UNIVERSIDADE LUSÓFONA

European Joint Master's Programme in Digital Society, Social Innovation and Global Citizenship (DIGISOC) DIGISOC Scholarship Programme – Individual Learning Pathways at Universidade Lusófona Second Semester, Academic Year 2026/2027

Call for Applications

Article 1 – Purpose, amount and duration of the scholarship

Universidade Lusófona – Centro Universitário de Lisboa (hereinafter "Lusófona"), as an associated partner university of DIGISOC, issues this Call for Applications within the DIGISOC Scholarship Programme. The call is reserved for DIGISOC students who complete their Individual Learning Pathways (ILP) at Lusófona during one semester.

The call has a total budget of EUR [12,000].

The scholarship provides financial support to DIGISOC students during their ILP semester at Lusófona and aims to:

- Alleviate costs associated with travel, accommodation, living expenses and any fees related to the ILP semester in Lisbon;
- Support students from underprivileged or vulnerable backgrounds;
- Promote diversity, fairness, gender balance and international mobility in higher education.

The scholarship also functions as a form of social support, helping students overcome personal or socio-economic obstacles that hinder participation in international education.

The scholarship covers one semester: Second Semester 2026/2027, from 1 February 2027 to 30 July 2027.

During this semester, scholarship holders must complete at least 10 ECTS credits of Master-level courses at Lusófona, corresponding to the DIGISOC ILP component.

The scholarship is paid in one instalment.

There is no automatic entitlement to the scholarship and no renewal. Each student may receive this scholarship only once.

Each successful applicant receives a fixed scholarship of EUR 3,000 (gross). Scholarships are awarded to applicants who meet the eligibility and minimum assessment requirements, in the ranking order established under Article 5, until the available funds are exhausted.

The evaluation score determines the ranking of applicants, not the amount of the scholarship. A maximum of 30 points can be awarded to each application.

This scholarship may be combined with a DIGISOC scholarship awarded by a Degree-Awarding University, subject to the applicable conditions of both funding schemes. Applicants must declare any other scholarship or financial support covering the same period.

Article 2 – Eligibility criteria

To apply, students must meet all of the following general conditions:

- Be enrolled in DIGISOC in the academic year 2026/2027;
- Not have yet completed the 10 ECTS credits of the Individual Learning Pathways;
- Have applied, or are planning to apply, for an ILP semester at Lusófona, with a study plan of at least 10 ECTS credits of Master-level courses confirmed as eligible by the DIGISOC Study Coordinator.

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Applicants must also submit a motivation letter explaining why they wish to undertake their ILP at Lusófona, how the proposed courses support their DIGISOC learning pathway, and how the scholarship would enable their participation.

Applicants are not required to meet a social-support criterion to be eligible. However, additional priority points are awarded for the following documented circumstances, as set out in Article 5:

- **Students with certified disabilities** For the purposes of this call, students with disabilities are those "who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others". Proof required: certified medical documentation or national disability status.
- **Migrants or refugees** Proof required: asylum decision, residence permit or migration authority confirmation.
- **Students with low socio-economic family condition** Defined according to family income. Proof required: tax statement, income certificate or official social benefit statement.
- **Students living in remote areas** Students living in a region in the lowest 25% of national population density and/or with no regular access to higher education within a 100 km radius. Proof required: residence certificate, matched with infrastructure data based on national statistics.

Article 3 – Application process and deadline

The call must remain open for applications for at least two full months from its publication on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. The publication date is **5 November 2026**, and the application deadline is **5 January 2027 at 12:00 (noon), Europe/Lisbon local time**. Both dates must be confirmed before publication, allowing sufficient time for evaluation, appeals, acceptance and mobility arrangements before the ILP semester begins.

Applicants must send the following documents, in a single folder labelled with their full name, to the email digisoc@ulusofona.pt:

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- The signed Application Letter (Annex 1);
- The matriculation number at the Home Degree-Awarding University;
- The ILP study plan at Lusófona (courses, ECTS credits) and the confirmation of eligibility by the DIGISOC Study Coordinator;
- A motivation letter addressing the elements specified in Article 2;
- Supporting documentation for any social-support priority criterion claimed, issued by a responsible authority or accredited expert. Applicants who do not claim priority points are not required to provide this documentation.

The application must be in English. Supporting documents may be submitted in English, Portuguese, Italian, German or Czech. Other languages require certified translations. If the documentation is not sufficient, the Evaluation Committee may request additional information or reject the application.

Article 4 – Evaluation Committee

An internal Lusófona Evaluation Committee, appointed by [the competent body of FCSEA], reviews all applications. It consists of:

- Professor Elsa Estrela, the Lusófona DIGISOC academic coordinator, who chairs the Committee;
- Professor Lucimar Dantas, as academic staff member from FCSEA;
- Dra. Sandra Rocha, the Coordinator of the Lusófona International Office.

The Committee concludes the evaluation no later than 15 calendar days after the application deadline. Members must declare any conflict of interest and must not assess an application in which they have such a conflict; a replacement must be appointed where necessary.

Article 5 – Awarding criteria and evaluation procedure

The Evaluation Committee assesses eligible applications using the following scoring model, with a maximum of 30 points:

A. Motivation and relevance of the ILP at Lusófona — maximum 18 points

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- Relevance of the proposed Lusófona courses to the applicant's DIGISOC learning pathway: 0–6 points;
- Clarity of the learning objectives and reasons for choosing Lusófona: 0–6 points;
- Explanation of how the scholarship would enable participation in the ILP semester: 0–6 points.

The Committee must record a brief justification for each score. Applicants must obtain at least 5 points in section A to be considered for funding.

B. Social-support priority — maximum 12 points

- Students with certified disabilities: 3 points for a documented disability;
- Migrants or refugees: 3 points for refugee status or migrant status;
- Low socio-economic family condition: 3 points for low socio-economic family condition defined according to family income.
- Remote areas: 3 points for residence in a region in the lowest 25% of national population density; 3 points for no regular access to higher education within a 100 km radius.

Points across the four social-support criteria are added together, but section B is capped at 12 points. Applicants who do not claim or substantiate a social-support criterion receive 0 points for that criterion; this does not in itself make them ineligible.

The final score is the sum of section A (maximum 18) and section B (maximum 12). Applications meeting the minimum section A score are ranked by their final score. In the event of a tie, priority is given first to the higher section B score and then to the higher section A score. Any remaining tie is resolved by a documented draw.

Each applicant who meets the eligibility requirements in Article 2 and obtains at least **14 points** in section A is considered for a fixed scholarship of EUR 3,000 (gross).

Scholarships are awarded in descending order of the final ranking, applying the tie-breaking rules above, until the available budget is exhausted.

Each funded applicant receives EUR 3,000, irrespective of their final score. No proportional or partial awards are made.

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Applicants who meet the requirements but cannot be funded because the remaining budget is insufficient for a full scholarship are placed on a reserve list in ranking order.

If funds become available following a withdrawal or non-acceptance, a full scholarship is offered to the next applicant on the reserve list.

Any balance insufficient to fund a full EUR 3,000 scholarship remains unawarded. If no application meets the minimum section A score, no award is made.

The Evaluation Committee records its scores, justifications, final ranking and funding decisions. Its decisions are subject to the appeal procedure in Article 6.

The ranking and the amounts awarded will be published on [the DIGISOC website – https://digitalsociety4innovation.eu/costs-and-scholarships/ – and the Lusófona website. This publication constitutes official notification. E-mail notifications are also sent as specified in Article 6. Published results must not disclose applicants' health information, migration status, family income or other supporting personal data.

Article 6 – Acceptance and appeals

Applicants are notified of decisions by e-mail within 15 days after the application deadline. Rejected applications include a short justification.

Applicants may appeal the eligibility decision, score, ranking or funding decision by e-mail to digisoc@ulusofona.pt within [10] working days. Appeals are reviewed by the Evaluation Committee.

Within 5 calendar days of notification, the scholarship holder must send the signed declaration of acceptance (Annex 2) by e-mail to digisoc@ulusofona.pt, without reservation and under the conditions of this call, under penalty of forfeiture. In the declaration, the scholarship holder undertakes to report any change to the information declared.

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Article 7 – What to do to receive the scholarship

The scholarship holder signs a scholarship agreement with Lusófona at the Lusófona International Office and must provide:

- Proof of enrolment at the Home Degree-Awarding University (including matriculation number);
- Proof of registration at Lusófona for the ILP semester and the signed Learning Agreement;
- Tax identification number [Portuguese NIF, where required];
- Bank details (IBAN, SWIFT/BIC);
- Copy of passport or identity document.

Article 8 – Financial and disbursement procedures

The scholarship is paid in one instalment by Lusófona, after confirmation of the student's registration and arrival at Lusófona.

Payment is made by bank transfer to an account with IBAN in the name of the scholarship holder.

Article 9 – Renunciation and reimbursement

Scholarship holders who withdraw after acceptance must notify digisoc@ulusofona.pt in writing, so that the next applicant in the ranking can be considered.

The full amount must be returned if the scholarship holder:

- Withdraws from the ILP semester at Lusófona;
- Does not complete at least 10 ECTS credits at Lusófona during the semester;
- Transfers to another degree programme during the semester.

Exceptions may be granted in duly justified cases, assessed by the Evaluation Committee.

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Article 10 – Data protection

Personal data, including special categories of data such as health data, are processed by Lusófona solely for the purposes of this call, in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 and applicable Portuguese law.

Data may be shared with the members of the Evaluation Committee and the DIGISOC Degree-Awarding Universities to the extent necessary for evaluation and programme management.

Article 11 – Final provisions

All resources and updates will be available on the DIGISOC website – Costs and Scholarships page – https://digitalsociety4innovation.eu/costs-and-scholarships/ – and the Lusófona website. The following will be published there:

- Application and documentation guidelines;
- Acceptance letter template.

For further questions please contact:

Universidade Lusófona: digisoc@ulusofona.pt

Università degli Studi di Napoli Federico II: digisoc@unina.it

Univerzita Palackého v Olomouci, Czechia: digisoc@upol.cz

Universität Innsbruck, Austria: digisoc@uibk.ac.at

Cases not covered by this call are decided by the Rector, after consultation with the DIGISOC coordination.

Disclaimer This call (as well as the financial support provided through it) is NOT an EU action. It is launched solely by Universidade Lusófona, which is responsible for its preparation, for the selection of successful applicants and for the financial support provided, in its own name and under its own responsibility. Any publication of this call in the EU Funding & Tenders Portal is for information purposes only and shall not be construed as approval of its content by the EU authorities.

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Annex 1 – Application Letter

DIGISOC Scholarship Programme – Individual Learning Pathways at Universidade Lusófona – Second Semester 2026/2027

The undersigned:

Last name: _____ First name: _____

Tax code / identification number: _____

Date of birth: ___ / ___ / _____ Place and country of birth: _____

Home Degree-Awarding University: _____

Matriculation number: _____

ILP semester at Lusófona: Second Semester 2026/2027 – ECTS credits planned:

_____

DECLARES that they are enrolled in DIGISOC, have not yet completed the 10 ECTS ILP component, and have applied for or been admitted to an ILP semester at Lusófona with an eligible study plan of at least 10 ECTS credits.

ATTACHES a motivation letter explaining the relevance of the proposed courses, the reasons for choosing Lusófona and how the scholarship would enable participation, together with the documents required by Article 3.

CLAIMS, where applicable, priority under the following social-support criteria (optional; attach supporting documentation for each criterion claimed):

- Student with certified disabilities (attach certified medical documentation or national disability status);
- Migrant or refugee (attach asylum decision, residence permit or migration authority confirmation);
- Student with low socio-economic family condition (attach tax statement, income certificate or official social benefit statement);
- Student living in a remote area (attach residence certificate).

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Other scholarships or financial support covering the same period (awarding institution, amount and dates; write “none” if not applicable): _____.

A copy of a valid identity document is attached.

(Date and place) _____ (Signature) _____

Annex 2 – Declaration of Acceptance

I, _____, matriculation number _____, at _____ (Home Degree-Awarding University), accept without reservation the scholarship of EUR 3000 (gross) awarded under the DIGISOC Scholarship Programme – Individual Learning Pathways at Universidade Lusófona, Second Semester [2026/2027], under the conditions set out in the call. I undertake to report any change to the information declared and to return the amount received in the cases set out in Article 9.

(Date and place) _____ (Signature) _____

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