



CATOLICA
FACULTY OF BIOTECHNOLOGY

PORTO

Exchange Students Fact Sheet 2025/2026 Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Porto

This fact sheet provides comprehensive information for exchange students interested in studying at the Faculty of Biotechnology at Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Porto. It covers general information, contacts, academic calendar, nomination and application procedures, study programmes, living costs, health insurance, visa information, accommodation, and arrival assistance. This guide is essential for international students planning their exchange experience in Porto, Portugal.

About Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Faculty of Biotechnology

Universidade Católica do Porto - Faculty of Biotechnology, located in the vibrant city of Porto, UNESCO World Heritage city, Portugal, is a leading institution renowned for its rigorous academic programs and strong industry connections. We offer a global learning experience, fostering diversity through our international faculty, student body, and extensive global partnerships.

Our exchange programs offer a rich and rewarding educational experience, encompassing a wide range of courses in Biotechnology, Microbiology, Biomedical Engineering, Food Engineering, Nutritional Sciences all taught by leading professors in their fields. Beyond academics, students can actively engage in a vibrant campus life, participating in cultural events, joining student organizations, and contributing to social initiatives.

Our dedicated International Office provides comprehensive support throughout your exchange, assisting with visa applications, accommodation, and academic guidance to ensure a successful and enriching experience. Join us for a transformative international learning journey of growth and development.

Life at Universidade Católica Porto is about more than academics—it's about thriving in one of Europe's most captivating cities. From exploring Porto's rich history and stunning architecture to enjoying its lively cultural scene and strong community spirit, every moment here is inspiring. Join us and discover an education—and a city—that will shape your future.

General Information and Contacts

University Details

Name: Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Porto

Faculty: Faculty of Biotechnology

Erasmus Code: P LISBOA 01

Address: Rua Diogo Botelho, 1327, 4169-005 Porto, Portugal

Location: Porto, Portugal

Homepage: [Homepage | ESB \(ucp.pt\)](#)

Exchange Students Website: [Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Porto \(ucp.pt\)](#)

[Universidade Católica Portuguesa in Porto | Presentation](#)

[Universidade Católica Portuguesa Institutional Video | Shaping the Future](#)

International Office

- Ms. Magda Ferro (Head of Office)
- Phone: +351 22 6196285
- Email: mferro@ucp.pt
- Ms. Mónica Coutinho (Exchange Coordinator)
- Phone: +351 22 6196286
- Email: mcoutinho@ucp.pt
- Mr. Guilherme Delgado (Exchange Coordinator)
- Phone: +351 22 6196286
- Email: gdelgado@ucp.pt

Biotechnology faculty contact

Prof. João Paulo Ferreira (Erasmus Coordinator)

Email: jpferreira@ucp.pt

Academic Calendar and Application Process

General Academic Calendar

Event	Fall Semester	Spring Semester
Orientation Session	First week of September	Beginning of February
Beginning of Classes	2nd Week of September	2nd Week of February
Exam Period	After each period (6 weeks)	After each period (6 weeks)

Nomination Procedure

On-line Nomination:

[Nomination Form](#)

Deadline Nomination:

Fall semester: 1st of May

Spring semester: 30th of October

Application Procedure

On-line Application:

[Exchange Student Form](#)

Application documents required:

- Learning Agreement (online at EWP for EU students)
- Copy of passport/ ID card
- 1 photo (JPEG format)
- Official transcript of records
- Copy of health insurance card
- Certificate of English (at least B2 level)
- Health insurance for non-EU students (repatriation included)

Application deadlines:

Fall semester: 15th of May

Spring semester: 15th of November

Study Programmes



Undergraduate Programs

- Bioengineering ([find program](#))
- Microbiology ([find program](#))
- Nutrition Sciences ([find program](#))
- Liberal Sciences ([find program](#))

Courses Language

Bachelor degrees - a list of English available courses will be provided.

Master degrees are in English.

It is mandatory the B2 Proficiency Level in English



Master's Programs

- Food Engineering([find program](#))
- Biomedical Engineering ([find program](#))
- Applied Microbiology ([find program](#))
- Biotechnology and Innovation ([find program](#))
- Science in Sustainable Food Systems Engineering, Technology and Business ([find program](#))
- Biotechnology for the Bioeconomy ([find program](#))



PhD Programs

- Biotechnology ([find program](#))
- Science and Technology in Food and Nutrition ([find program](#))

Learning Expectations

Attendance: Attendance is expected, and in some courses, it's mandatory for your final grade.

Grading: The university uses a 20-point scale (0-20), with 10 being the minimum passing grade. The table below shows how ECTS points correspond to this scale:

ECTS Grade	Approximate Percentage of Students Achieving Grade	Description
A	Top 10%	Highest marks (18-20)
B	Next 25%	Marks in the range of (15-17)
C	Next 30%	Marks in the range of (12-14)
D	Next 25%	Marks in the range of (10-11)
E	Bottom 10%	Lowest marks (0-9)

Course Load: 30 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System)

Portuguese courses



Introduction to Portuguese Language and Culture

- To discover Portugal and its culture
- To discover the Portuguese cultural presence and heritage all over the world
- To promote the interaction with the Portuguese culture in a conscious and lucid way
- To consider different ideas and concepts
- To promote the Portuguese language learning
- Credits : 5 ECTS
- Contact hours: 30
- No fee for Erasmus+ or bilateral cooperation agreements



Portuguese as a Foreign Language

- Develop basic skills in the use of Portuguese - verbal and written.
- Diploma awarding Level: A1 or A2 (based on the Common European Framework)
- Credits : 2,5 ECTS - can be recognized by the sending institution, but comes in a separate certificate from the rest of the courses taken
- Contact hours: 54
- Has a fee of 100€

Living Costs and Health Insurance

Approximate Monthly Expenses

For detailed information on living costs in Porto, please visit:
[Living Cost | Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Porto \(ucp.pt\)](#)

Health Insurance

Health insurance is compulsory for all exchange students. For more information, please visit: [Health Issues | Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Porto \(ucp.pt\)](#)



Visa Information and Accommodation



Visa Information

For detailed information on visa requirements and application process, please visit: [Visa | Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Porto \(ucp.pt\)](https://www.ucp.pt/en/visas)



Accommodation

For information on housing options and assistance, please visit: [Accommodation | Universidade Católica Portuguesa - Porto \(ucp.pt\)](https://www.ucp.pt/en/accommodation)

Arrival Information

Arrival Location

Airport Francisco Sá Carneiro

[Click here](#)

Pick-up Assistance

Yes, pick-up assistance is available if arrival is on a previously confirmed date.

Transport Provided By

Buddy Students – transport provided

Why Live in Porto?



Affordable Cost of Living

Compared to other European cities, Porto offers a lower cost of living, especially for housing and food.



Rich Culture and History

Explore historic neighborhoods, stunning architecture, and world-class museums.



Delicious Gastronomy

Indulge in traditional Portuguese cuisine, renowned for its fresh seafood and flavorful dishes.

Why Live in Porto?



Beautiful Scenery

Enjoy the scenic Douro River, charming parks, and nearby beaches.



Douro Valley

Explore the breathtaking Douro Valley just a short trip from the City



Stunning Beaches and Surfing

Enjoy the nearby beaches and experience the thrill of surfing.

Why Live in Porto?



World-Famous Port Wine

Visit the renowned Port wine cellars located in Gaia Pier on the Douro River



Vibrant Student Life

Experience a lively student community with numerous clubs, societies, and events.



Vibrant Nightlife

Porto's nightlife is diverse, ranging from cozy bars to lively clubs.



Additional Resources and Conclusion

The University of Porto offers many resources and support services for exchange students. We help with academics, housing, and health insurance to make your stay easier and more enjoyable.

If you have questions, contact the International Office or the Biotechnology department. We are committed to helping international students.

We welcome you to our Porto campus. Enjoy great academics, Portuguese culture, and our hospitality.