



**MINISTÉRIO DA CIÊNCIA, TECNOLOGIA E ENSINO SUPERIOR**  
*Gabinete da Secretária de Estado da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior*

## **Month of Portugal in US**

### **Day 1**

#### **Study & Research in Portugal**

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#### **Why Portugal? Why Study & Research in Portugal?**

The Portuguese Government acknowledges the prevailing role of higher education institutions and research centers as places for knowledge production and sharing. By spurring innovation, they contribute towards social, cultural and economic development. That's why Portugal launched an initiative called Study & Research in Portugal, that illustrates the country's commitment to knowledge, creativity and innovation.

We believe that Portugal is the right place to learn and do science, a unique place to live and share good memories.

- With Europe's oldest political borders, Portugal is the perfect place to overcome new frontiers of knowledge. From fifteenth-century challenges and voyages that brought the world together, we now look at the future to face artificial intelligence ventures.
- We usually say that here you can feel a country with a human scale, and caring people, that will introduce you to tradition and modernity.
- Portugal hosts world heritage, contemporary culture and democracy, a place for freedom and citizenship, aiming to help you to acquire more knowledge, by living well and experiencing the territory.
- The sea, the mountains and the beaches; the castles and the streets, all of these will be your living labs for science, culture, creativity and knowledge.

Let me address with further details these reasons:

#### Quality learning

- Portugal's oldest university dates from 1290 and is the ninth oldest university in the world.
- In recent years, Portuguese Higher Education Institutions feature in world top rankings, offering quality education and innovative learning experiences.



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- Driven by accuracy, curiosity, and a learn-by-doing approach for knowledge, partnering with a wide range of international Higher Education Institutions and Research Centers, such as the MIT, CMU, Austin Texas, our institutions and researchers are recognized and respected worldwide.

Research for the future

- Portugal is running cutting edge international research centres and infrastructures, exploring forefront knowledge fields, from social sciences, to engineering or life sciences.
- Together with Higher Education Institutions, these promote research and knowledge exchange for a better understanding of the world.

Connecting the World

- In the last five years, the number of foreign students in Portuguese Higher Education Institutions increased by 115%. Thousands of foreign students and researchers of over 200 nationalities contribute to a diverse ecosystem. Many academic courses and programmes are conducted in English.
- When living in Portugal you can have a real European adventure or hop on a direct flight to many locations in the world, and still feel at home.

Travelling for knowledge

- Portugal is an old European country with a rich history of travellers, which has shaped the world as we know it today.
- Understanding the future is a challenge. Portuguese Higher Education Institutions and Research Centres understand crossing knowledge as a way of breaking down barriers for opening up to new paths to progress and modernity.

Learn Portuguese

- Portuguese language is the 4th most spoken language in the world. And the most spoken language in the Southern Hemisphere. Portuguese is also the 5th language with the highest number of users in the Internet and official or working language in 32 international organizations.
- Living in Portugal is a fun, effective way to learn and explore the language, culture, economy, and history of 261 million people spread across the globe.

All for Knowledge and for all

- It is a core aim of the XXI Constitutional Government Programme, in compliance with the Portuguese Constitution, that «everyone has the right to education with a guarantee of the right to equal opportunities for school access and success», and it is the responsibility



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*Gabinete da Secretária de Estado da Ciência, Tecnologia e Ensino Superior*

of the State «to guarantee to all citizens, according to their abilities, the access to higher education, scientific research and artistic creation».

- We believe in a world with more science and more knowledge, because we believe that science and knowledge are essential to a society that is better informed and more aware of the world it lives in. And these are essential conditions to a more human, a more democratic society in which well-being is commonly shared.
- Moreover, we believe that science, knowledge, culture, are a greater good and, more than that, that knowledge is a public good; it belongs to everybody and it should be assured to everybody.
- We also believe that knowledge is essential and that its promotion should be a central issue and therefore assumed as such, as we consider that knowledge must play a central role in public policies.
- On the other hand, we consider that society in general and the communities that are associated to the production and curation of knowledge should have a responsible and fundamental role in the promotion, valorisation, dissemination and share of knowledge.
- In brief, we consider that knowledge belongs to all of us and is for all of us.
- Scientific knowledge is a public asset, which should be inclusive, accessible and available to the benefit of all. Open Science practices bring together science and society. Together with digital resources, there are now opportunities for co-creation of knowledge and real sharing.
- We have a national policy for open science, with the commitment of all of our HEI; their digital repositories provide open access not only for articles and scientific publications but also for scientific data; The orientations of the national policy defines that scientific activity financed by public funds must be on open access, available to scientific and academic communities and for all who are interested.
- But open science is not only open access; and our HEI are also committed and promoting activities of citizen science, open innovation, in a collaborative environment of co-creation with society – that’s the environment that a student or a researcher live in Portugal
- We do believe that studying and researching in Portugal is a way of being involved with society, by doing science with social and scientific responsibility. The role of a HEI must be considered not only in its scientific dimension or purely academic (in the classical sense of the word), but also because it integrates this scientific mission in its social and civic commitment.
- Institutions are valorised and reinforce their positioning as structured intervention networks in society, benefiting from the presence in **international networks of knowledge sharing and transfer**, more or less formalized, as we have in the US.

Creativity and innovation at all scales



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- Portugal's Higher Education Institutions are greatly connected and the country encourages innovation in general. Not only its infrastructures but also its partnerships with entrepreneurial organizations promote creativity and future thinking.
- Several products and start-ups, which are recognized across the world, were incubated in a stimulating Higher Education Institution environment, in Portugal. Here is the place to create and experiment.

### Sports and Culture

- Portuguese Higher Education Institutions host hundreds of clubs and associations that foster sports, arts and cultural activities which allow you to meet people who are excited about sharing their interests.
- The country is ideal for outdoor activities. Its beaches are ideal for surfing, sailing, and swimming, while the interior holds stunning landscapes for hiking or cycling.
- If it is arts and culture you are interested in, music, literature or drama, you're sure to find a cosmopolitan atmosphere. Many music and cinema festivals, book fairs, museums, theatres and other cultural venues across Portugal, offer a diversity of activities and events throughout the whole year.

### People who care for you

- Portugal has an open culture which connects people.
- The country's human scale is reflected in its welcoming, friendly and respectful population, who are famous for an unusual openness and tolerance to diversity and multiculturalism (and keen on speaking in English, too). We are the world's second country with better integration capacity of immigrants.
- Also, it's safe to go around. We are the third most peaceful country in the world.

### Authentic life

- Approximately 3000 hours of sun per year, 850km of sanded beaches, an incredible diversity of natural resources and living landscapes, the heritage of a rich past; All these combined with a worldwide recognized food and wine culture, define Portugal's excellent work-life balance.
- Portugal is also one of the European countries with most affordable quality accommodation and living costs.

### **How it works the higher education and scientific ecosystem**

- The Portuguese higher education system includes public higher education, made up of institutions belonging to the State, and private higher education. We are talking about 118 higher education institutions in the whole country: 34 are public.



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Portugal has a binary system. This means, we have two type of higher education institutions:

- Universities
- Polytechnics: it is important to know that 95% of tourism training takes place in these institutions

The regional distribution of higher education in Portugal essentially copies the national urban landscape. The Public Institutions cover the entire national territory, introducing a more dispersed pattern than the Private Institutions that are concentrated in the metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Porto and in the regions with greater population

- Public polytechnics are the HEI's that are more spread throughout the country, being present in 47 different municipalities

It's important to notice that the actual network of HEI appeared to correspond to an unprecedented demand for skills in Portugal (in parallel with what happened in the rest of the world) and that the distribution and size of the demand was (and is) very relevant to democratize access to higher education and to ensure social mobility.

Some facts & figures

- **358 193** Higher Education students
  - **15%** of foreign students
- **307** Funded Research & Development (R&D) Centres
- **309 550** *start-ups* founded between 2007 and 2015
  - **31 000** new *start-ups* / year

**Promoting more internationalization, strengthening the academic and scientific relations with EUA**

Internationalization of higher education, of science and cultural patrimony is openly assumed as an important dimension of the teaching, research and innovation policy promoted by the Portuguese government.

The internationalization process of teaching/learning promotes the growth of the cultural capital of students and teachers, broadens individual horizons and confers a more solid academic and professional preparation. On the other hand, the promotion of a more informed and sustained culture from the scientific point of view, valorises and amplifies its internationalization and appropriation context.

In a society where knowledge is central for development and economic growth, innovation must occur hand in hand with training and, consequently, the qualification of human resources and investment in science. These are the two pre-conditions for heading in the direction of a knowledge-based economy and society.



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The government of science is in the middle of this tension, and we must reflect on how to reconcile this responsibility with the fact that science requires a space of self-government and freedom that is not (or should not be) exclusively submitted to the social relevance or economic interests.

The expectations that society in general and each of us places in science are precisely growing, seeking or even requiring new institutional and regulatory frameworks and the use of instruments, such as evaluation.

We really know that the scientific culture is not politically neutral and will never be neutral. In a democracy, its framework and funding, the vision and the strategy that guide it is the result of the exercise of responsible and active citizenship in which the State holds and in which the State continues to have a fundamental role.

The challenges are many: towards the planet, its sustainability, the responsibility to preserve and value natural resources; the persistence of the education, in all age groups; the need for an inclusive scientific paradigm. Whatever these challenges, science, knowledge, people and institutions that promote it will always be called upon to contribute, and hopefully with freedom and tolerance.

**The role of academic and scientific institutions: from social responsibility to scientific social responsibility**

It is important to recognise the role of higher education institutions as an intervention network central in the vortex of crucial functions such as training, research and social engagement.

Bringing knowledge closer to civil society transfers for the higher education institutions new responsibilities and opportunities, with special emphasis at the level of university extension, reinforcement of research practices, adoption of the territory as a living laboratory of science, culture and knowledge. These objectives of responsible science and research, open and inclusive, also recognised and internationally enshrined, as reflected by the Rome Declaration or more recently, the European strategy for research, teaching and innovation, make possible for higher education institutions renewal contexts of methodological approaches, learning processes and scientific agendas – focus on the concept of “learning with society”.

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As a paradigm, the pursuit of responsible research and innovation purposes is increasingly taking on the need to respond to the societal challenges of the world, in particular through the sharing of knowledge. We need experiences, routes and examples that allow us to collectively answer the question: what happens when we put science in its context, when we open it up to the “public”?



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That's why I think that our academic and scientific institutions should address these challenges and problems with more social responsibility or, more precisely, embedding scientific social responsibility practices.

Scientific social responsibility means connecting accessibility, openness, understanding and engagement; it means to broaden and extend the concept of science, recognising for once and for all that citizenship and science come hand in hand; it means democratising the access to knowledge; it means to democratise the process of knowledge creation.

This is also fundamental for the evolution and renewal of higher education and science production, introducing new methods and new learnings based on a model of collaboration, co-creation and multilateral knowledge transfer, going against the traditional paradigm of unilateral knowledge transfer.

It's always important to state that we need HEI engaged with society, territories and people; we need to build new learning environments based on the idea of "learning with society": free to create and experiment to better educate future generations.

We must face that challenge and assume that commitment in an global way, comprehending knowledge in its universal dimension and facing the challenges and the uncertainties of the world together, in an environment of internationalization and sharing of knowledge, as we may built between us (Portugal and US) - learning together and with each other how to educate the young generations and inspiring them and all of us, assuming science as a driving force to sustainable development, not only for economic growth and prosperity, but also for environmental sustainability, development and social inclusion, contributing to a better world, with more equality, democracy and humanitarianism.

### **So... Why Portugal?**

What makes us different and unique?

#### **Portugal provides an unique inspirational environment for creativity and science Knowledge as a life style**

Portugal is an ancient and immensely beautiful country, with genuine and passionate people. A country with a long history and cultural heritage spread over five continents.

Portugal introduced the "world to the world", widening its limits, paving the way, sowing wisdom and bravery, valuing knowledge and creativity.

### **Now is the time to discover Portugal !**

#### **A country 900 years young**