FACT SHEET

PORTUGAL'S ENTREPRENEURIAL UNIVERSITIES RANKING'25

INTRODUCTION

Portugal's Entrepreneurial Universities Ranking aims to highlight the growing importance of entrepreneurship within higher education institutions. By mapping the number of alumni from each university or polytechnic institute who have become founders of startups, this measure assesses one indicator of an institution's entrepreneurial impact — its ability to foster founders who turn knowledge into innovation.
Data for this ranking is sourced primarily from Startup Portugal's Ecosystem Mapping Platform, powered by Dealroom, and complemented by direct contributions from universities. For the **2025** edition, more than **60 higher education institutions** in Portugal were directly contacted, of which 21 responded and 13 submitted data.
If multiple co-founders studied at different institutions, the company is attributed to each of them, even though a single startup is counted only once per university. This approach offers a more accurate representation of how diverse academic environments contribute to the creation of new ventures.
Startups considered "in Portugal" include those whose main headquarters or initial ideation took place in the country, even if they later relocated as they scaled. Startups "abroad" cover ventures with varying levels of connection to Portugal — from those linked solely by a founder's academic background to those maintaining R&D or sales operations that generate economic value in Portugal.
This Ranking captures the growing contribution of Portugal's universities and polytechnics to the national innovation ecosystem, providing a foundation for ongoing analysis of how academic environments nurture entrepreneurial talent.

TOP 10 PORTUGUESE UNIVERSITIES BY ALUMNI FOUNDED STARTUPS:

RANK [1]	NAME OF INSTITUTION	LOCATION	STARTUPS FOUNDED BY ALUMNI [2]	STARTUPS THAT RAISED INVESTMENT [3]	COMBINED ENTERPRISE VALUE [3]	CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED
#1 ↑+1	**Universidade de Lisboa** (1911)	Lisbon	**1,292** PT Based: 762	326	30.0B	3.7B
#2 ↓-1	**Universidade Católica Portuguesa** (1967)	Lisbon, Porto, Braga & Viseu	**807** PT Based: 503	188	13.0B	2.3B
#3 ↑+1	**NOVA University Lisbon** (1973)	Lisbon	**760** PT Based: 428	190	19.0B	4.1B
#4 ↓-1	**Universidade do Porto** (1911)	Porto	**662** PT Based: 443	165	8.6B	1.9B
#5 ↑+1	**University of Coimbra** (1290)	Coimbra	**431** PT Based: 268	94	10.3B	1.9B
#6 ↓-1	**ISCTE - University Institute of Lisbon** (1972)	Lisbon	**316** PT Based: 210	83	6.4B	1.4B
#7 =	**University of Minho** (1973)	Braga	**309** PT Based: 196	85	6.5B	1.2B
#8 =	**Universidade de Aveiro** (1973)	Aveiro	**256** PT Based: 163	72	4.9B	550M
#9 =	**Politécnico do Porto** (1985)	Porto	**212** PT Based: 153	23	4.2B	432B
#10 =	**Politécnico de Leiria** (1980)	Leiria	**159** PT Based: 113	10	2.0B	83M

[1] Result compared to last year's Ranking, 2024.
[2] Source: The data present in this chart has as main reference Startup Portugal's Ecosystem Mapping Platform - Dealroom. Startups founded by alumni count may fluctuate on the platform. 2025 Ranking visualisations based on values as of October 21th, 2025.
[3] Source: Dealroom.co: app.dealroom.co/universities. Count may fluctuate on the platform. 2025 Ranking visualisations based on values as of October 21th, 2025.

FACTS ON PORTUGAL'S HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM:

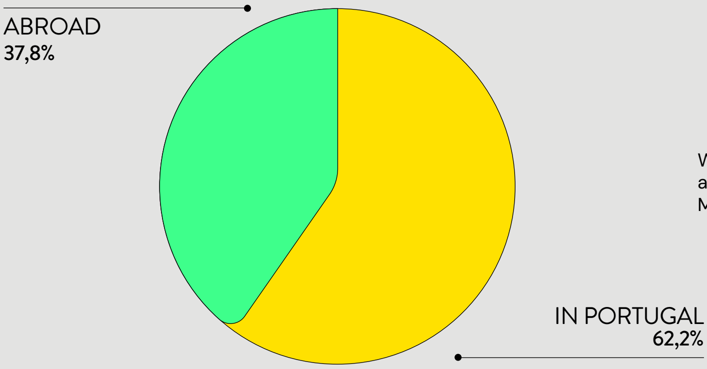
STARTUP PORTUGAL

5.204 Alumni of the top 10 Institution of higher education in Portugal, **FOUNDED A STARTUP**

4 Universities **WITH 500+ STARTUPS FOUNDED BY THEIR ALUMNI.**

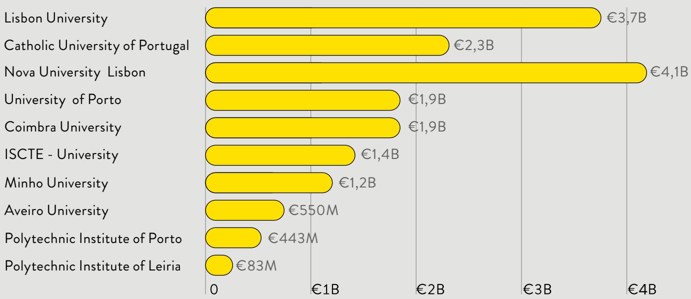
1 University **WITH 1000+ ALUMNI FOUNDERS.**

STARTUPS FOUNDED BY ALUMNI LOCATION



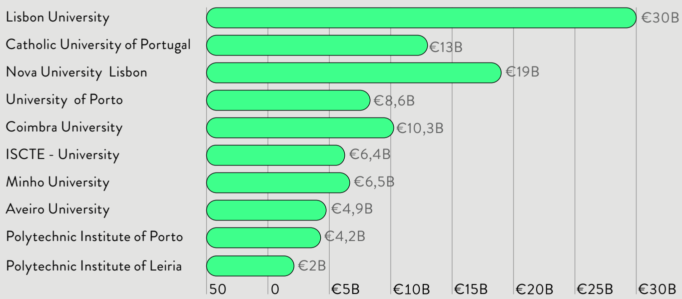
Where the alumni of the top 10 institutions of higher education are basing their startups. Source: Startup Portugal Ecosystem Mapping Platform-Dealroom, October 2025.

INVESTMENT IN STARTUPS FOUNDED BY ALUMNI



Total value of the cumulative startup investment of startups founded by alumni under the top 10 institutions of higher education. Source: Startup Portugal Ecosystem Mapping Platform-Dealroom, October 2025.

VALUE OF STARTUPS FOUNDED BY ALUMNI



Total value of the combined startups of the startups founded by alumni under the top 10 institutions of higher education. Source: Startup Portugal Ecosystem Mapping Platform-Dealroom, October 2025

CONCLUSION:

The 2025 edition of Portugal's Entrepreneurial Universities Ranking confirms the growing scale and international reach of academic-driven entrepreneurship in Portugal. **More than 5200 alumni of the top 10 higher education institutions have already chosen the path of entrepreneurship**, demonstrating a growth in entrepreneurial activity emerging from academia.

Notably, **62.2% of these startups were created in Portugal**, underscoring the country's capacity to transform academic talent into domestic innovation. **The University of Lisbon** leads the ranking and is the **only institution with more than 1,000 alumni founders**. At the same time, **four universities** — Católica, Nova, Porto, and Coimbra — each count more than **500 alumni founders**, reinforcing Lisbon, Porto, and Coimbra as key entrepreneurial hubs.

In terms of financial performance, **Nova University of Lisbon alumni Founders** stand out as those who have attracted the **highest volume of investment — over €4.7 billion** — followed by the **University of Lisbon** and the **Catholic University of Portugal**. Meanwhile, in enterprise value, the **University of Lisbon** leads decisively, with more than **€30 billion** generated by alumni-founded startups.

Portuguese higher education institutions are also gaining global recognition: **eighteen** are featured in the Times Higher Education University Ranking 2026 (one more than last year), **six** in the Financial Times European Business School Ranking, and Portugal ranks **23rd out of 69 countries** in the IMD World Talent Ranking 2025.

These results reinforce the pivotal role of universities and polytechnics in shaping Portugal's innovation ecosystem. They also highlight the need for continued collaboration between academia, entrepreneurs, and data platforms to systematically collect and share information — ensuring an increasingly comprehensive and data-driven understanding of how higher education powers innovation and economic growth.

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