

Bio

# Érica Geraldés Castanheira

**Vice-President**



Érica Gerlades Castanheira has been the Vice-President of the Polytechnic of Coimbra since October 2021.

She has a PhD in Sustainable Energy Systems (2014) from the University of Coimbra (UC), a master's degree in Energy and Environmental Management (2008) from the University of Aveiro, and a bachelor's degree in Environmental Engineering (2003) from Coimbra Agriculture School of the Polytechnic of Coimbra (ESAC/IPC).

Castanheira held a research scholarship for the Research Unit CERNAS - Centre for Natural Resources, Environment and Society until 2008. During this period, she was also an assistant at ESAC-IPC and taught at Agostinho Neto University (Angola). She has been a researcher at the Centre for Industrial Ecology at the Associate Laboratory of Energy, Transportation and Aeronautics (ADAI-LAETA) since 2009. She is currently an Invited Assistant Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering of UC.

Her research has been focusing on assessing the sustainability of the life cycle of a product, namely by assessing the life cycle, carbon footprint, and water footprint of agri-food and bioenergy products. She participated in several national and international projects and developed activities at the National Biomass Research Centre of the University of São Paulo (CEN-BIO/IEE/USP) and the Federal University of Mato Grosso (Brazil).

She was a councillor in Arganil Municipal Council between 2017 and 2021, responsible for Environment, Forestry, Urban Planning and Human Resources.

In 2015 her PhD thesis received the Mário Quartin Graça Scientific Prize.