



REGULATION OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

Approved by deliberation of the Scientific Council of the Porto Faculty of Law, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, on December 4, 2015 and amended by resolution of December 4, 2020

Article 1

Master's Degree in Law

1. Universidade Católica Portuguesa, through its Porto Faculty of Law (hereinafter, the Faculty), confers the degree of *Master in Law* and *Master in Law and Management* under the terms of the present Regulation.
2. The degree of Master in Law and Master in Law and Management is awarded to those who demonstrate:
 - a) A level of knowledge and skills that:
 - i) Based on the knowledge obtained at the 1st cycle level, both can be developed and deepened;
 - ii) Allow and constitute the basis of original developments and/or applications within a diversified research context.
 - b) Skills that allow lifelong learning in a fundamentally self-oriented or autonomous way.

Article 2

Access conditions

1. Who can apply for Master's programmes:
 - a) Holders of a degree in Law or legal equivalent;
 - b) Holders of a foreign higher academic degree awarded following a 1st cycle of studies in Law organized according to the principles of Bologna by a State adhering to this Process;
 - c) Holders of a foreign higher academic degree in Law that the Faculty Board acknowledges to meet the objectives of the Bachelor's degree;
 - d) Holders of a Bachelor's degree in other areas of knowledge;
 - e) Students who meet the conditions for completing their degree in the academic semester prior to the one they are applying for.
2. The recognition referred in subparagraphs b) and c) of the previous number only grants access to the study cycles leading to a master's degree; it does not confer equivalence to the degree of licentiate to its holder, nor does it confer the recognition of a degree.
3. Candidates holding a degree in Law prior to the application of the Bologna Declaration will have a specific crediting regime for the purpose of frequenting the Master's programme.

Article 3

Admission and ranking of candidates

1. The ranking of candidates graduated in Law by national higher education institutions results from curricular evaluation, by weighing the following criteria:
 - a) Degree's final classification;



- b) Adequacy of the original study cycle;
 - c) Professional experience;
 - d) Complementary curricular elements.
2. The ranking of candidates with a degree in Law conferred by foreign higher education institutions, or another degree, results from curricular assessment and an interview, with a view to weighing the aforementioned criteria.
 3. Vacancies, admission criteria and other specific requirements and conditions are set annually by the competent bodies of the School.
 4. Application and admission conditions will be publicised on the Faculty's website.
 5. Ranking and admission lists will be communicated to candidates ensuring the balance between the transparency of the selection process and candidates' individual rights.
 6. Candidates in the situation referred to in article 2, no. 1, paragraph e), may be admitted conditionally.

Article 4

Course structure and content

1. Master's courses comprise a teaching period and a period for the preparation of a dissertation; the academic period corresponds to 60 credit units (ECTS), while the dissertation corresponds to 30 credit units.
2. The academic phase comprises semester-long subjects and seminars, and may include postgraduate or advanced training courses through deliberation of the Scientific Council of the School, which will also define the respective crediting.
3. Before the beginning of each academic year, the Scientific Council of the School determines:
 - a) The disciplines and seminars offered, their workload and respective accreditation;
 - b) The areas of expertise available and the corresponding core disciplines and seminars;
 - c) The teaching staff of the subjects and seminars.
4. Without prejudice to the provisions of subparagraph b) of number 3 of this article and the mandatory curricular units of the Master in Law and Management, students will be able to choose the disciplines and seminars they wish to attend.
5. Students who enrol in the Masters in Law with no specific area of expertise must prepare a dissertation fitting into the thematic scope of one of the curricular units concluded.
6. Students who enrol in an area of expertise of the Master's programme in Law must pass core units and seminars corresponding to over 30 ECTS and prepare a dissertation in that area.

Article 5

Duration of the academic phase

The academic phase lasts for two semesters.

Article 6

Teaching staff

Lecturing is provided by doctors or specialists of recognised merit.



Article 7

Conditions for obtaining the Master's degree

1. Obtaining a Master's degree in Law or a Master's degree in Law and Management presupposes:
 - a) Approval in the academic phase;
 - b) Elaboration and public discussion of a master's dissertation, and its approval.
2. Candidates who obtain the credits required are considered approved in the academic phase.
3. Approval in the academic phase is certified by means of an advanced training certificate.
4. Assessment has its own Regulation.

Article 8

Dissertation

1. The master's dissertation is to assume written form and cannot exceed 95,000 characters (including spaces, yet excluding both the index and the final bibliographic references), and must observe the rules established in the style guide.
2. The dissertation must be original and represent a contribution to the critical analysis of a legal matter.
3. Candidates who have passed the academic phase and intend to start phase of elaboration of the dissertation must communicate it to the School Board by the end of the academic phase, indicating the respective thematic area.
4. Students who have attended an academic mobility programme in the previous academic semester can carry out the communication referred in the previous number while waiting for the university of destination to send the information attesting their approval in the academic phase.
5. In the elaboration of the dissertation, each candidate is supervised by a professor of the Faculty of Law of the Catholic University with a Doctor's degree, to be designated by the Scientific Council. When justified given the specificity of the chosen topic, supervision may be assigned to another specialist, holder of a PhD, collaborating with the Porto Faculty of Law.
6. If the dissertation topic is interdisciplinary in nature, another specialist with a Doctor's degree may be assigned as co-advisor.
7. During the preparation phase, the Code of Conduct for Supervisors and Supervised (Master's and PhD programmes).
8. The dissertation can be written in Portuguese, in English or, following authorization from the School Board, in another foreign language.

Article 9

Presentation of the dissertation

1. Deadline for presentation of the dissertation is six months from the notification to the candidate of the deliberation of the Scientific Council regarding the appointment of the supervisor.
2. The dissertation must be delivered in digital format, on two CDs (or in a delivery method considered equivalent by the University's competent bodies):
 - a) a first copy containing two files saved in single text searchable and extractable PDF/A (full text of the dissertation, "cover page", "summary" and "keywords");



- b) a second copy containing the two files present in the first CD, in identical format, plus a file with the full dissertation and Curriculum Vitae, in Word format.
3. Along with the dissertation, the candidate must:
- Fill in the documentation referring to the institutional repository;
 - Submit a declaration of commitment to anti-plagiarism, as stated in own document;
 - Add the supervisor's favourable opinion to the performance of the public examination.
4. Dissertation submission deadlines may be suspended upon request to the coordinator of the Master's programmes, with adequate justification, for the period in which the impediment lasts or for the period considered appropriate, in the following situations:
- Serious and prolonged illness or serious accident of the candidate;
 - Serious and prolonged illness, serious accident or death of the candidate's spouse, or relative in the 1st degree, when the events occur during the period of elaboration of the dissertation.
5. Suspension rules arising from maternity and paternity situations provided for by law apply.
6. Apart from the situations provided for in numbers 4 and 5, students who have not submitted the dissertation within the regulatory deadline may do so at a later date, repeating the respective phase upon request addressed to the Faculty's Dean.

Article 10

Jury

- The jury is composed of three members holding a doctorate degree, including the supervisor, or one of the co-supervisors, if existent.
- In the sixty days following the submission of the dissertation, the Scientific Council of the Faculty, with the capability of delegation, decides on the composition of the jury.
- The Faculty's Dean appoints the jury and designates both the president of the jury and the examiner, unless the Research Ethics Council of the University must be consulted, in which case the appointment is requested to the Rector.
- The order containing the appointment of the jury is communicated to the candidate.

Article 11

Jury presidency

- The jury is presided by the oldest member of the academic category currently in functions in the Faculty who is not the supervisor.
- The president is responsible for calling and presiding over jury meetings, promoting whatever is necessary for the due performance of the public examination and communicating all relevant facts to the Faculty's Dean.



Article 12

Public examination for discussing the dissertation

1. After the communication of the order mentioned in article 10, the jury must set the date for the discussion of the dissertation and immediately inform the School Board of the date of the public tests, which must not exceed 90 days from the date of communication.
2. The discussion is public and can only take place with the presence of the three members of the jury. The president of the jury may authorise the participation of vowels by conference call on any number, as long as there are technical conditions for their full participation in the work.
3. The Board may authorise the public examination to be held by teleconference in other situations, in accordance with the law.
4. The candidate will be allowed to make a presentation of about five minutes of his/her dissertation.
5. Argumentation must not exceed twenty minutes, with the candidate having equal time to that of the arguer for his defence.
6. At the end of the examination, the other members of the jury may ask questions or make observations, giving the candidate equivalent time to respond.
7. The total duration of the examination cannot exceed sixty minutes.
8. After the examination, the jury decides on the final result.
9. Minutes are drawn up of the jury meeting, which include the meaning of the votes cast – which cannot take the form of abstention – and the respective reasoning, which can be joint, and the result of the voting.

Article 13

Result and ranking

1. The result is expressed as Pass or Fail.
2. Failure does not inhibit the candidate from proposing to prepare a new dissertation, under the terms of article 9, paragraph 4.
3. Approved candidates are classified with a grade of 10 to 20 values.

Article 14

Final classification

1. Final classification is reached by adding the products of the multiplication of each curricular unit, each seminar and the dissertation by the corresponding number of ECTS, up to a limit of 90 ECTS, and dividing this amount by 90, considering one decimal place only and rounded to the nearest integer.
2. Qualitative mentions that accompany the final classifications are as follows:

10 to 13	enough (<i>rite</i>)
14 and 15	good (<i>feliciter</i>)
16 and 17	very good (<i>magna cum laude</i>)
18 to 20	excellent (<i>summa cum laude</i>)



Article 15
Master's degree certificate

The degree of Master is attested with a master's degree certificate, which, if applicable, will mention the respective area of expertise.