



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - NOTICE Nr. 2/2026
Instituto de Estudos Políticos - Universidade Católica Portuguesa

- Lisboa -

Academic Year 2026/2027

2nd cycle

(MA in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies)

The MA in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies is governed by the principles of the Regulation of the MA program (Regulation) from Instituto de Estudos Políticos - Universidade Católica Portuguesa. This program is part of the Double Degree in European Studies and Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies with Jagiellonian University.

1. Eligibility criteria

Admissions are open to applicants who have a bachelor degree.

Applications for the Double Degree program are open from December 2025 to September 2026 (1st, 2nd and 3rd Call).

2. Vacancies

There are 30 vacancies available.

3. Dates

Call	Application Deadline	Admission Interview	Results	Registration	Classes Start
1 st	09-12-2025 to 29-01-2026	16-02-2026-17-02-2026	24-02-2026	24-02-2026 to 02-03-2026	21-09-2026
2 nd	09-03-2026 to 30-04-2026	18-05-2026-19-05-2026	26-05-2026	26-05-2026 to 01-06-2026	21-09-2026
3 rd	08-06-2026 to 06-09-2026	16-09-2026	21-09-2026	21-09-2026 to 25-09-2026	21-09-2026
4 th	23-11-2026 to 11-01-2027	21-01-2027	27-01-2027	27-01-2027 to 01-02-2027	01-02-2027

The last day of applications and registration is also the corresponding payment deadline.

4. Required Documents for application

Compulsory

Identification card;
Tax number;
Curriculum Vitae;



Academic transcript (with final grade);
2 essays, each approximately 2,500 words long, written in English or Portuguese by the candidate, on a topic related to Political Science or International Relations, chosen by the candidate;
Passport type photograph;
2 recommendation letters.

Optional

English Certificate, minimum level of B2, according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR).

Notes:
The originals or certified documents are not required for application purposes.
Authentic documents issued abroad in compliance with the law of that country, and private documents drawn up outside Portugal, legalized by a foreign public official, are considered legalized under Portuguese law provided that the public official's signature is recognized by a diplomatic agent or Portuguese consulate in the respective State and the signature of this agent is authenticated with the respective white consular seal. In the case of documents emanating from signatory or adhering countries to the Hague Convention of October 5, 1961, the documents will be legalized by means of an apostille, pursuant to article 3 of the convention. Legalization procedures are not required for documents issued in countries of the European Union, partner countries of the European Economic Area and the European Free Trade Association, and the United Kingdom.
When the documents to be presented are written in a foreign language other than Spanish, English, French or Italian, the respective translation must be submitted, carried out under the terms provided for in the notarial law.

5. Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted via the online platform <https://sca.lisboa.ucp.pt/CandidaturasOnline/>. Applicants will receive an email confirming receipt of their application, with payment information (ATM reference for applicants residing in Portugal; applicants residing abroad without a Portuguese bank account should send an email to tesouraria.sede@ucp.pt requesting an IBAN to make the payment). In the case of bank transfers, applicants must provide proof of payment if the transfer is made within the last three days of the application period to the email address ma.iep@ucp.pt, so that the application can be considered and reviewed.

6. Application assessment, selection and results publication

The selection and ranking of the candidates will be made by the Dean for Academic Programs, Professor João Pereira Coutinho, and the Coordinator of the MA in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies, Professor Raquel Duque.

Criteria / Minimum Grade (scale 0-20)	Weight
Interview	30%
Bachelor Certificate	20%
Curriculum Vitae	20%
Letters of Recommendation	15%
Essays	15%



The decision to approve is reflected in the jury's final grade, expressed on a scale of 10-20 out of 20, which is the sum of the grades awarded to each component, after weighting. All students will be called for an interview. The purpose of the interview is to understand the candidate's motivations for attending the course, assess their professional background, and clarify aspects of their resume and admission exam. The invitation to the interview will be sent by email. After confirmation by the student, and in case of no-show, the application will be considered incomplete. The results will be communicated to students via email and an anonymized list will be made available at the Course Secretariat and Information Office of UCP. The results will be expressed as follows: Admitted/Conditionally Admitted/Not Admitted/Excluded. Conditional admission will be converted to definitive admission upon delivery of the degree completion certificate, to be made by the end of October. If this requirement is not met within the stipulated period, the application will be excluded, and no fees or charges paid will be refunded.

7. Course functioning and Timetable

The MA in Governance, Leadership and Democracy Studies has a total length of three semesters: two academic semesters (1st semester 30 ECTS, 2nd semester 27 ECTS) and a dissertation semester (33 ECTS), with in person daytime classes. Classes usually take place from Monday to Friday, between 2 pm and 5:30 pm. The assessment tests take place from Monday to Friday between 2 pm and 5:30 pm. The teaching language is English.

The academic calendar for 2025/26 is available here [Academic Calendar](#).

8. Tuitions and Fees

Tuitions and fees are set out annually and published in full documentation in: Tuition Fees regarding fees, emoluments, and taxes, so the amounts set in subsequent academic years may be different.

Extract of the Fees Table 2025/2026
(Does not exempt the consultation of the complete and updated document for 2025/2026)

Fees	
Application 1 st	180€
Application 2 nd	215€
Application 3 rd	215€
Application 4 th	215€
Registration (includes school insurance and student card)	1032.5€
Tuition fees	
1st year - first semester – 5 payments (30 ECTS/semester)	532.5€/month
1st year - second semester – 5 payments (27 ECTS/semester)	479.25€/month

Tuition fees 2026/27 will be available soon.



9. Registration procedures

If admitted, the candidate will receive by email all the information regarding the registration process. To conclude the registration, it will be necessary to pay the registration fee and the 1st monthly fee, but also to deliver:

- Fill in the online registration bulletin, including the information requested by the Portuguese Higher Education authorities (RAIDES survey)

The applicant's withdrawal is assumed if the registration is not completed within the stipulated period. The originals of previously submitted documents must be presented until October 30, 2026 (Autumn semester) and March 12, 2027 (Spring semester), under penalty of cancellation of registration, and there is no refund of amounts paid up to that date. The documents must be presented in their original version or in a certified copy. For archiving purposes in the student's individual file, services may make a copy of the original document submitted, at no cost to the student, returning the original.

10. Creditation from previously completed training

Applicants may request the creditation of previously completed training. All requests will be processed in accordance with the [University's Creditation Regulation](#) and are subject to the applicable fees.

12. Contacts

Emails	Telephones
Admissions Office: ma.iep@ucp.pt	Admissions Office: 21 721 41 29
Academic Services: IEP-Academicservices.lisboa@ucp.pt	Academic Services: 217 214 083
Treasury: tesouraria.sede@ucp.pt	Treasury: 21 721 40 77

Information in person (with or without booking)

Library Building, 2nd floor, Office 4210, Hours, Monday to Thursday, 3pm to 5.30pm.
Fridays, by appointment, online. Online scheduling can also be requested from Monday to Thursday.

Lisboa, December 2, 2025


Director of the Institute for Political Studies
(Prof. Doutora Mónica Dias)