the final application phase, such candidates will be given reserve status and may be admitted if accepted candidates fail to enrol for the relevant academic year.