

Access to the Higher Education System

How to access the public higher education system through the general regime?

You must fill and submit the online application form to the National Call, available in the DGES portal.

How to access the private higher education system through the general regime?

Access to the private Higher Education system is organised by each private institution so you shall apply directly to the institution of your choice.

Who can apply?

All students that meet the following requisites:

- Hold a High School degree or legally equivalent qualification.
- Take the Portuguese National Entry Exam necessary to apply to the institution/course and obtain the minimum entry exam grade required (national exams are valid in the year of realisation and in the two subsequent years).
- Comply with the mandatory institution/course Prerequisites, (evidence of physical, functional or vocational skills) if required by the institution for the course the student wishes to attend.
- Have the minimum entry grade required to apply to the institution/course of your choice. The minimum entry grade to access is established by each institution.

Is it necessary to have the Portuguese Nationality to access the Higher Education system?

No, it isn't.

Through the National Call, can apply:

- Portuguese citizens.
- Citizens from a member state of the EU.
- Relatives of Portuguese citizens or relatives of citizens from a member state of the EU, regardless their nationality.
- Foreign EU citizens legally and continuously residing in Portugal for at least two years, as well as their children, by January 1st of the year of application. Please note that if you hold a Study Visa that allows you to reside in Portugal, that period does not count for the two years of residence required to apply through the National Call.

- Beneficiaries, by January 1st of the year of application, of the statute of legal rights and duties under an international treaty, subscribed between the Portuguese state and the state of your nationality.
- Students applying to the Higher Education system through the Special Regimes.

Which are the mandatory national exams students need to undertake to apply to the specific courses they wish to attend?

The national entry exams required, are defined by the higher education institutions for each course within a limit of two exams. If necessary, the higher education institutions, can define alternate sets of exams up to a limit of three.

Students must undertake the national final exams, of secondary education, corresponding to entrance exams required to apply to the specific courses the student wishes to attend. Information regarding the national final exams can be found in the Direção-Geral do Ensino Superior portal in Guias das Provas de Ingresso and also in Guias da Candidatura.

For students holding a foreign secondary education leaving certificate that is legally equivalent to the portuguese secondary education, national exams can be replaced by final exams of the subjects as long as they meet the following criteria:

- are nationwide exams;
- are mandatory exams to access the higher education system of the country in which they were held;
- are homologous of the subjects that replace the final exams.
- For the 2020 National Call will be accepted the exams undertaken in 2018, 2019 and in 2020.
- More information can be found here: [Substituição de Provas de ingresso por exames estrangeiros](#).

How can you apply?

National Call – the applications process is only and exclusively online, upon submission of the online application form. The application process is managed by the Direção Geral do Ensino Superior.

Institutional Call - the admissions process shall be made directly to the higher education institution.

Special Regimes – the applications process consists in filling an application form and deliver it with other required documents, in person, at a Gabinete de Acesso ao Ensino Superior. This call is also managed by the Direção Geral do Ensino Superior.

Special Calls - the admissions process shall be made directly to the higher education institution.

Call to access the TESP (short cycle technical professional higher education course) - the admissions process shall be made directly to the higher education institution.

International Student

The legal status of the International Student, approved by the Decree-Law n.º 36/2014, of March 10th, altered and republished by the Decree-Law n.º 62/2018, of August 6th, implements a special call designed for students that do not have Portuguese nationality, or that aren't nationals from a country member of the European Union, and that haven't legally lived in Portugal for more than two consecutive years, to access the higher education system solely by this legal status.

Useful links:

[DGES](#)

[Study and Research](#)

[Índice de cursos](#)

More information about [concurso nacional](#) and [candidatura online](#)

More information about [estudante internacional](#)

More information about [regimes especiais](#)

More information about [Concursos Especiais](#)

More information about [TESP](#)