

Marisa Lapa Toste
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3030-394 Coimbra
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E-mail: marisatoste@interacesso.pt

Coimbra, 30th. April 2008

My name is Marisa Toste and I want to apply for admission to MAP-i.

I refer to annex my *Statement of Purpose* and *Resume*, being available for additional information.

The *three letters of recommendation* will be sent directly to you by email by the recommenders.

Regards,

Marisa Toste

Statement of Purpose

My name is Marisa Toste and I have a degree in Mathematics, a Masters in Maths and now I am finishing a post-graduate in Management – Master Business in Administration (MBA).

I have always studied in Coimbra, first in Mathematics Department of the Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Coimbra and, later, in Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra.

Nowadays, I am a lecturer in Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão de Oliveira do Hospital do Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra (Oliveira do Hospital College of Technology and Management of Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra), where practice and training are very important, as it is a polytechnic institute.

Currently, I want to continue my studies and I crave for something related with maths but applied to the real world.

Speaking with some colleagues and doing some research, I considered the idea, and I decided to ally maths knowledge to computer science. It's an interesting subject and I think these two subjects have so much in common.

Once I did the latter, I needed to speak to someone who knew about the subjects and would be at ease with such modern subjects. I went to Faculdade de Engenharia da Universidade do Porto (Engineering Faculty of University of Porto – FEUP), and I talked with two professors, one from FEUP and the other of the Universidade do Minho (Minho University), who helped me, answering my questions and clearing my reservations about such issues.

As a result from my passion for maths allied to my fondness for informatics, I yearn to study Computer Science, specifically precisely RFID and/or RTLS technologies. These technologies are not new, though there is so much to do, to investigate and explore in this area, as we can have loads of information about something or someone with RFID or RTLS, but still having the difficulty to deal with the right information and its complexities, and how to “work” the information.

The next step I took was to choose a place where I could exert this kind of work (and investigation) as well as study for a PhD degree. I found all the conditions at MAP-I, where I realised I could have an appealing challenge.

Studying in Portugal with three top Portuguese Universities is motivating.

At this point, I believe it is important to study in Portugal since I work here, and I have my whole life here. I also believe it is significant to work with different universities, as I am counting with the association of CMU, a foreign university. Moreover, I can work and collaborate with other students and learn a great deal with the best.

In addition, I can add that it is fascinating to work and have co-workers as professors who are involved with important universities, and in this way, it is possible to learn much more with their experience. In this institute we have courses linked to computer science, such as BSC in Informatics Engineering and Technological Specialization Course. For this reason, I could give a better-quality contribution.

For me, to improve and increase my knowledge is unquestionably a big challenge.

To apply and develop my knowledge in a subject adjacent to maths is my personal aim.

I thank you for considering my application.

Sincerely,

Marisa Lapa Toste

Coimbra, 30th. April 2008

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information

First name / Surname(s)	Marisa Lapa Toste
Identification Card	11248687
Address	53 – 5ºB, D. Pedro de Cristo Street, 3030-394 Coimbra, Portugal
Telephones	914501399 / 935501399
E-mail	marisatoste@interacesso.pt
Nationality	Portuguese
Date of born	2 nd . May 1978
Gender	Female

Work experience

2007 →

Occupation or position held	Professor Adjunto
Main activities and responsibilities	Lecturer of Mathematical Analysis I and II for BSc in Informatics Engineering, Mathematical Analysis I and II for BSc in Civil Engineering, Mathematics for BSc in Marketing and Administration and Mathematical Analysis for technological specialization course in Installation and Maintenance of Networks and Information System
Name and address of employer	Quality Manager (Quality Management System) Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão de Oliveira do Hospital do Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra (Oliveira do Hospital College of Technology and Management, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)

2006-2007

Occupation or position held	Professor Adjunto
Main activities and responsibilities	Lecturer of Mathematical Analysis I and II for Bachelor/BSc in Computer and Informatics Systems Engineering, Mathematics I and Applied Mathematics I and II for Bachelor/BSc in Civil and Environment Engineering
Name and address of employer	Quality Manager (Quality Management System) Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão de Oliveira do Hospital do Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra (Oliveira do Hospital College of Technology and Management, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)

2005-2006

Occupation or position held	Professor Assistente
Main activities and responsibilities	Lecturer of Mathematics I and II for Bachelor/BSc in Marketing and Administration, Numerical Methods for Bachelor/BSc in Computer and Informatics Systems Engineering, Applied Mathematics I for Bachelor/BSc in Civil and Environment Engineering, Statistics and Probability for Bachelor/BSc in Financial and Administration and Mathematics for technological specialization course in Telecommunication Networks
Name and address of employer	Quality Manager (Quality Management System) Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão de Oliveira do Hospital do Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra (Oliveira do Hospital College of Technology and Management, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)

2004-2005

Occupation or position held
Main activities and responsibilities

Professor Assistente

Lecturer of Mathematical Analysis I and II for Bachelor/BSc in Computer and Informatics Systems Engineering, Mathematics I for Bachelor/ BSc in Civil and Environment Engineering and Statistics II for Bachelor/ BSc in Financial and Administration

Name and address of employer

Quality Manager (Quality Management System)

Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão de Oliveira do Hospital do Instituto Politécnico de Coimbra (Oliveira do Hospital College of Technology and Management, Polytechnic Institute of Coimbra)

2002-2004

Occupation or position held
Main activities and responsibilities

Professor Assistente

Lecturer of Mathematical Analysis I and II, Linear Algebra and Analytical Geometry, Statistics and Probability for BSc in Electrical Engineering

Name and address of employer

Escola Superior de Tecnologia do Instituto Politécnico de Castelo Branco (College of Technology, Polytechnic Institute of Castelo Branco)

2001-2002

Occupation or position held
Main activities and responsibilities
Name and address of employer

Teacher

Teacher

Escola Secundária de Avelar Brotero (Avelar Brotero Secondary School)

Education and training**2005 →**

Title of qualification awarded
Name and type of organisation providing education and training

Master Business Administration (MBA) – All disciplines done

Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra (Faculty of Economics of University of Coimbra)

2002-2005

Title of qualification awarded
Name and type of organisation providing education and training

Mestrado em Matemática para o ensino (Master in Mathematical Teaching)

Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Coimbra (Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra)

1996-2002

Title of qualification awarded
Name and type of organisation providing education and training

Licenciatura em Matemática – Ramo de Formação Educacional (BSc in Mathematics)

Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia da Universidade de Coimbra (Faculty of Sciences and Technology of the University of Coimbra)

Personal skills and competences

Mother tongue(s)

Portuguese

Other language(s)

Self-assessment

European level

English

French

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Good	Good	Medium	Medium	Medium
Good	Good	Good	Good	Good

Technical skills and competences	Technical Specialist Management Systems (Training in Management Systems - Quality, Environment and OHSAS, Training in Audits)
Computer skills and competences	Office software Programming with C language Construction of sites for learning support (training in construction of sites to support teaching)
Other skills and competences	Teacher (Certificate of Training by the National Certification System Training) French Language Course - Alliance Francaise Studied English language - Wall Street Institute (ongoing until October 2008)
Driving licence	Category of vehicle B

Coimbra, 30th. April 2008

Marisa Lapa Toste

Coimbra, 2008-05-09

Recommendation letter for Mrs. Marisa Lapa Toste

Mrs. Marisa Lapa Toste is a candidate to your Ph.D. program in Computer Science and asked me to write a letter on her behalf.

I met her for the first time when she was attending one of my classes on Applications of Mathematics; this class was part of the mandatory set of courses of the then called Degree in Mathematics – Educational Branch (Licenciatura em Matemática – Ramo de Formação Educacional). She did very well and got a final grade of 18 (in a maximum of 20) which means Very Good (equivalent to the American A+)

Later, I also acted as her scientific supervisor during her training year to become a high school teacher (seventh to twelfth classes). Her performance during this period was also very good and she did so well that she was invited to teach at the college level in the Polytechnic Institute in Castelo Branco, a fast growing city in the east side of Portugal. She remained there for two years and then moved to a branch of the Coimbra Polytechnic Institute, in Oliveira do Hospital, where she has been working to the present date.

Her interests encompass a wide range of activities: teaching, of course, but also applications of Mathematics in the broadest sense. In fact, she is presently working on a final report to get her MBA degree from the School of Economics (Faculdade de Economia) of the University of Coimbra. And she holds a Master's degree in Mathematics Education granted by the School of Sciences and Technology (Faculdade de Ciências e Tecnologia) of the same university.

No doubt she is a very hardworking person, eager to tackle new challenges, never missing an opportunity to try to increase her professional experience, be it as a mathematician or as a math teacher. As far as I could see, she is able to work in a team or to work alone: and she is a very personable person, easy to work with.

For all these reasons, I strongly believe that she meets your standards and will be successful in your Ph.D. program. I do recommend that you accept her.

Sincerely yours

J. M. S. Simões Pereira
(Full Professor)
(Department of Mathematics)
(School of Science and Technology – University of Coimbra)