



Universidade de Évora

Open call rules

Applications for Admission: Curso de formação em Novas ferramentas para diagnóstico em Proteção de Plantas (New diagnostic tools in Plant Protection)
Academic Year 2025/2026

1. The program is promoted by

Universidade de Évora - Escola de Ciências e Tecnologia

2. Coordenador(a)

Maria do Rosário Fernandes Félix (mrff@uevora.pt)

3. Program description

This course aims to equip technicians and professionals in the agricultural sector with the ability to assess the presence of diseases and pests rapidly and at an early stage. Through the application of portable molecular methodologies and digital technologies, participants will be able to quantify pathogen inoculum levels and detect pest presence across different crop development stages. The collected data can be transmitted directly to the operator's smartphone for immediate analysis and interpretation.

This knowledge will enhance the accuracy of risk assessment and support evidence-based decision-making regarding the necessity of treatment interventions, grounded in real and quantifiable risks of disease or pest occurrence. The implementation of these methodologies will promote a more sustainable form of agriculture, optimising both treatment efficiency and production costs.

4. Objectives

The objectives of this curricular unit are: a) To acquire knowledge about the main pests and diseases that affect Mediterranean crops, such as olive, almond and vine trees. To recognize the symptoms and the organisms that cause them; b) To understand the biomolecular structures of the pathogens involved in the establishment of the disease; c) To understand the theoretical principles of diagnostic methodologies based on PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) and understand their application in the diagnosis of diseases in the field; d) To learn how to use a portable quantitative PCR device (Dr. VIDA) with different plant material from the hosts (olive, almond and vine trees) and interpret the results obtained; e) To understand the factors associated with the presence of pests in crops; f) To understand the methodologies for estimating their risk to crops and the innovation in digital automation for

acquiring the information necessary for this purpose. Taking into account the objectives mentioned, the main expected competence includes the ability to detect and quantify the presence of pathogens and pests in the main Mediterranean crops, before making the decision on the application of measures to limit them in the crops.

5. General conditions of access and admission

i General conditions

Be over 18 years old and resident permit. If you do not have Portuguese nationality, you must have a residence permit and tax payer number .

ii Specific admission conditions

Hold at least a secondary education diploma (12th grade) and provide proof of professional experience in the field of Agricultural and/or Veterinary Sciences

iii Required academic qualifications Secondary education (12th year of complete education) or equivalent

iv Necessary documentation

- a) identification document;
- b) document(s) proving the qualifications required in the Announcement for access to the course;
- c) document proving the IBAN of the bank account held by the candidate, in which the name of the holder is mentioned;
- d) proof of residence permit, in the case of foreign students;
- e) document with tax identification number, in the case of foreign students;

6. Selection Process

Date of application submission.

7. Maximum number of admissions

- Maximum number of admissions: 50

8. Minimum number of students

Minimum number of students: 8

9. Tuition fee

- Tuition fee: 0,00 €

This course is covered by the PRR's Digital Plus Impulse. Students may be eligible for completion prize, in accordance with [Regulation](#), to be paid into a bank account held by the student.

10. ECTS

- Number of ECTS of the program: 1

11. Horas de Contacto

- Total de horas de contacto: 15

12. Learning Type

b-Learning

13. Schedule type

After-work

14. Classes location

The distance learning sessions will be held via an online platform.

The in-person session will take place at the Mitra Campus of the University of Évora.

15. Classes schedule (week days and schedule)

Monday to Friday (online sessions): from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Saturday (in-person session): from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

16. Program Dates

- Program Start Date: May 4, 2026
- Program End Date: May 16, 2026

17. Application Dates

- Applications Start Date: -
- Applications End Date: -
- Announcement of Results (until): April 15, 2026
- Enrollments Start Date: April 15, 2026
- Enrollments End Date: April 29, 2026

February 2, 2026

The Rector

Hermínia Vasconcelos Vilar