

Dear Admissions Committee,

I am hereby applying for the Joint Master's Programme "Managing the Digital Transformation in the Health Sector." As a Medical Doctor specialising in Anaesthesiology, with a particular focus on Acute and Chronic Pain management and interventional techniques, I've seen up close both the urgent need and the huge potential for digital innovation in healthcare. This programme, with its focus on Health Sector, Societal, and Digital Skills, feels like an excellent match for my professional experience, my studies so far, and what I hope to achieve.

In my daily work as an anaesthesiologist, I constantly see opportunities where technology could truly change patient care for the better. This area is a great fit for advanced digital tools – from better image recognition to make interventions more precise, and using complex biological signals for quicker diagnoses and more personalised treatments, to leveraging automated outcome analysis for implementing or changing institutional processes. These applications align perfectly with my goal of using data science to improve clinical approaches in pain management, which I believe fits well with the "Data Science" optional branch of this Master's. My commitment to this field is also demonstrated by holding both the "European Diploma of Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care" and the "European Diploma of Regional Anaesthesia & Pain Medicine."

Alongside my clinical work, I have a genuine interest in the technologies that make digital transformation possible. My journey into coding started with Harvard's CS50, which gave me a solid introduction to computer science. Wanting to go deeper, I then enrolled in 42 Porto's Common Core and am close to finishing this intensive, project-based programme. There, I've gained hands-on experience with C/C++, UNIX, shell scripting, Git, CI/CD, networking, Docker, and Web Development. This training has given me a practical, software engineering mindset, which I believe is vital for understanding and helping to build the digital health solutions of the future.

Moreover, I realized early on that new technologies need to be managed carefully and integrated thoughtfully into our current healthcare systems. That's why I completed an Executive Master in Health Unit Management at Católica Porto Business School. This programme gave me a strategic view of healthcare operations, resource management, and how to improve processes – skills I consider crucial for ensuring my approach to digital transformation is not just about the technology itself, but also about its practical application within organisations and its ethical soundness.

The combination of my clinical expertise in a specialty with significant tech potential, my proven technical skills in software development, and my formal training in health unit management makes me, I believe, a strong candidate for this Master's programme. I'm keen to share my diverse experiences with other students and to learn from the faculty.

I am confident that my dedication, background, and active approach to learning will help me do well in this programme and, later, become a valuable contributor to managing the digital evolution of the health sector.

Thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Miguel Sá, MD