

PhD in Law

LEARN
CHANGE

Dean

Mariana França Gouveia

Studying Law at NOVA School of Law is learning to change the world. It is accepting the challenge of taking an active role that makes a difference in society and to those around us. For Nova School of Law, teaching is preparing agents of change to be active, global, conscientious and humanistic lawyers. In today's world it is no longer enough to be competent, and able to foresee, understand and mediate interests and disputes. It is crucial to have the ability to consider what is best for an ideal future for partners, clients and for citizens.

At NOVA School of Law we prepare those of you who not only want to be competent lawyers, but who want to be different and who want to make a difference in both Portugal and in the world. You are someone who believes that in each of us is the potential to promote a fairer society, someone who does not give up on their responsibility towards this task.

We do not standardise students nor fill their minds, but rather enhance individual qualities, open doors and broaden horizons. Through constant, tireless and individual effort, everyone - professors, staff and students - question what is within and beyond, we look for new realities, we go beyond walls and boundaries. This is the commitment of NOVA, which evolves and adapts in response to the changes and demands of society, markets and consequent student needs.

Coordination

Mariana França Gouveia and Margarida Lima Rego



Mariana França Gouveia is Professor of Civil Procedure, Arbitration and Mediation. Dean of NOVA School of Law and Director of the NOVA Dispute Resolution Forum. Author of several books, articles and studies in her areas of specialization. Partner of PLMJ, acting as arbitrator and counsel in several domestic and international arbitration proceedings.



Margarida Lima Rego is Associate Professor and Vice-Dean at NOVA School of Law. She has taught different courses and published in a wide range of topics within private law, with a special focus on Contract Law. She is the School of Law's representative at the NOVA Doctoral School. She is currently in charge of the School's English-language Seminars on the State and Study of Law, as well as of the Programme's course on Scientific Publication. She is President of AIDA Portugal, member of the Executive Committee of AIDA Europe and the Presidential Council of AIDA World, Chairperson of the Commercial Law and Practice Commission of the Portuguese chapter of the International Chamber of Commerce.

NOVA School of Law's 3rd Cycle Programme in Law is a four-year programme leading to a PhD degree in Law. The Programme comprises a taught component (over three semesters) where advanced legal studies are carried out with an interdisciplinary focus. This period also provides training in research methodologies and other complementary skills. Towards the end of the taught component of the Programme, candidates must prepare and publicly defend their thesis project. During the remaining part of the Programme (comprising five further semesters), candidates must complete their research under the guidance of their supervisor, culminating in the preparation and defence of their doctoral thesis. The Programme is internationally oriented. Its main language of instruction is English.

In 2014, FCT, the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (the national funding agency for science, research and technology) awarded the NOVA School of Law Third Cycle Programme the prestigious FCT PhD programme status. It is thus far the only public higher education institution to have been bestowed with this distinction in the field of legal studies. FCT's generous funding of this Programme has allowed NOVA School of Law to award over 50 research grants to some of its most talented doctoral students. Year upon year, we attract a talented, multicultural cohort of candidates from all corners of the world. This funding also allows a good portion of our annual student intake to carry out their research full-time. This has proved to be an essential element in the creation of a vibrant and close-knit community of doctoral students, who are active in many of NOVA Law School's research initiatives.

The Programme admits 20 doctoral candidates each academic year. Numbers are low and therefore admission into the Programme is highly competitive, as NOVA School of Law seeks to ensure that every doctoral candidate is afforded sufficient individualised attention and supervision.

Credits: 240

Places: 20

Fees: Total - 9 600€

1st and 2nd semesters

1 800€ per semester

3rd semester

and subsequent semesters

1 000€ per semester

PROGRAMME

1ST SEMESTER		ECTS
Law and Society	M	10
Methodologies of Legal Analysis	M	10
Procedural Law	E	10
Criminal Law	E	10
International Law	E	10
European Law	E	10
Public Law	E	10
Private Law	E	10

2ND SEMESTER		ECTS
Methodology of Legal Research	M	10
Scientific Publishing	M	10
SPEED Presentation	M	10

3RD SEMESTER		ECTS
Discussion of the Thesis Project	M	25
Attendance of any NOVA Doctoral School courses	E	5

4TH TO 8TH SEMESTER		ECTS
PhD Thesis	M	150

M - Mandatory E - Elective

NOVA University's Doctoral School is also available to our doctoral candidates. Aimed at the university's PhD students and their supervisors, its purposes are:

- Contribute to the excellence of doctoral training at NOVA;
- Provide cross-disciplinary and complementary training to PhD candidates and their supervisors;
- Promote interdisciplinary and cross-disciplinary research;
- Share best practices in doctoral programmes;
- Foster cross-institutional cooperation at both national and international levels;
- Encourage research collaboration between students and professors at NOVA.

BECOME
A SOCIETY
SHAPER

OBJECTIVES

The main goal of the Programme is to provide advanced training to promote state-of-the-art academic research. In the process, the programme prepares the next generation of highly-qualified legal professionals to enter the market ready to face the challenges of our time and to pursue a career in academia. As well as fostering knowledge creation across all legal disciplines, the programme encourages an interdisciplinary and international approach to legal studies. It familiarises candidates with new technologies and research techniques, promotes team-based research and collaboration in all fields of the law, and creates networking opportunities with other national and international academic institutions.

REQUIREMENTS

- Holders of a master's degree or legal equivalent;
- Holders of a specially relevant academic, scientific or professional curriculum recognized by the Scientific Board as denoting equivalent capabilities to those holding a master's degree.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Candidates shall be selected on the basis of their merit, having regard to the following parameters and respective weighting:

- Academic curriculum vitae (50%);
- Scientific curriculum vitae (publications, other scientific output indicators and proven research experience and proven research experience) (20%);
- Relevant professional curriculum vitae (15%);
- Motivation letter/ Work plan to be developed (15%).

RESEARCH TO REWRITE

TESTIMONIALS

"NOVA School of Law's PhD Program has exceeded all my expectations: the sharing of ideas with colleagues from different nationalities and with different interests, the possibility of becoming a member of a high-quality I&D Centre, the free access to almost unlimited resources, the feeling of permanent companionship by the Law Faculty and by its Professors are some of the main points that are worth highlighting." **Miguel de Azevedo Moura, Assistant Professor, NOVA School of Law & Legal Consultant**



"The PhD Programme in Law at NOVA School of Law has a very innovative, international and practical approach and gave me the opportunity to sharpen my academic thinking on a broad range of legal aspects. Furthermore, the programme has been highly complementary to my path as a Lawyer. I feel incredibly lucky to be part of the NOVA School of Law community of doctoral students and I would not recommend any other programme." **Maria Beatriz Brito, NOVA School of Law PhD Student, Lawyer at CMVM & Researcher at CEDIS**



THE HIGHER
YOU GET,
THE BETTER
WE SEE