



Universidade do Minho  
Rectorate

**Order RT-59/2019**

Changes to UMinho's Regulation  
for Awarding Excellence  
Scholarships

In 2011, by means of Order RT-41/2011 of 29 June, the University of Minho (UMinho) established the Promotional Programme of Academic Excellence of UMinho, which establishes the awarding of scholarships to the best students of each bachelor and integrated master's degree. In 2012, by means of Order RT-30/2012 of 9 May, the regulation for the awarding of those scholarships was approved. As a result of the experience gained, it became necessary to review the previously mentioned regulation in order to clarify a few articles and make the awarding of these scholarships more compatible with its objective, namely in terms of recognising and awarding UMinho's best students. Thus, under the provisions set forth in Article 37 of the Statutes of the University of Minho, as approved by Legislative Order No. 13/2017 of 29 August, published in the 2nd series of the Official Gazette, No. 183, of 21 September, and upon hearing the Pedagogical Committee of the Academic Senate in their meeting on 11 September 2019, I hereby approve the Regulation for Awarding Excellence Scholarships of UMinho, attached to the present Order.

I hereby revoke Order RT-41/2011 of 29 June and Order RT-30/2012 of 9 May.

The Rector of the University Minho

[Qualified  
Signature] Rui  
Manuel Costa  
Vieira de Castro

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Rui Manuel Costa  
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## **REGULATION FOR AWARDING EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIPS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MINHO**

### **Preamble**

With a view to attracting outstanding students and promoting their academic success, the Promotional Programme of Academic Excellence of the University of Minho (UMinho) was approved by Order RT-41/2011 of 29 June, which establishes the awarding of scholarships to the best students of each bachelor and integrated master's degree.

The Order RT-30/2012 of 9 May regulated the awarding of Excellence Scholarships to UMinho's students between 2012 and 2019.

The experienced gained proved that it was necessary to clarify a few articles of that Regulation and make the awarding of these scholarships more compatible with its objective of recognising and awarding UMinho's best students.

### **Article 1**

#### **Objective**

The Excellence Scholarships prize seeks to recognise and award the excellence of students of bachelor and integrated master's degrees of UMinho.

### **Article 2**

#### **Scope of applicability**

The Excellence Scholarships prize is awarded annually by UMinho to the best students of bachelor and integrated master's degrees, and who are registered and enrolled at the University in the year the scholarship is granted, except in the case of students that have completed one of those degrees in the year before, for which such requirement is not demanded.

### **Article 3**

#### **Number of Scholarships**

1. One Excellence Scholarship is granted for each academic year of every bachelor and integrated master's degree.
2. A scholarship is also awarded to the students that enrolled in each degree mentioned to in the previous number in the year the scholarship is granted.
3. Additional scholarships may be granted in a specific degree, by decision of the Rector and upon hearing the President of the Organic Unit responsible for the degree's pedagogical management.

### **Article 4**

#### **Eligibility of students that have been placed and enrolled at UMinho**

Each academic year, 1st year students are eligible to receive UMinho's Excellence Scholarship prize, provided that the following requirements are met:

- a) during the academic year in which the scholarship is granted, students have selected the degree of UMinho's as their 1st option and in the 1st phase of the National Competition for Access and Enrolment in Higher Education (general contingent);
- b) students have enrolled in the bachelor or integrated master's degree to which they applied in the first place;
- c) students have obtained the best application grade to the degree, provided that is equal or higher than 17,0.

### **Article 5**

#### **Eligibility of students from following years at UMinho**

Each academic year, 2nd year students and students enrolled in the following years are eligible to receive UMinho's Excellence Scholarships prize, provided that the following requirements are met:

- a) students are properly enrolled in an bachelor or integrated master's degree academic year;
- b) students have never failed an academic year and have successfully completed all course units;
- c) in the previous academic year, students have obtained the best performance in the academic year they were enrolled in, provided that the weighted average grade in the course units of the academic year in which they were registered is equal or higher than 17,0.

**Article 6**  
**Eligibility of students that completed a degree at UMinho**

Each academic year, students from a bachelor or integrated master's degree are eligible to receive UMinho's Excellence Scholarships prize, provided that the following requirements are met:

- a) students have never failed an academic year and have successfully completed all course units;
- b) in the year before the scholarship is granted, students have been properly enrolled at UMinho and successfully completed all course units of the last year of the degree's study plan;
- c) students have completed the degree with the best performance, provided that the final grade is equal or higher than 17,0.

**Article 7**  
**Not Eligible**

Students are not eligible to receive UMinho's Excellence Scholarships prize:

- a) in the case of 1st year students of each degree, students that have been placed at UMinho through other schemes than the National Competition for Access and Enrolment in Higher Education (general contingent);
- b) students that in the year before the scholarship is granted have been abroad under mobility programmes and haven't successfully completed the study plan approved by UMinho and the respective foreign university;
- c) students that have failed one or several academic years and/or have progressed to another academic year with incomplete course units;
- d) students that until the date in which the list of the awarded students is published have been granted merit scholarships by other entities, which fall within the same scope, and are designed to award the best students (e.g.: Merit Scholarships of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education or scholarships granted by UMinho's Organic Units).

**Article 8**  
**Tie situations**

1. In the event of a tie with regard to students enrolled in the 1st academic year of the degree, the following criteria will be applied successively:
  - a) highest application grade;
  - b) highest average grade of entrance examinations;
  - c) highest average grade of Secondary School.
2. In the event of a tie with regard to students enrolled in academic years following the 1st year and students that have completed their degree in the year in which the scholarship will be granted, the following criteria will be applied successively:
  - a) highest weighted average grade rounded to the nearest thousandths, and taking into account all course units completed until the end of the year before the year in which the scholarship is granted;
  - b) lowest number of course units completed by training accreditation or due to previous experience;
  - c) lowest number of performed grade improvements.
3. In case the tie situation persists after the application of the aforementioned criteria, the prize will be granted *ex aequo*, where the amount will be equally distributed amongst the students with the equal grade.

**Article 9**  
**Situations not covered**

The calculation of the average grade excludes:

- a) grades that result from a grade improvement that was not obtained on the respective academic year;
- b) course units' grades from advanced academic years with regard to the year in which the scholarship is granted.

**Article 10**  
**Procedures**

1. The provisional list of the awarded students will be prepared by UMinho's competent services and announced via the Academic Portal, until the 10th of April of each year.
2. Any appeals should be submitted to the Rector by the student within the 10 working days following the publication of the list of awarded students, and the student will be notified of the decision via the Academic Portal, within a period of not more than five days.
3. Any appeals presented by a third party or made out of time will be dismissed without further consideration.

4. The definitive list of the students awarded with the excellence scholarship, approved by the Rector or by whom has the necessary powers to do so, will be announced in the same way.

#### **Article 11**

##### **Value of the scholarships**

1. The Scholarships have a monetary value equal to the 1st cycle's tuition fee, in the year in which the scholarship is granted, and they are accompanied by a certificate.
2. The value of the Excellence Scholarships will be jointly borne, in equal parts, by the Rectorate and the Organic Unit responsible for the degree's management.

#### **Article 12**

##### **Award Ceremony**

The Excellence Scholarships prize will be granted in a formal ceremony offered by the Rectorate of UMinho and is expected to take place every year in the month of May.

#### **Article 13**

##### **Entry into force**

The present regulation shall apply to the academic year from 2019/2020 onwards (inclusive).

#### **Article 14**

##### **Repeal**

Order RT-41/2011 of 29 June and Order RT-30/2012 of 9 May will be repealed.