



**LERNE**  
LABORATORY OF EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH  
IN ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT

# LERNE- LABORATORY OF EXPERIMENTAL RESEARCH IN ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT



## Students Manual

*Last updated: September 2021*

*For questions & other issues:*

LERNE - Laboratory for Experimental Research in  
Economics and Management | CATÓLICA-LISBON  
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# LERNE- Laboratory of Experimental Research iN Economics and Management

## STUDENTS MANUAL

The present manual describes the functioning of the Laboratory of Experimental Research iN Economics and Management (LERNE) from Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics (CATÓLICA-LISBON) – Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP). This report includes general information regarding the LERNE research sessions, describes the procedures required by students to sign up for the sessions, offers additional relevant information about the online research participation system (i.e., sona-systems) from LERNE.

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## 1. Participation in Research Sessions at CATÓLICA-LISBON

Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics is a school with a very strong focus on the production of high-quality research in management and economics.

The research success of CATÓLICA-LISBON has been achieved through a combination of factors, including a strong research culture, dedicated research facilities, world-class faculty, and the active participation of our students in research through innovative applied-learning dissertation projects.

The Laboratory of Experimental Research iN Economics and Management is an important part of our research infrastructure. This behavioral laboratory was designed to run academic research studies that are relevant to the business world. MSc students are required to participate in research sessions in return for course credits, a common practice among top research-oriented business schools. Since MSc students have a strong business orientation and many have relevant work experience, they are an ideal population with which to test and refine management and economics theories. Additionally, the participation of students in these research sessions allows them to get acquainted with multiple research methods and to learn how to conduct research in the management and economics area.

All CATÓLICA-LISBON MSc students are required to complete four research sessions at LERNE as part of their study plan. Participating in research sessions can provide students with insights into how management and economic research is conducted, and a unique opportunity to learn about a variety of research areas by actually experiencing them.

## 2. LERNE Participants Management System

LERNE research sessions are managed through Sona Systems' software. In order to sign up for participation in the offered research sessions, students are asked to enroll in CATÓLICA-LISBON participants' management system by going to <https://clsbe.sona-systems.com/>.

**Each student needs an individual account** to be able to log into the system.

To create an individual account, students need to enroll in the system using their UCP e-mail-digital identity code followed by @ucp.pt. A password will then be sent to the student's UCP e-mail account, which is accessed through CATÓLICA-LISBON webmail.

Students must enroll in the appropriate intake (e.g., students who started their MSc program in September 2021 need to enroll as “MSc program- Sept 2021 intake”). This is critical for the system to be able to track students’ participation and to give them the credits needed to fulfill the requirement.

Several sessions will be available and students can choose in which studies they would like to participate. During each academic year, the research sessions will be performed on a regular basis, from September to June. At the beginning of each term, the dates of the LERNE research sessions will be made available both in sona system (<https://clsbe.sona-systems.com/>) as in LERNE webpage (<https://www.clsbe.lisboa.ucp.pt/pt-pt/LERNE> ).

In case of doubts on how to enroll, please check the tutorial:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_1OnT2ZU6QQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_1OnT2ZU6QQ)

### 3. Rules of the LERNE Research Sessions

- Participation in LERNE’s research sessions is a requirement of your study plan.
- Research sessions are conducted exclusively by CATÓLICA-LISBON.
- Data is strictly confidential and at no instance will be given access to third parties. There is no such thing as correct or wrong answers.
- Research sessions are conducted in LERNE- Laboratory of Experimental Research In Economics and Management from Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics, (1<sup>st</sup> floor, near the main entrance). Remote attendance is also possible, when considered as eligible by the master affairs/Director of Master Programs.
- Students **will be granted 1 point for each research session** in which they participate.
- Each research session will last up to 1 hour and is limited to eight participants. Multiple sessions will be available for students to enroll in. Students can therefore choose in which sessions they would like to participate, according to the schedules that are most suitable to them.
- Students will receive an e-mail reminding them to participate in a particular research session that they have enrolled in. If students are not able to attend the research session they have enrolled in, they should cancel in the system their enrollment.

- If students have enrolled in a particular research session, they should keep in mind that if they do not show up or show up late, **they will receive a penalty of 0.5 points**. The same might happen in case students do not follow the research sessions' instructions.
- Students should arrive 10 minutes before the start of the session they have enrolled in. Students should wait outside until the lab assistant calls them in.
- To ensure that only those people who have enrolled in the research session take part in the study, students will be asked to present their students' ID in the beginning of each research session.
- During a research session, students will have to follow the research session's instructions, which will be written on a handout and/or will be read out during the session. If students do not follow the instructions, they might be asked to leave and they will receive a penalty of 0.5 points.
- Any changes to these rules will be communicated in advance by e-mail to all students enrolled in LERNE's Management System.

## 4. Privacy Policy

Upon registration on the LERNE participants' management system website, students give consent to have their details stored in an electronic database for access by researchers connected to LERNE. The database will be used solely to inform students of the research sessions at LERNE and to give them their points for participating in the sessions, and will not be made available to any third party.

## 5. Online participation

For the academic year 21/22, the students that are eligible for online participation are as follows:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> year Master students:
  - double degree OUT students;
  - students doing exchange semester;
  - students doing an internship (without academic break);
  - students enrolled for dissertation.
  
- Students that were allowed by the school board to attend all curricular activities online (health, visa, or other reasons), must have a written confirmation.

LERNE receives information regarding the students eligible for online participation at the beginning of semester.

If you are under any of the previous conditions, once you log into our system (<https://clsbe.sona-systems.com/>) you will see the schedules both for on campus and for online participation. In case these are not visible to you, please contact the LERNE team ([lerne@ucp.pt](mailto:lerne@ucp.pt)).

Students can participate only once in each period / Research Session.

## 6. LERNE Facilities and Contacts

LERNE has individual workstations equipped with personal computers, where the privacy of participants is highly respected, as well as a retail area where consumer shopping behavior can be studied. This set-up makes it possible to: organize experiments and evaluations on choices and behaviors, as individuals or in groups, for academic or managerial purposes.

The laboratory is located in Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics, Universidade Católica Portuguesa, Palma de Cima, 1649-023 Lisbon, Portugal (1<sup>st</sup> floor, near the main entrance).

Any further questions concerning the LERNE research sessions should be directed to the administrator by e-mail to [lerne@ucp.pt](mailto:lerne@ucp.pt).

## 7. COVID-19 related measures (2020-....)

In face of Covid-19 pandemics, the laboratory will operate fully respecting the health security measures:

- Distance between participants will be respected.
- The IT equipment will be disinfected between sessions, and the room will be cleaned/disinfected with a higher frequency.
- Participants will be required to wear a mask at all times.
- Participants will be required to use hand disinfectant gel in the beginning and at the end of the session.