

NOTICE OF OPENING N.º 102/SGA/DOFAE

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

Academic Year 2026/2027

2nd Cycle Course

2nd cycle

Master in African Studies

1. Number of places:

1st call: 5 places

2nd call: 8 places

3rd call: 2 places + remaining places

2. Minimum number of students for course opening: 6

3. Application deadlines:

1st call: 2nd to 31st March 2026

2nd call: 1st June to 15th July 2026

3rd call: 1st to 11th September 2026

4. Admission requirements:

1. Applicants to this cycle of studies, leading to a Master's Degree, may be:

- a) Holders of a Bachelor's Degree (Licenciatura), or legally equivalent qualification, in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences, in specialities deemed to be appropriate for attending the Master's Degree in African Studies;
- b) Holders of a foreign higher education degree awarded upon completion of a first cycle of studies in the fields referred to in subparagraph (a), organised in accordance with the principles of the Bologna Process by an adhering country to this Process.;
- c) Holders of a foreign higher education degree in the fields referred to in subparagraph (a) that is recognised as meeting the objectives of the Bachelor's degree (Licenciatura);
- d) Holders of an academic, scientific or professional curriculum that is recognised by the Scientific

Council of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities as attesting the ability to accomplish this cycle of studies; the applicants must obtain a curricular assessment equal to or higher than 9.5 points.

2. Excellent oral comprehension and writing skills in Portuguese are required (C1 or C2 level of proficiency), and proficiency in English at B2 level (oral and written) is recommended.

The language skills will be verified:

a) Concerning the citizens from Portuguese-speaking countries, by means of the research proposal written in Portuguese and, if necessary, by means of an interview;

b) Concerning citizens from countries with other official languages, by means of the submission of the respective proficiency certificate issued by a recognised certification entity (CAPLE or CELPE-BRAS), the research proposal written in Portuguese and, if necessary, an interview.

3. The recognition referred to in subparagraphs (b) to (d) of paragraph 1 is valid only for the access to the cycle of studies leading to a Master's degree and does not confer to its holder an equivalence to, or recognition of, the Bachelor's degree (Licenciatura).

5. Selection criteria:

2nd Cycle Course

1. Grade of the Bachelor's Degree or Equivalent Academic Degree, [3/10 Weighting];

2nd Cycle - Application based on Subparagraph d)

1. Academic and Professional Curriculum Relevant to the Field of African Studies, [3/10 Weighting];

Criteria:

1. Academic and professional merit (overall weighting: 30%)

a) Academic grade (final average) (weighting: 15%)

b) Relevant professional experience with more than 7 years (17–20 points), between 5 and 7 years (14–16 points), between 3 and 5 years (10–13 points) (weighting: 15%)

2nd Cycle Course/2nd Cycle - Application based on Subparagraph d)

2. Assessment of Documents (Curriculum Vitae, Motivation Letter, Substantiated Proposal of a Research Topic, Recommendation Letter), [3/10 Weighting];

a) Curriculum Vitae:

Criteria: relevant scientific and professional experience

Participation in more than 3 academic events / professional experience of more than 3 years / 2 or more scientific publications (17–20 points)

Participation in 1–3 academic events / professional experience of less than 3 years / 1 scientific publication (14–16 points)

No participation in academic events / no professional experience / no publications / possibly other

relevant elements (10–13 points)

b) Motivation Letter:

Criteria: The applicant shows knowledge of the objectives and learning outcomes that the course may provide, and he/she clearly shows the suitability of his/her career development project to the contents and objectives of the Master's Degree in African Studies and outlines the contribution of the course to his/her professional success. (0–20 points)

c) Substantiated Proposal of a Research Topic:

Assessment criteria: The proposed topic falls into the field of African Studies, with an emphasis on one of the four fields — Anthropology, History, Linguistics, Literature — and demonstrates a clear definition of the object of study, relevant engagement with the appropriate historiography, research objectives, and the methodology to be adopted. (0–20 points)

d) Two Letters of Recommendation:

Criteria: The letters show knowledge of the applicant's profile and research interests and support his/her application. (0–20 points)

If, by exceptional decision of the examination board/jury, to be taken at its first meeting, it is decided not to apply the interview as a selection method, the Bachelor's Degree Grade and the Assessment of Documents must have a weighting of 50% each.

3. Interview, [4/10 Weighting].

Appraisal criteria:

- a) Accuracy and fluency in the Portuguese language;
- b) Appropriateness of discourse to the communicative context;
- c) Justification/motivation for choosing the Master's Degree Course;
- d) Reflection on the suitability of the applicant's personal profile to the contents of the Master's Degree Course;
- e) Ability to express oneself in English in accordance with a B2 level.

1st phase: 10th April, as from 11:30 a.m.

2nd phase: 23rd July, as from 11:00 a.m.

3rd phase: 17th September, as from 11:00 a.m.

Jury: Doris Wieser (Chairperson), Liliana Inverno (Member), Miguel Bandeira Jerónimo (Member), Jorge Varanda (Substitutive Member)

NOTE: Assessed applications that have a grade lower than 9.5 in one of the evaluation criteria will automatically become non-approved.

6. Required documentation:

Only applicable to: 2nd Cycle Course;

ADMINISTRATION

- 1st Letter of Recommendation; (MANDATORY)
- 2nd Letter of Recommendation; (MANDATORY)
- Certificate of Bachelor's degree with final course classification (diploma). A certificate proving approval in the curricular units carried out must be included, with respective classifications (school transcript). (MANDATORY, except if the primary course is a course taught at the University of Coimbra)
- Official document certifying qualifications, issued by the institution awarding the degree, indicating the weighted average and the grading scale. (MANDATORY only for holders of a degree obtained abroad that does not contain the average)

Only applicable to: 2nd Cycle - Application based on Subparagraph d);

- High school diploma with final grade average ou Secondary school leaving certificate with final GPA; (MANDATORY)
- Letter(s) of recommendation from the employer(s), including a description of professional activities and employment start and end dates; (MANDATORY)

Applicable to: 2nd Cycle Course; 2nd Cycle - Application based on Subparagraph d);

- Motivation Letter; (MANDATORY)
- Official declaration of course outlines and hourly course loads with classification of each course unit of courses previously taken (transcript), in case of equivalence credits request (MANDATORY, except in degrees awarded by the University of Coimbra under the Bologna Process – after 2007/2008)
- Curriculum Vitae; (MANDATORY)
- Identification document (MANDATORY only for foreign applicants)
- Substantiated proposal of a research topic (3–5 pages); (MANDATORY)
- Supporting Document of the linguistic proficiency in English at B2 level
- Supporting document of the linguistic proficiency in Portuguese at C1 or C2 level, certificate issued by a recognised certification entity (CAPLE or CELPE-BRAS) (MANDATORY for citizens of countries with other official languages)

NOTE: Assessed applications that have a grade lower than 9.5 in one of the evaluation criteria will automatically become non-approved.

7. Tuition fee:

(fee subject to approval by the General Council);

8. Part-time registration: Allowed.

9. Assessment committee:

- Doris Wieser.

10. Other information:

- Application is subject to the payment of a 50.00 € fee, which is non-refundable, even in case of invalidation of application and of non-placement.

- Applications are submitted online at: <https://inforestudante.uc.pt/nonio/security/candidaturas.do>.

- Applicants who do not have the documents attesting the required qualifications or other documents until the end of the deadline for applications may apply conditionally. If they do not submit the required documents until the new deadline provided, their application will become "Not Admitted". Then, they can move their application onto the following call for applications without any additional charges.

- In applications definitively considered valid, and after the evaluation period has started, it is not possible to add or replace the documents presented. To add new documentation, a new application must be submitted in the next phase, if any.

- After the last phase of applications, and if there are still places available, applicants may submit their application by means of a request, beyond the deadline, which will be duly appraised by the coordination of the Course /Organisational Unit.

- Further information about academic issues, including the academic calendar, is available at: <https://www.uc.pt/en/academic-services/>

- Contacts: E-mail: <https://apps.uc.pt/forms/view/sga/en>
Telephone:(00351) 239 247 195

In person assistance: at the Student Hub of the University of Coimbra. Schedules for assistance may be consulted at: <https://www.uc.pt/en/academic-services/location-contacts/>

University of Coimbra, on 22nd January 2026.

Head of Division,