

euroFINESCO

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Relocating to Portugal

Access to Education

by

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Portugal

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Access to Education
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ACCESS TO EDUCATION

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I.	Introduction.	7
II.	Enrollments.	9
III.	Timetables.	11
IV.	Support.	12
V.	General Information.	13
VI.	Learning difficulties.	14
VII.	Equivalent Academic Levels.	15
VIII.	Responsibilities of the Parents and the School.	16
IX.	Study plans.	17
X.	Senior Universities.	19
XI.	International Schools	20
XI.	Useful contacts.	23
XI.	Other eBooks from euroFINESCO.	24

Note from the author

This eBook is an extract of the complete work
“Relocating to Portugal - Useful Information”

Other chapters include:

- Visas and Legal Framework
- Marriage and Cohabitation
- Your Rights to Medical Care
- Access to Education
- Recognition of Qualifications
- Social Security Entitlements
- Acquiring Portuguese Citizenship
- Portuguese Tax Codes
- Golden Residence Permit

Copies are available through the offices of **euroFINESCO**



At **euroFINESCO**, we take pride in being a frontrunner in fiscal and expatriate services in Portugal, playing a leading role in interpreting Portuguese fiscal legislation as plain English for the foreign resident community since 1991.

PORTUGUESE TAXATION

- *IRS* - Individual Income Tax Returns
- *IRC* - Tax Preparation for Portuguese Nominee Companies as well as Non-Resident Companies
- Fiscal Residency Transitions to Portugal
- Fiscal Representation for Non-Resident Individuals
- Fiscal Representation for Companies

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- International Tax Reconciliation
- Compliance Issues

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- Rates Exemptions
- Fiscal Numbers
- Medical Cards

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We can help expatriates launch new businesses in Portugal:

- Choosing the right structure
- Accountancy Services
- Social Security & VAT
- Local Lodging Plan

ACCESS TO EDUCATION

I. INTRODUCTION

When foreign nationals move to Portugal, it is important that families understand the new educational context that prevails in Portugal. Parents with school age children will want to open the doors of opportunity. Through cooperation between the school and families, they will hopefully succeed in becoming fully integrated into Portuguese society.

All parents want their children to learn, find success and happiness. They hope that school will prepare the child to be a part of society as a responsible and active citizen. School can and should help the family in such an important task as educating its children, but this will only be possible if the school and the family work together. To work together, they must know each other.

This chapter, therefore, provides useful information for immigrant parents to become more familiar with the school system in this country and so, more closely follow their children's progress.

Do my children have the right to education?

Yes, your children have the same right to education as any Portuguese child. The Interministerial Working Group, within the Office of the High Commissioner for Immigration and Ethnic Minorities, published a Resolution in February 2000 for children without papers, with the following recommendations:

1. That all children and adolescents, even those without papers, have the right to enroll in a school and to re-enroll as necessary;

2. That all their academic results be published, for all scholastic and legal intents and purposes, under the same conditions as any other student;
3. That they have equal rights to take examinations (including national examinations) with a view to furthering their education without discrimination;
4. That they have the right to transit from one year or cycle (“*ciclo*”) to another, according to each individual case, without provisional effects or suspension, irrespective of their situation in the country;
5. That socio-educational support be guaranteed without discrimination through the presentation of evidence as required by the general guidelines for the analysis and processing of data of the bulletins for candidature to subsidies, studies and exemptions from fees;
6. That in the absence of documents proving academic qualifications or the non-feasibility in obtaining them, the applicant may exceptionally request authorisation, by soundly-based means, that a document be substituted by a declaration, issued on the applicant’s word of honour, that indicates the studies concluded. This should be accompanied by a declaration issued by an accredited diplomatic mission in Portugal or by a competent reception centre related to the country of origin. The applicant will have to take an examination in accordance with his claim.
7. Diplomas and certificates of the studies concluded must be issued by the school.

II. ENROLLMENTS

When should I enroll my child?

The first enrollment is compulsory when the child reaches six years of age before 15 September. This is done between the beginning of January and 31 May at the school nearest the Parents / Guardian's residence or the area where they work. Re-enrollment takes place at the end of each school year.

Can I enroll my child outside this time window?

Schools accept Enrollments at any time of the year for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd cycles of primary education with a written request from the child's Parent / Guardian. Enrollment for secondary education can also be accepted with the payment of a supplementary fee and depending on vacancies.

What if the child needs to change schools during the year?

The transfer of students is generally not allowed during the school year in primary or secondary school, except for special reasons duly reviewed by the executive board / pedagogical board and in accordance with the express and soundly-based will of the child's parent/guardian or the student when an adult, or in the event of a change of residence or choosing an optional or specific discipline. Students that have not requested a change of school can only be transferred to different schools or groups of schools after the Parent / Guardian or the student (when an adult) has been heard and through a soundly based agreement between the executive boards of the respective schools or groups of schools or, through a second hearing, through authorisation of the relevant regional educational board.

What documents are necessary for enrollment?

- The child's "cédula" (a type of ID card the child has until school age), identity card or passport or a certificate from the embassy of the country of the child's origin
- A correctly completed enrollment form with a photograph. This is supplied by the school and if you have difficulty in filling in the form a member of the school staff will help you.
- The vaccination book, health centre card and a "connection form", which is filled in by the Health Centre and allows the immediate detection of visual and hearing problems. It is therefore essential that you register at the Health Centre.
- If you have difficulty in acquiring these documents, explain your problem to the school.

In which school should I enroll my child?

You should enroll your child in the school of the area where you live or, if it is easier for you, in the area where you work.

Can the school refuse the enrollment?

The school in the area where the Parents / Guardian reside or where they work can only refuse the enrollment if the child is over 15 years of age or if there are no vacancies at the school. In this case the school will try to find the student a place in another school in the area.

If I am residing without authorisation can my children be enrolled and attend school?

All children, whatever their situation in the eyes of the law of the country receiving them, have the right to education, i.e. the right to attend school and enjoy all the benefits like any other child.

All foreign nationals that are minors, illegal, under the minimum age permitted by law to be able to sign a work contract, dependent on their family, have the same educational rights attributed to minors legally registered in the country. This right is enshrined in Decree-Law n° 67/2204 of 25 March

.III. TIMETABLES

What are the school timetables?

1st cycle - grades 1 to 4

Students have 25 hours of lessons per week. Classes begin at 9.00 am and end at 3.30 pm, with an interval in the middle of the morning and at lunch. However, some schools work in shifts. In this case, the student will have classes from 8.00 am till 1.00 pm or from 1.15 pm till 6.15 pm. You can choose either shift, and the school will try to respect your choice.

2nd and 3rd cycles - grades 5 to 6 and 7 to 9, respectively

Students have approximately 30 hours of classes weekly mainly in the morning or afternoon.

Does the school have extra-curricular activities?

1st cycle

Almost all schools have extra-curricular activities as a back-up to normal lessons (English, information technology, music and physical education), as decreed by the Ministry of Education. Extra-curricular activities (“*ATL*”) are sometimes offered privately and are not free of charge.

2nd and 3rd cycles

Schools frequently offer activities in the 2nd and 3rd cycles, sometimes in the form of clubs (Environment, Europe, Photography, etc.) and sporting activities. These activities are optional and free of cost but have a limited timetable (usually two or three hours per week).

IV. SUPPORT

Do schools provide lunch?

Most schools have a canteen and provide meals. The student pays €1.46 for lunch, which may be partially or totally subsidised. The price changes every year in accordance with legislation.

Are there food subsidies?

You must fill in a form at the school in order to request economic aid, supplying information from Social Security regarding the family's income. According to this income you may have the right to a partial or total subsidy. Free milk is provided daily to all students of the 1st cycle.

Are there subsidies for school books?

The information provided in the form mentioned above will also determine whether you have the right to a partial or total subsidy for books and other school material.

V. GENERAL INFORMATION

May I visit the school?

Yes, at any time. Speak to the school board and ask for the necessary information.

To whom should I speak?

The school board will answer your questions and direct you to any other body if necessary.

May I speak to my child's teacher?

The parents should always speak to the child's teacher whenever he or she has an urgent concern or need. You may do this in person, by telephone or through a message written in your child's exercise book in the 1st cycle. In the 2nd and 3rd cycles you can write a message in your child's register or speak to the class director. In secondary school, you must speak to the class director if the student is under 18 years of age.

Is there a timetable for teachers to receive parents?

There is only one teacher per class in the 1st cycle. He or she will schedule a time every week in order to speak to parents.

Classes in the 2nd and 3rd cycles have more than one teacher, so the contact is made through the class director. Parents and teachers can exchange views about the school, classes and a child's behaviour and progress. If it is not possible to speak to the class director at the time he usually receives parents, request another meeting. ***What happens when a student has difficulties with Portuguese?***

Schools have special activities for teaching Portuguese as a second language. Attendance is compulsory and does not exempt the child from attending normal classes in Portuguese. If necessary, the school can offer its premises to promote the teaching of Portuguese as a second language.

VI. LEARNING DIFFICULTIES

My child has learning difficulties. What should I do?

If you see that your child is different from his or her siblings and the children around him/her (hearing or sight impairment, difficulty in speaking or learns very slowly) ask his teacher to pay special attention to him/her and then take him/her to your family doctor.

Is there special support inside or outside the school?

Some children need a different approach and more attention. These children are part of a class and work with their colleagues, but besides their class teacher they may have specific support from a specialised teacher who will help to find the most suitable way to teach the child and help him with his difficulties.

VII. EQUIVALENT ACADEMIC LEVELS

If my child has attended school in the country of origin how can I obtain evidence of attendance? You should present the school with a certificate stamped by the Portuguese Embassy in the student's country of origin or from the Consulate of his country in Portugal. The student will be placed in a class and can immediately begin attending classes in accordance with the level he has reached. The certificates must be translated into Portuguese.

VIII. RESPONSIBILITIES OF PARENTS AND THE SCHOOL

In collaboration with the parents and the community, the school has the duty to stimulate the child's harmonious development in both curricular and extra-curricular activities.

The parents have the duty to actively follow their child's school life by keeping in constant contact with his teachers so as to be aware of the child's progress and problems.

IX. STUDY PLANS

What subjects will my child study?

The primary school curriculum is organised in two main areas:

- Curricular subject areas
- Non-curricular subject areas (personal and social education)

All the curricular subject areas are integrated and organised so as to develop general and specific abilities such as: research, select and organise information/data, or cooperate with others in tasks and common projects.

Citizenship education is included in all areas. The non-subject areas are common to all three cycles:

- Projects Area
- Accompanied Study
- Civic Training
- Moral and Religious Education (attendance optional)

The subject areas vary with each cycle

1st cycle - grades 1 to 4

Portuguese Language
Mathematics
Environmental studies
Artistic and Kinetic Expression

2nd cycle - grades 5 to 6

Portuguese Language
A Foreign Language
Portuguese History and Geography
Mathematics
Natural Sciences
Visual and Technological Education
Musical Education
Physical Education

3rd cycle - grades 7 to 9

Portuguese Language

Foreign Language I

Foreign Language II

History

Geography

Mathematics

Natural Sciences

Physics – Chemistry

Artistic Education

Technological Education

Physical Education

Optional subjects (Information Technologies, for example)

If I encounter difficulties in getting access to education and health what should I do?

You should contact the Office of the High Commissioner for Immigration and Intercultural Dialogue (ACID, I.P.) and explain your difficulties. A national register of foreign minors that are in the country illegally has been created. This register is exclusively to ensure that minors enjoy the benefits of health care and nursery and school education.

It is the responsibility of ACID, I.P. to guarantee that the registered minors enjoy the same rights that the law attributes to legally registered minors in Portugal. ACID, I.P. is also responsible for the gathering, the treatment and the maintenance of the data gathered.

X. SENIOR UNIVERSITIES

The first Senior Universities appeared in Portugal in 1978 and today have grown in number to over 225 serving 30,000 students with over 4,000 voluntary professors.

They work with a three-fold objective. First and foremost is learning. In a country where traditionally there has been only limited access to higher education, many seniors now have the opportunity to pursue their interests and ambitions in an accessible, low-key fashion.

Secondly, seniors form new social bonds in constructive and creative community activities that bring together those that otherwise are vulnerable to isolation and loneliness.

Finally, Senior Universities promote a concept of *active ageing*. Given the ever-increasing growth in life expectancy, those achieving retirement now have the opportunity to expand their horizons and find new ways to self-realisation as well as contributing to family and society.

For more information, contact:

RUTIS - *Associação Rede de Universidades da Terceira Idade*
(Association Network of Senior Universities)

Rua Conde da Taipa, 40

2080-069 Almeirim

Mobile: 962 691 791 or 917 098 839

Tel: 243 593 206

Fax: 243 593 505

e-mail: [rutis @ rutis.pt](mailto:rutis@rutis.pt) / [dulce @ rutis.pt](mailto:dulce@rutis.pt)

facebook: www.facebook.com/rutis.pt

XI. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

For an international education environment, schools can be found throughout the country, attended by Portuguese and foreign students. At these schools, students may study international programs such as the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) programme, or the British GCSE and GCE examinations.

Porto, North and Centre Portugal

The Oporto British School

tel. (+351) 226 166 660 | www.obs.edu.pt

Escola Alemã do Porto

tel. (+351) 226 076 570

CLIP – Colégio Luso Internacional do Porto

tel. (+351) 226 199 160 | www.clip.pt

Colégio Luso-Francês

tel. (+351) 228 347 150 | www.lusofrances.com.pt

Colégio Luso-Internacional do Centro

tel. (+351) 244 503 710 | www.clic.edu.pt

Lisbon Region

The Cascais International School

tel. (+351) 214 846 260 | www.icsc.pt

St. George's School

tel. (+351) 214 661 774

St. Julian's School

tel. (+351) 214 585 300 | www.stjulians.com

Carlucci American International School of Lisbon

tel. (+351) 219 239 800 | www.caislisbon.org

Boa Ventura Montessori

tel. (+351) 214 688 023 | www.boaventuramontessori.com

International School of Palmela

tel. (+351) 212 110 530 | www.cip.edu.pt/

International Preparatory School

tel. (+351) 214 570 149 | www.ipsschool.org

St. Dominic's International School

tel. (+351) 214 440 434 | www.dominics-int.org

St. Peter's School

tel. (+351) 212 336 990 | www.st-peters-school.com

Escola Alemã de Lisboa

tel. (+351) 217 510 260 | www.dslissabon.com

Liceu Francês

tel. (+351) 213 871 218 | www.lfcl-lisbonne.eu

Algarve

The International School of Algarve

tel. (+351) 282 342 547 |

www.internationalschoolofthealgarve.com

Escola Internacional São Lourenço

tel. (+351) 289 398 328 | www.eisl-pt.org

International College of Vilamoura

tel. (+351) 289 303 288

Penina College

tel. (+351) 282 417 805

Barlavento English School

tel. (+351) 282 789 206

Vale Verde International School

tel. (+351) 282 697 205 | www.vvis.org

Colégio Santiago Internacional

tel. (+351) 281 328 677 | www.csi-tavira.com

Aljezur International School

Tel. (+351) 282 997 407 | www.aljezur-international.org

Madeira

The British School

tel. (+351) 291 773 218 | www.britishschoolmadeira.com

The International School of Madeira

tel. (+351) 291 225 870 |

www.madeira-international-school.com

XII. OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Ministry of Education's Information and Public
Relations Office (CIREP)

Av. 5 de Outubro, 107

1069-018 Lisboa

Tel: 21 793 16 03 Fax:21 796 41 19

e-mail: cirep@min-edu.pt

Internet

<http://www.min-edu.pt>

Foreign Nationals and Border Control Service (SEF)

Headquarters

Rua Conselheiro José Silvestre de Ribeiro, 4

1649-007 Lisboa

Tel.: 21 711 50 00

Internet

<http://www.sef.pt>

email: sef@sef.pt

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- 6) Portuguese Tax Code Summaries
- 7) “VPT” Unveiled
- 8) Tax-Efficient Investing in Portuguese Property
- 9) Income from Portuguese Property
- 10) Taxation on Portuguese Property
- 11) “S.C.I.”: *Sociedade Civil Imobiliária*
- 12) Property Companies: *White-List or Portugal*
- 13) Nominee Companies for Portuguese Property
- 14) Fiscal Representation in Portugal
- 15) “Permutas” or Property Swaps
- 16) Estate Planning & Nominee Companies
- 17) “I.H.T.” – Residence Rules & Determining Domicile
- 18) Moving to Portugal – *before, during & after*
- 19) Taxation of Pensions in Portugal
- 20) “I.R.S.” Tax Credits
- 21) CGT Mitigation: *14 Arrows in the Quiver*
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