

Distinguished Dean, honorable Faculty Leadership, esteemed professors, dear families, incoming IPCV students, and, most importantly, my beloved classmates—the graduating Class of 2026:

Steve Jobs once said, “You can’t connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards.”

Standing here today, I think that is exactly what these two years have taught us.

Two years ago, eighteen strangers gathered in this very city, from fourteen different countries, quietly wondering what we had signed up for.

Today, we stand here not as eighteen strangers, but as one united cohort.

When we started, we knew our Master’s would take us across three prestigious universities: Pázmány Péter Catholic University, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, and the University of Bordeaux. What no curriculum quite explained was that we were also signing up for three completely different lifestyles.

Budapest taught us that an 8:00 AM lecture is apparently a perfectly reasonable thing. But it also taught us how to find our footing—and, more importantly, how to find each other. We survived our first winter, discovered gulyás and lángos, and made Thursdays at Morrison’s our unofficial group therapy.

Madrid taught us that 10:00 AM is a much more civilized time to begin studying. It gave us a new university, a new routine, late nights, favourite cafés, tapas, sunny afternoons, and spontaneous trips.

And Bordeaux taught us that, after everything we had endured, perhaps we had earned a very good glass of French wine. Somewhere between the château, the bicycles, Crous meals, volleyball games, communal cooking nights, and endless conversations about deadlines, we realised that these were no longer the experiences of eighteen strangers. They were memories we were making together.

Three cities. Three universities. Countless experiences. But one shared story.

And then came the fourth chapter: the thesis.

After three semesters side by side, we scattered across research labs, institutes, and companies around the world. We were thrown into new environments and new areas of research, but everything we had experienced across three universities had prepared us for it. We adapted, learned quickly, and took on challenges that once seemed far beyond us.

Of course, the IPCV journey wasn’t always a scenic postcard.

There was Inverse Mathematics in the château classroom, the relentless VMCC assignments, and the brutal TRDP deadlines. There were plenty of nights when “just one more hour” somehow became sunrise.

And then came the real endurance test: European bureaucracy.

Visas. Residence permits. Apostilles.

IPCV didn't just train us in computer vision—it also gave us an honorary degree in administrative survival.

Yet through every hurdle, we kept showing up.

We adapted. We pushed through. We figured things out.

So, to every graduate sitting here today: give yourself a pat on the back.

You made it.

That resilience brings me to our deepest debt of gratitude.

On behalf of the entire graduating cohort, I want to thank everyone who made this journey possible.

To Professor Karacs, Professor Jesús, and Professor Fabien—thank you for guiding us across three universities, demanding scientific rigor, and believing in our capabilities.

And to all our professors and lecturers: I could stand here for another ten minutes naming each of you, and I would still worry about leaving someone out. So let me simply say: thank you. You pushed us beyond our comfort zones, challenged our assumptions, and treated us not just as students, but as future colleagues, researchers, and professionals.

A very special thank you to Laura, Andrea, the PPKE International Office, and our mentors. You were our lifeline through the logistical labyrinth. From endless paperwork to welcoming dinners and orientations, you made sure that even when everything around us was unfamiliar, we never felt like strangers.

We also extend our sincere gratitude to the Erasmus Mundus programme and the European Union for making this extraordinary cross-border experience possible.

And to our parents and families—many of whom are watching from thousands of kilometres and several time zones away: thank you. You listened to our rants about algorithms you had never heard of, celebrated milestones you could sometimes only witness through a screen, and

believed in us whenever our own confidence wavered. This achievement belongs equally to you.

And to the incoming IPCV students:

Your two years will pass much faster than you imagine. Work hard. Challenge yourselves. But don't spend these two years only collecting credits. Collect stories.

We wish you an incredible journey.

And finally, to my fellow graduates.

We came here to earn a Master's degree in Computer Vision and Image Processing. But along the way, we gained so much more: knowledge that will stay with us, experiences that shaped us, and, most importantly, people we will carry with us long after today.

Some of us will continue into PhDs. Some will move into industry. Some know what comes next, while others are still figuring it out. And that's okay. Wherever we go, I hope we remember what we learned during these two years: we are capable of more than we sometimes think.

So let's keep dreaming as boldly as we did when we first applied for this programme. Two years ago, we couldn't see how all these dots would connect. Today, we can. We can see the late nights, the laughter, the challenges, the friendships, and all the little moments that brought us here.

So let us not say goodbye today. Let us simply say thank you.

Köszönöm, Budapest.

Muchas gracias, Madrid.

Merci beaucoup, Bordeaux.

And to the seventeen people who shared this journey with me—

Dhanyavad.

Two years ago, this was a dream. Today, it is our shared story. And tomorrow, we step into the world—not just to be part of what comes next, but to shape what comes next.

Congratulations, IPCV Class of 2026.

The world is waiting. Let's go shape it.