



University of Lisbon

Lisboa

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University of Lisbon: Four Unicorns, global reach, and startups valued at over €24 billion

This is the conclusion of the [ULisboa Startup Impact Report 2025](#), developed in partnership with Dealroom, which positions the University of Lisbon as a driving force in the country's entrepreneurial and technological transformation.

The report reveals that the more than **1,000 startups (co)founded by former students, researchers, and employees of the University of Lisbon (ULisboa)**, present in more than **40 countries**, are valued at more than **€24 billion**, and **four are valued at more than €1 billion**, having achieved **Unicorn status**.

In fact, of the six national unicorns, four have ULisboa DNA.

For **Cecília Rodrigues, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation at ULisboa**, “after a decade of steady growth in research and innovation, the University of Lisbon is now positioned as a driving force in the country's entrepreneurial and technological transformation. Even in times of uncertainty and rapid change, Lisbon's innovation ecosystem continues to demonstrate remarkable resilience, creativity, and global ambition, which must be supported.”

Of the more than 1,000 startups analyzed, 550 secured total funding of €4 billion, with 70% of this capital raised in the last five years alone, demonstrating the entrepreneurial impact of the University of Lisbon.

The report also highlights the importance of the institution's alumni: **25% of all new startups in Lisbon since 2020 were founded by ULisboa alumni**, representing the majority of the local ecosystem's value, with approximately €18 billion out of a total of €24 billion, which constitutes a substantial economic impact on the Lisbon region.

ULisboa also plays a central role in creating value from research, as more than 170 academic-based spinoffs have been created to date, 130 of which are based in Lisbon, representing about 75% of all spinoffs in the city.

In terms of innovation sectors, healthcare, which includes biotechnology and pharmaceutical startups, leads in the number of startups founded by ULisboa alumni, reflecting the university's

strong track record in research and teaching in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

Software and marketing startups stand out for their higher total valuations and more significant commercial results. The main innovation sectors include Deeptech, Clima Tech, and Crypto/De-Fi.

Reinforcing this position, ULisboa will be present at the [Web Summit 2025](#), from November 10th to 13th, becoming the first Portuguese university to have its own stand at one of the world's largest technology and innovation events.

At the same time, ULisboa is promoting [“UniVerse: Entrepreneurial Academy”](#) on November 11th, from 17h00 to 20h30, at the Pavilion of Portugal, an event dedicated to the impact of academia on the Portuguese entrepreneurship ecosystem.

[More information](#)

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