



TÉCNICO
LISBOA



2025/2026

PhD Student's Guide

doctoralschool.tecnico.ulisboa.pt
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@tecnico

A large, three-dimensional sculpture of the text '@tecnico' in a vibrant blue color. The sculpture is composed of thick, blocky letters and is positioned on a dark, rectangular base. It sits on a cobblestone-paved courtyard. In the background, there is a modern, multi-story white building with many windows. To the left of the building, there are green trees and a small, green, tiered structure. A tall, white pole stands to the right of the sculpture. The sky is a clear, bright blue.



Message from the President of Técnico

It's a great pleasure to welcome you to Instituto Superior Técnico. Our school was created almost 115 years ago to bring scientific and technological training to Portugal. Nowadays, Técnico has approximately 11,500 students of more than 60 different nationalities.

It's a school of engineering, science and architecture, highly internationalized, that promotes the relationship between university-business-society and encourages innovation, entrepreneurship, job creation and knowledge. Técnico is a prestigious school in Portugal and abroad for its academic excellence.

Técnico is proud to have its own Doctoral School that coordinates all levels of PhD education in Engineering, Science, and Architecture. The Técnico Doctoral School supports students accessing to top researchers, advanced facilities, and international networks, helping them to be prepared for careers in research, industry, and beyond.

In a rapidly changing world, the new challenges that we face today regarding education, training and research are vast and of enormous complexity. Fulfilling Técnico's mission in the second century of its existence implies that we continue to contribute to the scientific and technological progress in order to address the complex challenges of the future, thus contributing to a fairer society.

We count on you, new Técnico PhD students, to help us fulfil our mission and vision.

President of Técnico Lisboa

Rogério Colaço





Técnico Lisboa (IST): A Century of Academic Excellence

Founded in 1911 following the split of the Lisbon Industrial and Commercial Institute, **Técnico Lisboa** (Instituto Superior Técnico – IST) has played a leading role in engineering education and innovation for over a century. Its first Director, Engineer Alfredo Bensaude, introduced a transformative approach to engineering education by launching the first formal programmes in Mining, Civil, Mechanical, Electrical, and Chemical-Industrial Engineering. Since then, IST has been at the forefront of societal development by promoting and disseminating excellence in higher education.

Campuses

IST operates across three campuses:

- **Alameda Campus**, located in central Lisbon, hosts the main administrative services, academic activities, and research infrastructure.
- **Oeiras Campus**, inaugurated in 2000 near Lisbon, is part of a prominent Science and Technology Park focused on information and communication technologies, offering both teaching and research facilities.
- **Tecnológico e Nuclear Loures Campus**, a specialized hub dedicated to research in nuclear sciences, radiation protection, and nuclear safety.

Academic Structure and Community

IST is structured into **11 departments** responsible for delivering undergraduate (bachelor's and master's) and postgraduate (PhD) education across a broad range of disciplines, including architecture, engineering, science, and technology. The academic community includes over 850 faculty members and researchers holding a PhD, approximately 600 technical and administrative staff, and more than 11,500 students.

Doctoral Programmes

IST offers **29 doctoral programmes**, attracting over 1,000 PhD students, 31% of whom are international students representing 70 nationalities. Several PhD programmes are offered in collaboration with top-tier national and international universities (e.g., MIT, CMU, UT Austin, EPFL), allowing students to pursue dual degrees and spend research periods abroad. Students are strongly encouraged to pursue international experiences, benefiting from IST's extensive global network of faculty collaborations and active participation in prominent international engineering education and research consortia (e.g., CLUSTER, CEASER, EIT InnoEnergy, Sino-EU Platform).

Each Doctoral Programme is coordinated by a faculty member who oversees the scientific and academic management of the programme and supports students throughout their doctoral journey.

Research Environment

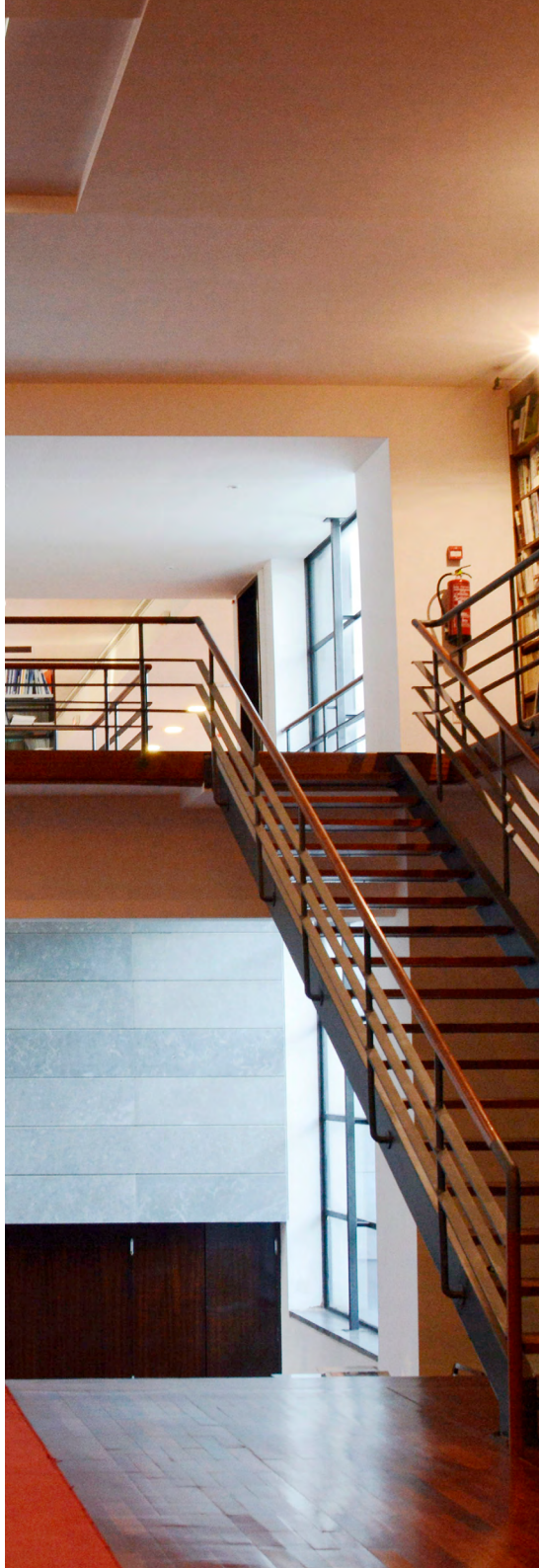
Research at IST is carried out through **25 research centres**, which provide state-of-the-art facilities and a multidisciplinary, international environment. These centres foster knowledge transfer and promote active engagement in research, development, and innovation projects.

Governance

IST's strategic direction and academic quality are overseen by the Técnico Doctoral School, the Scientific Council and the Pedagogical Council:

- **The Técnico Doctoral School** is responsible for overseeing the education and training of PhD students at IST, coordinating the PhD programmes and activities.
- **The Scientific Council** defines research policies and maintains high standards in education and scientific output. It includes 25 members—eight of whom represent the research centres.
- **The Pedagogical Council** ensures the quality of teaching and includes 23 members, with equal representation from faculty and students (including a PhD student).

Research at IST is carried out through 25 research centres, which provide state-of-the-art facilities and a multidisciplinary, international environment.







Doctoral Milestones and Requirements

From initial registration to thesis defense, PhD students must meet several formal milestones:

- PhD Starter Checklist
- First Year as a PhD Student
- Second and Subsequent Years
- Thesis Submission and Defense

PhD Starter Checklist

As a new PhD student at IST, you should:

- **Register** in the Doctoral Programme and confirm enrolment via [FenixEdu](#);
- **Obtain a Técnico ID card**, which grants access to buildings, payments, printing, and parking;
- **Review key resources**, including the [Student Guide](#) (with visa/legal guidance);
- **Understand fees and funding**: Annual tuition is €2,750. While IST does not fund fees, you may apply for external grants (e.g., [FCT Studentships](#)), research centre funding, or teaching assistant positions (which may provide additional financial aid such as the “Prémio Brito Camacho”);
- **Know your key dates**: Within 18 months of admission, you must present your research plan to the Thesis Advisory Committee (CAT) which assesses progress and potential of your work so far. A positive evaluation is required to continue. The thesis should be submitted within four years (five if part-time).



Técnico ID card



First Year as a PhD Student

- **Meet your Supervisor:** Your supervisor is central to your success. They will guide your research, allocate resources and space, and advise on collaborations.
- **Discuss with your Supervisor:**
 - . Supervisory team
 - . Research objectives
 - . Dissemination goals and funding
 - . Frequency of meetings and feedback
 - . Access to facilities
- **Define your curricular plan:** Most programmes require 30 ECTS credits. Plans are flexible and personalized to each student. Courses may involve exams or projects, and credits can include industry internships, research stays, teaching, and soft skills training. More details [📍 here](#).

Second and Subsequent Years

- **Research Environment:** You will work in a research centre/department offering essential resources (office space, labs, computing, library access). You may receive financial support for attending conferences, workshops, and summer schools.
- **Community Engagement:** Join seminars, collaborate with peers, and participate in the academic community, either national or international, to enrich your research experience.

Thesis Submission & Examination


- After completing your research, begin writing your thesis. Approval from your supervisory team is required.
- Most theses are written in English (Portuguese and, in some cases, other EU languages are also accepted).
- Adhere to the  **Academic Examinations** guidelines on format and submission. Students must declare the originality of their work, in compliance with the  **University of Lisbon's Code of Conduct**.
- The **defense** includes a 30-minute presentation followed by discussion. The possible outcomes are: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distiction, and Pass with Disctinction and Honors.
- The highest classification is reserved for theses with outstanding scientific contributions and a record of academic excellence, granted only in exceptional cases (approximately 20% of PhD theses).

Student Feedback and Representation

PhD student feedback is essential to improving IST's programmes. Two anonymous surveys are conducted:

- **Intermediate Survey** (after 24 months): Evaluates early experiences, supervision, and working conditions.
- **Final Survey** (post-defense): Assesses the overall PhD experience.

You may also serve as a Student Delegate, elected by peers to represent doctoral students and participate in institutional governance, including the Técnico Doctoral School board.

Técnico has an  **Ombudsperson Office**, an independent and impartial body where individuals can report discriminatory, offensive, or abusive behaviour by staff, students, or other professionals.

Support Services for PhD Students

- 🔧 **Post-Graduation Area:** Manages academic processes, thesis submissions, course enrolments, and recognition of foreign degrees.
- 🔧 **Técnico Doctoral School:** Offers guidance, training, internships, teaching opportunities, and scholarship information.
- 🔧 **Academic Development Unit:** Provides training in soft skills and teaching methods.
- 🔧 **Ethics Committee:** Ensures ethical standards in research and education.
- 🔧 **Health Services:** Offers medical, dental, and psychological care.
- 🔧 **International Affairs Division:** Offers assistance to international students on financial transactions and tax registration, access to the National Health Service, visa applications, and liaison to the Agency for Integration, Migration and Asylum.
- 🔧 **IT Services:** Manages network infrastructure and digital support.
- 🔧 **Library:** Offers access to thousands of scientific publications.
- 🔧 **PhD Student Hub:** Promotes networking and collaboration among doctoral students.
- 🔧 **Projects Division:** Assists in research project proposals and funding opportunities.
- 🔧 **Student Support Unit:** Facilitates student integration and engagement.
- 🔧 **Technology Transfer Office:** Supports IP protection, entrepreneurship, and industry partnerships.



Information and Support

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Tecnológico e Nuclear Loures Campus

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