



# LERNE: Laboratory of Experimental Research in Economics and management

## *Student's Manual*

*Last updated: July 2024*  
*For questions, contact LERNE through [lerne@ucp.pt](mailto:lerne@ucp.pt)*



## 1. Introduction and General Information

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). LERNE is under the responsibility of Behavioral Insights Unit.



This report includes general information regarding the LERNE research sessions, describes the procedures required by students to sign up for the sessions, and offers additional relevant information about the online research participation system (i.e., sona-systems) from LERNE.

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

Católica Lisbon School of Business & Economics is the Portuguese leader in management and economics research, whose research work is internationally recognized, published in the top journals, and relied on by organizations and leaders. The research output also includes the work undertaken by MSc students during their thesis semester, culminating in the dissertation project.

This 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 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. CATÓLICA-LISBON students are required to participate in research sessions in return for course credits, a common



practice among top research-oriented business schools. 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 Undergraduate and MSc students are required to complete LERNE research sessions as part of their study plan. Undergraduate students must obtain 3 LERNE points to complete Learn in Action, while MSc students must obtain 2 LERNE points to complete the LERNE requirement.

In order to manage students' enrolment in the studies and the attribution of credits, LERNE has an online research participation system (sona-system based): <https://clsbe.sona-systems.com/>. Students should use this interface to register and choose the studies they would like to participate in.

LERNE represents a relevant innovative research center at CATÓLICA-LISBON by:

- **Increasing the ability of CATÓLICA-LISBON faculty and researchers to collect experimental data.** Data collection is a vital contributor to the quantity and quality of research at CATÓLICA-LISBON, which in turn will increase the teaching, recognition, and impact of the school.
- **Following ethical procedures and internationally accepted guidelines.** All studies conducted at LERNE are previously submitted to the Ethics Committee of CATÓLICA-LISBON for approval.
- **Providing learning opportunities through participation in real research projects.** 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.

List of several experimental economics laboratories in the world:

<https://www.econ-labs.com/labs/>



### 3. 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 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.

Students must enroll in the appropriate intake (e.g., students who started their MSc program in September 2023 need to enroll as "MSc program- Sept 2023 intake" and students who started their undergraduate program in September 2022 need to enroll as "Undergraduate program- Sept 2022 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. More specifically, LERNE research sessions will be conducted in specific time periods due to its dependency on the structure of educational programs and on the academic calendar of CATÓLICA-LISBON. 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 to all LERNE users through <https://clsbe.sona-systems.com/>.

In case of doubts on how to enroll, please check the tutorial:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_10nT2ZU6QQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_10nT2ZU6QQ)



## 4. Rules of the LERNE Research Sessions

- Participation in LERNE's research sessions is a requirement of your study plan. In order to complete the requirement, undergraduate students must participate in three research sessions at LERNE and MSc students in two research sessions.
- Research sessions are conducted exclusively by CATÓLICA-LISBON.
- Data is strictly confidential and at no instance will be given access to it 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).
- Students will be granted 1 point for each research session in which they participate. If students have enrolled in a particular research session, they should keep in mind that if they don't turn up, turn up late or don't follow the research session' instructions then they will receive a penalty of 0.5 points.
- Each research session will last up to 1 hour and is limited to eight participants. Several sessions will be available and students can always 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 recalling 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.
- Students should arrive 5 minutes before the start of the session they have enrolled in. If students arrive more than 5 minutes late, they will not be allowed to participate in the session.



- 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.

## 5. Privacy Policy

By registering 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.



## 6. Online participation

Students on an exchange semester, or other students studying abroad during a LERNE research session should contact the LERNE administrator by e-mail to [lerne@ucp.pt](mailto:lerne@ucp.pt).

MSc students enrolled for dissertation, and who are not attending any other curricular activities on Campus, are also allowed to participate online. In this case, LERNE will receive information regarding the student's eligibility directly from Master Student's Affairs. If you meet these conditions, once you log into our system (<https://clsbe.sona-systems.com/>) you must 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)).

## 7. 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, behind the reception desk).

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).

