



ACTION TO CONTROL ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION January 2021

SUMMARY OF THE FINAL REPORT OF THE GENERAL INSPECTION
OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

FUNCHAL, JANUARY 2021

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1. INTRODUCTION

Below we will present a summary of the main findings of the Action to Control Access to Higher Education of the General Inspection of Education and Science conducted in November 2020, concerning the academic year 2019/2020.

2. STUDENTS / COURSES / ACCESS

2.1. INFORMATION ON THE COURSES OF THE SAMPLE

"In this context, a set of 17 files of students who applied for the various applications and access and admission regimes to the 1st cycle courses in 2019-2020 was made available.

The defined sample corresponds to about 29% of the total number of students enrolled and registered in the 1st year and for the 1st time, in the selected courses, in the mentioned academic year."

2.2. VACANCIES

"The institution has established and communicated to DGES the vacancies established for the various applications and regimes, according to the provisions of paragraph b) of Article 14.Q of Decree-Law no. 113/ 2014, of July 16, in its current wording. The dissemination of vacancies to the educational community took place through the institution's website and notices posted in the usual places.

The remaining vacancies of the institutional application for the undergraduate course in Hotel Organization and Management were used in accordance with the provisions of No. 5 of Article 29 of Ordinance No. 218-A/2019, of July 15, as well as No. 2 of Article 5.Q of Order No. 7867-9/2019, of July 24, of MCTES, published in D.R., Series 2, No. 170, September 5."

3. ACCESS TO THE 1ST CYCLE COURSES, INTEGRATED MASTER'S DEGREES, LOCAL APPLICATIONS AND CTSP

3.1. INSTITUTIONAL APPLICATION FOR ACCESS TO THE HIGHER PROFESSIONAL TECHNICAL COURSES (CTSP)

"In addition to ISAL Information Guide, the contents regarding deadlines for applications, entrance exams, prerequisites, documents to be submitted by applicants, tuition and fees, enrollment and registration, and the respective curricular structure are duly publicized on the institution's website."

3.2. SPECIAL APPLICATIONS FOR ACCESS AND ADMISSION

"The application classification of process no. 20190044, candidate holding a diploma of Adult Education and Training Course, Typology C, was not calculated in accordance with the Deliberation no. 1650/2008, of May 30, of the National Commission for Access to Higher Education (Published in D.R. 2nd series, no. 113, of June 13, 2008). This circumstance proved to be innocuous insofar as it would not even alter the student's position on the serialized list.

As a result of consulting the online registration forms of the above candidates, it was possible to verify compliance with the deadlines for registration and

enrolment stipulated in No. 2 of the Article 4 of Ordinance No. 18-A/2019 of July 15."

(...)

"After analyzing the Regulation for the Competency Assessment Tests to Attend Higher Education for Candidates Over 23 Years Old, it appears that it does not reflect the changes introduced by Decree-Law No. 113/2014 of July 16 and Decree-Law No. 63/2016 of September 13.

The Regulation of the Special Application for Access and Admission of International Students to the Study Cycles of the Higher Institute of Administration and Languages does not display the changes made in Decree-Law No. 36/2014, of March 10, republished by Decree-Law No. 62/2018, of August 6, with regard to candidates in emergency situations for humanitarian reasons, not providing, consequently, the possibility of alternative procedures for verification of conditions for access and admission for these candidates."

(...)

"From the analysis of the evaluation grids produced by the Jury it appears that the criteria of seriation of the component "Evaluation of the Candidates' Educational and Professional Curriculum" do not appear to be deep, in order to allow the verification of their correct application.

The applicable Regulation foresees the application of a non-integer numerical scale from 0 to 20 to be assigned to each of the mandatory components of the tests, as well as to the final classification, non-complying with what is determined in Article No. 2 of Decree-Law no. 64/2006, of March 21, in its current wording."

(...)

"In the regime of holders of higher education degrees, both candidates were the only ones who applied.

By consulting the documentation available for the above candidates, it was possible to verify compliance with the deadlines for enrolment and registration stipulated in No. 2 of Article 17 of Decree-Law no. 113/2014, of 16 July, in its current wording.

In the academic year under review there were no applications to the access/admission application for International Students."

3.3. READMISSION AND CHANGE OF INSTITUTION/COURSE PAIR REGIMES

"Article 3 of the Regulation, under the heading "General Conditions for Application" was inappropriate in what concerns the conditions for access/admission required in the current normative framework. Likewise, article 7 regarding the instruction of application processes does not include the requirement to present proof of completion of the entrance examinations set for the course to which the applicant is applying.

However, the analysis of the Notices published on the HEI website shows that the matters referred to in article 25 of Ordinance no. 181-0/2015, of June 19, in its current wording, are defined and publicized."

(...)

"No seriation of candidates was performed due to the fact that they were fewer in number compared to the number of vacancies for the application."

4. CONCLUSIONS

"As a result of the main verification, systematized in the previous chapters of this report, the following conclusions are listed, which are considered relevant because they identify matters and procedures that suggest the need for reflection by the Institution's bodies:

4.1. REGULATIONS

"With regard to the regulations that have been produced by the legally and statutorily competent bodies of ISAL, in the context of the procedures for access and admission, it is noted that:

1. The Regulation of the Competency Assessment Tests to Attend Higher Education for Candidates Over 23 Years Old - Order No. 11932/2014, of September 19, in D.R., 2nd series, No. 185, of September 25, amended and republished by Order No. 15567/2015, of December 1, in D.R., 2nd series, No. 251, of December 24:
 - mentions the numerical scale from 0 to 20, not integer and rounded to hundredths, to be used for the final classification attributed by the jury, contrary to the provisions of Article 11 of Decree-Law No. 64/2006, of 21 March, in its current wording;
 - does not reflect the changes introduced by Decree-Law no. 113/2014, of July 16, and Decree-Law no. 63/2016, of September 13;
2. The Notice of the Special Applications is silent regarding the application by DTSP holders to the undergraduate study cycles taught at ISAL.
3. The Regulation of the Special Application for Access and Admission of International Students to the Study Cycles of the Higher Institute of Administration and Languages - Order No. 14961/2015, of November 27, D.R., 2nd Series, No. 245, of December 16:

- Is silent with regard to candidates in emergency situations for humanitarian reasons and as such does not foresee the possibility of alternative procedures for verification of conditions for access and admission;
4. Regulation for Change of Course, Transfer and Readmission Regimes at ISAL - Order No. 12551/2014, of October 3, published in D.R., 2nd Series, No. 197, of October 13:
- prepared under Ordinance No. 401/2007, of April 5, which is repealed by Ordinance No. 181-0/2015, of June 19, in its current wording;"

4.2. PROCEDURES FOR SELECTION AND SERIATION OF CANDIDATES

"The analysis of the selection and seriation procedures carried out by the different participants, appointed for this purpose by the competent bodies of the Institution, made the following findings:

- **Special Applications**

"The final classification of the application of candidates over 23 years old, inserted in the final list, was not expressed on a numerical integer scale from 0 to 20 values, in non-compliance with the provisions of Decree-Law No. 64/2006, of March 21, in its current wording.

The level of intensification of the criteria, present in the Jury Minute of July 16, 2019, with respect to the component "Assessment of the Candidates' School and Professional Curriculum" does not allow, with accuracy, to assess the correct application of these."

5. RECOMMENDATIONS AND PROPOSALS

"Considering the findings and respective conclusions in the preceding chapters, the inspection team considers that the following recommendations should be addressed to the legally and statutorily competent bodies of ISAL:

1. Conform the Regulation of the Competency Assessment Tests to Attend Higher Education for Candidates Over 23 Years Old with the Decree-Law No. 64/2006 of March 21, as amended by Decree-Law No. 113/2014 of June 16 and Decree-Law No. 63/2016 of September 13;
2. Consider the relevance of preparing material support that reflects the unequivocal application of the criteria and respective weightings in the components of the tests for access to the special application for the candidates over 23 years old;
3. Promote the approval, by the competent bodies of the Institution, of the updating of the rules governing special applications in accordance with Decree-Law no. 113/ 2014, of July 16, in its current wording;
4. Ensure that the Regulation of the Special Application for Access and Admission of International Students to the Study Cycles of the Higher Institute of Administration and Languages includes all the matters provided for in Article 14 of Decree Law No. 36/2014, of 10 March, in its current wording;
5. Proceed to update and publish the regulations for applications for the Readmission, Change of Institution/Course Pair Regimes, in accordance with the stipulations of Ordinance No. 181-D/2015, of June 19, amended by Ordinances No. 305/2016, of December 6, 249-A/2019, of August 5 and, more recently, by Ordinance No. 150/2020, June 22."

6. IMPLEMENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

Concerning the Project Report on the activity of control of access to higher education, the Higher Institute of Administration and Languages sent its statement through an email on November 17, 2020.

- 1. THE ANALYSIS OF THE STATEMENT AND THE DOCUMENTS ATTACHED RESULTS IN THE DECLARATION THAT THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE HAVE BEEN FULLY ACCEPTED AND THAT MEASURES HAVE BEEN TAKEN WITH A VIEW TO THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, NAMELY THE INCLUSION OF THE MATTERS IN QUESTION ON THE AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETINGS OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND PEDAGOGICAL BODIES OF ISAL.**
2. The collaborative and active attitude of the Institution's interlocutors, who manifested themselves as fundamental elements for the development of the inspection action, should be highlighted.
3. Noting the Institution's acceptance of the proposals and recommendations formulated in the Project Report, the team considers the Control Action Report to be consolidated.
4. Therefore, we propose:
 - Under the terms of No. 1 of article 15 of Decree-Law No. 276/2007, of 31 July, that the conclusion of the present action be decided and that the respective Report be sent to the Minister of Science, Technology and Higher Education for homologation;
 - After its homologation, that the Report and respective homologation act be made known to the Instituting Entity, as well as to the Board of the Higher Institute of Administration and Languages, in accordance with terms of No. 5 of article 15 of the aforementioned legal diploma.