

# IPVC WELCOME GUIDE

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

2021/2022



**ipvc**

**Instituto Politécnico  
de Viana do Castelo**

# CONTENTS

## 01 The Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo (IPVC)

- 1.1. IPVC Schools
- 1.2. Courses Offered
- 1.3. Academic Calendar
- 1.4. Grading System

## 02 Admission Requirements

- 2.1. Registration Procedures for Incoming Students – Erasmus EU students, Erasmus International Students and Agreed Mobility
- 2.2. Registration Procedures for International and Non-EU Exchange Students
- 2.3. Mobility and Erasmus Coordinators
- 2.4. Lectures and Schedules
- 2.5. Student Card

## 03 Upon arrival

- 3.1. How to get here
- 3.2. Information for Incoming Exchange Students
- 3.3. Accommodation
- 3.4. Public transport in Viana do Castelo

## 04 First steps to take and things to do upon arrival at the IPVC

- 4.1. The International office
- 4.2. Cultural Facilities at the IPVC
- 4.3. Eating Facilities at the IPVC – Snack bars and Canteens
- 4.4. Health Facilities at the IPVC
- 4.5. Library Facilities at the IPVC
- 4.6. Sports Facilities at the IPVC

## 05 Languages @ the IPVC

- 5.1. Portuguese Languages Courses
- 5.2. Foreign Languages @ the IPVC

# CONTENTS

## 06 Welcome Week

A welcome week for international exchange students

## 07 Compulsory legal procedures for Erasmus and international NON EU students

7.1. Opening a bank account in Portugal

7.2. Medical insurance

7.3. Procedures for NON EU Students

## 08 Before Departure

## 09 General Information about Viana do Castelo and Portugal

## 10 Other useful information

01  
THE POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE  
OF VIANA DO CASTELO (IPVC)



[ipvc.pt](http://ipvc.pt)

# THE IPVC

The Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo (IPVC) is a relatively new higher education institution (founded in 1980) that has developed rapidly over the last few years to become a major provider of higher education in peripheral northern Portugal. Its location in rural northern Portugal has resulted in its developing a clear focus on strategies for regional development.

The main aim of the IPVC is to provide opportunities for quality human, cultural, scientific, technical and professional training. In order to achieve this, there is an emphasis on carrying out relevant research and cooperating with the community, above all with the business sector, in a permanent dialogue and with reciprocal appreciation.

The IPVC has made a tremendous effort in establishing partnerships with other European Institutions and is acknowledged nationally as a leading institution of research and development.

The IPVC has six schools:

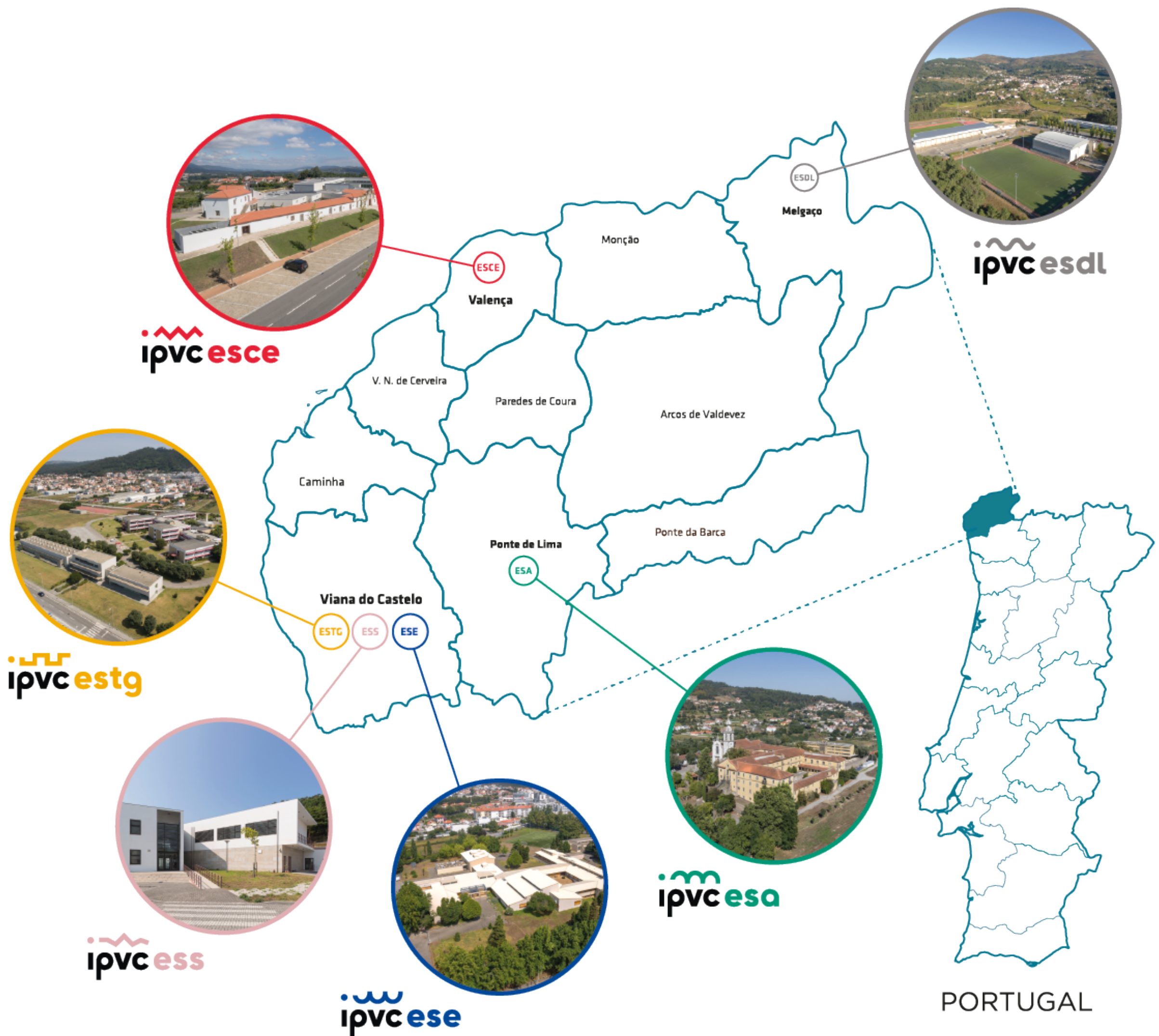
1. Technology and Management;
2. Health;
3. Education;
4. Agrarian
5. Business Sciences;
6. Sport and Leisure

All Schools are experienced and focused on equipping students with the essential background knowledge, analytical skills and strategic thinking that employers highly value in the labor market, be it at a regional, national or international level.

The Polytechnic and its Schools are located in the Alto Minho, also known as the Green Coast, the north-west region of Portugal. The Alto Minho is a region rich in cultural heritage. The Minho River, after which the region was named, forms the natural border between Portugal and the Spanish province of Galicia. Its population density is above the national average (about 300/Km<sup>2</sup>).

# THE IPVC

## 1.1. IPVC SCHOOLS



ESE | Escola Superior de Educação

ESA | Escola Superior Agrária

ESTG | Escola Superior de Tecnologia e Gestão

ESCE | Escola Superior de Ciências Empresariais

ESS | Escola Superior de Saúde

ESDL | Escola Superior de Desporto e Lazer

## 1.2. COURSES OFFERED



## 1.3. ACADEMIC CALENDAR



# THE IPVC

## 1.4. GRADING SYSTEM

### IPVC Grading System

#### IPVC'S GRADING SYSTEM

DESCRIPTION OF THE IPVC'S GRADING SYSTEM			
A	18 - 20	Excellent	Definition: 10 is the pass grade and 20 is the highest grade
B	16 - 17	Very Good	
C	14 - 15	Good	
D	12 - 13	Satisfactory	
E	10 - 11	Sufficient	
FX	8 - 9	Fail	
F	Less than 8	Fail	

#### ECTS GRADING SCALE

ECTS Grade Definition	In relation to the Institutional grading system	% of successful students normally achieving the grade	Definition (only of failing grades)
<b>A excellent</b> - outstanding performance with only minor errors	18 - 20	10%	
<b>B very good</b> - above the average standard with some errors	16 - 17	25%	
<b>C good</b> - generally sound work with a number of notable errors	14 - 15	30%	
<b>D satisfactory</b> - fair but with significant shortcomings	12 - 13	25%	
<b>E sufficient</b> - performance meets the minimum criteria	10 - 11	10%	
<b>FX fail</b> - some more work required before the credit can be awarded	8 - 9	--	FAIL - some more work required before the credit can be awarded
<b>F fail</b> - considerable further work require	Less than 8	--	FAIL - considerable further work is required

02

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS





# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

## 2.1. Registration Procedures for Incoming Students - Erasmus EU students, Erasmus International Students and Agreed Mobility

Each student interested in mobilizing should proceed to registration online at the IPVC site, in specific period for call for applications and follow 2 addresses in order to facilitate the application process.

1. Application rules and Help for application:  
[support center](#)

2. Application platform and courses portfolio:  
<https://on.ipvc.pt>

All Candidates need to read the points 1 and 2 before submit the application.

In this registration form is mandatory to upload, filled and scanned documents (ID Card, photo, learning agreement and accommodation form).

The '[Learning Agreement](#)', after validation, must be signed by the student and by home university and uploaded to the registration online.

## 2.2. Registration Procedures for International and Non- EU Exchange Student

All students out of EU who wants to make a bachelor degree at IPVC, can make registration at IPVC as International Student Status, registration is online and available at our website:

 [ipvc.pt/en/estudar/estudante-internacional](https://ipvc.pt/en/estudar/estudante-internacional)

*International and Non-EU students must read and pay attention to number 07 of this guide, about legal mandatory procedures, as Medical insurance, Visa and Bank account procedures. These documents are also requested in the platform for registration at IPVC.*

# ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

## 2.3. Mobility and Erasmus Coordinators



[ipvc.pt/en/internacional/mobilidade](https://ipvc.pt/en/internacional/mobilidade)

## 2.4. Lectures and Schedules

You don't need to register for the classes.

When you arrive, you have already been registered in the subjects included in your Learning Agreement - LA. If you wish to make any change to your initial LA, please complete the 'Changes to LA in the 1st month of your arrival at on.ipvc.

For information about classes, timetables, classes contents and materials, test results, evaluations you must consult Moodle@IPVC platform:

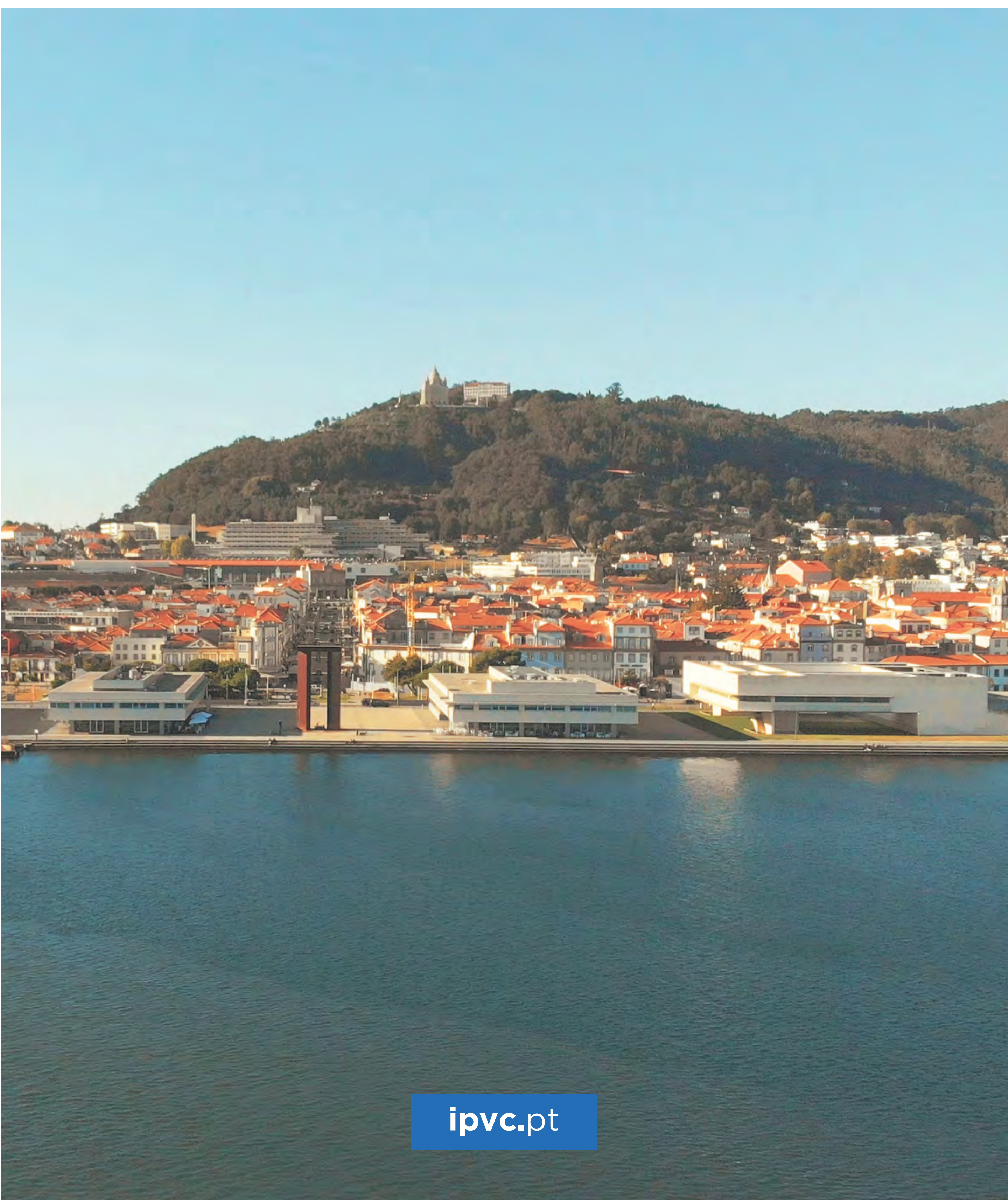
<https://elearning.ipvc.pt/>

To access to Moodle@IPVC, to IPVC Wi-Fi (EDUROAM) and IPVC official email you will receive a login and password.

## 2.5. Student Card

Upon your arrival, you will receive a Student Card . This card serves as your official student ID, also for all IPVC services, as library, canteens, bars, classrooms access and classes attendance.

# 03 UPON ARRIVAL



# UPON ARRIVAL

## 3.1. How to get here

There are a number of things you should consider before and when you arrive in Viana do Castelo.

### **From Porto airport to Viana do Castelo (80KM)**

If you arrive in Porto (Francisco Sá Carneiro Airport), you should take the metro from the airport to Campanhã Railway Station; then, you need to buy a ticket to Viana do Castelo or to Valença. A Ticket is about 2.5 EUR for the metro, and for train it is around 10 EUR respectively. We advise students who arrive after 8 pm in Porto that there will not be any train or bus from Porto (airport) to Viana and you will need to take a taxi, which is around 100 EUR; alternatively, you can spend the night at/ near the airport and take a train early morning. Please note that the last metro leaves the airport at 00.36 am and first is at 06.00 am.

### **From Lisbon airport to Viana do Castelo (400Km)**

If you arrive in Lisbon (Portela Airport), you can take a taxi from the airport into Lisbon to Gare do Oriente and once here can catch a bus with the Bus Company named AVIC/TURILIS – the bus tickets from Lisbon to Viana do Castelo or Valença are around 20 EUR. You can also take trains from Gare do Oriente to Porto (Campanhã train station), the ticket is around 25 EUR, and then from Porto to your host city.

If your host city is Ponte de Lima, you should get to Viana do Castelo, and then from Viana do Castelo bus station, take a bus on the bus company called AUTO VIAÇÃO CURA to Ponte de Lima. Your stop in Ponte de Lima is Refoios de Lima; there is the ESA and your residence.

# UPON ARRIVAL

## 3.1. How to get here

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

You can find information about train and bus connections to Viana do Castelo at the following sites:

- <https://www.cp.pt/passageiros/en>
- [www.barquense.com](http://www.barquense.com)
- [www.andradeexpressturismo.com](http://www.andradeexpressturismo.com)
- <http://www.avic.pt>

(You can take a taxi from the airport into Lisbon to Gare do Oriente and once here you can catch a bus on the Bus Company called AVIC/TURILIS – the bus ticket from Lisbon to Viana do Castelo is around 20 EUR).

- <http://www.rede-expressos.pt>
- <http://www.eurolinesportugal.co>

## 3.2. Accommodation

Viana is a small city and residences are within walking distance of the Schools. The Polytechnic has five Student Residences and other protocols with others institutions available to receive our students. Normally, the Polytechnic tries to place Incoming students in its Student Residences. Whenever this is not possible, the Polytechnic will make every effort to assist with links to local hostels and accommodation websites but it is the responsibility of the exchange student to secure suitable accommodation. Compared to other European Countries, the price of accommodation and food is relatively low.

To support students, the Social Services [SAS] have five Residences:

1. Academic Center (Pink Residence);
2. ESE Residence;
3. Centro Social e Paroquial de Santa Maria Maior\* (Erasmus Residence);
4. ESA Residence, Refóios - Ponte de Lima.
5. Pousada da Juventude em Melgaço (youth hostel in Melgaço)

# UPON ARRIVAL

In the link <https://www.ipvc.pt/en/estudar/estudante-internacional/alojamento/#text-1> you can also find accommodation with agreements with IPVC.

Erasmus students may stay at Centro Social e Paroquial Santa Maria Maior, known as the “Erasmus residence”. For those who come to the Agrarian School the residence is on the premises of the school in Ponte de Lima.

## 3.3. Public transport in Viana do Castelo

### THE ACADEMIC BUS

With the low-cost shuttle service, you can easily get to the IPVC Schools by purchasing the Academic BUS monthly pass and gain access to the exclusive buses for the academic community (BUS1, BUS2 and BUS3). You can also benefit from a set of additional schedules provided daily by public transport coach service companies (Autoviação Melgaço, Courense and AVIC) and access, at no additional cost, to Viana do Castelo’s urban transport services (Transcunha).



# UPON ARRIVAL

## REGISTRATION

To take advantage of this service, you must fill out the Registration Form available at [www.sas.ipv.pt](http://www.sas.ipv.pt) (Academic Bus tab) and, once completed, scan and send, with a digital photo, to: [busacademico@sas.ipv.pt](mailto:busacademico@sas.ipv.pt)

## DAILY TICKETS

You can also buy daily tickets on the Point system (select the BUS option and the desired stops) - because they do not have an expiry date and can be used during the school year on BUS1, BUS2 and BUS3; however, its use is subject to the availability of seats on the bus.

## PAYMENT

Payments can be made from the first day of each month at the one stop shop (Balcão Único). The purchasing of a monthly pass comprises a loyalty period of 10 months and the obligation of cancellation / suspension of the bus pass. The months of September and October must be paid at the time of registration; for the months of December and April, the monthly fee will be only half (as the shuttle service will not be available during the school break).

## RENEWAL AND CANCELLATION

You can renew or cancel your service at your school's One Stop Shop (Balcão Único):

- To renew your registration, you must submit the completed Registration Form\*;
- To cancel, you must complete the Suspension/ Cancellation Request \* 30 days in advance.

## CONTACTS

Serviços de Ação Social do Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo

Headquarters: Largo 9 de Abril | Ap. 186 | 4901-911 Viana do Castelo

Telephone: 258 825 472 | Mobile Phone: 910 511 575



ACADEMIC BUS

# UPON ARRIVAL

## 3.4. Bira IPVC

### WHAT IS IT?

BIRA IPVC is the project of the Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo under the U-Bike Portugal project that aims to promote smooth mobility with focus on the bicycle as a means of transport. It is also the aim of this project to make the academic community aware of the importance of adopting healthy habits by using a bicycle, which besides promoting physical well-being, contributes to a significant saving at the end of the month.

Inserted in the Sustainability and Efficient Use of Resources (PO SEUR) Operational Program, the U-Bike project involves 15 higher education institutions in the country and is funded by European funds.

Check out the U-Bike Portugal project at:  
<https://www.u-bike.pt/>





# UPON ARRIVAL

## HOW IT WORKS

The IPVC will provide 200 bicycles to the academic community, of which 160 are electric and 40 conventional.

The bicycles will be distributed among the academic community (students, teaching and non-teaching workers as well as researchers), based on the regulations approved by the IPVC, in compliance with the U-Bike Portugal Project's General Regulations.

In this project, every kilometre will count!



<https://www.ipvcc.pt/en/viver/bira/>

04

# FIRST STEPS WHEN YOU ARRIVE AT THE IPVC



# FIRST STEPS

## 4.1. International Office

When you arrive, go to the International office. This office gives useful information and practical orientation to Erasmus and international students.

### IPVC International Office

[internacional@ipvc.pt](mailto:internacional@ipvc.pt)

Instituto Politécnico de Viana do Castelo  
Rua Escola Industrial e Comercial de  
Nun'Álvares, n.º 34  
4900-347 Viana do Castelo • Portugal

Tel. +351 258 809 610

Office hours:

Mon/Wed/ Friday 14.30 to 16.30

### **SERVICES WE OFFER**

The International Office promotes student mobility, gives welcome information to incoming students and facilitates their integration at the IPVC.

During your first days after your arrival at the IPVC, you should go to the International Office where we will be happy to help you at your arrival and during your stay. The International Relations Managers who will welcome you and provide information and advice on the compulsory procedures that you will have to carry out during your stay in Portugal.

## 4.2. Cultural Facilities at the IPVC

The Cultural Office of the (IPVC) was established in March 2007 with the aim of promoting activities and cultural arts' education directed at its academic community, for children and youth of the region and the wider community. Thus, it was intended to contribute to the human development of students, improve the quality of education by developing their soft skills, as well as narrow the gap between this and the Regional Academy

This concept follows the best international practices in terms of providing activities for students as well as the most recent guidelines issued at the World Conference on Arts Education, UNESCO, held in Lisbon in March 2006, where it was stated that "Science and Mathematics are very important, but Art and the Humanities are indispensable to the imagination and intuitive thought that are behind what is new." (Damasio, 2006).

In parallel, the annual report of the National Council of Education, 2006, published in February 2007, states, "New paradigms must be considered in education so as to convey a humanist culture through Language and Arts, based on the principles of cooperation and no competition. Basic knowledge of individuals in post-industrial societies must include flexible intelligences, creative skills, verbal and nonverbal, critical thinking, imagination, cultural understanding and acceptance of cultural diversity. "

The Cultural Office supports and organizes exhibitions; ateliers; workshops; music; theatre, cultural contests and support to student`s associations promoting cultural activities. It`s located in the Academic Center, at Largo April 9.

The Cultural Office promotes, through the Academic Community, arts and cultural education.



Cultural Workshop Program

# FIRST STEPS

## 4.3. Eating facilities at IPVC – Snack Bars and Canteens

The IPVC has six snack bars, where products are made available and served in the cafeteria at social prices, as well as six canteens that serve complete meals, distributed across the IPVC Campus.

Snack bar opening hours are readily available on the Portal, on the Social Services' page at [www.ipvc.pt](http://www.ipvc.pt), where you can check the weekly, online menu and decide at which IPVC canteen you would like to have lunch at any given day of the week.



Point IPVC

## 4.4. Health Facilities at the IPVC

The Health Office of the IPVC offers general medical services for students and staff. By creating this service, the IPVC social services aim to:

- Address the needs of students and the academic community in medical, psychological and nursing terms;
- Develop awareness and health promotion among students and other academic community.

With the implementation of these services the IPVC, means to help its students acquire healthy habits, dealing with everyday problems, build their autonomy and decision-making ability, thereby helping to optimize one's development and improve academic success.

The Health Office covers services in the areas of:

- Psychology
- Psychological Counseling Services
- Psychological consultation and personal development
- Academic and vocational support
- Nursing
- Medical Support.

# FIRST STEPS

It is located in the Academic Center at Largo Abril nº 9.



## 4.5. Library Facilities at the IPVC

The IPVC Library Service has 6 libraries at the different IPVC schools.

Through the libraries' catalogue, you can find books, magazines, and many documents in electronic format (digital books, electronic magazines and databases). The Library Barbosa Romero is the Central Library of the Academy, located on the ESTG campus and is considered a landmark of the city. It is worth visiting, even if you are not a student of that school.



## 4.6. Sports Facilities at the IPVC

The IPVC Sports Service offers you a wide range of possibilities of practicing sports during your stay. It also allows you to take part in sports competitions and in other varied activities.

The Sports Centre of the Polytechnic Institute of Viana do Castelo [CD - IPVC] created in 2003 was designed to provide excellent conditions in terms of physical and intellectual well-being of all members of its academic population. In addition to quality education, we aim to promote healthy lifestyle practices. Through this structure, the Polytechnic Institute also seeks to

# FIRST STEPS

support student associations in their activities, encourage student participation in university tournaments and provide its students, faculty and employees with quality infrastructures for the practice in many areas of sport.

In our Sports Centre, you will find several activities such as: fitness activities like: Aerobics and Step, Capoeira (the Brazilian fight), Cardio fitness, Oriental Dances (free mode), Ballroom, Hip Hop (Break Dance), Yoga, Judo, Kick Boxing, Kombat, Kung Fu, Tai Chi and Strength.

The Sports Centre's facilities are located in the Academic Center at Largo Abril nº 9.



*You can find information on timetables and activities @*

*<https://www.ipvc.pt/en/viver/centro-desportivo/>*



# 05 LANGUAGES @ THE IPVC





# LANGUAGES

## PORTUGUESE COURSES / FOREIGN LANGUAGES/ CONTACT DETAILS

In Portugal, the main language used for communication is Portuguese. Portuguese is the official language and in degree courses, classes are taught in Portuguese. In postgraduate, masters and doctoral degrees, Portuguese is predominant and English is becoming widespread.

Portuguese is the official language of Portugal. It is a roman language that has its origins in what is now Galicia (Spain) and Northern Portugal, coming from the Galician-Portuguese language. It comes from the Latin spoken by the Romanized Pre-Roman peoples of the Iberian Peninsula around 2000 years ago.

Portuguese is also officially spoken in Brazil, Angola, Mozambique, Cape Verde, São Tomé and Príncipe, Guinea-Bissau, and East Timor.

Mirandese is also recognized as a co-official regional language in some municipalities of northeastern Portugal

We offer a Portuguese for beginners' course to all incoming students, free of charge.

# LANGUAGES

## 5.1. Foreign Languages at the IPVC

### 5.1.1 PORTUGUESE INTENSIVE LANGUAGE COURSE

The International office of IPVC promotes a 15 hours' Portuguese intensive course, taught during the first week before the start of classes in 1st and 2nd semester. Students should demonstrate their interest by sending an email to [internacional@ipvc.pt](mailto:internacional@ipvc.pt) making reference to the course and indicating their interest in the form for registration online. At the end, the students who attend the entire course will be delivered a declaration of frequency with level A1, reference to "European language levels - Self Assessment Grid".

### 5.1.2 PORTUGUESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE COURSE

The International office of IPVC promotes with their schools a curriculum unit called 'Portuguese language and culture' to foreign students, taught during the 1st and 2nd semesters. Students must make reference to it, when filling the 'Learning Agreement'. This unit course gives 6 ECTS credits to those who successfully complete it.

### 5.1.3 ENGLISH COURSES AND OTHER LANGUAGE COURSES

We offer English and German language courses for all incoming students at three different levels (beginners, intermediate and advanced).

### 5.1.4 CONTACT DETAILS

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXX

XXXXXXX

**06**  
**WELCOME WEEK**



# WELCOME WEEK

## A WELCOME WEEK FOR INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The Welcome Week consists of some dynamic activities that the International Office at the IPVC organizes for international exchange students arriving at the Polytechnic.

It takes place at the beginning of autumn and spring semesters. Several activities take place around the city of Viana do Castelo, including cultural visits and the presentation of the IPVC's main services.

Some IPVC schools also organize other welcoming activities for their international students, adapted to their specific background.

At any point in the academic year, you can find information on the latest edition of the Welcome Week on the International Office's Page:



[International Office](#)

# 07 COMPULSORY LEGAL PROCEDURES



# LEGAL PROCEDURES

## COMPULSORY LEGAL PROCEDURES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS / NON EU STUDENTS

### On arrival/during your stay

At the International Office in Viana do Castelo, we can inform you in detail about the compulsory legal procedures you must carry out depending on your nationality and situation.

There is a summary of the **compulsory legal procedures** that international students must carry out when they arrive in Portugal depending on their nationality, the type of visa they arrived with and the length of their stay.

You will also find some information about these procedures.

## OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT IN PORTUGAL / MEDICAL INSURANCE / VISA FOR NON - EU STUDENTS

### 7.1. Opening a bank account in Portugal

If you wish to open a bank account in Portugal at your arrival, you will need a Legal representative person, who will be responsible for you at Financial Services, where you need to request a Portuguese Fiscal number for the effect.

### 7.2. Medical insurance

Please, **ALWAYS** keep a copy of your insurance with you.

#### - EU students

Before coming to Portugal, EU students must obtain the **European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** from their national health insurance provider in their Country of origin.

In addition to Portugal and other EU countries, the European Health Insurance Card is valid in the following countries: Iceland, Luxembourg, Norway, Finland and Liechtenstein.

# LEGAL PROCEDURES

The EHIC gives you the right to receive public health care and treatment in the European Union. You will need to present it to receive any kind of health care or treatment. In Portugal, medical assistance is provided at a primary health care Centre (Centro de Saúde) or at a public hospital.

Taking into account the agreements between the Portuguese Social Security (Segurança Social) and your country of origin, and the medical coverage in EU countries, check which services are available to you in Portugal, especially if you are undergoing medical treatment.



*If you need additional coverage, you should take out private travel and/ or health insurance.*

## 7.3. Visa for Non – EU Students\*

To be able to apply for the visa, you will need some supporting documents, you will have to provide on your own according to the regulations given at the Portuguese embassy in your home country.

Please note, that the visa procedure is very complex and time consuming, that's why you need to start arranging for it **IMMEDIATELY** without delay. The procedure can take up to 90 days, so you need to contact the closest Portuguese embassy to get clear information on what kind of documents you need.

If your mobility is only one semester, you will apply for the long-term study visa, if your mobility is a full academic year, you will apply for the long-term residence. You can find the address of the closest Portuguese embassy to you by using this web site:

<https://www.vistos.mne.pt/en/national-visas/general-information/type-of-visa>

# LEGAL PROCEDURES

**Do not come with Tourist visa if you will stay for study more than 90 days!!**

The application forms are available only at the embassy and cannot be copied. You have to visit the embassy and complete the form there with the help of their personnel.

The documents you need to submit are as follows <https://www.vistos.mne.pt/en/national-visas/necessary-documentation/residency>:

1. Letter of Acceptance (in English sent by IPVC)
2. Confirmation from your bank that you have sufficient financial means to fund your period of study in the Portugal. You must prove that you will be able to use this money in Portugal.
3. Confirmation of guaranteed accommodation in the Portugal.
4. Three photographs (size 3,5 x 4,5 cm - passport photos)
5. Your health insurance card. Allowing medical coverage, including medical emergencies and repatriation.
6. Confirmation of absence of criminal record in your home country!
7. Your passport validity must exceed your planned departure by at least three months.
8. After arrival to Viana do Castelo you have 3 days to go to SEF (Immigration and Border Services - Serviços de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras)

**Note:** If you wish to open a bank account in Portugal at your arrival, you will need a Legal representative person, who will be responsible for you at Financial Services, where you need to request a Portuguese Fiscal number for the effect.

\*Note:

-EU students: students who are nationals of countries that are members of the European Union

-Non-EU students: students who are nationals of countries that are not members of the European Union



08

# BEFORE DEPARTURE



# BEFORE DEPARTURE

Before departure please request to International Office:

- **Certificate of Departure:** go to the International Office to register and confirm the dates of your stay.
- **Transcript of Records (TR):** can only be issued by the International Office after all teachers have entered your marks into the IPVC's system.

If taking too long, please contact your Erasmus coordinator.

The International Office will then email it to you and your home university and later send the original documents to your home university.

09

# GENERAL INFORMATION



# GENERAL INFORMATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT VIANA DO CASTELO AND PORTUGAL

Located between the sea and the Lima River, just below the mountains of the famous Santa Luzia hill, the city is known as the Princess of Lima.

Served by functional highways and a sea port, Viana do Castelo is the northernmost Atlantic city in Portugal and it is quickly accessed from Porto, or from Valença for those coming from Spain.

Considered one of the best preserved historical cities in the country, it is distinguished by the number of buildings of different styles – Baroque, Manueline, Art Deco and Renaissance, as well as for its traditional gastronomy and its “Vinho Verde”, a light wine considered the ex-libris of the region.

It is also characterized by numerous pilgrimages, festivals and traditions.

The cycle of the Vianenses Festival begins in May with the Festival of Roses or Flower Baskets in Vila Franca do Lima but it is undoubtedly in August, in the incomparable and magnificent Pilgrimage of Nossa Senhora d’Agonia, that tradition reaches its greatest exponent.



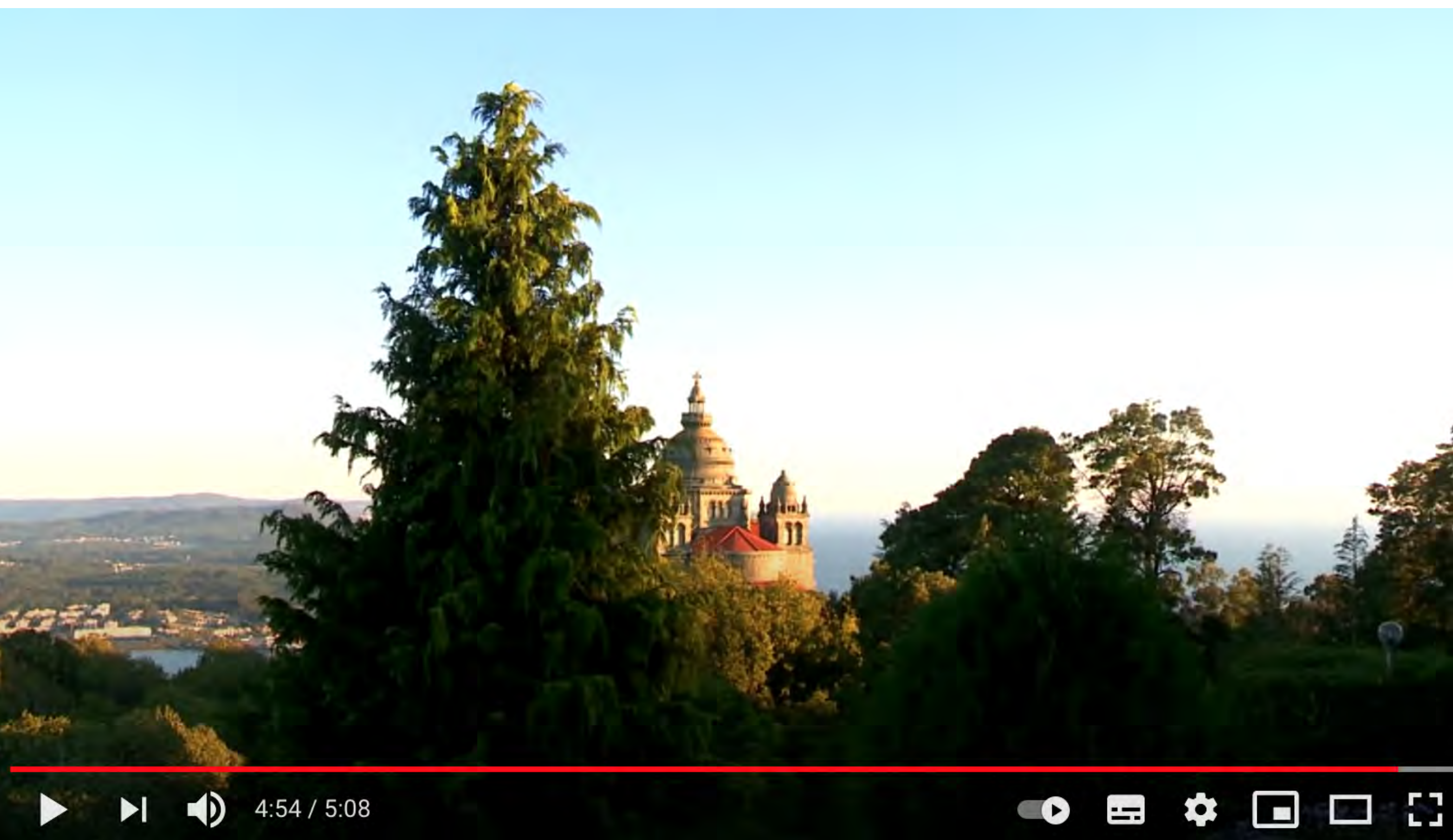
# GENERAL INFORMATION

The unmatched wealth of Viannese ethnography makes the city the capital of Portuguese folclore. The originality of its handicrafts, specially on crockery and embroidery are other attributes that make Viana do Castelo so attractive for tourists.

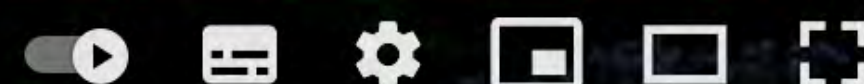
The presence of the river, the mountain and the sea, give the city excellent landscape qualities. Modernized cultural spaces - theaters, cinemas, library, museums - provides conditions for cultural enrichment, while the presence of the river and the sea offers special conditions for welcoming recreational sailboats and the practice of all types of water sports.

With about 40,000 inhabitants, Viana do Castelo is a place full of charm, full of history and traditions and with features that make it possible for residents to enjoy a remarkable quality of life.

Viana is all this and much more...VIANA IS simply LOVE!



4:54 / 5:08



10

## OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION



# USEFUL INFORMATION

## CONTACT DETAILS

For further information on IPVC fees, Timetables and registration, please contact Academic Services of the School where you are following courses or Erasmus Coordinator.

## USEFUL INFORMATION IN PORTUGAL



About Portugal

# IPVC WELCOME GUIDE



**ipvc**

**Instituto Politécnico  
de Viana do Castelo**