

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Project of University of Madeira

The University of Madeira, which shall have the freedom defining its very own objectives as well as its educational and research programmes, is a centre for creating, transmitting, reviewing and disclosing culture, science and technology at the service of mankind, respecting all fundamental human rights.

(Article 2 of the University of Madeira Statutes)

Preamble

In compliance with the University's mission and the first paragraph of Article 40 of Law n.62/2007 of the 10th September (Judicial Regime of the Higher Education Institutions), this reference document sets out the guidelines for PECC - the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Project of the University of Madeira. This project consists of a set of guidelines that contributes towards the development and consolidation of a more dynamic educational, scientific and cultural community with the active participation of the whole academy.

Education

The University of Madeira offers high quality education, supported by rigorous internal and external quality measurements, to continuously improve the performance of all those involved in the teaching-learning process. The educational plan enhances students' overall education and academic dialogue between different knowledge areas, guided towards an interdisciplinary perspective on study, analysis, knowledge and the indispensable entrepreneurial spirit in order to positively contribute towards society and ease the process of entering the job market.

Educational Offer

The educational offer at the University of Madeira is continuously being updated, developed and assessed by the academic community and members of society, represented at the Employment and Training Observatory. The aim is to ensure necessary excellence and provide adequate opportunities for professional practice, as well as a guaranteed sense of flexibility, opportunity, dynamism, coher-

ence and relevance. The regular study plans of the educational offer are designed considering the intended educational objectives whilst seeking a balance between core training, cross-sectional skills and knowledge in specific subject areas. This encompasses non-graded higher education short courses (Higher Professional Technical Courses), undergraduate degrees (1st Cycle of Studies) and postgraduate degrees (2nd and 3rd Cycle of Studies) in addition to non-awarding degree postgraduate programmes.

Higher Professional Technical Courses

The Higher Professional Technical Courses narrow down, in a coordinated manner, the relationship between the University of Madeira and the job market, meeting the needs of students who intend to pursue their secondary school studies via a more vocational and professional option. It is also a way to meet the demands of educating professionals who improve their qualifications by acquiring new skills that increase productivity levels in the working context, in addition to the possibility of proceeding with their studies at a higher level.

These courses configure the educational offer in a way that enables students to integrate professional training of Level 4 and 5 of secondary school and continue to Level 6 as an undergraduate. .

1st and 2nd Cycle of Studies

The principles expressed in the Bologna Declaration determine a harmonious integration of different study cycles, geared towards the academic and professional goals and accomplishments, thus making them more appealing, which in turn promotes student and teacher mobility within the European Space of Higher Education. The 1st and 2nd cycle of studies offer students different alternatives and educational routes, respecting their interests and skills, by offering a range of options that will allow students to create different life or professional Projects. The 1st cycle of studies fosters a solid learning foundation of a global nature within the different knowledge areas. The 2nd cycle of studies contributes towards the specialization of an educational route, meeting university graduates' needs of scientific or professional nature and providing mobility between different knowledge areas.

3rd Cycle of Studies

The 3rd cycle of studies provides students with further training through a set of organized educational and research activities. The 3rd cycles reinforce the connection between education and research, with the view of going beyond the boundaries of knowledge in the search for answers to key issues in present-day society.

Other Degrees and training projects

The University of Madeira contributes to the strengthening of active citizenship, of social cohesion and personal fulfilment, in an effort of consolidation of the advances of several fields of knowledge, as a way to transform today's society in a real society of knowledge.

There is an academic offer directed to non-traditional audiences, including those with social, familiar, professional and academic expectations that are different from those candidates coming from secondary school. These degrees have a more immediate facet, answering to the increasing demand of life-long learning, and of new knowledge and skills.

Pedagogical Practice

UMa (University of Madeira) critically adopts new pedagogical, didactic and assessment methods to face new demands in the creation and consolidation of teaching-learning communities which promote the gradual increase of students' autonomy in the process of knowledge creation.

In addition to this, the assessment of students' knowledge, skills, capabilities and attitudes is directly linked to the educational objectives, where groups of interest are expected to participate for a critical analysis of the results, and to the promotion of a culture of quality.

UMa provides several educational initiatives to its teaching staff, via the Academic Development Centre, creating a space where current and innovative teaching strategies are presented, providing optimal conditions for teachers to carry out their duties.

Scientific Research

Research at UMa prioritizes a rigorous and permanent expansion of the boundaries of knowledge, based on the establishment and development of projects, groups, lines and centres of research. We promote and foster the collaboration of research groups with the national and international scientific community, contributing towards solving problems of the global community. UMa promotes the

convergence between research and teaching, especially in the 2nd and 3rd cycle of studies in all knowledge areas, based on methodological rigour, critical analysis, depth of argument and intellectual freedom.

Culture

The University of Madeira plays an essential role in the cultural development and projection of the region. It is rooted in the promotion of local traditions and heritage, and in raising awareness of the globalization process of culture in real and virtual contexts.

One of the university's bodies created for such purposes, the Council of Culture, contemplates the initial objectives established upon its creation, as the development of the cultural component of training through initiatives which seek the cultural promotion of the academy and the local community. Inspired by an extended concept of culture, the University of Madeira seeks to foster cultural manifestations and creations that ensure communication, inter-cultural dialogue, mobilization and active participation of several sectors in society.