

FIDELITE
YOUR VISION · YOUR GOALS · OUR SOLUTIONS

WHY STUDYING IN PORTUGAL

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1. TEN REASONS WHY



1. INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

All 114 Higher Education Institutions are assessed and accredited according to the highest international standards.



2. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

High growth rates in PhD production and scientific publication in the European Union.



3. DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

50 000 international students, representing 13% of the total student population.



4. ENTREPRENEURSHIP HUB

Hundreds of products and international start-ups have originated from incubators managed by Portuguese higher education institutions.



5. ACADEMIC LIFE

Portuguese higher education institutions promote sports, arts and cultural activities through clubs and associations.



6. LANGUAGE COURSES

Portuguese language courses included in TeSPs, Bachelors and Masters Programs lectured in English.



7. WELCOMING PEOPLE

Second best country in the world as integrating migrants (Migrant Integration Policy Index 2015).



8. LIFE QUALITY

The 3th best country in the world by expatriates and the one with the best quality of life (Expats Insider 2019).



9. SAFETY

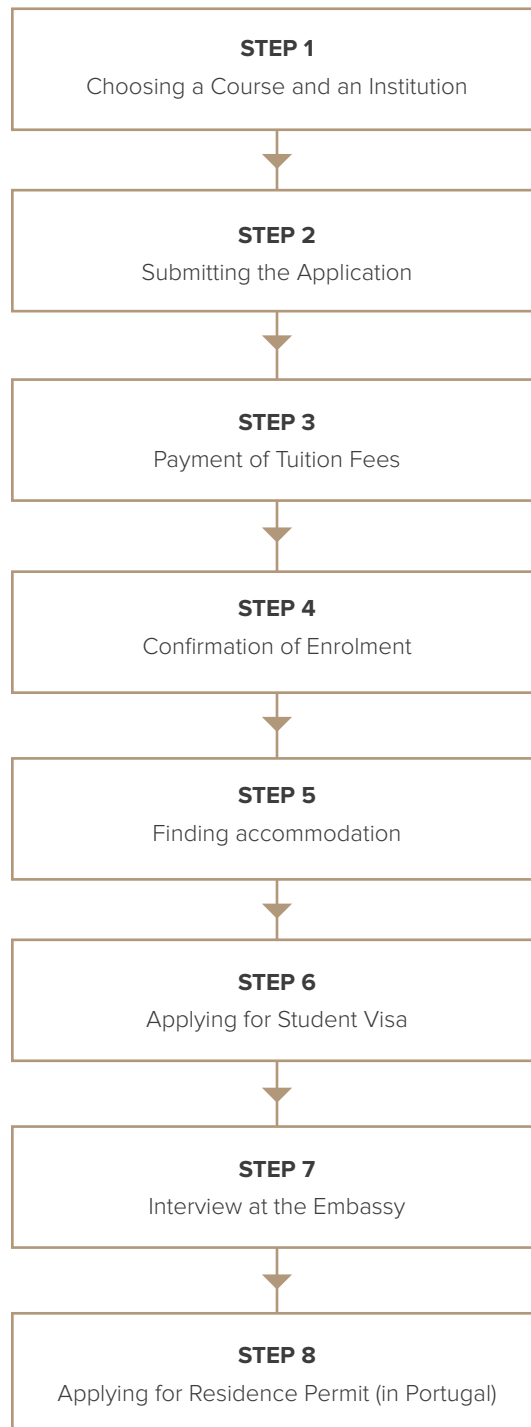
3rd safest country worldwide (Global Peace Index 2019).



10. THE COUNTRY ITSELF

3 000 hours of sunshine and a mild weather all year round, 850 km of white-sand beaches, beautiful and diverse landscapes, protected natural areas and a vast historic heritage.

2. STEP BY STEP



STEP 1

Choosing a Course and an Institution

In Portugal most courses are lectured in Portuguese. Fid Elite has established partnerships with well know Higher Education Institutes that offer TeSPs, Bachelors and Maters in English (cf Fid Elite's courses).

STEP 2

Submitting the Application at Higher Education Institutions

EU Students

Students from an EU country must apply through the National Contest for Access and Admission to Higher Education, which regulates access to public universities in Portugal.

International Students

Students whose nationality is not Portuguese, nor that of another European Union country, who intend to apply for a Bachelor Degrees (1st cycle) – Bsc or Integrated Master Degrees (1st and 2nd cycles), must register for the Special Admission Contest for International Students. The procedures and specific conditions are established and regulated by the International Student Statute.

General documentation

1. Passport, valid for an additional 3 months following the duration of the intended stay.

2. For TeSP

- Diploma of equivalence to the 12th year of schooling, recognized by the consular services of the country of origin, indicating the subjects and respective final grades.

2. For Bachelor Degree (1st Cycle)

- Be officially qualified to apply and register for higher education in the country where the qualification was obtained; OR

- Hold a Portuguese secondary education diploma or an equivalent legal qualification;

OR

- Be enrolled in higher education, whether in Portugal or in another country, and request to be transferred or to change programme (institution/programme pair transfer regime).

2. For Master's Degree (2nd Cycle)

- Hold a Bachelor Degree (1st Cycle) - BSc or an equivalent degree; OR

- Hold a foreign higher education degree (1st Study Cycle) in line with the Bologna Process principles from a subscriber country; OR

- Hold a foreign higher education degree (1st Study Cycle) recognized as a Bachelor Degree (1st cycle) - BSc according to the standards set by the Scientific Board of the desired higher education institution; OR

- Present an academic, scientific or professional curriculum, which can be recognized at the desired higher education institution, by the responsible Scientific Board, as equivalent to a 1st Study Cycle degree.

Depending on the cycle of studies, Higher Education Institutions may require additional examinations, taking additional courses or having a mandatory working experience.

An application fee may be required and it might be non-refundable (depending on Higher Education Institutions).

STEP 3

Payment of Tuition Fees

In order to enrol in any of the Higher Education Institutions study cycles, a payment for an attendance fee, the so-called tuition fee, must be concluded.

In Public Higher Education

- Short cycle and 1st cycle: tuition fees are established in accordance with the law.
- 2nd cycles and 3rd cycles: tuition fees are established by each higher education institution.

In Private Higher Education

The higher education institutions establish the tuition fees and other charges to be paid by the students.

International students

Tuition fees are established by each higher education institution.

STEP 4

Confirmation of Enrolment

Students will need their Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) to apply for a student visa. Students will automatically receive their CoE once the Higher Education Institution has verified his / her International Student Acceptance and Payment Agreement.

STEP 5

Finding Accommodation

Not all Higher Education Institutions provide student accommodation, but they usually cooperate with several student housing companies in each campus city. Students may apply for accommodation before receiving the Confirmation of Enrolment, but the accommodation application will not be processed by the housing company until after the students' enrolment is confirmed.

However and due to increase in international student's admissions in Portugal each year, few students are fortunate enough to the opportunity to stay in University residences. Most of the students live in houses, flats (apartments) or rooms in private sector accommodation.

STEP 6

Student Visa Application

To apply for a student visa, students must fulfil the conditions of admission/acceptance to a higher education institution.

General documentation:

- Document issued by the institution and document certifying enrolment;
- Proof of payment of tuition fees attesting by a declaration of the teaching institution;
- Passport or other travel document, valid for an additional 3 months following the duration of the intended stay;
- Two identical passport photographs, up-to-date and in good condition, allowing proper identification;
- Transport document (return ticket);
- Document certifying the third-country national is in a regular situation when the applicant is from a different nationality than that of the country where the visa is being requested;
- Valid travel insurance covering necessary medical expenses, including emergency assistance and repatriation;
- Form authorizing access to Portuguese criminal record by the Immigration and Border Services (SEF);
- Criminal record from country of origin or country of residency for over one year (minors under 16 years of age are exempt from producing any criminal record related document);
- Proof of housing conditions;
- Proof of means of subsistence, as stipulated by law;
- Proof of subsistence means can be made through a statement of responsibility, signed by a Portuguese national or by a foreign national legally resident in Portugal.

STEP 7

Interview at the Embassy

Students can be asked for additional documents or may be required for a personal interview at the Embassy or Consulate and, at the time of the interview, they must carry all their original documents. The visa fee, according to Schengen regulations, is non-refundable.

After submitting the Portuguese student visa application, the approval procedure can take anywhere between one and three months to process, depending on which country the student is applying from.

STEP 8

Applying for Residence Permit

For stays longer than three months and up to one year

Non-EU students need to apply for a Student Visa in their home country or country of residence before entry into Portugal. A Student Visa may take up to 1-3 months to be completed. While staying in Portugal students may be required to extend their Student Visas.

For stays longer than one year

Non-EU students need a Residence Permit. In order to apply for a Residence Permit students need to have completed and entered a Resident Visa into their passport before entry into Portugal. Students can apply for the Resident Visa at a Portuguese Embassy or a Portuguese Consulate in your home country or in your country of residence. Residence Permits take between 3 weeks to a month to be issued by Portuguese authorities.

The application for residence title should be scheduled (via an electronic platform – to be implemented for holders of residence visas) and submitted personally on a standard form signed by the student or his/her legal representative. The application may be submitted at any SEF's directorate or regional delegation, which, after proceedings and decision, will forward it to the directorate or regional delegation of the applicant's area of residence.

Documents Required

- Evidence of registration in a higher education institution;
- Evidence of tuition fee payment required by the higher education institution, if applicable, attesting by a declaration of that teaching institution;
- Two recent, identical photographs, in colour with blank background, and easily identifiable;
- Passport or any other valid travel document;
- Health insurance;
- Evidence of sufficient means of subsistence;
- Evidence that the applicant has adequate accommodation;
- Permission for SEF to check Portuguese criminal record (except for under 16 years old);
- Evidence of entry into the national territory and the criminal record of the applicant's country of nationality or criminal record of the applicant's country he/she had lived in for over one year.

3. FID-ELITE

Fid Elite, Lda is a professional consultancy company providing our clients personalized education services, as well as updated information about Higher Education Institutions, programs, admissions, accommodations and student visas application procedures.

Fid Elite's headquarters are based in Lausanne, Switzerland but its offices in Lisbon and Porto allows us to provide support to international students in Portugal.

Fid Elite provides a full-service experience working on behalf of the highest-level clients.

OUR SERVICES



1.

Registration and Enrolment in Higher Education Institutions



2.

Information on Higher Education Institutions



3.

Verification of Students Documents



4.

Certificate Recognition



5.

Student Visa Advice and Information



6.

Supporting students with Visa Application Process



7.

Housing Solutions



8.

Pre-departure orientation information sessions



9.

Territorial Recognition



10.

Student Support

4. HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM

Portuguese higher education is organized in a binary system that integrates **university education** and **polytechnic education** and is taught in public and private institutions.

University education is guided by a perspective of research promotion and creation of knowledge and aims to ensure solid scientific and cultural preparation and provide technical training to enable for the exercise of professional and cultural activities and promote the development of design capabilities, innovation and critical analysis.

Polytechnic education is guided by a perspective of applied research and development aimed at understanding and solving concrete problems and aims at providing a solid cultural and technical training at the higher level, developing the capacity for innovation and critical analysis and providing scientific knowledge of theoretical and practical nature and their applications for the exercise of professional activities.

	Politechnic Education	University Education		QNQ/QEQ Level
Short Cycle	Curso Técnico Superior Profissional – 120 ECTS			
1st Cycle of Studies	Licenciatura – 180 ECTS	Licenciatura – 180 ECTS to 240 ECTS	Mestrado Integrado – 300 to 360 ECTS	Level 6
2nd Cycle of Studies	Mestrado – 90 to 120 ECTS	Mestrado – 90 to 120 ECTS		Level 7
3rd Cycle of Studies		Doutoramento		Level 8

5. CYCLES OF STUDIES

1st Cycle

Both university and polytechnic institutions award the degree of 'licenced'.

In polytechnic education, the cycle of studies that leads to the degree of 'licenced' has 180 ECTS and a normal length of six curricular semesters of students' work. In certain cases, namely those covered by national or European legislation, the cycle of studies can have up to 240 ECTS with a normal length of eight curricular semesters of students' workload.

2nd Cycle

Both university and polytechnic institutions award the degree of 'mestre'. The cycle of studies that leads to the degree of 'mestre' has from 90 to 120 ECTS and a normal length of between three to four curricular semesters of students' workload.

3rd Cycle

The 'doutor' degree is awarded by universities.

ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

Short cycle (TESP): 120 ECTS | 4 semesters.

1st cycle: 180 to 240 ECTS | 6 to 8 semesters.

2nd cycle: 90 to 120 ECTS | 3 to 4 semesters.

In some exceptional cases: 60 ECTS | 2 semesters.

1st and 2nd cycle: 300 to 360 ECTS | 10 to 12 semesters, for courses that allow access to the practice of a certain professional activity (i.e. Medicine, Architecture, Engineering, Psychology, etc).

3rd cycle: Although not defined, often 180 to 240 ECTS | 6 to 8 semesters

6. APPLICATION EU STUDENTS

Each university or polytechnic institution has different application procedures depending on study program. This means different admission requirements, different deadlines and different documents.

Short Cycles (TeSP)

The application for the short cycle technical professional higher education courses (CTeSP) is done through a contest that is organized by each higher education institution.

1st cycle

For private higher education institutions, there are annual institutional competitions organized by each one.

For public higher education institutions, there is a national call which takes place at the end of the academic year (July). In the national call there are special quotas, namely for applicants that are Portuguese emigrants or relatives residing with them and applicants with disability.

Conditions

- Hold a secondary education leaving certificate, or legally equivalent qualification;
- Undertake that year, or in the last two years, the Portuguese national final exams of secondary education corresponding entrance exams required to apply to the specific courses the student wishes to attend;
- Comply with the prerequisites (evidence of physical, functional or vocational skills) if required by the institution for the course the student wishes to attend;
- Not being covered by the international student statute.

2nd and 3rd Cycles

Higher education institutions are responsible for access and admission in these cycles of study.

7. APPLICATION INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The International Student Statute, which was approved in 2014, provides for the admission of international students to the Portuguese higher educational system through a special access procedure.

Excluded from the International Student Statute are those students who are nationals of a European Union member state, or who have been legally resident in Portugal for more than two un-interrupted years.

Such students may access Portuguese Higher Education through the general system of admissions, as long as they have completed secondary school, have passed the entrance examination required by the School to which they are applying to, and have fulfilled the School's pre-requisites (when applicable).

International students can access to the degree of 'licenciado' (1st cycle), 'mestre' (2nd cycle) or 'doutor' (3rd cycle) degree

8. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

At 1st cycle, most Portuguese universities only offer courses in Portuguese. A Portuguese proficiency test is usually an entry requirement for bachelor's programs. Most higher education institutions will require a minimum proficiency corresponding to the B1/B2 level. This requirement is less likely to apply to second and third-cycle programs (Master's and PhDs) as these research-oriented programs are often designed for international students and offer courses or instruction in English.

Some Higher Education Institutions include a Portuguese Language and Culture Course in their TeSPs, 1st Cycle and 2nd Cycle Programs. In some cases, it may be mandatory.

If English is not a student's first language, he/she may need to prove his/her proficiency in English. Requirements vary significantly from one program to another, but the following tests are typically accepted as proof of students' English proficiency:

- TOEFL;
- IELTS;
- CAE/CPE;
- PTE A.

9. ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The academic year is divided in two semesters, the first starting in September and ending in January/February, and the second starting between February and June/July.

10. QUALITY STANDARDS

Portugal has a network of higher education institutions spread all around the country, the oldest of which is the University of Coimbra founded in 1290.

Portugal has 114 Higher Education Institutions, about 5'000 courses, and around 350 000 students; as well as 307 R&D Units in all domains of knowledge awarded 525 Million euros from Horizon 2020.

Portuguese higher education follows European and international quality standards. For this end an independent agency was created to evaluate all courses that award a degree and the higher education institutions: the Agency for Assessment and Accreditation of Higher Education - A3ES.

A3ES is a member of:

- The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ENQA that represents organizations responsible for quality assurance from the European Higher Education Area Member-states.
- The European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education – EQAR, a register for the Agencies which comply with the common principles established for quality assurance in Europe.

11. COST OF LIVING

Accommodation (price range corresponds to four university residences)	€ 250.00 - € 600.00
Public transport: monthly pass	€ 22.50 - € 48.55
Economic restaurant (one meal)	€ 5.00 - € 8.00
Canteen (one meal)	€ 2.00 - €5.00
SIM card (depends on option: rechargeable card or monthly plan; national / international calls; mobile internet)	€ 7.50 - € 25.00
Travel health insurance during time of stay in Portugal (monthly amount for foreigners with full coverage)	€ 41.00
Transfer to Student Residence (Taxi)	€ 10.00 - € 20.00

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