PUBLIC NOTICE FOR APPLICATIONS no. 25/2026

Católica Medical School

- Lisbon -

Academic year 2026/2027

(Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics)

The Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics is ruled by the Regulations that apply to Postdoctoral Programmes at the Institute of Bioethics of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (IB-UCP), approved in Dispatch NR/REG/0343/2025, of 7th of August 2025.

It is governed by articles 111º (Types of non-degree courses), 112º (Establishment of non-degree courses) and by the other rules contained in the Regulation of the Study Cycles of Católica Medical School of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (CMS-UCP), approved in Dispatch NR/REG/0244/2023, of 25th of May 2023.

1. Conditions for admission of applicants

This Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics is aimed at applicants with a recognised PhD degree in scientific fields of higher education, which may include life, health, and environmental sciences, natural and exact sciences, engineering and technological sciences, social sciences and humanities, and others to be considered.

Applicants with a PhD degree in the above-mentioned areas, provided that their academic background, particularly in the field of Bioethics, with scientific merit and ethical relevance, will be considered for the Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics.

2. Number of Vacancies:

There are **10** vacancies available for the Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics.

3. Deadlines

This application process will have a continuous phase, running from the 15th of October 2026 with no ending date. The evaluation and selection of applicants is possible at any time, if they have completed all stages of the application process.

Note: The formal validation of the application requires the submission of all mandatory documents, the complete filling out of the requested information and the corresponding payment.

4. Necessary documentation

During the application process, all applicants must complete an online form and attach the requested documents:

- **Passport-type photo** (up to date);
- **Identification document** – Citizen Card. If other type of document, the tax identification number is required;
- **PhD Degree Certificate**;

- **Detailed Curriculum Vitae or Narrative Curriculum**, highlighting the applicant's academic and professional background, with particular emphasis on research activities, relevant publications, interdisciplinary experience and contributions in the field of Bioethics;
- **Motivation letter**, in which the applicant must, concisely and thoroughly, present the reasons for applying, the academic and scientific objectives to be achieved, as well as the relevance of their background to the development of research in Bioethics;
- **Project work plan**, which must include the topic, the research question, a brief description of the objectives, the theoretical framework, the proposed methodology, the activity timeline and the expected contribution to the advancement of knowledge in Bioethics. Whenever applicable, the plan should highlight the project's relevance to the research areas developed by the IB-UCP and the CMS-UCP;
- **Scientific project coordinator acceptance document,** in which the supervisor formally declares their availability to oversee the applicant's work, recognizes the alignment of the proposed project with their field of research and ensures the necessary conditions for its development.

5. Submission of the application

The application to the Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics is presented exclusively through an online system, on the website of Católica Medical School.

After filling the form, uploading and submitting the documents, the applicant will have access to the online application platform to pay the application fee. The application will only be completed once payment has been made.

6. Assessment of Applications and publication of results

The selection of applicants to the Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics will be carried out by the designated jury, which consists of the Course Coordinators and Assessment Commission:

- **Professor Mara de Sousa Freitas**, Dean of the Bioethics Institute;
- **Professor António Medina de Almeida,** Dean of the Católica Medical School;
- **Professor Paulo Oom,** Vice-Dean of the Católica Medical School.

The final approval of the application is the responsibility of the Scientific Council of the CMS-UCP and of the IB-UCP, which will deliberate based on the jury's proposal.

Considering the proposal submitted by the applicant, the Scientific Council shall appoint the project's scientific advisor. If the applicant has previously indicated an advisor, the appointment may be made based on that suggestion, provided it is validated by the jury and the plenary of the Scientific Council. In the absence of such an indication, the Council will proceed with the appointment of a suitable advisor. Whenever deemed appropriate, a co-advisor may also be appointed to ensure the scientific guidance of the project, particularly within the scope of their expertise in Bioethics, in the context of the Postdoctoral Program.

The application grade will be a weighted average of the assessment of the following criteria:

Critério (expresso na escala 0-20)	Coeficiente de Ponderação
Scientific relevance and social impact of the project Assessment of the scientific pertinence of the proposal considering the current challenges in Bioethics, as well as its potential social impact. As a preferential factor, consideration will be given to the integration of the project into the teaching and research activities carried out at the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, particularly by the Institute of Bioethics.	40%
Clarity, methodology, and feasibility of the project Assessment of the clarity and coherence in the presentation of the work plan, the adequacy of the proposed methodology in relation to the defined objectives and the feasibility of the project within the temporal and institutional context of the Postdoctoral Program.	30%
Academic and scientific merit of the applicant Assessment of the academic and scientific background, based on the analysis of the Curriculum Vitae (detailed or narrative), research experience, relevant publications, and the motivation letter. Quality, coherence, and the adequacy of the applicant's profile to the scope of the Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics will be valued.	30%
Total	**100%**

7. Application's Final evaluation

The selection of applicants results in the attribution, by the jury, of a final qualitative classification, expressed in the categories: Admitted, Not Admitted, or Excluded. This classification is based on the analysis of the previously defined evaluation criteria and on the compliance of the application with the formal requirements of the Postdoctoral Program. The application proposal, together with the respective classification, is submitted to the Scientific Council of the CMS-UCP and IB-UCP, which deliberates on its final approval.

8. Operation

The Postdoctoral program may extend over a variable period, depending on the specific characteristics of the project and the applicant's conditions. However, except in duly justified cases, its duration shall be no less than six months and no longer than three years. The Postdoctoral Program in Bioethics operates in accordance with the regulated terms available on the Católica Medical School website.

9. Tuition fees, payments and other fees

The value of tuition fees, payments and other fees is determined annually, and published in a separate document, therefore, the values for subsequent school years may change. The updated values can be consulted on the Bioethics Institute at the Católica Medical School website. The application fee is non-refundable in situations of cancellation, withdrawal or exclusion of the application.

10. Registration

Enrolment of applicants admitted to the Postdoctoral Program will only be formalized after confirmation of the corresponding tuition fee payment, an essential condition for the completion of registration. Once the applicant receives the notification of "Admitted," they have 10 consecutive days to pay the enrolment / first registration and the amount corresponding to the first monthly tuition instalment. Each year, at the beginning of the academic year, payment of the subsequent annual registration is required.

11. Other Information

Additional information on the Postdoctoral Bioethics Program is available on the Católica Medical School website website.

12. Contacts

Email	Phone Numbers
Academic and Administrative Services at Católica Medical School medicina.fm@ucp.pt	Academic and Administrative Services at Católica Medical School (+351) 21 872 42 00
Bioethics Institute Ib.fm@ucp.pt	Bioethics Institute (+351) 21 872 42 00 Ext: 2039
Treasury Office tesouraria.sede@ucp.pt	Treasury Office (+351) 21 721 40 79

Academic and Administrative Services of Católica Medical School:

Office hours (in person and via telephone): Monday to Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Online office hours: medicina.fm@ucp.pt

Location:

Área Académica e Administrativa

Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Estrada Octávio Pato

2635-631 Rio de Mouro

Mara de Sousa Freitas

Lisbon, 16th September 2026

Dean of Institute of Bioethics of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa
Professor Mara de Sousa Freitas