



Universidade do Minho
Escola de Ciências

Scientific Council Information Note nº 01/2024

The Scientific Council of the School of Sciences, at its meeting on June 12, defined the following guiding principles to be taken into consideration when analyzing the processes for recognizing foreign degrees:

For all processes:

- The jury must include the UMinho course director, for which recognition has been requested;
- The jury must confirm that the documents received leave no doubt as to the authenticity of the diplomas presented and, if necessary, they must request support from the Academic Processes Office (GPA). If necessary, the jury may also request additional information from the same service on the detailed contents of the course under analysis to allow it to verify the level of compliance with the criteria set out below regarding the equivalence of diplomas.
- Observe the requirements that, in light of the Academic Regulations of the University of Minho (RAUM) in force, constitute a First Cycle, Second Cycle or Third Cycle course.
- Whether favorable or unfavorable, the jury must justify its decision so that the result does not raise doubts to the applicant. To do this, it must also be based on the applicable legislation, and the guidelines set out below, taking into account the specificity of the training, its type and level, when applicable.

In the “level recognition” processes for the Bachelor or Master degree:

In addition to observing the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018, in particular with regard to “*...comparability, on an individual basis, a foreign higher education degree or diploma as having a level corresponding to an academic degree or Portuguese higher education diploma*”, the jury must verify that:

- The total duration of all undergraduate and postgraduate courses taken by the applicant abroad must be at least 6 undergraduate semesters and 4 postgraduate semesters;
- The total number of hours completed by the applicant on the undergraduate or postgraduate course carried out abroad must be, at least, equivalent to the number of total hours of the course/degree for which recognition is requested, that is, the equivalent of the load scheduled timetable for undergraduate (180 ECTS) or postgraduate (120 ECTS) courses;
- In the case of a request for level recognition for a course typically with an experimental component in Portuguese higher education, the undergraduate and postgraduate course taken by the applicant abroad must also have an equivalent experimental component;
- In the case of a master's degree, the dissertation that was defended by the applicant at the foreign institution must have, at least, the same requirements as those usually required by the direction of the UMinho course for which recognition has been requested.

In the “specific recognition processes” for the degree of Bachelor or Master:

In addition to observing the provisions of Decree-Law no. 66/2018, in particular with regard to “...*case-by-case analysis of the level, duration and programmatic content, in a given training area, branch of knowledge or specialty*”, the jury must verify that:

- The contents of the main scientific area(s) of the UMinho degree must be equivalent, at least 80%, to the contents taught in the foreign course;
- The contents of other scientific areas of the UMinho degree must be at least 50% equivalent to the contents taught in the foreign course;
- The total duration of all undergraduate and postgraduate courses taken by the applicant abroad must be at least 6 undergraduate semesters and 4 postgraduate semesters;
- In the case of a master's degree, the dissertation that was defended by the applicant at the foreign institution must have, at least, the same requirements as those usually required by the direction of the UMinho course for which recognition has been requested.

In the level and specific recognition processes for the doctoral degree at ECUM

- The foreign course must have a minimum duration of six curricular semesters, and never shorter than the course for which specific recognition is requested.
- The doctoral thesis must present originality, quality and impact equivalent to that required for doctorates defended at the University of Minho, and highlight the specificity inherent to the course for which specific recognition is requested;
- Additionally, the thesis that was defended by the applicant at the foreign institution must have, at least, the same requirements as those required in the UMinho Academic Regulations for the award of the Doctorate Degree:

“The doctoral degree is awarded to those who demonstrate:

- a) Ability to systematically understand a scientific field of study;*
- b) Skills, abilities and research methods associated with a scientific field;*
- c) Ability to conceive, design, adapt and carry out significant research respecting the demands imposed by academic quality and integrity standards;*
- d) Have carried out a significant body of original research work that has contributed to expanding the frontiers of knowledge, part of which deserves national or international dissemination in publications with a recognized selection committee;*
- e) Ability to critically analyze, evaluate and synthesize new and complex ideas;*
- f) Ability to communicate with their peers, with the rest of the academic community and with society in general about the area in which they specialize;*
- g) Ability to, in a knowledge-based society, promote, in an academic or professional context, technological, social or cultural progress. “*