

# **Rectorial Vision & Strategic Action Plan (2026–2030)**

University of Porto  
Rectorial Final Presentation  
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**24<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

# Portugal: A Legacy of Global Exploration & Knowledge

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From the 15th–16th centuries, Portugal emerged as a **dominant maritime power**

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Led the **Age of Discoveries**, shaping global trade, science, and cultural exchange

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Built one of the **first global empires**, connecting continents

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Established Portugal as a **melting pot of cultures, ideas, and innovation**

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This legacy of exploration now evolves into **intellectual and scientific leadership**

# From Maritime Exploration to Academic Leadership

The same spirit of discovery now lives within institutions like the **University of Porto**



A modern center for:

Knowledge  
creation

Global  
collaboration

Societal  
transformation



Today, the challenge is to lead a new era of **intellectual exploration**

# University of Porto: Heritage & Distinction



Founded in **1911**, one of Portugal's leading public universities



Comprises **14 faculties and schools** embedded within the city



Recognized as: Portugal's **most internationally cited research university**, A top global institution (QS Ranking ~237)



Strong presence in: Engineering, Health Sciences, Business, AI



Deep integration with the **city of Porto and regional economy**

# Strategic Challenges Facing U.Porto

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Structural underfunding vs OECD peers

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Infrastructure constraints within urban campus

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Talent retention challenges (brain drain)

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Administrative inefficiencies (e.g., Erasmus+ crisis)

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Rapid digital transformation & AI disruption

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Demographic pressures and declining youth population

# Rectorial Vision (2026–2030)

To position the University of Porto as a:

- Socially engaged university
- Research-intensive global institution
- Innovation-driven knowledge hub
- Leader in international collaboration
- Educator of responsible future leaders

# Strategic Pillars for Transformation

Academic Excellence & Student Success

Research, Innovation & Knowledge Transfer

Internationalization & Partnerships

Social Engagement & Civic Responsibility

Institutional Sustainability & Digital Transformation

# Academic Excellence & Student Success



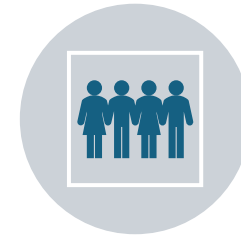
CURRICULUM  
RENEWAL  
ALIGNED WITH  
FUTURE SKILLS



INTRODUCTION  
OF **MICRO-  
CREDENTIALS**  
& **FLEXIBLE  
PATHWAYS**



TEACHING  
EXCELLENCE  
PROGRAMS  
FOR FACULTY



STUDENT  
RETENTION &  
INCLUSION  
STRATEGIES



EXPANSION OF  
LIFELONG  
LEARNING  
SYSTEMS

# Expected Outcomes & KPIs

Reduce

Reduce non-completion rates by 15–25%

Increase

Increase graduate employability by 10%

Launch

Launch scalable micro-credential programs

Improve

Improve student satisfaction and learning outcomes

# Research, Innovation & Knowledge Transfer

1

Establish interdisciplinary **Grand Challenge clusters**

2

Expand internal funding & postdoctoral programs

3

Strengthen industry collaboration pipelines

4

Simplify IP and spin-out processes

5

Promote open science and research integrity

# Impact & KPIs



Increase research income by **30%**



Double industry partnerships



Launch **20+ startups/scaleups**



Increase interdisciplinary publications

Internationalization  
& Global  
Partnerships

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Strategic alliances with top universities

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Expansion of joint degrees & mobility programs

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Increased international student recruitment

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Strengthened global research networks

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Enhanced international student experience

# Global Impact Targets

1

Increase international students by **25%**

2

Establish **15 strategic partnerships**

3

Improve global ranking and reputation

4

Expand EU-funded collaborations (Horizon, Erasmus+)

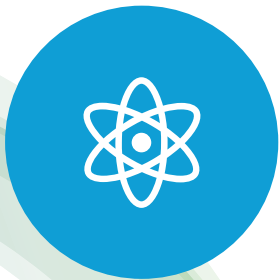
# Social Engagement & Civic Responsibility



Partnerships with government, NGOs, and industry



Public lectures and community engagement programs



Citizen science and local impact initiatives



Strong Equity, Diversity & Inclusion policies

# Societal Impact

Measurable community development outcomes

Increased regional economic contribution

Inclusive and diverse academic environment

Strengthened public trust in the university

# Institutional Sustainability & Digital Transformation

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Multi-year financial sustainability  
model

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Transparent governance systems

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Full digital university transformation  
(ERP, platforms)

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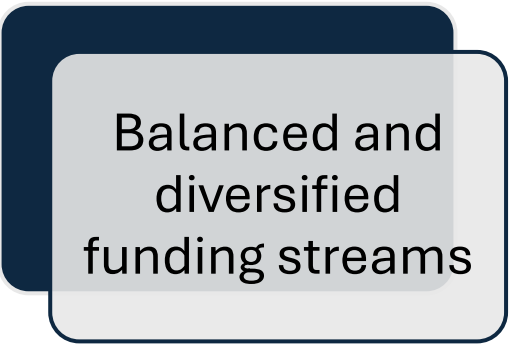
Cybersecurity and data governance

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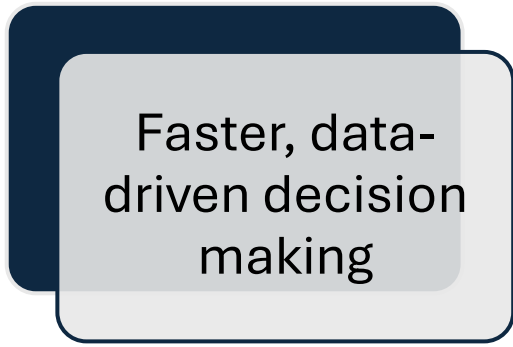
Green campus and carbon reduction  
strategy




# Strategic Outcomes



Balanced and  
diversified  
funding streams



Faster, data-  
driven decision  
making



Fully digitized  
academic  
ecosystem



Reduced  
environmental  
footprint

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## Implementation Roadmap (2026–2030)

# Implementation Roadmap

Year 1



Establishing  
critical  
foundations  
and strategic  
planning.

Year 2



Expanding  
operations and  
institutionalizing  
best practices.

Year 3



Accelerating  
growth and  
expanding  
outreach  
initiatives.

Year 4



Consolidating  
achievements  
and ensuring  
lasting legacy.

# Governance & Accountability

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Rector's Executive Committee oversight

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Strategy Office for execution tracking

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Annual strategic board with stakeholders

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Transparent KPI dashboards

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Continuous faculty and student engagement

# Closing Statement

- The University of Porto stands at a defining moment
- From maritime exploration to **intellectual global leadership**

This strategy ensures:

- Excellence
  - Innovation
  - Global relevance
  - Societal impact
- As an international individual, together, we will shape the **next era of discovery**

Thank you!

**U. PORTO**