Student Guide

2019-2020
This handbook is provided for informational purposes only and is intended to assist you during your participation in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program. If you have additional questions that are not answered by this handbook, please contact us. We are here to help.

Please also check our FAQ page at www.cmuportugal.org
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1. Welcome

Welcome to the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program!

The goal of the student guide is to provide you with essential information on various organizational aspects related to your involvement in the partnership and its educational programs.

We aim to assist you in adapting to your new student life in Portugal and in Pittsburgh and we hope that this student guide will be a valuable resource throughout your path within the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program.

The Executive Teams at Carnegie Mellon and Portugal are available at your disposal. Please do not hesitate to contact us with questions, suggestions and ideas.

Very best wishes,

Nuno Nunes
Rodrigo Rodrigues
National Directors at Portugal

José M. F. Moura
Director at Carnegie Mellon University
2. Contacts

2.1 Coordination Office

@ Carnegie Mellon University
Carnegie Mellon University
Hamburg Hall, Room 2006
4800 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15213
412-268-5344

@ Portugal
Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program
INESC ID, Room 412
Rua Alves Redol nº9
Lisboa 1000-029 Portugal

José M. F. Moura, Director at CMU
leadership@cmuportugal.org

Nuno Nunes & Rodrigo Rodrigues, National Directors at Portugal
leadership@cmuportugal.org

Megan Flohr, Associate Director
mflohr@andrew.cmu.edu

Silvia Castro, Executive Director
silvia.castro@cmuportugal.org
2.1 Scientific Directors

Joana Mendonça  
Instituto Superior Técnico  
Universidade de Lisboa

Luís Filipe Antunes  
Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto

Fernando Velez  
Instituto de Telecomunicações &  
Universidade da Beira interior

Luís Caires  
Faculdade de Ciência e Tecnologia da  
Universidade Nova de Lisboa

João Paulo Cunha  
Faculdade de Engenharia, Universidade do Porto

Paulo Marques  
Feedzai
Rui Maranhão
Instituto Superior Técnico, Universidade de Lisboa

Susana Sargento
Universidade de Aveiro
3. About the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program

CMU Portugal’s mission is to place Portugal at the forefront of research and technological development in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), by promoting an innovation ecosystem with a tight coupling between cutting-edge research, world-class graduate education, and highly innovative companies in the data-driven economy.

In order to achieve this goal, a key initiative of the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program is the dual degree Ph. D. programs.

Our Ph.D. Programs are structured so that students gain experience both at Carnegie Mellon University and at the respective campuses in Portugal. Throughout their tenure, students maintain FULL status both at Carnegie Mellon and at the partner university in Portugal. Upon completion of their program, all students will have fulfilled all degree requirements for both institutions and will be granted full degrees from both institutions. With dual, international graduate credentials, graduates are well poised to build successful careers.
3.1. Ph. D. Programs

The CMU Portugal Program offers top dual degree Ph.D. programs in selected cutting-edge areas of ICT.

Doctoral students conduct their studies both in Portugal and in the United States, and are co-advised by faculty from Carnegie Mellon University and from Portuguese partner higher education institutions. Graduates of the program receive dual degrees conferred by Carnegie Mellon University and by the affiliated Portuguese University.

The expected duration of the program is five years (full-time). Scholarships are available to qualified candidates. These scholarships award a monthly stipend and cover tuition fees in Portugal and at CMU. By enrolling in a dual degree program, students experience the advantages of collaborative research between top-tier research institutions. The program’s high scientific standards serve to educate high-quality researchers, instructors, and innovators in ICT related areas.

Below is a list of the doctoral programs currently available under the CMU Portugal Program.

- [Ph.D. in Computer Science](https://www.cmuportugal.org/ph-d-in-computer-science/)
- [Ph.D. in Software Engineering](https://www.cmuportugal.org/ph-d-in-software-engineering/)
- [Ph.D. in Languages Technologies](https://www.cmuportugal.org/ph-d-in-language-technology/)
- [Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering](https://www.cmuportugal.org/ph-d-in-electrical-and-computer-engineering/)
- [Ph.D. in Engineering and Public Policy](https://www.cmuportugal.org/ph-d-in-engineering-and-public-policy/)
- [Ph.D. in Robotics](https://www.cmuportugal.org/ph-d-in-computer-science-robotics/)
4. Your Scholarship

While pursuing their studies in Portugal, students enrolled in the dual degree Ph.D. program will receive a scholarship directly from Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT). While at Carnegie Mellon University, students will receive funding from the CMU Portugal Program through the home department of the Ph.D. Program in which they are enrolled.

FCT is Portugal’s national science and technology foundation, and their mission consists of continuously promoting the advancement of scientific and technological knowledge in Portugal, exploring opportunities that become available in any scientific or technological domain, to attain the highest international standards in the creation of knowledge.

4.1. Process to Obtain the FCT Scholarship

The following documents are required:

1. Curriculum Vitae;
2. Academic diploma that certifies graduation: official certified copy of the certificate and transcript of records;
3. Copy of Passport / Citizen Card;
4. Document with the fiscal number in Portugal - NIF;
5. Document with a bank account number identification (NIB) and the name of the bank in Portugal;
6. Address in Portugal;
7. Letter of Admission from Carnegie Mellon University (original document);

http://www.fct.pt/

Please send one copy for each degree that you have

Foreign students must send this within three days upon arrival in Portugal

Foreign students are expected to open a bank account in Portugal within three days upon arrival in Portugal and to send this information to the office

If you are a Portuguese citizen you will need a “Atestado de Residência” issued by the local “Junta de Freguesia”. If you are a European Union citizen or other within the Schengen Agreement you will need to apply for a residence card with SEF 30 days before the end of the 3 months stay that is guaranteed to citizens from these countries. In order to conduct research and higher education activities in Portugal if you are a citizen of neither Portugal nor the European Union you will need to present a Permanent Residence Permit or a Residence Permit (issued by SEF), or a declaration that states that your country has a specific Reciprocal Agreement with Portugal. In this case, a contact is recommended with SEF 3 months before coming to Portugal: http://www.imigrante.pt/.
8. Letter of Admission from the Portuguese University (original document)
9. Work Plan (mentioning the preliminary research topic, host institutions, and tentative timeline mentioning the started location, all signed by the student and by the advisors). Please note this document should have three signatures (student + advisor CMU + advisor PT). Two of the signatures must be original signatures (student+1advisor). The third signature can be a scanned version. In case you do not already have two advisors, please contact your advisor and coordinator of your doctoral program to help you find one as soon as possible;
10. Curriculum Vitae of both advisors, including list of publications and scientific achievements;
11. Document signed by the advisors stating they agree to take responsibility for supervising student’s Ph.D. work (original document with the original signatures);
12. Document signed by the student stating that he/she agrees to carry out Ph.D. work in the XY institutions (original document);
13. Document signed by the student stating his/her professional working status during the scholarship period (original document);
14. FCT form: Students need to complete the FCT form (in English), print, sign and send;
15. FCTSIG key: it is your registration in the FCT system as a researcher.

Should you need to send any original documents please send them to:

Address:

Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program Office
INESC ID
R. Alves Redol 9, 1000-029 Lisboa

Here you can find more information about the FCT scholarship and the exact amount you will be receiving during your studies: (BD - Bolsa de Doutoramento is the Ph. D. scholarship).

FCT Regulations for Research Studentships and Fellowships are available here. The Research Fellowship Holder Statute is available here.

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12 This document will be sent to the student by the CMU Portugal office in Portugal
13 To register in the FCT system please go to: https://sig.fct.pt/fctsig/?lang=EN
14 http://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores
4.2. Support for Installation and Travel

FCT will provide a one-time travel allowance (600€) and a one-time moving allowance (1.000€) for stays abroad for six consecutive months or more. The two allowances may be combined but are always dependent on available funds and approval. Although students might change locations several times during their studies, these predetermined subsidies will be given only once for the entire duration of the FCT scholarship contract, to cover expenses with installation and travel from Portugal to Carnegie Mellon University.

To receive these allowances, the student must have an FCT contract signed and active. The request can be made to FCT, through the Portugal office. To guarantee that payments are processed before the contract is suspended, we advise students to submit the request for the allowances together with the suspension request.

Important Note: If a student is starting the program at Carnegie Mellon University, which means the contract with FCT has not been signed yet, the student will not be able to receive these subsidies. In this case, the request can be submitted when the student returns to Carnegie Mellon University to pursue his/her studies. If the student does not return to Carnegie Mellon University because he/she spent the first two years there, a request for the allowances should be submitted to the FCT when returning to Portugal, justifying it was not possible to do so before. Please contact the Student Support Officer (info@cmuportugal.org) for more information.

Please read chapter “Transfers between Portugal and the U.S.” for additional information.

4.3. Support for Research Visits to CMU While in Portugal

Partial financial support for research visits to CMU (supplementary training activities allowance) while the student is in Portugal, can be requested through the CMU Portugal Program Office in Portugal (info@cmuportugal.org).
These visits should last up to 6 months, and a monthly allowance of up to 750€ will be given. The approval of the financial support will depend upon the scope, the length of the visits for each student, and the availability of funds.

To receive this support, the student must have a FCT contract signed and active, and are required to do the following:

1. Contact the CMU Portugal Program Office in Portugal to check that the motive for the visit qualifies for support (an interview may be required).

2. Send a formal request for support to the National Director of the CMU Portugal Program, including:
   i. The scholarship reference number (SFRH/BD/.../...) stated in the FCT contract;
   ii. A short paragraph about the activities to be conducted;
   iii. The travel dates and the planned duration for the visit to CMU;
   iv. The estimated cost for travel and the estimated cost for accommodation.

3. A support letter from both advisors must be submitted with a formal request, stating their agreement with the planned visit, a brief paragraph about the activities to be conducted, travel dates, and the planned duration for the visit to CMU.

4. A statement that reimbursement for these expenses were not, nor will be, covered by any other source. This can be a separate statement or added to the request.

4.4. Support to Participate in Scientific Meetings

A single allowance to participate in scientific meetings (750€) may be given by FCT within the full duration of the scholarship. Although students may participate in several events for the presentation and dissemination of their work, this allowance will be given only once. The amount of the allowance is fixed and published under the FCT Regulation for Studentships and Fellowships.

In order to receive this allowance, the student must have a FCT contract signed and active. Usually this allowance is given automatically upon the start of the contract, if not, you can request the allowance directly to FCT, or through our Portugal office.
4.5. Other Sources of Funding

Work of the student receiving the FCT scholarship is under the regime of exclusive dedication and he/she cannot accumulate it with any other grant, subsidy or paid work. However, there are some exceptions, and for more information please visit the FCT’s regulations on chapter 4.1 of this guide.

Internships

Paid internships may be compatible with the Research Grant Holder Statute (Estatuto do Bolseiro de Investigação Científica) only if the internship is:

a) A short, non-permanent activity;
b) Approved by the advisors;
c) Directly related to the work plan defined with the advisors.

Nevertheless, the student is required to send the following documents to the Education Officer at info@cmuportugal.org with:

a) A letter for FCT’s approval justifying that the internship is compatible with the defined work plan;
b) A support letter from the advisors detailing the defined work plan, and;
c) A letter from the institution where the internship will take place presenting the objective of the internship and the period during which it will occur.
5. Before Departure

5.1. Financial Arrangements

When coming to Portugal, bring sufficient funds for expenses during the first one to two months, since the first stipend will only be transferred to your account at the end of the first month after the contract is signed. During the first month, the student should account for additional expenses: rent (usually for the first and last month), opening bank accounts, utilities, etc.

Travelling and settling in costs should be recovered in the amount that is stated in the FCT page by the end of the first month.

5.2. Visa and Entering Portugal

Students from EU countries and from European Economic Area/EEA (Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway) and Switzerland do not need a visa to enter Portugal, which is a signatory of the 1995 Schengen Agreement.

These students have the right to live in the national territory for a period up to 3 months without other conditions and/or formalities beyond having a valid identity card or passport. However, if the stay is longer than 3 months, the student must formalize their right of residence by applying for the residence card within 30 days of arrival, before the end of the three-month stay in the country at the Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (SEF) of their residence area.

Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras, abbreviated to SEF, is a security service organized vertically under the Ministry of Home Affairs. It has administrative autonomy and its fundamental objectives within the internal security policy include border control of persons, leave to stay and the activities of foreigners in Portugal, as well as the study, promotion, coordination and execution of measures and actions related to these activities and migratory flows.

https://www.fct.pt/apoios/bolsas/valores.phtml.en
Students from non-EU countries must obtain a residence study visa before departure from their home country. They can request their visa at the nearest Portuguese Embassy or Consulate. Please consider that a 'tourist' visa will not be accepted. A visa request to enter Portugal should be made several months in advance as the process can take up to 3 months depending on the country of origin (the visa will be valid for the European Area under the Schengen Agreement). Some visa applicants may also be subject to security clearance checks. These checks may take 30 to 60 days to be processed.

A residence visa will allow the student to enter Portugal with the ability to apply for a residence permit. The residence visa allows the holder to remain in Portugal for six months. However, persons applying should take into an account that someone having a residence visa is not yet a resident, but only authorized to apply for a residence permit.

It is important to highlight that foreign students entering Portugal through a non-controlled border (whose passports are not stamped in Portugal) need to contact the Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (SEF), within 3 days of their arrival, in order to report their entrance in the country. After this three-day-period, they will be charged a fine.

Useful links:

- Portuguese Consulates
- SEF
- Secretary-General of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education (SG-MCTES)
- Directorate-General of Consular Affairs and Portuguese Communities (DGACCP)
5.3. Applying for a U.S. Visa

5.3.1. Long Term Visits

Please contact your department at Carnegie Mellon University and Office of International Education (OIE) at Carnegie Mellon regarding the visa process.

The Office of International Education (OIE) at Carnegie Mellon University is committed to supporting, promoting, and celebrating individuals in an intercultural environment. We advocate for and facilitate international and cross-cultural experiences, perspectives and initiatives. OIE promotes and facilitates study abroad and acts as a liaison to the university for international students, researchers, and professors.

1) Get your I-20 (for F-1 status) or DS-2019 (for J-1 status) and pay de SEVIS Fee

In order to apply for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, you must first have a SEVIS (Student and Exchange Visitor Information System) generated document issued by a U.S. college or university or Department of State-designated sponsor organization (either an I-20 or DS-2019 at CMU). You will be required to submit this form when you apply for a visa. Carnegie Mellon University will provide you with the appropriate SEVIS-generated form only when you have been academically admitted to the institution. The university will also send you additional information about applying for the appropriate visa, as well as other guidance about beginning your academic program in the United States.

The I-20 (for F-1 status) or DS-2019 (for J-1 status) is the document issued by Carnegie Mellon University. It is specific to the institution and program of study you will attend in the U.S. It must be presented to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad to obtain an entry visa and to immigration officials to enter the U.S. in student status. Extensions or updates may be made by contacting Office of International Education. After your...

22 https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/coming-to-cmu.html
23 https://www.cmu.edu/oie/foreign-students/docs/sevis-fee.pdf
24 https://www.cmu.edu/oie/
initial entry, a travel signature less than 6 months old is required in order to re-enter the U.S. in student status. Signatures can be obtained at the OIE.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) is designed to help the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Department of State better monitor school and exchange programs and F, M and J category visitors. Exchange visitor and student information is maintained in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS is an Internet-based system that maintains accurate and current information on non-immigrant students (F and M visa), exchange visitors (J visa), and their dependents (F-2, M-2, and J-2). SEVIS enables schools and program sponsors to transmit mandatory information and event notifications via the Internet, to the DHS and Department of State (DOS) throughout a student or exchange visitor's stay in the United States.

2) Apply for a F-1 or J-1 Visa

Once you have all the required documentation, you may apply for a visa, even if you do not intend to begin your program of study for several months. It is best to apply early for a visa to ensure there is sufficient time for visa processing. Most non-U.S. citizens who wish to study in the United States will seek an F-1 (non-immigrant) student visa, but there are other visa types that are sometimes authorized for those who study in the U.S. Here is a short description of the different visa types that involve study:

- F-1, or Student Visa: This visa is the most common for those who wish to engage in academic studies in the United States. It is for people who want to study at an accredited U.S. college or university or to study English at a university or intensive English language institute.
- J-1, or Exchange Visitor: This visa is for people who will be participating in an exchange visitor program in the U.S. The "J" visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs.
- M-1, or Student Visa: This visa is for those who will be engaged in non-academic or vocational study or training at an institution in the U.S.

Citizens of Canada and Bermuda do not require entry visas for study in the U.S. but must present the I-20 or DS-2019 and financial information when entering the U.S. Landed immigrants of Canada must travel with a passport and obtain a U.S. visa in order to enter the U.S.

In case of denial, ask for the reason in writing before you leave the consulate. Only in this way can you address the U.S. Consulate concern if and when you return for a second interview. Additionally, in case of a denial, contact the Office of International
Education for advice and new forms, if necessary, before returning to the U.S. Consulate.

Comprehensive information on applying for a U.S. visa is available on the U.S. Department of State website. In particular, you may wish to consult the visa wait times or the individual consular websites for post-specific visa application procedures.

5.3.1.1. Planning Ahead for The Visa Process, Not Just Your Academic Admission

One of the most important things you can do to ensure that you will be able to arrive in time for the start of your educational program in the United States is to plan well in advance, not only for the academic portion of your U.S. program, but also for the visa process. This means you will need to request and receive the appropriate visa-qualifying document (either an I-20 or DS-2019) from the U.S. institution or program sponsor well in advance of your planned departure to the United States. You will also need to make an appointment for your visa interview. Please consult the U.S. Embassy or Consulate nearest you to find out how long it may take to get an appointment.

5.3.1.2. Applying for A Visa – Key Points to Keep in Mind

Among the things you’ll need to do is pay the SEVIS and visa processing fee, and make an appointment for the visa interview (the procedure will differ on all of these from one U.S. Embassy/Consulate to another, so visit the website of the specific U.S. Embassy). You should also make sure you have all the documentation you will need when you go for the interview, including the visa-qualifying document (I-20 or DS-2019), financial support documents, proof of payment of the SEVIS and visa fees, and a completed visa application form. Ensure that you complete the visa application correctly by following the Department of State website procedures carefully.
5.3.1.3. Key Information About Visas and Entering the United States

There are two additional pieces of information that are useful to know. The first is that the U.S. Embassy/Consulate cannot issue a visa more than 120 days before the actual start of the program in the United States. However, visa applicants are encouraged to apply for their visa as soon as they are prepared to do so. Thus, if the college or university to which you have been admitted states on the I-20 or DS-2019 that the program will start on September 1, a visa cannot be issued before May 1. Second, even if you have been issued a visa to enter the United States, you will not be allowed to enter the country more than 30 days before the start of your program if you are an initial entry student. Returning students do not have this requirement. Using the earlier example, if the program of study starts on September 1, you will not be permitted to enter the United States until August 1 or later. Statistics on visa issuance rates around the world can be found here[^26]. Information on visa appointment waiting times can be found here[^27].

Some visa applicants may be subject to security clearance checks. These checks may take 30 to 45 days to be processed. If you are notified that your visa application will be delayed because of administrative processing or security clearance, please notify Office of International Education. If you are applying for a U.S. VISA from Portugal (whether you are Portuguese or an international student), please ask your home university department in Portugal to issue a confirmation letter – signed and with seal of the institution.

5.3.2. Short Term Visits

A visa is not required for most tourist and business visits of 90 days or less, provided that you are a citizen of one of the following countries: Andorra, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brunei, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom.

[^27]: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html
The Visa Waiver Program (VWP) enables nationals of certain countries to travel to the United States for tourism or business for stays of 90 days or less without obtaining a visa. The program was established with the objective of eliminating unnecessary barriers to travel, stimulating the tourism industry, and permitting the Department of State to focus consular resources in other areas.

Please visit the following link for more information about the visa waiver program.

If your country does not fall under the Visa Waiver program with the United States, please check the website of the embassy or consulate in your home country for information. To find the website, please use the following link:

During your studies, apart from the required stay of two years at Carnegie Mellon in the scope of the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program, you are likely to have short visits to Carnegie Mellon due to a research engagement (e.g., with your advisor).

If you are a native of a country that falls under the Visa Waiver Program and you are planning to go to Carnegie Mellon for periods shorter than 90 days to work on your research, a visa will NOT be required.

If your country does not fall under the Visa Waiver program with the United States, please check the website of the embassy or consulate in your home country for information.

https://pt.usembassy.gov/visas/
http://www.usembassy.gov/
5.4. Housing Arrangements

Portugal

You are responsible for making your own housing arrangements for the academic year. The international relations office at your university in Portugal can provide you with local assistance. It is important to start looking for permanent or at least temporary accommodations well in advance.

Pittsburgh

Carnegie Mellon University offers a variety of housing services to international students and scholars. These services vary significantly depending on whether you are an international undergraduate, graduate or exchange student, or an international scholar (visiting researcher or professor).

Graduate students and visiting scholars independently arrange for housing at off-campus locations, sometimes with the assistance of the home academic department and perhaps in consultation with the Community Housing Office. New graduate students may take advantage of a two-week period of Transitional Housing in campus dormitories in August prior to Graduate Orientation; move in and move out dates are strictly enforced, and arrangements must be made in advance.

International students and scholars should anticipate a brief stay at a hotel or with a friend immediately upon arrival to Pittsburgh. Exceptions include new international undergraduates and exchange students who arrive on the scheduled move-in day prior to the start of the classes and graduate students who arrive in August and have already reserved room(s) in Transitional Housing prior to arrival.

» [https://www.cmu.edu/housing/](https://www.cmu.edu/housing/)
5.5. Medical Insurance

5.5.1. Medical Insurance in Portugal

According to Portuguese law, all residents (including students) must have health insurance.

Students coming from EU-EEA
One of the issues students face when they decide to spend a study period abroad is health care. Community provisions on social security provide some solutions on this matter — the European Health Insurance Card (CESD)\(^\text{31}\).

This card is available to European citizens who are traveling within the European Economic Area, (i.e. the European Union, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) and Switzerland, for private or professional reasons. This document allows students from another Member State or country of the European Economic Area (EEA) or from Switzerland to be assisted in case of sickness or personal accident, thus taking advantage of a wider coverage in terms of health care. The CESD, to be requested at the social security service of your country, is a proof that you are registered in that social security service and allows you to take advantage of health services in Portugal. In this case, students will be asked to pay as much as national citizens under the same circumstances.

Non-EU –EEA students
The CESD form is part of an agreement between the Member States of the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland. However, there are other agreements between Portugal and other countries outside the EEA. Students from those countries should ask for further information in their own country before travelling to Portugal. If they fall outside the system mentioned above, students must get health insurance, which will provide them with health care during their stay in Portugal. Without one of these, should they need medical assistance during their stay in Portugal, students will have to pay for the respective health treatment.

Civil Liability Insurance
This cost-effective insurance is not required, but is recommended, since health insurance policies and the CESD do not cover civil liability (damage caused to third

parties) of your daily activities (except University activities, which are covered by school insurance).

Personal Physical Accidents Insurance
This insurance is not required however it is recommended. Besides covering personal physical accidents in your daily life, this insurance often provides you with repatriation insurance, in case of sickness or accident (depending on the insurance policies).

5.5.2. Health Insurance in The U.S.

Health insurance is required for all enrolled students at Carnegie Mellon University and is a necessity for everyone living in the U.S. because the cost of routine and emergency health care as well as prescription medicine is extremely expensive.

Please contact your home departments at Carnegie Mellon University regarding the health insurance issues.

Please note that each department at CMU has different health insurance policy.

Note: international students and scholars are not eligible for public benefits available to many U.S. citizens with low incomes. Accepting any such public benefits can cause you to lose your legal status in the U.S. and create a bar to your re-entry to this country. J visa holders (J-1 students, scholars and their dependents) are required by U.S. federal law to have health insurance which meets minimum standards set by the government.
6. During Your Stay Period

6.1. Upon Arrival to Portugal

6.1.1. Arrival Checklist

This checklist will help you prioritize upon your arrival in Portugal.

- If entering by car in Portugal, you must notify Portuguese authorities about your arrival. It is important to highlight foreign students entering Portugal through a non-controlled border (whose passports are not stamped in Portugal) need to contact Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras (SEF - www.sef.pt.), within 3 days of their arrival, in order to report their entrance in the country. After this three-day-period, there will be a fine;
- Notify your advisor and the CMU Portugal office of your arrival;
- Register at your Portuguese institution;
- Locate permanent housing;
- Apply for a NIF (número de identificação fiscal). To apply for a NIF, you must appear in person at the office in Loja do Cidadão nearest your host institution. Take the following documents with you:
  - Your passport and one other document that establishes your age and identity
  - Your Portuguese address
- Open a bank account (IBAN). To obtain a bank account, you must appear in person at a bank office nearest your host institution, and take the following documents with you:
  - Your NIF number
  - Your passport
  - Contract from Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program or letter of admission
  - Your Portuguese address
- Obtain gas, electricity, water and telephone services;
- Identify a doctor, dentist and hospital in case of an emergency;
- Provide your Portuguese address to all university administrative offices and info@cmuportugal.org.

6.1.2. Residence Card
EU students
Please visit the SEF website.

Up to three months
Citizens of the EU have the right to reside in national territory for a period up to three months without other conditions and formalities beyond having a valid identity card or passport.

More than three months
Citizens of the EU staying in national territory more than three months must formalize their right of residence - Certify of Register - during a period of 30 days before the three months of entry in the national territory. Necessary documents (to deliver with the proper form in the Delegation of SEF of the area of residence or in the Municipal Council of the residence area – see Adherent Councils):

- Identity card or valid passport;
- Declaration under oath that the applicant fulfils one of the following conditions:
  - Has a professional activity as worker or is self-employed in Portuguese territory;
  - Has enough resources for him/herself and his/her family, as well as health insurance, if mandatory for Portuguese citizens in the Member State from his/her nationality;
- If he/she is registered in a public or private officially recognized school, if proven through a declaration or any other mean of evidence the possession of enough financial resources for him/herself and his/her family, as well as a health insurance, if mandatory for Portuguese citizens in the Member State from his/her nationality.

Non-EU Students
Students from non-EU countries must obtain a residence study visa before departure from their home country. A residence visa will allow the students to enter Portugal with a view to applying for a residence permit. This residence visa allows the holder to remain in Portugal for six months. However, persons applying should take into account that someone having a residence visa is not yet a resident, but only authorized to apply for a residence permit.

Since the students involved in the Program come to Portugal with the intention of remaining for longer than six months, they must apply for a residence card upon their arrival in Portugal.

https://www.sef.pt/pt/Pages/Homepage.aspx
Failure to apply for a residence card within the specified time is a serious offense and can result in a heavy fine and even deportation. Please contact Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras for more information.

In most cases, students enrolled in the doctoral programs start their studies at a Portuguese institution/University. However, during their studies students are required to spend one or two years in the U.S., working on their research and taking courses at Carnegie Mellon University, before returning to Portugal.

THEREFORE:

- During the prolonged stay abroad, which is part of the doctoral program, a student’s residence card may expire. While abroad, it is not possible to make a request for renewal of the residence card. Therefore, students are required to apply for the issuance of a new visa in order to return to Portugal (which implies a new application for residence at SEF once back in Portugal).
- Furthermore, under the current legislation (Article 85. of Law No. 23/2007), the residence permit in Portugal can be revoked when the person, without suitable reason, is absent from the country for a period of 6 consecutive months, or 8 interpolated months, during the total period of validity of the authorization. This situation requires a new application and issuance of a new visa in order to return to Portugal (and once again a new application for residence at SEF when back in Portugal).

SOLUTIONS:

To avoid these situations and the repetition of the application process for a visa to Portugal (at Portuguese consulates abroad) as well as the application process for the residence card in Portugal, the following solutions are available (as appropriate):

- Application for the renewal of the residence permit can be done before leaving Portugal to the foreign country when the last 30 days of the validity of the authorization coincides with the period of absence of the country.
- Additionally, in order not to revoke the residence permit in its duration due to absence from Portugal (as it foreseen by the Portuguese law), students shall submit a justification to SEF (prior to the absence). The continuation of the course of studies in a third country (in this case the U.S.) is an acceptable reason.

33 www.sef.pt
6.2. Upon Arrival to The U.S.

6.2.1. Arrival Check List

- Secure transitional housing (if necessary);
- Report to your academic department and complete registration procedures. Your department may have other tasks for you and should also be able to give your student ID number and email user ID, if available;
- Obtain a student ID card at the HUB on the ground floor of Warner Hall. You will need your student ID number to do this. If you do not know it, your department will be able to provide this information. If you are enrolled for the current semester, your ID should have a small picture of a bus allowing you to ride the public transportation for free;
- Attend Graduate Student Orientation. You will receive essential information and assistance in getting settled. Orientation is a rare opportunity to meet students from across campus and around the world. It’s also an opportunity to meet staff from a variety of Carnegie Mellon offices. Complete mandatory immigration check-in. This should be completed during orientation. Please bring your immigration documents (I-20/DS-2019, passport and I-94 card). If you arrive before August 1 or after August 10, you MUST complete a 1.5 hour mini-orientation in the Office of International Education. Call (+1) 412-268-5231 to sign up;
- Immigration check-in must be completed by the end of the first week of classes or you will lose your legal non-immigrant status in the U.S.;
- Find off-campus housing. If you arrive early, be sure to visit the Housing Services on the second floor of Residence on fifth, tel: (+1) 412-268-2139;
- Open a bank account. When you attend international student orientation, you will receive detailed information on the many full-service banks close to campus;
- Take into consideration services and fees associated with checking and savings accounts, interest rates, wire transfer fees, ATM machine access, credit and debit card availability, as well as telephone and web banking. You may not want to open an account until you have secured housing as proximity to your residence is also an important consideration;
- Health insurance. Please contact your home departments at Carnegie Mellon University regarding the health insurance issues;
- Apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) if you will be employed on campus. A SSN is a type of national identification that is required for employment in U.S. You must have an offer of employment to be eligible to apply for a SSN. You must apply in person for a permanent SSN at a Social Security Office. Take your passport, I-20 or DS-2019, I-94 card (found in your

» https://www.cmu.edu/oie/
passport, and OIE status verification letter. You will also need to provide an address where your new card can be sent. The Social Security Administration recommends that international applicants wait at least 10 (ten) days after arrival in the U.S. before submitting an application for a SSN.

For more information, please contact the Office of International Education at Carnegie Mellon University.

6.2.1.1. Foreign Student Documents and Maintaining Legal Immigration Status

International students are required to abide by United States immigration regulations throughout their stay in the U.S. International students are admitted to the U.S. by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for the purpose of being full-time students. Participation by students in any other activity, from employment to vacation, is considered to be a privilege and is only allowable in accordance with strict DHS rules. Penalties for violations of immigration law can be severe and include deportation and 10-year bars from reentry to the US, so it is extremely important for students to understand their responsibilities.

International students are normally admitted to the U.S. for "Duration of Status" (D/S). This means that they are allowed to remain in the U.S. for as long as they "maintain legal student status," NOT for the length of time listed on their visa or Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019 form - see below). Listed below are the documents that F-1 or J-1 students need to keep current while they are residing in the U.S. along with the basic rules that students must follow in order to maintain legal student status in the U.S.

Remember that it is the student's responsibility to be informed about immigration rules and any rule changes which occur during their stay in the U.S. The Office of International Education (OIE) provides Carnegie Mellon international students with the necessary information to do this, but it is the student and not the university who is ultimately responsible for abiding by the rules and maintaining legal student status.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passport</th>
<th>The passport is the legal document issued by your country of citizenship. It must be kept valid at all times during your stay.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
stay in the U.S. and must be valid at least 6 months into the future to re-enter the U.S. or apply for a visa. The passport can usually be renewed through your home country’s Embassy or Consulate in the United States.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certificate of Eligibility I-20 Or DS-2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The I-20 (for F-1 status) or DS-2019 (for J-1 status) is the document issued by your school or a sponsoring agency. It is specific to the institution and program of study you will attend in the U.S. It must be presented to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad to obtain an entry visa and to immigration officials to enter the U.S. in student status. Extensions or updates may be made by contacting OIE or your sponsoring agency. After your initial entry, a travel signature less than 6 months old is required in order to re-enter the U.S. in student status. Signatures can be obtained at OIE.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I-94 Arrival/Departure Record</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The I-94 is the white card completed before passing U.S. immigration officials upon entrance to the U.S. It will be stamped with your date and port of entry. Your immigration status and expiration date will also be noted on the card. For F-1 and J-1 students, the &quot;expiration date&quot; should be D/S, or duration of status, not an actual date. This means F-1 and J-1 students are permitted to remain in the U.S. as long as they have a valid I-20 or DS-2019, are enrolled in the institution and academic program listed on the form, and have otherwise maintained their immigration status. Students who receive an I-94 card with an actual expiration date should contact OIE immediately. The number at the top of the I-94 card that you receive upon each entry is called your Admission Number or I-94 number.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entry Visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The U.S. entry visa is a sticker on a page of your passport which permits you to enter the U.S. Students will have either an F-1 or a J-1 entry visa. The visa may expire while you are in the U.S. You cannot and need not renew it while you are here. A new entry visa will be required if the original expires and you travel outside and then wish to re-enter the U.S. in legal student status.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YOU MUST ALWAYS:**
• Maintain a valid passport throughout your stay in the U.S.
• Attend the school you are authorized to attend by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This is the school whose name appears on the I-20 or DS-2019.
• Be registered as a full-time student (36 units or ABD units for doctoral students) for 2 out of 3 consecutive semesters in the school year. You cannot drop below this except under specific circumstances which must be authorized in advance by an OIE advisor.
• Keep your Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019 form) valid at all times and apply for extensions of stay at least one month before the document expires.
• Keep local and permanent address information current while in the U.S. Enrolled students may do this through the HUB’s Student Information On-Line web site. The "off campus residence" address must be completed with your current U.S. residential address (except for undergraduate students living on campus). "Permanent address" must be an address in your home country. Students on post-completion work authorization should email address updates directly to Office of International Education.
• Complete necessary immigration transfer procedures when changing from one school to another in the U.S. by consulting the international student advisor at the new school and informing the international student advisor at your current school of your intent to transfer.
• Maintain valid health insurance coverage. For students in F-1 status, this is a CMU requirement. For students in J-1 status, this is both a CMU requirement and a federal requirement.
• If you are in F-1 status and intend to engage in Optional Practical Training (OPT) after the completion of your program, apply for OPT 90 days prior to program completion or within the 60-day grace period following program completion. OIE strongly recommends applying before completing your program.
• If you are in J-1 status, you must apply for Academic Training before your DS-2019 expires.
• F-1 students have a 60-day grace period and J-1 students have a 30-day grace period in which to do one of the following:
  − Leave the U.S.
  − Change to another immigration status.
• F-1 students may also use the 60-day grace period to obtain a new certificate of eligibility for a new school or program.
  − Note: J-1 students cannot use the 30-day grace period for SEVIS transfer purposes or to change level but must obtain a new certificate of eligibility for a new program before the end date listed on the DS-2019.

YOU MUST NEVER:

• WORK OFF CAMPUS unless you have the necessary authorization from an OIE student advisor (consult an OIE advisor for details);
• WORK ON CAMPUS more than 20 hours per week while school is in session;
• Take a leave of absence, withdraw from classes, or drop below 36 units without receiving advance permission from the Office of International Education.
  – Note that once you have completed or terminated your program, or have failed to maintain legal student status, you can no longer legally enter the US with your I-20 or DS-2019 form and the staff of OIE can no longer sign those forms.

6.2.1.2. Full Course of Study

Immigration regulations require F-1 and J-1 students to enroll for a full course of study for two out of three consecutive semesters. A full course of study at Carnegie Mellon is 36 units. Students must be enrolled full time for their first two semesters in order to take their annual vacation in the third semester. If the summer session is the first term of attendance, students must enroll full time. Students are not required to enroll for the summer provided they have enrolled for the preceding spring and intend to enroll for the following fall semester.

All reasons for reducing the required course load must be approved in advance by the OIE Advisor and the Academic Advisor. Students requesting approval for a reduced course load or part-time enrollment need to complete the Reduced Course Load form with their academic advisor and submit it to OIE. If the OIE advisor is able to approve the reduced course load, he/she will notify the student. Some examples of acceptable reasons for a reduced course load are:

• During the first term, a student may need time to adjust to the language and new academic system. The academic advisor can recommend a lower course load;
• A student may have been placed in a course for which he/she does not have the background necessary. The academic advisor may recommend the student drop the course;
• During the student’s last term, he/she is only required to take the number of units needed to meet degree requirements. The academic advisor can document this on the OIE form;
• Health problems can also necessitate a reduced course load. If a student is experiencing health problems, a doctor can recommend withdrawal or a reduced course load.
  – Note: Inadequate funding is not an acceptable reason for dropping below the required course load. Students should feel free to discuss any financial concerns with an OIE advisor

6.3. Transfers Between Portugal and USA
This section provides students a summary of important information on transfers between Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) and Portugal, in particular regarding their FCT scholarship.

While staying in Portugal, all students receive a scholarship from FCT. However, during the periods of study in the U.S., financial support is provided through the CMU Portugal office at CMU. In order to avoid disruptions of the payments, students are required to take some actions that are summarized below.

### 6.3.1. Suspension, Re-Activation and Renewal of The Scholarship

#### Going To CMU

When going to CMU, students must SUSPEND their FCT scholarship, by doing the following:

1. Send a request to suspend the scholarship to the National Directors of CMU Portugal (info@cmuportugal.org), with:
   
   a. the planned date of transfer;
   
   b. the scholarship reference number (SFRH/BD/.../...) stated in the FCT contract;
   
   c. a short paragraph on the coursework and the research developed in the doctoral program;
   
   d. a support letter from both advisors, stating their agreement with the transfer date, including a short statement on the student’s progress in the work plan.

2. After approval by the National Directors, the student should forward to FCT (bolsas@fct.pt) the request of suspension of the scholarship payments. FCT will send a written notification of this decision directly to the grant holder.

#### Transferring to a Portuguese Institution

When transferring to a Portuguese Institution, students must RE-ACTIVATE their FCT
scholarship, by doing the following:

1. Send a request to re-activate (and renew, if applicable) the scholarship to the National Directors of CMU Portugal (info@cmuportugal.org) with:
   a. the planned date of transfer;
   b. the scholarship reference number (SFRH/BD/.../...) stated in the FCT contract (in case the student has previously been in a Portuguese institution, with scholarship support);
   c. a short paragraph on the coursework and the research developed in the doctoral program.

2. Submit a support letter from both advisors together with the request, stating their agreement with the transfer date (and the renewal, if applicable), and including a short statement on the student’s progress in the work plan.

Since the re-activation and the renewal of the scholarship often coincide, we recommend submitting the following documents together with the re-activation request:

3. An up-to-date declaration of the student’s professional situation, including the nature of the employment relationship, position and annual average teaching hours (if applicable), replaceable by a statement under oath (affidavit), in case there is no professional or provision of services activity.

4. A statement from the host institution on the student’s work, including an evaluation of the student’s activities (progress according to the approved work plan), and a recommendation on whether it is appropriate to renew the scholarship for one more year.

After approval by the National Directors, the request is forwarded to FCT for the scholarship payments to be restarted. FCT will send a written notification of this decision directly to the grant holder. The grant renewal does not require signing of a new contract.

Staying at a Portuguese Institution (for 12+ consecutive months)
A request to RENEW the FCT contract is required when the students are in Portugal for more than 12 consecutive months (without interruption). The contract is not renewed automatically. In this situation, the students are required to do the following:

1. Send a request to renew the scholarship to the National Directors of CMU Portugal, with:
   a. The expected month for beginning of renewal;
   b. the scholarship reference number (SFRH/BD/.../...) stated in the FCT contract;
   c. a short paragraph on the coursework and the research developed in the doctoral program;
2. Submit a support letter from both advisors together with the request, stating their agreement with the renewal, and including a short statement on the student’s progress in the work plan;
3. An up-to-date declaration of the student’s professional situation, including the nature of the employment relationship, position and annual average teaching hours (if applicable), replaceable by a statement under oath (affidavit), in the case of no professional or provision of services activity;
4. Submit with the request a statement from the host institution on the student’s work, including an evaluation of the student’s activities (progress according to the approved work plan), and a recommendation on whether it is appropriate to renew the scholarship for one more year.

After approval by the National Director, the request is forwarded to FCT by the grant holder for the scholarship payments to be continued. FCT will send a written notification of this decision directly to the grant holder. The grant renewal does not require signing of a new contract.

6.3.2. Residence Card and Renewal of The Residence Card

Arriving in Portugal
In addition to the visa, a residence card is necessary for long-term stays in Portugal by any non-Portuguese citizens.

When non-Portuguese students involved in the Program come to Portugal with the intention of remaining for a period of more than three months, they must apply for a residence card upon their arrival. You can find more information on the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs website.

Although all non-Portuguese citizens have to apply for a residence card in Portugal, different steps may be needed depending on the nationality.

**Leaving Portugal**

Under the current Portuguese legislation, the residence permit in Portugal can be revoked when the person, without suitable reason, is absent from the country for a period of 6 consecutive months, or 8 interpolated months, throughout the validity period of the residence card.

When students are planning to move to Carnegie Mellon University to continue their studies for long-term stays, there are some actions that can be taken to avoid having to apply again for a visa at a Portuguese consulate abroad, as well as the residence card at SEF, when back in Portugal.

**Before leaving Portugal,** students should contact the Student Support Officer (info@cmuportugal.org), who will be able to provide some guidance on this process.

**Visa for the U.S.**

A visa is necessary for long-term stays in the U.S. by any non-American citizens. In order to apply for a visa at a U.S. embassy or consulate, students must have a SEVIS-generated document (either I-20 or DS-2019). It is issued by Carnegie Mellon University and it is specific to the institution and program of study you will attend in the U.S. It must be presented to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate abroad to obtain an entry visa and to immigration officials to enter the U.S. in student status. Students will be required to submit this form when applying for a visa. Here is a short description of the different visa types that involve study:

- F-1, or Student Visa: This visa is the most common for those who wish to engage in academic studies in the United States. It is for people who want to study at an accredited U.S. college or university or to study English at a university or intensive English language institute;

- J-1, or Exchange Visitor: This visa is for people who will be participating in an exchange visitor program in the U.S. The "J" visa is for educational and cultural exchange programs;

- M-1, or Student Visa: This visa is for those who will be engaged in non-academic or vocational study or training at an institution in the U.S.

CMU will provide the appropriate SEVIS-generated form only when the students have been academically admitted to the institution. The university will also send the students additional information on how to apply for the appropriate visa, as well as guidance on starting their academic programs in the United States.

Students should contact their home department at Carnegie Mellon University, as well as the Office of International Education (OIE) regarding the visa issues.

7. Dual Degree Ph.D. Program Structure

7.1 Guidelines for Co-Supervision

Students enrolled in the dual degree Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program will be guided during their studies by two advisors (one at Carnegie Mellon and one at the Portuguese university). Students will carry out their research and coursework on both locations, in distinct periods defined by the time plan.

Therefore, student and advisors must make a yearly Work Plan after the acceptance of admission in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program. The Work Plan should include preliminary research topic, host institutions, and tentative dates, and it should be signed by all parties (student and both advisors). The Work Plan must be sent to FCT (when acquiring a fellowship) and to the National Directors, because it will allow CMU Portugal Office staff to address students’ issues effectively and in a timely manner.
Periodic conference call meetings between the student and the advisors are an essential part of the process because it enables effective collaboration and full immersion in the educational activities and research projects. Both advisors should be highly involved in the student’s degree pursuit and should provide the student with constant guidance.

7.1. Requirements for Students

Please check each Ph.D. Program page for the specific requirements of the program that you are enrolled in, since they vary from department to department.

Courses

The Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program has developed and adopted a “virtual campus” approach that ultimately enables any student to take advantage of all courses being offered across the programs in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program, regardless of the physical location.

The courses taught across various Portuguese institutions have corresponding codes in Carnegie Mellon’s system. They are offered in English with the resources similar to the resources offered at Carnegie Mellon and taught consistently with the CMU academic calendar.

For example, although taught in Portugal, students are also registered in these courses in the Carnegie Mellon student system and have access to all the electronic resources that the students on the Pittsburgh campus have.

https://www.cmuportugal.org/dual-degree-phd/
Research

Students involved in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program engage in a wide range of research projects. Throughout our various graduate programs, student and faculty research is a key component to Carnegie Mellon Portugal Program’s academic strengths.

As a program, CMU Portugal’s research component focuses on scientific areas, including information processing and networks, critical infrastructure and risk assessment, applied mathematics and technology, innovation and policy. An industrial affiliate program[^37] includes the membership of some of the main ICT companies in Portugal. Other major national and multinational companies and a number of technology-based firms, have or are currently collaborating with the Program[^38].

Qualifying Exam (Certain Ph. D. Programs)

An extremely important step for students who are working towards a Ph.D. degree is the Ph.D. qualifying examination. The purpose of the Ph.D. qualifying examination is to determine whether the student has the intellectual maturity, readiness and ability to begin engaging in doctoral research. It is an assessment of candidates thinking,

[^37]: [https://www.cmuportugal.org/industry-affiliates-2/](https://www.cmuportugal.org/industry-affiliates-2/)
[^38]: [https://www.cmuportugal.org/industry-partners/](https://www.cmuportugal.org/industry-partners/)
writing and speaking skills, as well as a valuation of students’ ability to pursue research activities.

**Teaching Requirements (Ph.D. Students)**

Experience with teaching or helping teaching courses is another task required for the students enrolled in the Carnegie Mellon Portugal Ph.D. Program. Students will typically teach one undergraduate or graduate elementary course, in English. The aim of this requirement is to develop and to perfect student’s communication skills.

**Thesis Proposal and Defense of Dissertation (Ph.D. Students)**

Please refer to your specific Program requirements.

**8. Reporting to the CMU Portugal Program**

Students must inform the CMU Portugal Program about their plans well in advance, since the Program is carried out on the two continents and timely communication between all parties in the Program is a must.

You should notify the Coordination Office when you:

1. Arrive at the institution;
2. Submit documents for FCT scholarship;
3. Transfer to Carnegie Mellon or to a Portuguese Institution;
4. Make an emergency departure from the U.S. or Portugal;
5. Have ideas and suggestions.

Also, share with us:

1. Any important academic problems;
2. Serious health issues;
3. Change in address within 10 days of making such a change.

And be involved with the Program by:

1. Sharing with us all success stories related to your Ph.D. (published papers, awards, etc.);
2. Following us on social media: Facebook | Twitter | LinkedIn
3. Requesting us to update your profile page on our website whenever needed

9. Plagiarism and Intellectual Property

Please review Carnegie Mellon University’s Policy on Academic Integrity. The policy includes the University expectations around academic integrity and provides definitions of cheating, plagiarism, and unauthorized assistance.

A review of the CMU’s Academic Disciplinary Actions procedures is also recommended. These procedures outline the process for investigating, reporting, and adjudicating violations of the University Policy on Academic Integrity. The procedures also outline the appeal process.

10. Registration and Academic Rules

10.1. Academic Year in Portugal

Universities and colleges follow an academic year, which consists of two semesters. Academic year begins with the start of autumn and ends the following summer.

During the academic year there some breaks or holidays when classes are not being taught:

Christmas Break: Usually beginning the 3rd week of December and lasts for two weeks including Christmas and New Year holidays.

Carnival Break: Three days (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday) during Carnival.

40 https://www.cmu.edu/student-affairs/the-word/academic/graduate-academic-disciplinary-procedures.html
Easter Break: Around two weeks including Easter. It varies from year to year, but is usually around late March or mid-April.

Summer Break: Takes place from late July to early September and it separates one school year from another.

**Important dates - Basic Calendar**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Week of August/ Mid-September</th>
<th>Arrival - Start of the Academic Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-September Through Mid-February</td>
<td>1st Semester:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First day of class: Mid-September</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christmas break: Last week of December + First week of January</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Final exams: End of February</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March Through Mid-July</th>
<th>2nd Semester:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Courses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>- Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First day of class:</td>
<td>Beginning of March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Exams:</td>
<td>Mid-June</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**10.2. Academic Calendar at CMU**

This calendar represents a general guideline for the incoming students. Please check the website of your home institution to get the exact academic calendar.
The Academic Calendar can be found here and provides information on all deadlines including registration dates, class start dates, add/drop deadlines, exam dates and more.

https://www.cmu.edu/hub/calendar/index.html
11. Useful Addresses

OIE - Office of International Education at Carnegie Mellon University

http://www.cmu.edu/oie/index.html
Office of International Education
Carnegie Mellon University
5000 Forbes Avenue
Posner Hall, Third Floor
Pittsburgh, PA, 15213

Governmental Agencies in Portugal

SEF – Serviço de Estrangeiros e Fronteiras
http://www.sef.pt

ACM – Alto Comissariado para as imigrações
http://www.acm.gov.pt/acm

Loja do Cidadão
https://www.portaldocidadao.pt/web/lojas-edc/lojas

Embassies in Portugal
https://embassy.goabroad.com/embassies-in/portugal

Courses of Portuguese Language for Foreigners

University of Porto
https://sigarra.up.pt/flup/en/web_base.gera_pagina?p_pagina=cursos%20de%20portugu%c3%aas%20estrangeira

University of Coimbra
http://www.uc.pt/international-applicants/opportunidades/linguas/portuguese-courses/index/

University of Lisbon
University of Aveiro
https://www.ua.pt/dlc/4spic

University of Minho

Where to Learn Portuguese?

It is common for universities to have Portuguese courses for foreign students throughout the academic year. Students can obtain more information at the international office support of their Portuguese institution.

Cultural Organizations in Pittsburgh

GLOBAL PITTSBURGH is an organization which brings together international residents and visitors temporarily living, studying and working in the Pittsburgh region through the CONNECT program, which offers 20+ programs and networking events per year.

CONNECT membership program:

- It is a membership that helps internationals living in the Pittsburgh area to adjust to life in the U.S. and also to see what Pittsburgh has to offer. It introduces internationals to Americans who are interested in sharing their knowledge of Pittsburgh and the US;
- GlobalPittsburgh’s members have opportunities to see live theatre and classical music concerts for free;
- A popular part of the CONNECT membership is having the opportunity to meet Americans for dinners in their home, and one of the most interesting days to meet a family for dinner is during the Thanksgiving Day holiday in November;
- GlobalPittsburgh arranges group activities about twice a month throughout the year that may be free, but if an activity is not free, it will likely be discounted from the original price;

GlobalPittsburgh’s international student members come from several universities and the majority of members are graduate students.

More information on the program: www.globalpittsburgh.org