

CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF STUDENTS AND
PROFESSORS/RESEARCHERS FROM THE
POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE "IMFAHE'S PLATFORM OF TALENT
"

Academic Year 2026-2027

International Mentoring Foundation for the Advancement of Higher Education



The Polytechnic University of Coimbra, in collaboration with the International Mentoring Foundation for the Advancement of Higher Education ([IMFAHE](#)), opens a call to participate, together with a group of European universities, in an Innovation Network that promotes the interaction of selected students and professors with international professionals affiliated with top international universities and organizations, such as Harvard University, MIT, Princeton and Google, among many others. The aim of the collaboration IMFAHE-Polytechnic University of Coimbra is to promote excellence in professional development, education and research, as well as to facilitate the transfer of global knowledge in real time, the creation of effective multidisciplinary collaborations and encourage entrepreneurship and innovation.

Therefore, in the academic year 2026-2027, students and professors/researchers at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra will benefit from the programs and initiatives developed by IMFAHE (**Annex I**). Specifically, **10 students and 10 professors from the fields related to Health, Education, Management, Biotechnology, Food Technology, Biomedicine, Engineering, Economics or Behavioral Sciences will be selected to be a part of the "IMFAHE's Platform of Talent 2026-2027"**. The selected individuals will have the opportunity to interact with the rest of the members of the network through the **online communication platform** "IMFAHE Connects", where they can establish highly valuable professional contacts and collaborate within multidisciplinary teams to participate as entrepreneurs at the IMFAHE's **Global Idea & Entrepreneurship Competition**, the "IMFAHE Nodal Award". All of them will have the opportunity to attend the "IMFAHE International Conference **Innovation Camp 2027**" and present their research. They can also participate in the "**IMFAHE Spotlight**" outreach initiative to promote open science and bring their research closer to society. The selected students will receive **personalized career advice** from researchers and professionals with international experience through the "**International Mentor Program-IMP**". All the students can apply to the **Portugal Global** and **IMFAHE Global fellowships** to conduct 3 months research internship at a prestigious international organization. The selected professors through the "**International Professional Development Program for Professors-iPDP**" will receive training on Artificial Intelligence, innovative teaching techniques, effective communication and funding opportunities, among others. These professors will have the opportunity to participate in networking activities (**Peer Mentoring Circles**) to foster collaborations with other international professors and mentors.

In addition, the entire university community at the Polytechnic University of Coimbra will have free access to the **3 Online Courses** that IMFAHE will launch on professional development, innovation-entrepreneurship-leadership and scientific careers (these courses will be taught by international experts and will be certified upon completion).

For more information:

IF YOU ARE A STUDENT, REGISTER FOR THE INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR STUDENTS (October 6th, 1pm Portugal Time). [Registration link HERE](#).

IF YOU ARE A PROFESSOR/RESEARCHER, REGISTER FOR THE INFORMATIONAL SESSION FOR PROFESSORS/RESEARCHERS (October 7th, 1pm Portugal Time). [Registration link HERE](#).

Watch these [1min](#) and [30 sec](#) videos

Check IMFAHE's website: <https://www.imfahe.org/>

CALL FOR THE SELECTION OF STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS FROM THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF COIMBRA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "IMFAHE'S PLATFORM OF TALENT 2026-2027"

1 - Objective

The purpose of this call is to select students and professors from the Polytechnic University of Coimbra to participate in IMFAHE's Programs in the academic year 2026-2027. We will select:

- A total of 10 students from the specialties of Health, Education, Management, Biotechnology, Food Technology, Biomedicine, Engineering, Economics or Behavioral Sciences, enrolled in a Master or PhD Program during the academic year of 2026-2027 at Polytechnic University of Coimbra.
- A total of 10 professors or postdoctoral researchers from the specialties of Health, Education, Management, Biotechnology, Food Technology, Biomedicine, Engineering, Economics or Behavioral Sciences, affiliated with the Polytechnic University of Coimbra.

2 - Duration of the program

The IMFAHE's programs will start in November and will finish on June 30th. They will take place within the 2026-2027 academic year, except for the mobility internships linked to the excellence fellowships that may be carried out between July 2027 and May 2028.

For more details, see the schedule of the IMFAHE's Programs 2026-2027 in **Annex II**.

3 - Applicant requirements

Students and professors at Polytechnic University of Coimbra who meet the following requirements may participate in IMFAHE's Platform of Talent 2026-2027:

For students:

- Be a Master or PhD student at Polytechnic University of Coimbra during the 2026-2027 academic year.
- A good English proficiency level will be valued. All the communication is in English.

For professors:

- Be a professor (full, associate, assistant, etc.) or doctoral researcher affiliated with the Polytechnic University of Coimbra.

4 - Submission of applications

Applications must be submitted through the following REGISTRATION procedure:

- STUDENTS: should send the required documents to inopol@ipc.pt by 23:59 on October 30th.
- PROFESSORS: should send the Curriculum vitae to inopol@ipc.pt by 23:59 on October 30th

Applications must include the following documents:

Students:

- Updated curriculum vitae in English.
- Student's Motivation Form (to be completed in English):

In this form, students will provide insights into their academic and career goals, field of expertise and specialization, specific skills, and short-, medium-, and long-term career interests. They will also share their motivation for becoming a member of the IMFAHE Talent Platform 2026-2027, helping us better understand their profile and aspirations.

- Proof of having a good proficiency level of English (B1 or higher).
 - By a language certificate
 - Through the demonstration that the applicant has lived in an English-speaking country
 - Through an affidavit. Present a letter signed by the interested applicant stating that he/she has sufficient English proficiency to be a part of the Talent Network. If this candidate is selected, IMFAHE will perform a test to verify that the proficiency level is the same as was declared.

Professors:

- Curriculum vitae

5 - Deadline for submitting applications

Applications can be submitted from the publication date of this call until **30th October of 2026 at 23:59h.**

6 - Selection committee

The selection committee will include three representatives from Polytechnic University of Coimbra.

7 - Evaluation criteria

The applications will be scored according to the criteria listed below. As a result of the evaluation, the scores of the submitted applications will be ranked (highest to lowest scores). The criteria for the selection of candidates will be the following.

For students:

- Curriculum vitae: The coherence of the candidate's CV will be assessed based on her/his age, studies, professional career, etc. Maximum score: 60 points.

- Student Motivation Form. The candidates must complete the provided motivation form. The level of enthusiasm, the arguments for being selected, and the quality of the writing of the document will be highly valued. Maximum score: 20 points.
- English: It is important to demonstrate a good English proficiency level (minimum B1). Maximum score: 20 points.

For professors:

- Curriculum vitae: The coherence of the candidate's CV will be assessed based on his/her age and professional career, etc. Maximum score: 100 points.

The final score of each candidate will be determined by adding the scores from each category.

8 - Resolution procedure

The positions to participate in this program will be awarded by the resolution of the Selection Committee. The resolutions, both provisional and final, as well as all administrative acts arising from this procedure, will be disseminated by email: **inopol@ipc.pt**. The evaluation and selection of applications will be carried out in competitive basis, exclusively considering the documentation provided by the applicant. Applicants who obtain the highest score will be selected once the provided materials have been assessed. The list of the selected student and professors plus a list of substitutes will be published. In the event of a beneficiary's resignation, a substitute will be offered the place if no more than 2 months have elapsed since the beginning of the IMFAHE 2026-2027 course.

The initial list with the selected 10 students, 10 professors plus the waiting list will be disseminated by email: **inopol@ipc.pt**. This publication will serve as a notification for all purposes. A period of 3 business days will open to process any claim. In the event that a candidate does not agree with the score assigned by the Selection Committee, may submit a claim to **inopol@ipc.pt** within stated period of allegations. In the case of no response after that period, the claim will be deemed dismissed. During the same period, in the event that an applicant refuses to participate, the candidate will automatically be considered excluded. After the deadline for allegations, the final list of selected and excluded candidates will be published.

9 - Rights and obligations of the participants

All the participants' rights (students and professors):

- Interact with the IMFAHE 2026-2027 network of talent and establish new professional contacts.
- Take 3 free online Quarter Courses offered by IMFAHE for the 2026-2027 academic year and obtain a 30h certificate if each course is successfully completed.
- Participate in the IMFAHE Nodal Award-Global Idea & Entrepreneurship contest and apply for seed capital.
- Participate in the "IMFAHE Spotlight" outreach initiative to promote open science and bring science and research closer to society.
- Participate in IMFAHE's 2027 International Conference-Innovation Camp.

- Leave the program at any time, after communicating to IMFAHE (president@imfahe.org).
- (Specific for students) Consult the assigned mentor through videoconferences or by email.
- (Specific for students) Compete for one Portugal Global Fellowship and one IMFAHE Global Fellowship to carry out a professional internship at a prestigious international organization.
- (Specific for Professors/Researchers) Obtain a 30h training certificate after successful completion of the "International Professional Development Program for Professors -IPDP" and the "Peer Mentoring Circles".

All the participants' obligations (students and professors):

- Attend the IMFAHE Kickoff event, where the work model, expectations, obligations, and rights will be explained (online).
- Interact through the online communication platform "IMFAHE Connects" with students and professionals from IMFAHE's partnered universities and with the international mentors.
- Fill out an evaluation survey at the end of the program to evaluate IMFAHE's activities.
- Interact with all participants in English.
- (Specific for students) Attend meetings with the assigned mentor (at least 5 hours in the academic year). Organize meetings with the assigned mentor. Work on the tasks proposed and agreed on with the assigned mentor.
- (Specific for students) Be proactive by participating in "IMFAHE Connects", "Online Quarter Courses" and "IMFAHE Nodal Award". Proactivity will be positively valued in the IMFAHE's excellence fellowship applications.
- (Specific for Professors/Researchers) Participate in the "International Professional Development Program for Professors -IPDP" and the "Peer Mentoring Circles".

10 - Breach.

The total or partial breach of the requirements and obligations established in the call, as well as the conditions that, where appropriate, are established in the corresponding concession resolutions, may result in the loss of the right to participate in the program. If an applicant loses the right to participate in the program, a candidate from the waiting list will occupy the position, as long this occurs no later than two months from the beginning of the program.

11 - Appeal

Against the resolution that approves this call, which exhausts the administrative route, a contentious-administrative appeal may be filed within two months of its notification, before the Contentious-Administrative Court, or optionally administratively through an appeal of replacement before the same organization.

ANNEX I. Programs and Beneficiaries at a Glance. IMFAHE's Programs 2026-2027

Programs	Key Benefits	Beneficiaries	
		Selected Students	Selected Professors
International Mentor Program (IMP)	One-on-one mentoring where mentors working at top organizations such as Harvard, MIT, etc, will help you in your next career steps.		
Fellowships-International Mobility Opportunities	- Internships at top-tier international organizations (50% Harvard and MIT) 3 months. A life time career and personal opportunity. Strategic contacts.		
Int. Professional Development Program for Professors (IPDP)	- Training to stand out as professors and researchers. 30h certificate. - Teaching the GenZ. AI for Faculty. Grant Writing. Funding from USA, etc.		
Peer Mentoring Circles	Working groups with peers to promote global collaborations, joint projects and publications.		
Global Platform of Talent-IMFAHE Connects	- Democratize access to ideas from top-tier innovative ecosystems - International knowledge exchange		
IMFAHE Spotlight	Promote open science and bring the research conducted by students and professors closer to society.		
Global Idea Competition-IMFAHE Nodal Award	- Transform students and professors into entrepreneurs. - Seed capital to fund the best ideas (\$10.000). MIT Idea2 nomination.		
Quarter Course on Career Development	- Training to successfully face the job market. 30h certificate. - International career experts as speakers. Internationalization from home.		
Quarter Course on Innovation & Entrepreneurship	- Training to become an entrepreneur. 30h certificate. - International entrepreneurs as speakers. Internationalization from home.		
Quarter Course on Careers in Science & Research	- Training on key aspect of the scientific and research career. 30h certificate. - International scientists as speakers. Internationalization from home.		
International Conference-Innovation Camp 2027	- Pitch of Ideas. Presentation of research projects by students and professors. - International visibility. Awards to the most outstanding students & professors.		



IMFAHE CONNECTS. An online communication platform that connects more than 400 international professionals working in the top organizations on 5 continents with the best European students and professors at collaborating universities. A multidisciplinary and effective network to develop projects, establish collaborations and share innovative ideas.



International Mentor Program (IMP). The students selected from the partner universities (mentees) receive personalized professional advice from international professionals affiliated with prestigious international organizations such as Harvard University, MIT and Google. Mentors provide valuable advice and professional inspiration.



IMFAHE Nodal Award-Global Idea & Entrepreneurship Competition. Ideas' competition where IMFAHE provides seed capital to the most innovative projects proposed by multidisciplinary teams created on the platform. Initiative to foster collaborations, innovation and the development of high-value transferrable skills such during the generation and development of ideas, teamwork, leadership, the entrepreneurial spirit and communication skills.



IMFAHE Online Quarter Courses. Intensive online courses on "Innovation, Entrepreneurship and -leadership", "Scientific Careers" and "Professional Development". Very practical courses in the Harvard style. Master classes presented by international experts. Certified courses with 30h upon Completion.



IMFAHE Spotlight. Students and professors showcase research conducted at IMFAHE's partner organizations through short videos, promoting open science and bringing scientific knowledge closer to society using social media.



IMFAHE International Professional Development Program for Professors (IPDP). Program that includes specific webinars on AI, innovative teaching techniques and how to finance research projects, among others, as well as networking activities such as **Peer Mentoring Circles** to foster collaborations with other international researchers and mentors.



IMFAHE Excellence Fellowships. IMFAHE awards the best students of the program with scholarships to conduct research internships at organizations of international prestige through the "IMFAHE Global Fellowship" and the "Portugal Global Fellowship".



IMFAHE's International Conference. Annual innovation camp to promote effective networks, networking, collaborations and innovation.

ANNEX II. Agenda IMFAHE 2026-2027

** The proposed dates may be subject to minor modifications, if there are circumstances that require it.*

September-October 2026: Publication of the public call by the Polytechnic University of Coimbra for its students and professors to request participation in the IMFAHE's Platform of Talent 2026-2027. The Polytechnic University of Coimbra will disseminate the call so that it has the maximum scope.

October 6, 2026: Informational session for students, where students will learn the benefits of joining IMFAHE's Platform of Talent and will have the opportunity to get answers to all their questions. [Register to the session here.](#)

October 7, 2026: Informational session for professors/researchers, where they will learn the benefits of joining IMFAHE's Platform of Talent and will have the opportunity to get answers to all their questions. [Register to the session here.](#)

October 2026-May 2027: During this period IMFAHE launches its 3 Quarter Courses on "Professional Development", "Innovation, Leadership and Entrepreneurship" and "Scientific Careers". These courses are open to the entire University community. The University will disseminate the courses so that they have the maximum scope.

October-November 2026: Reception and evaluation of the applications. A committee chosen by the University will carry out the selection of 10 students and 10 professors to participate in the IMFAHE's Platform of Talent 2026-2027.

November 13, 2026: The University sends IMFAHE the final list of selected students and professors, plus the waiting list. The University notifies to the selected students and professors their participation in the IMFAHE's Platform of Talent 2026-2027.

November 16-18, 2026: IMFAHE welcomes selected students and professors and registers them on the communication platform "IMFAHE connects". IMFAHE shares the "Self Assessment" with the students, which they must have filled out when the IMP Program begins.

December 2, 2026: Kickoff event for students broadcasted remotely from Boston. IMFAHE explains to all the students, the programs, initiatives, activities and resources from which they can benefit for being part of the IMFAHE network.

December 3, 2026: Kickoff event for Professors - International Professional Development Program for University Professors (iPDP). Networking event for professors.

December 15-21, 2026: The International Mentor Program (IMP) begins. IMFAHE communicates to the Polytechnic University of Coimbra, as well as to its students, the results of the matching student-international mentor. The matching will be based on the needs and interests of the students, and the experience of the mentors.

January 2027: Public call for the "IMFAHE Nodal Award-Global Entrepreneurship competition"

February 2027: Public call for IMFAHE's Fellowships 2027.

April 2027: Evaluation of applications and selection of scholarship winners.

May 24, 2027: XIII IMFAHE International Conference-Innovation Camp where the finalist teams of the IMFAHE Nodal Award-Global Entrepreneurship Competition will defend their ideas in an elevator pitch format and the members of the network will carry out oral presentation of their scientific work. IMFAHE will announce the winners of the idea competition and the fellowships.

June 2027: Launch of the anonymous survey for the evaluation of the IMFAHE programs.

June-July 2027: Meeting with representatives of the Polytechnic University of Coimbra. Presentation of the Annual Report.

July 2027-May 2028: International stays of the winners of the fellowships.
