



REGULATIONS ON THE
CURRICULAR UNIT
**SPEED: PERMANENT
SEMINAR ON THE STATE
AND STUDY OF LAW**

NOVA School of Law
NOVA University, Lisbon

Regulation No. 1029/2026



REGULATIONS ON THE CURRICULAR UNIT SPEED (PERMANENT SEMINAR ON THE STATE AND STUDY OF LAW)

Faculty of Law, NOVA University Lisbon (NOVA School of Law)

Considering that SPEED, as it has become known, is a scientific research and post-graduate teaching development seminar that NOVA School of Law has been developing since 1999 – and, since 2003, as part of the activities of its research unit, CEDIS – with the aim of bringing together the scientific community around issues relevant to Law and Society, taking a critical and innovative stance.

Considering that the curricular unit SPEED also forms part of the study plan of the 3rd Study Cycle leading to a PhD in Law (cf. Regulation No. 949/2025, hereinafter the “Programme Regulations”), and that it is necessary to reform its operational model in order to strengthen PhD students’ engagement with high-quality research and with the broader scientific community;

Considering that the reform approved by the Scientific Council of NOVA School of Law entails the amendment of Articles 11(2), 13(2)(c), and 14(9) of the Programme Regulations, and that the appropriate instrument for this purpose is the adoption of specific regulations for this curricular unit;

The Pedagogical Council of NOVA School of Law, at its meeting of 1 July 2026, and the Scientific Council of NOVA School of Law, at its meeting of 15 July 2026, were consulted and expressed favourable opinions;

Pursuant to the combined provisions of Article 38(2) of the Statutes of NOVA University Lisbon and Article 10(d) of the Faculty Statutes, these Regulations on the Curricular Unit *SPEED* are hereby approved.

CHAPTER I

Object, Definitions and Coordination

ARTICLE 1.º

Object

These Regulations govern the functioning of the curricular unit *SPEED* (hereinafter “SPEED”), forming part of the 3rd Study Cycle leading to a PhD in Law at NOVA School of Law, and amend, to the extent set out in the following articles, Articles 11(2), 13(2)(c), and 14(9) of the Programme Regulations approved by Regulation No. 949/2025.

ARTICLE 2.º

Definitions

For the purposes of these Regulations:

- a) **“SPEED Lunch”**: a lunchtime seminar organised by the SPEED Coordinators, with speakers drawn primarily from NOVA School of Law faculty and research community, and open to the invitation of external speakers of recognised scientific standing, held six times per academic year;
- b) **“Internal Scientific Event”**: a scientific event organised within NOVA School of Law and hosted by CEDIS — Research & Development Centre on Law and Society, including seminars, conferences, congress, workshops, and open lectures, with a minimum duration of 60 minutes, listed in the semester events calendar referred to in Article 5;
- c) **“External Scientific Event”**: an academic conference, congress, seminar or workshop held outside NOVA School of Law and not hosted by CEDIS, with a competitive abstract selection process;
- d) **“Attendance Hours”**: hours effectively attended by the PhD student at scientific events of NOVA School of Law hosted by CEDIS, counted in accordance with Article 6.

ARTICLE 3.^o

Mission objectives of SPEED

The Permanent Seminar on the State and Study of Law, or SPEED, the acronym that it has become known for, has the following mission and objectives:

- a) To complement the activities of the PhD Programme, providing PhD students of NOVA School of Law with structured opportunities to engage with high-quality scientific research, to develop their academic skills, and to actively participate in the School's research community;
- b) To disseminate scientific research carried out at NOVA School of Law, as part of the activities at CEDIS, as well as to promote this activity and provide the opportunity for discussion and interaction with scientific research carried out beyond NOVA School of Law, strengthening the interaction between scientific research and academic exchange;
- c) Giving prominence to new perspectives or innovations on classical issues, to provide a platform for inter and multidisciplinary dialogue and discussion on research methodologies and legal pedagogy.

ARTICLE 4.^o

Coordination of the Curricular Unit SPEED

1 — The curricular unit SPEED, within NOVA School of Law's PhD Programme in Law, shall be coordinated by one or more SPEED Coordinators, who shall be resident professors appointed by the Scientific Council of NOVA School of Law.

2 — The SPEED Coordinators are responsible for:

- a) organising the SPEED Lunch seminars;
- b) providing guidance to PhD students on the process of submitting abstracts to conferences, without prejudice to the guidance also provided by the professors in charge of the other curricular units of the taught phase of this Programme;
- c) validating each PhD student's report of activities and attendances upon completion of the curricular unit, and inserting the PhD students' pass or fail grades on the academic management system (NetPA).

3 — The SPEED Coordinators shall be assisted by a teaching assistant recruited for this purpose, who shall be responsible for the organisational and logistical support of the SPEED, namely:

- a) sending invitations to speakers, discussants and moderators;
- b) communicating with speakers to ensure that papers or extended abstracts are submitted in a timely manner and circulated to moderators and discussants, and to address any issues that may arise in connection with the organisation of the SPEED Lunch seminar;
- c) contacting the relevant services to ensure that the room is booked, that lunch is ordered for the dates of the SPEED Lunch seminars and that the technical equipment is operational for the hybrid format, and liaising with the relevant services on any follow-up queries that may arise;
- d) taking note of PhD students' in-person and online attendances;
- e) ensuring moderation of SPEED Lunch seminars when no other moderator is available and, in any case, monitoring the Microsoft Teams page while the speaker is presenting to ensure that PhD students have their microphones turned off when others speak and their cameras on, and to manage questions from online attendees;
- f) assisting the SPEED Coordinators with responding to PhD students' queries on the organisational aspects of the SPEED curricular unit;
- g) creating the Microsoft Teams link for SPEED Lunch seminars;
- h) ensuring that the NOVA School of Law website is updated in a timely fashion with information on the SPEED Lunch seminars;
- j) creating a general poster for the SPEED Lunch seminar programme and an individual poster for each seminar;
- l) sending all relevant information to the Teaching Support Office so that they can properly and timely disseminate upcoming seminars to the entire NOVA School of Law community.

CHAPTER II

Structure and Components of the Curricular Unit

ARTICLE 5.^o

Structure of the Curricular Unit SPEED

1 — The SPEED curricular unit corresponds to 10 ECTS and comprises two cumulative components:

- a) **Attendance Component:** participation in Internal Scientific Events, including the SPEED Lunch seminars, for a minimum total of 28 effective attendance hours;
- b) **Presentation Component:** delivery of a paper at an External Scientific Event, as set out in Article 9.

2 — Passing the curricular unit requires the cumulative fulfilment of both components referred to in the preceding paragraph.

ARTICLE 6.^o

Calendar of Internal Scientific Events

1 — At the beginning of each semester, CEDIS shall circulate to the NOVA School of Law scientific community a calendar of Internal Scientific Events planned for that semester, including the SPEED Lunch seminars, as communicated by the SPEED coordination team to CEDIS.

2 — The calendar referred to in the preceding paragraph is indicative and may be updated throughout the semester; updates shall be communicated to PhD students in a timely manner.

3 — PhD students are encouraged to contact the NOVA School of Law's Knowledge Centres to obtain information about planned scientific events relevant to their areas of research.

4 — Events organised by CEDIS integrated members, visiting scholars, postdoctoral researchers, and other external PhD holders may be included in the calendar, provided they meet the requirements set out in Article 2(1)(b).

ARTICLE 7.º

Attendance Component

1 — Each PhD student must complete a minimum of 28 effective attendance hours at Internal Scientific Events, of which 10 hours shall consist of attendance at the SPEED Lunch seminars.

2 — Attendance is confirmed by means of a signed confirmation by the person responsible for the event. Where several events have been attended within the same Knowledge Centre, a single confirmation form may cover all such events.

3 — A PhD student who serves on the organising committee of an Internal Scientific Event shall have the time devoted to that event counted double towards the minimum attendance hours required under paragraph 1, up to a maximum of 6 additional hours per event.

4 — PhD students have the entirety of the first phase of the Programme to complete the 28 required attendance hours.

ARTICLE 8.º

SPEED Lunch Seminars

1 — SPEED Lunch seminars are organised by the SPEED Coordinators and take place at least six times per academic year.

2 — The format and rules governing SPEED Lunch seminars are determined by the SPEED Coordinators.

ARTICLE 9.º

Presentation Component

1 — Each PhD student must present their research at at least one External Scientific Event, as set out in this Article.

2 — The External Scientific Event must have a competitive abstract selection process (“call for papers” or equivalent).

3 — The SPEED Coordinators, together with the coordinators of the Scientific Publication curricular unit, shall provide guidance on the process of submitting abstracts to conferences.

4 — Upon completion of the presentation, the PhD student shall request proof of participation from the organisers of the External Scientific Event.

ARTICLE 10.^o

Report

Upon fulfilment of both components of the SPEED curricular unit, PhD students shall submit, via Moodle, to the SPEED Coordinators a signed report listing the Internal Scientific Events attended and the presentation undertaken pursuant to Article 9, accompanied by the relevant supporting documentation, namely proof of attendance and proof of participation in the External Scientific Event.

CHAPTER III

Enrolment and Completion

ARTICLE 11.^o

Enrolment in the Curricular Unit

1 — Enrolment in the curricular unit shall be carried out by the PhD student during the enrolment periods for the semester, in accordance with the general provisions of the Programme Regulations.

2 — Enrolment takes effect only after validation by the Academic Services.

ARTICLE 12.^o

Completion of the Curricular Unit

1 — To pass the SPEED curricular unit, the PhD student must:

a) Have completed a minimum of 28 effective attendance hours, as set out in Article 7; and

b) Have presented a paper at an External Scientific Event, as set out in Article 9.

2 — The SPEED Coordinators shall review the documentation submitted via Moodle and record the outcome “pass” or “fail”, in light of the requirements set out in these Regulations.

CHAPTER IV

Amendments to the Programme Regulations

ARTICLE 13.^o

Amendment of Article 11(2) of the Programme Regulations

Article 11(2) of Regulation No. 949/2025 shall read as follows:

“2 — Students must attend a minimum of 75% of the seminars of each curricular unit in which they are enrolled and must complete the SPEED curricular unit in accordance with its specific regulations.”

ARTICLE 14.^o

Amendment of Article 13(2)(c) of the Programme Regulations

Article 13(2)(c) of Regulation No. 949/2025 shall read as follows:

“(c) SPEED.”

ARTICLE 15.^o

Amendment of Article 14(9) of the Programme Regulations

Article 14(9) of Regulation No. 949/2025 shall read as follows:

“9 — In the SPEED curricular unit, the grade distinguishes only between ‘pass’ and ‘fail’, in accordance with the Regulations on the SPEED Curricular Unit.”

CHAPTER V

Final Provisions

ARTICLE 16.º

Doubts and omissions

1- Any doubts or omissions arising from the application of these Regulations shall be resolved by the Dean of NOVA School of Law.

2- The entry *SPEED* shall refer, for all purposes, to these Regulations, and any prior interpretation requiring PhD students to make an oral presentation at an internal SPEED session shall cease to apply.

ARTICLE 17.º

Entry into force

These Regulations shall enter into force on the day following their publication in the Diário da República, producing effects as from the academic year 2026/2027.

28 July 2026. — The Dean, Professor Margarida Lima Rego.



NOVA SCHOOL
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