

Rules and Regulations

Portuguese League of Bioinformatics (LPB)

1 General information

The Portuguese League of Bioinformatics (LPB) is a competition that tests the participants' knowledge of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology. The LPB is based on the Liga Brasileira de Bioinformática (LBB) and is aimed primarily at the bioinformatics community and university students.

The official website for LPB can be found at <https://lpbio.github.io/>.

2 Objectives

The main objectives of LPB are:

- Encouraging the learning of Bioinformatics concepts through participation in competitions.
- Encourage and promote the organisation of future Bioinformatics competitions, both nationally and internationally.
- Unite the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology community and encourage collaboration between LPB participants.

3 Requirements for participation

Teams that fulfil the following requirements are admitted to the LPB:

- All participants must be over 18 years old at the time of registration.
- Teams must be made up of 2 participants. The participants can have a background in any area of knowledge.
- Participants can have different levels of higher education, so long as they are enrolled in a higher education institution.
- Each team can have a maximum of one member with a PhD completed up to two years before the date of registration.

Teams will not be permitted to compete if they contain:

- Participants with more than four years of experience in universities, government institutions or private institutions, employed at the time of registration.
- Participants with more than four years of experience in Bioinformatics or related areas, in public or private institutions, employed at the time of registration.
- Individuals with a PhD degree completed over two years before the date of registration.

4 Registrations

Registrations must be made online through the form on the official LPB website between 2 January 2025 and 14 February 2025.

5 Competition structure and correction criteria

In this section, the structure of each round of the competition will be outlined and the assessment criteria to be applied will be explained. The dates of the competition rounds and selection criteria may be subject to change. Any changes to the schedule or rules will be communicated via the official LPB website and official LPB social networks.

5.1 First round:

- The first round will be held on 21 February 2025 at 11:00 am (GMT).
- This round will have a qualifying and eliminatory nature.
- The exam will last 5 hours and 3 minutes.
- The first round will consist of 30 multiple-choice questions.
- Each multiple-choice question will be worth 1 point towards the final mark in the first phase.
- The top 20 teams will advance to the next round. If there is a tie in the scores, the teams will be ranked based on the timing of their answer submissions.
- Each team's score will be made available up to 7 days after the end of the first round.

5.2 Second round:

- The challenges of the second round will be made available on 6 March 2025 at 8:00 am, and will be available to solve until 7 March 2025 at 11:59 pm (GMT).
- This round will have a qualifying and eliminatory nature.
- The second round will consist of five computational biology challenges.
- The individual score for each challenge will be detailed in the challenge's instructions. The answers can be either exact or approximate, depending on the nature of the challenge.
- In addition to the accuracy of the answers, the quality of the solution may be considered as a tie-breaking criterion.
- Each team's score will be made available up to 7 days after the end of the second round.
- The teams that obtain the best classifications will qualify to the third round.

5.3 Third round:

- The third phase will consist of the development of a project outlined by the organising committee. The final results of the projects should be presented by the teams during the Bioinformatics Open Days event in Braga, Portugal, on a date and time to be set.
- Projects will be presented as a 15-minute presentation, during which the participants must clearly and concisely address the research question, the methodologies used and the results obtained.

6 Prizes

- The awards ceremony will be held at the Bioinformatics Open Days event.
- The final results of the competition, including the list of winners, will be available on the official LPB website.