

**Maria João Carvalho**

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Dear Members of the Admissions Committee of Master's Degree in Managing Digital Transformation in the Health Sector (ManagiDiTH),

As a consultant nephrologist dedicated to advanced chronic kidney disease (CKD) and dialysis, as well as an invited professor at the medical school, I am writing to express my strong interest in the master's degree in Managing Digital Transformation in the Health Sector (ManagiDiTH). I believe that this program will provide me with invaluable knowledge and advanced skills necessary to navigate the increasingly intricate landscape of digital health in medicine.

Chronic Kidney Disease is complex disease, is a multifaceted challenge that necessitates a coordinated, multi-professional approach to care. Effective management requires a strong commitment to patient education and engagement, as well as the maintenance of comprehensive individual health records. The treatment pathways for CKD prioritize delaying disease progression, and in advanced stages, shared decision-making between healthcare professionals and patients becomes essential for determining the most appropriate renal replacement therapy. I am confident that specializing in digital health through this master's program will empower me to lead initiatives that enhance health outcomes, foster continuous quality improvement, and strengthen connectivity within healthcare systems.

As a member of the Portuguese National Registry of Chronic Kidney Disease, I am acutely aware of the significance of CKD as a growing public health problem, with high morbidity and mortality rates projected to increase until at least 2030, according to the World Health Organization. The recent approval of the "National Strategy for the Promotion of Renal Health and Integrated Care in Chronic Kidney Disease 2023-2026" in Portugal emphasizes the importance of prevention, early detection, and management of acute kidney injury.

I see digitalization as a vital enabler of enhanced knowledge sharing, diagnostic capabilities, and the development of risk and prognostic tools that can lead to more cost-effective interventions. However, I have also witnessed challenges regarding clinical record management and the inefficiencies of current digital systems, which can undermine the important doctor-patient relationship. Currently, I am attending the Advanced Course in Digital Health at ISCTE, coordinated by Professor Henrique Martins; this experience has been enriching, and I intend to build upon this foundation as I pursue the master's program.

At this juncture, I remain increasingly aware of the gaps I've encountered in my training concerning the ethical, legal, and social implications of digital health, particularly regarding cybersecurity. I care deeply about the integrity of clinical, academic, and research activities, and I firmly believe that the ManagiDiTH program will provide me with the requisite tools and frameworks to navigate these complexities with increased confidence and responsibility.

I have a passion for teaching and mentorship at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and I am enthusiastic about the potential of the skills and knowledge I will gain from this master's program to inspire positive change within my institution and the broader nephrology community.

The international value of the ManagiDiTH program, delivered by three prestigious higher education institutions, is particularly appealing to me. I trust that the online blended learning

format not only allows for flexible participation but also fosters a rich and dynamic educational environment. I am excited about the opportunity to collaborate and share experiences with professionals from diverse backgrounds and areas of specialization, including healthcare, management, ICT, and other fields. Engaging with a multicultural European cohort will enhance my understanding of different perspectives and best practices in digital transformation, enabling me to apply these insights effectively in my own practice.

Moreover, I place great importance on social responsibility and eco-sustainability in healthcare. I believe that digital health solutions can play a key role in promoting health equity, enhancing access to care, and creating sustainable practices within the health sector. As I pursue this master's program, I am eager to explore how digital innovations can support individual health outcomes and broader societal goals.

One of my primary objectives is to become a leader of transformation in the micro, medium, and eventually macro-environment health sectors. I aspire to implement and advocate for digital health initiatives that can drive changes and improve patient care across various healthcare settings. I am committed to influencing policy and practice, demonstrating the potential of digital health solutions to address current challenges in the health sector.

In conclusion, I am highly motivated to join the master's degree in Managing Digital Transformation in the Health Sector (ManagiDiTH), I really appreciated the comprehensive programme content, and valued the international universities known for their strong reputation and excellence in training. I am eager to immerse myself in this dynamic learning environment and contribute to the inaugural cohort while pursuing personal and professional growth, maintaining family balance. I look forward to having a meaningful impact on my hospital's clinical practices, benefiting not only patients but also the nephrology and medical community at large.

Thank you for considering my application. I am pleased about the possibility of being part of this transformative educational journey.

Sincerely,

Maria João Carvalho