NEWSLETTER #285
24 July 2026

In this week's edition of the newsletter, these are the main highlights:

- Editorial | Academic integrity: a challenge for universities in the digital age
- Professor Mário Caldeira takes up his post as Dean of ISEG
- ISEG Welcome Week 2026/2027
- ISEG In review: the 2025/2026 academic year reinforced excellence, innovation and international impact
- Between Classes: Summer Reading
- Graduation Ceremony marks the start of a new chapter for graduates of the 'ISEG' Executive Education programme
- ISEG Executive Education graduates
- ISEG co-ordinates a new sustainable aquaponics project in São Tomé and Príncipe
- Teacher training for ULisboa lecturers

Nuno Brites
ISEG Professor

Academic integrity: a challenge for universities in the digital age

Academic fraud has always existed. What has changed in recent years are the means used to commit it. Until a few years ago, when invigilating an exam, it was sufficient to check whether a student was consulting hidden notes or communicating with their classmates. Today, the situation is different. *Smartphones, smartwatches*, earpieces and, more recently, artificial intelligence tools have created new ways of circumventing the rules of a face-to-face assessment. Nowadays, a student can receive answers in real time via a virtually invisible earpiece, look up information on *a smartphone or smartwatch,* or use artificial intelligence tools to answer questions in a matter of seconds. UNESCO has been highlighting the challenges that generative artificial intelligence poses to assessment and academic integrity in higher education (Guidance for Generative AI in Education and Research, UNESCO).

This development poses a serious challenge for universities. It can undermine the credibility of assessments and, above all, be unfair to the vast majority of students who attend lectures, study and sit exams honestly. Those who resort to cheating do not merely obtain a grade. They gain an unfair advantage over those who have achieved the same result through their own efforts. This advantage may translate, for example, into the award of a scholarship, access to an internship, admission to a Master's programme or even a job opportunity.

But academic dishonesty is more than just a breach of regulations. It is an ethical issue. The university's role is not limited to, nor is it exhausted by, the transmission of knowledge; it has a mission to educate citizens and professionals of integrity. A student who becomes accustomed to achieving results through fraud is unlikely to abandon such behaviour once they have completed their academic studies. Integrity, just like dishonesty, is built through the small decisions of everyday life. Consequently, the normalisation of fraudulent behaviour during one's academic career tends to carry over into students' future professional practice and their lives in general.

There is also an aspect that is rarely mentioned. When a university awards a degree, it is implicitly guaranteeing to society that the graduate has acquired certain knowledge, skills and ethical principles. Whenever fraud goes undetected, that guarantee cannot be given. In professions such as medicine, engineering, economics or law, society's trust in university education is far too important to be called into question. Combating fraud is, therefore, a matter of safeguarding the credibility university education.

Aware of this reality, many higher education institutions have been adapting their assessment processes. Plagiarism detection programmes, secure browsers (*lockdown browsers*), remote monitoring platforms and electronic authentication systems are now used in various contexts. Through the Horizon 2020 programme, the European Union has funded the TeSLA project with the aim of developing technologies that enhance the reliability of electronic assessment (TeSLA – Adaptive Trust-based e-Assessment System for Learning, Horizon 2020 Programme).

But are we keeping pace with the speed at which technology is evolving?

It is in this context that an inevitable question arises. Does it make sense to discuss the use of signal blockers (known as *jammers*) in examination halls? From a legal point of view, the answer is no. In Portugal, as in most European Union countries, the use of equipment designed to deliberately interfere with radio communications is not permitted (Decree-Law No. 57/2017 of 9 June). And there is an obvious reason for this ban. A signal jammer can affect mobile networks, interfere with legitimate communications and hinder emergency communications. The legal framework currently in force, which is overseen by ANACOM, is specifically designed to prevent such situations (Legal framework for radio equipment and the use of the radio spectrum, ANACOM).

Accepting the current legislation does not, however, mean that the debate should be closed. Universities know better than anyone the problems they face on a daily basis in examination halls. Perhaps the time has come, through their representative bodies such as CRUP and CCISP, to promote a dialogue with ANACOM, the Government and Parliament on the possibility of establishing a framework for very specific situations. Any solution would have to meet extremely stringent technical requirements, including the use of certified equipment, limitations on signal power, the permanent guarantee of emergency communications and adequate monitoring.

This is not about advocating the liberalisation of *jammers*. The question is whether the current legal framework continues to address the technological challenges we face today. Experience shows that legislation does not always keep pace with technological innovation. Questioning the legal framework does not mean ignoring it. It means recognising that laws, too, must keep pace with the evolution of society.

Whilst this discussion is not taking place, there is much that can and must continue to be done. Stepping up supervision during exams, banning *smartphones and smartwatches* in exam halls, using different versions of the same exam and diversifying assessment methods are just a few examples. None of these measures will solve the problem on its own. Taken together, they help to make assessment fairer and more credible.

The university thrives on trust. But trust does not mean being naïve. It means believing in students' honesty whilst, at the same time, creating the conditions for everyone to be assessed on a level playing field. That is the responsibility we have towards our students, their families and society. Perhaps the time has come to stop merely discussing new ways of detecting cheating and to start reflecting, more broadly, on how we wish to preserve academic integrity in a digital and technologically demanding society.

Because, when academic integrity is called into question, it is not just an exam that loses credibility; it is the university itself.

What's Up @ ISEG

Professor Mário Caldeira takes office as Dean of ISEG

Professor **Mário Caldeira was sworn in as Dean of ISEG at a ceremony held on 17 July** at the Rector's Office of Universidade de Lisboa, presided over by the Rector, Professor **Luís Ferreira. The Vice-Presidents Esmeralda Arranhado, José Zorro Mendes, Helena Jerónimo and Paulo Lopes Henriques also took office.**

At the same ceremony, Professor **Maria Rosa Borges assumed the chair of the Scientific Council and Professor Francisco Nunes took office as Chair of the Pedagogical Council.**

📌 Further information here

ISEG Welcome Week 2026/2027

Between **30 August and 4 September**, ISEG welcomes new undergraduate, master's and PhD students, as well as international students and their families, with a week packed with activities, including welcome sessions, campus tours, integration activities and social events.

The week concludes with the **ISEG Welcome Party** on 4 September at the Pátio das Francesinhas.

📅 **Date:** 30 August to 4 September
📍 **Venue:** ISEG

📌 Further information here

ISEG In review: the 2025/2026 academic year reinforced excellence, innovation and international impact

ISEG concludes yet another academic year characterised by a strengthening of academic excellence, research, pedagogical innovation and international reach.

Throughout 2025/2026, we consolidated our position amongst Europe's leading business schools, promoted initiatives with a positive impact on the community and continued to invest in enhancing our facilities and improving our students' experience. Here are some of the highlights of this year:

Awards

- For the first time, **we topped** the *IDEAS/RePEc* ranking in Portugal, in the category of institutions with the greatest scientific impact over the last ten years.
- **We climbed three places** *in the Financial Times European Business Schools Ranking 2025*, remaining in the Top 70 of Europe's best business schools and seeing **our Master in Management (MiM) programme enter** the European ranking.
- **We have retained** our *PRME Champion* status for the 2026/2027 cycle, reinforcing international recognition of our commitment to sustainability and responsible management education.
- **We have won** the title of National Champion of the CFA Institute Research Challenge for the eighth time, reaffirming the excellence of our finance programme.
- **We have consolidated** the position of the Executive Education programme at the ISEG by entering the *Financial* Times' global Top 50 in the customised programmes category, whilst also maintaining our presence in the *Open Programmes* ranking.
- **We were once again** recognised as a Transformative School in the *Positive Impact Rating (PIR) 2026.*
- **We reached** a new milestone in international recognition from the *European Journal of Management Studies* by receiving, for the first time, a Scopus CiteScore (4.5), entering directly into the 72nd percentile, and being included in the SCImago Journal Rank (SJR).

Events

- **We hosted around 250 events** on campus.
- **We visited 131 secondary schools and welcomed 487 pupils to four Open Days.**
- **We held** the first edition of ISEGopólio by ISEG, the new open day format for secondary school pupils. Over two days, 76 participants enjoyed an immersive experience on campus, exploring the fields of Economics, Management, Finance and Mathematics through a life-size board game and by working in teams to create an innovative product.
- **We continued** the Money Matters programme, involving around **160 secondary school pupils** in financial literacy workshops.
- **We took part** in the first international gathering of Portuguese alumni in Paris, strengthening the global network of former students.
- **We marked the 125th anniversary of the birth of Bento de Jesus Caraça** with the opening of an exhibition dedicated to his life and work, celebrating the legacy of one of the most influential figures in the history of the 'ISEG' and Portuguese scientific culture. We also organised, in partnership with the Bento de Jesus Caraça Association, a series of initiatives that included three lectures and the screening of a documentary.
- **We encouraged** students at the 'ISEG' to develop marketing campaigns with a social impact for organisations such as Make-A-Wish Portugal, thereby promoting practical, society-oriented learning.

Sustainability and Social Responsibility

Throughout the academic year, the ISEG's commitment to sustainability continued to be recognised internationally, with the renewal of the **PRME Champion distinction and recognition, for the third consecutive year, as a Transformative School in the Positive Impact Rating (PIR)**. At the same time, we promoted various initiatives involving the entire academic community.

- **We organised** ISEG Sustainable Week 2025, a week dedicated to sustainability, innovation, social impact and the climate transition, involving the entire academic community.
- **We launched the ISEG ESG Award**, which recognises academic work and innovative solutions making significant contributions to sustainability and the ESG agenda.

- **We finalised the review of ISEG's 2030 Sustainability Strategy and launched the Circular Economy Plan**, strengthening the integration of sustainability and circularity principles into the School's activities and operations.
- **We have expanded** the **'ISEG** Mini-Forest', increasing the campus's green space and strengthening its contribution to biodiversity, environmental education, climate adaptation and the engagement of the academic community.
- **We implemented** the Civic Scholar Programme (CSP), an initiative aimed at Master's students that promotes civic engagement, social responsibility and leadership through participation in voluntary projects, social impact initiatives and community challenges, recognising participants' commitment with the **Civic Scholar Badge**.
- **We organised various awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, including the Climate Fresk Workshop**, which enabled students to understand the causes and impacts of climate change and to reflect on its relationship with business challenges and public policy.
- **We continued our campaign to collect paper and cardboard for the Food Bank**, thereby promoting both recycling and solidarity. Throughout 2026, over **4.6 tonnes** of paper and cardboard were collected, which were converted into food aid for families in need.
- **We continued to monitor water and energy consumption**, as well as CO_2 emissions, supporting the campus's environmental management and the identification of opportunities for improvement.

Student Associations

Student associations and clubs once again played a key role in energising academic life at the 'ISEG', promoting dozens of initiatives throughout the academic year in the areas of employability, entrepreneurship, innovation, volunteering, sustainability, health and-being, sport, culture, music, internationalisation and the integration of the academic community.

Through conferences, talks, competitions, *networking* events, charity campaigns, volunteering activities, festivals, cultural and musical initiatives, podcasts, awareness-raising campaigns and social gatherings, these initiatives have contributed to students' personal and professional development, strengthening the sense of community and the academic experience at theISEG.

Other

- **We opened** a new dining area in the Quelhas building, offering the academic community new buffet, café and *grab-and-go* options;
- **We launched** the CareerOS platform, providing students with new tools to support their career development, access to employment opportunities and resources, and the management of their career path.
- **We secured** funding from the Portuguese Foundation for Research and Innovation (Universidade de Lisboa) for the ISEGPode project, an educational innovation initiative that challenged students to produce themed podcasts, promoting more participatory teaching methods and the development of communication and content creation skills.

As we bring another academic year to a close, we would like to thank the entire ISEG community for their commitment, dedication and contribution to the results achieved. We wish you a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you again in 2026/2027 to continue on this path of excellence, innovation and impact.

Between Classes: Summer Reading

Summer is here, and the **Library at ISEG** has invited teachers to share their reading suggestions for the holidays.

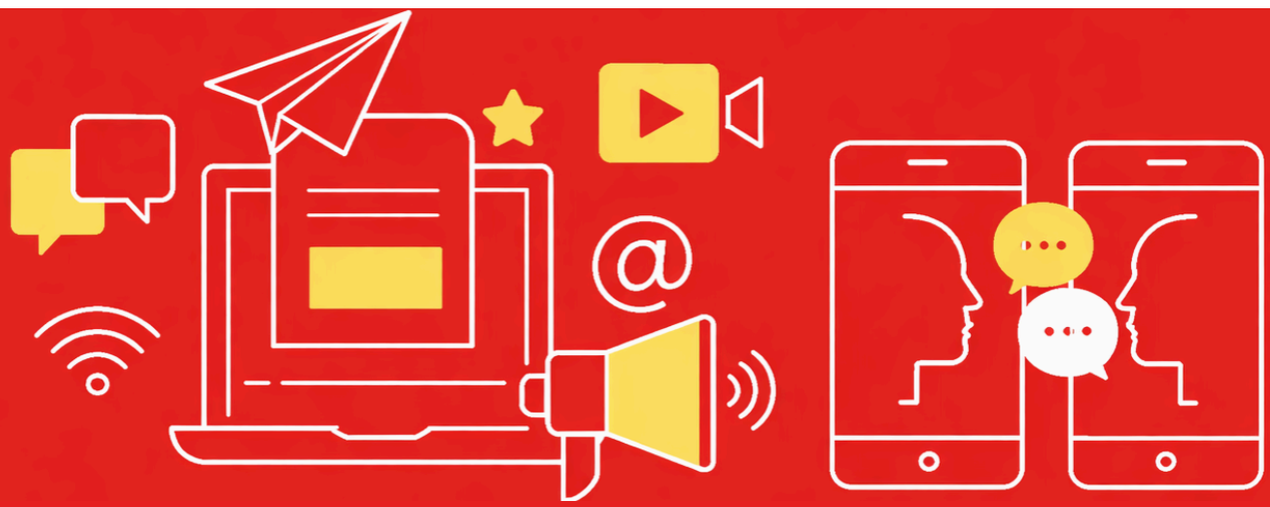
These are books that inspire, challenge and make you think — stories and ideas that help us see the world through different eyes and fuel our imagination during the long summer days.

From 3 **August**, all the recommended titles will be available for borrowing on **the first floor of the Library**.

We hope these recommendations will be great companions for your travels, at the beach or on the sofa, and that they'll spark new curiosities for the coming academic year!

- Aida Tavares – *The Empire of Good Men*, by Tiago Rebelo
- Alexandra Moura – *The Name of the Rose* by Umberto Eco
- António Goucha Soares – *The Creation of the World* by Miguel Torga
- Bardia Naghshineh – *The Psychology of Money* by Morgan Housel
- Beatriz Jacob – *The Secret History*, by Donna Tartt
- Bruno Futre – *Lord of the* Flies* by William Golding
- Dinis Macedo – *The Clash of Civilisations and the Remaking of World Order* by Samuel P. Huntington
- Inês Pinto – *Trees Do Not Always Die Standing*, by Luísa Sobral
- Jesualdo Fernandes – *We Are All Targets: How Renegade Hackers Invented Cyber War and Unleashed an Age of Global Chaos*, by Matt Potter
- João Duque – *The Fundamental Laws of Human Stupidity*, by Carlo M. Cipolla
- Jorge Barros Luis – *Corporate Rebels: Make Work More Fun*, by Joost Minnaar and Pim de Morree
- Jorge Gomes – *Images of Organisations*, by G. Morgan
- Marisa Quaresma dos Reis – *Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind*, by Yuval Noah Harari
- Miguel St. Aubyn – *A Treatise on Our Present Discontents*, by Tony Judt
- Paula Albuquerque – *The Marginal Revolution: Rise and Decline, and the Pending AI Revolution*, by Tyler Cowen
- Pedro de Almeida Fernandes – Our Iceberg Is Melting, by John Kotter and Holger Rathgeber
- Susana Brissos – *When the Wolves Howl*, by Aquilino Ribeiro
- Telmo Peixe – *The Game of Millions*, by Gary Stevenson
- Tiago Gonçalves – *Poetry All Round*, by Herberto Helder

Where to start? Have a look at the teachers' comments via this link and choose your next summer read!



ISEG in the Media

>> Carolina Afonso argues that consumers exist between trends and counter-trends, alternating between seemingly contradictory behaviours, such as the simultaneous pursuit of indulgence and restraint. In this context, she maintains that brands should not choose one side or the other, but rather respond to both, whilst maintaining a consistent identity. (**Grande Consumo**)

>> João Tovar Jalles believes that "Perhaps José Luís Carneiro should take note. Starmer became Prime Minister, but ended up turning his term of office into an interregnum. His replacement by Andy Burnham shows that even the Labour Party itself concluded that it was necessary to usher in a new political cycle (…)". (**ECO**)

>> Sandra Alvarez emphasises that success stems from team development and the ability to build relationships, stating that her greatest challenge is to reinvent her career without losing sight of what motivates her: connecting people and building bridges. (**Marketeer**)

>> Alexandre Abreu states that "Our responsibility, even as a left-wing party, is not to be sectarian. We want to strengthen social justice; we will stand united in various struggles. What we will not do is undermine the Bloco by aligning ourselves with a Socialist Party that has played a central role in the shift towards liberalism in many areas". (**Jornal de Notícias**)

>> Carlos Bastardo asks, "Why aren't we as demanding as we are in football?" **(Jornal de Negócios**)

>> Luís Metelo believes that "The Amália AI system shows that artificial intelligence does not rely solely on algorithms: it requires data centres, a reliable energy supply, well-managed water resources and a national strategy to put Portugal on the European computing map". (**Expresso**)

>> Mário Caldeira points out that "ISEG is currently enjoying a period of strong recognition, built on the talent, excellence and ambition of its community". (**Jornal Económico**)

>> Carolina Afonso states that brands must distinguish between noise and genuine trends, arguing that a signal only becomes a trend when it consistently and measurably alters purchasing behaviour. (**Grande Consumo**)

>> João Duque considers that it would be “completely bizarre” for the Government to resort to the proposed new instrument to acquire strategic stakes in Portuguese companies, warning that such a strategy “could be risky”. (**Jornal Económico**)

>> Paulo Trigo Pereira argues that “With the 2027 State Budget likely to be approved, the real budgetary test for this government will come with the 2028 State Budget, at the end of a political year that will certainly be complicated by the constitutional review process”. (**Observador**)

>> António Garcia Pereira writes about the state of the education sector in Portugal and comments on the role of Minister Fernando Alexandre (**Notícias Online**)

ISEG Executive Education

Graduation Ceremony marks the start of a new chapter for graduates of the ‘ISEG’ Executive Education programme

ISEG’s Executive Education graduation ceremony brought together several hundred participants to celebrate the completion of an academic and professional journey characterised by skills development and the sharing of experiences.

More than just a moment of recognition, the ceremony marked the start of a new phase for these professionals, who return to their roles with new knowledge, tools and a professional network built up throughout the programme.

ISEG’s Executive Education congratulates all graduates on the commitment, dedication and resilience they have shown throughout this journey, and wishes them every success in the challenges that lie ahead.

Research in ISEG

ISEG co-ordinates a new sustainable aquaponics project in São Tomé and Príncipe

ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics & Management is coordinating the new **"Sustainable Aquaponics for Food Security and Community Empowerment in São Tomé and Príncipe"** project, funded by the **Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate** (GCBC), an Official Development Assistance programme funded by the UK government.

The research is led by **Idalina Dias Sardinha,** a professor at **ISEG** and a researcher in the field of Sustainability Science at **ISEG Research**.

With funding of £946,000 (around 1 million euros), the project aims to develop a sustainable, community-based aquaponics model in São Tomé and Príncipe, helping to strengthen food security, promote livelihoods and increase the resilience of local communities to climate change.

The plan is to implement inclusive governance models and sustainable business models, ensuring community-led management of 10 to 15 aquaponics units. At the same time, the aim is to empower vulnerable groups, particularly women and young people, through vocational training and local entrepreneurship.

The GCBC is funded by the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in partnership with DAI as the Fund Manager Lead.

📌 Further information here

82nd Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance

ISEG, will host the **82nd Annual Congress of the International Institute of Public Finance from 24 to 26 August. Under the theme 'Public Finances in Turmoil'**, the event will bring together researchers, academics and policy-makers from various countries.

Over the course of three days, issues such as fiscal sustainability, tax reforms and the role of the state in an unstable economic context will be discussed, contributing to the international debate whilst simultaneously reinforcing Lisbon's position as a centre of excellence in economic and financial research.

📅 **Date:** 24–26 August, from 08:00 to 19:00
📍 **Venue:** ISEG

📌 Further information and registration here

24th ESPANET Annual Conference

ISEG, will host the **24th ESPAnet Annual Conference from 26 to 28 August**.

Under the theme **'Resize? Restructure? The European Social Model under Pressure**', the conference will examine the pressures facing the European social model, both external and internal, against a backdrop of trade tensions, geopolitical risks, climate change and economic transformations linked to technological innovation and artificial intelligence. At the same time, the impact of the rise of populist and far-right forces on the redefinition of the welfare state and its policies will be discussed.

The conference also aims to reflect on how these developments are reshaping political and public policy debates in Europe, particularly with regard to the mission and scope of the welfare state, the criteria for access to social protection, and the most effective models for delivering it.

📅 **Date:** 26–28 August, from 08:00 to 19:00
📍 **Venue:** ISEG

📌 Further information and registration here

48th IATUR Conference at the ISEG

The 48th Conference of the International Association for Time-Use Research (IATUR) will take place at theISEG from 16 to 18 September.

The event will bring together researchers from various disciplines, including economics, management, sociology, geography, public policy and psychology, with the aim of sharing and analysing findings on how individuals and societies use, organise and value time.

As part of the Horizon Europe GEPINC project – Gender Equality Plans for Inclusivity, special sessions will be held focusing on transdisciplinary approaches to gender equality in research and innovation organisations, as well as a round-table discussion on 'Reimagining the Use of Time at the University of the Future'.

📅 **Date:** 16–18 September
📍 **Venue:** ISEG

📌 Further information and registration here

ISEG Research Seminars'26 | First Semester Programme

The programme for **the research seminars at theISEG for the first semester of the 2026/2027 academic year** is now available.

The sessions will take place between 16 September and 9 December, every Wednesday, bringing together lecturers from theISEG and researchers from national and international institutions to share knowledge in the fields of Economics, Management, Finance, Social Sciences and Mathematics.

Participation is free and open to the public.

📅 **Date:** 16 September to 9 December, from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm
📍 **Venue:** ISEG, Amphitheatre 4, Quelhas Building

📌 Further information here

Workshop on Statistics and Applications

On **4 and 5 December, ISEG will host the *Workshop on Statistics and Applications:*** an international scientific conference bringing together leading researchers in the fields of statistics and related disciplines.

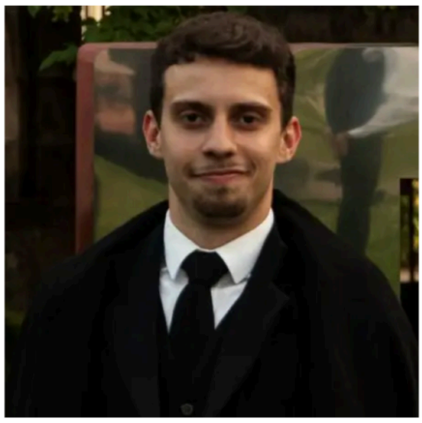
Organised by the ISEG Research, in collaboration with research centres at the Universities of Minho, Porto and Coimbra and with CITMAga**, the event** will bring together leading researchers in the fields of statistics and related disciplines, with the aim of presenting and discussing recent methodological advances and their applications across a wide range of scientific fields**.**

📅 **Date:** 4 and 5 December, from 09:00 to 18:00
📍 **Venue:** ISEG

📌 Further information and registration here

Student News

ISEG student highlights the imbalance in Portugal's housing market



Lourenço Marques, a Master's student in Economics and Public Policy at ISEG, argues that "The current property landscape in Portugal is characterised by a severe structural imbalance between supply and demand, making housing, without a doubt, one of the most alarming socio-economic problems in contemporary Portugal".

➡️ Read the full article here

Alumni in the Spotlight

ISEG Alumni Económicas Nominations are now open for the 2026 Career & Alumni of the Year Awards

Applications are now open until **31 August for the 2026 Career & Alumni of the Year Awards, organised by theISEG Alumni Económicas,** which recognise alumni with outstanding professional careers and who have made a significant contribution to society, either in Portugal or abroad.

The awards recognise individuals in the fields of **Economic, Political and Social Careers; Management Careers; Academic and Research Careers; as well as Entrepreneur and Manager of the Year**.

The **official announcement of the winners and the awards ceremony will take place on 22 October at the Annual Alumni Dinner and Charity Gala.**

📌 Further information here

Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the 1996 cohorts

Alumni Económicas – the Association of Alumni of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Lisbon (ISEG), together with fellow graduates from the 1992–1996 cohort, invites all graduates to return to the Faculty of Medicine (ISEG) to celebrate a very special milestone: the **30th anniversary of the graduation of the 1996 cohort**.

The reunion will take place on **19 September 2026** and will be a unique opportunity to reconnect with classmates, reminisce about memorable moments and celebrate the academic and professional journeys of a generation that remains closely linked to ISEG.

Registration is open until 20 August.

📅 **Date:** 19 September
📍 **Venue:** ISEG

📌 Further information and registration here

Universidade de Lisboa

Internacional Welcome Day | ULisboa

On **19 September**, the Rector's Office of the University of Lisbon (Universidade de Lisboa) is organising ***International Welcome Day***, an initiative dedicated to welcoming new international students to ULisboa.

Throughout the day, participants will have the opportunity to get to know the University better, make contact with students from different countries and begin their academic journey with the support of the ULisboa community.

Participation is free of charge, subject to pre-registration.

📅 **Date:** 19 September, from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm
📍 **Venue:** Rector's Office, Universidade de Lisboa

📌 Further information and registration here

Teacher training for ULisboa lecturers

As part of the **Inov@U** project, the Lisbon Polytechnic is organising a series of free training sessions aimed at developing the teaching skills of ULisboa lecturers, providing an opportunity to update and strengthen teaching practices.

The programme includes the following courses:
- First Lesson, First Impression: Strategies for Starting the Semester
- Health and Vocal Technique
- How do I create a virtual tutor for my course unit?
Active Teaching Methods

📌 Further information and registration here