

Plano de Estudos

The medical curriculum of FMUL is an integrated program of studies evolving over a period of 6 years leading to a Masters Degree in Medicine. In accordance with the Bologna Process, the FMUL does offer a course with two cycles (two periods of 3 years) that, nevertheless, remain connected for purposes of attainment of the Masters degree.

The academic experience at FMUL can have multiple formats, ranging from traditional lectures to small group problem oriented discussions, clinical case presentations, clinical practice in the wards, emergency rooms, outpatient clinics, day hospitals, community centers, etc. It can be, indeed, a very diverse and complete set of experiences.

We very much enjoy teaching foreign students. Over the years, we have realized that students are best taught if they follow our curriculum. Of course, due to discrepancies of curricula across Europe, it may not be possible for a foreign student to fully enroll at FMUL as if he/she was a home student. The clinical years usually pose more difficulties. In that case, we attempt to meet the student's needs in combining subjects from the 4th and 5th year of our medical course. Starting in the academic year 2011/2012, and in order to accommodate the curricular needs of foreign students, we developed a number of curricular alternatives at FMUL that will hopefully meet their requirements. However, students should be aware that, although not following the traditional combination of subjects of home students, for each subject they will be considered as a home student by the teaching staff and they will be evaluated as such. Each student has to choose the curricular plan that more closely matches his/her wishes. Minor changes can be analyzed according to the student's requirements but, once a curricular plan is approved, major changes will not be permitted. In order to attain a numerical classification in the end, some integrated blocks cannot be split: for example, in Module V.I - Medicine from the 4th year it is not possible to separate Internal Medicine / Hematology / Cardiology / Lung Diseases; in Module V.II - Medicine from the 5th year it is not possible to separate Internal Medicine / Gastroenterology / Rheumatology / Endocrinology. Notable exceptions Module V.I and V.II - Medicine are Dermatology, Laboratory Medicine and Infectious Diseases, respectively, which can be taken separately. For Module V.II Internal Medicine, only 5th year medical students will be considered, preferably with prior studies in the areas represented in Module V.I Internal Medicine, 4th year (Cardiology, Pneumology and Hematology). The exam of Module V.II Internal Medicine is all encompassing.

Foreign students will have ample possibilities to enroll in optional subjects and clinical rotations in virtually every medical or surgical specialty (view list). However, they should be aware that only ECTS credits will be awarded and that no numerical classification will be

granted in those circumstances. Our home students attending elective courses are also only awarded ECTS credits.

For a foreign student, it is not possible to enroll in one of the more clinical years (4th, 5th or 6th) without having completed all the pre-clinical studies at their home university. That is also the rule for our home students. The only exception will be for those students wanting to attend our Biopathology subject, which is usually taught in the 2nd year, but that we can offer to foreign students attending 4th and 5th year clinical subjects. We will not accept foreign students for the 4th and 5th clinical year at FMUL with major basic science subjects lacking, such as Anatomy, Physiology, Biochemistry, Biophysics, Cell Biology, Immunology, amongst others. The 6th grade is exclusively dedicated to clinical practice in the core clinical areas: Internal Medicine, General Surgery, Mother and Child Health, General and Communitarian Medicine and Public and Mental Health. Foreign students can only enroll in the 6th year if they have completed all clinical rotations and practices at their home university. As an example, it is not possible to enroll in 6th year Internal Medicine if the student had only limited contact with that type of patient. In that case, the student will be advised to pursue studies in Medicine I, in the 4th year, or in Medicine II, in the 5th year. One has to understand that the objective of the 6th year in Portugal is to replace a still mandatory year of clinical practice after graduation, and not to introduce students for the first time to patients. Our home students have already ample exposure to patients in their 4th and 5th years.

In order to profit from the experience of studying at FMUL, foreign students need to have some degree of proficiency in the Portuguese language – B1. The University of Lisbon offers Portuguese language courses in the first month of each semester. However, we strongly advise foreign students to attend a Portuguese language course prior to their arrival to Lisbon. Our suggestion applies to all students, including those whose mother language is closer to Portuguese, such as Spanish or Italian. Foreign students should be aware that most of the medical terminology will be new for them, which presents a further challenge and that in order to fully profit from this experience they have to be able to communicate with the teaching staff and the patients. They should also be aware that they will be evaluated as a home student; therefore, an average comprehension of the Portuguese language will be essential.
