

# BPI

## BRAGANCA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

The Polytechnic Institute of Bragança (IPB) is a public institution was founded in 1983 and it is currently divided into five autonomous schools: School of Agriculture, functioning since 1986/1987; School of Education, operating since 1986/1987; School of Technology and Management of Bragança, working since 1990/1991; School of Technology and Management Mirandela, working since 1995; Health School, working since 2002. (Former Nursing School, since 1971).

Almost all buildings of IPB(with the exception of those located in Mirandela) are concentrated in one campus, a former farm known as Quinta de Santa Apolónia, with 50 ha of green open space near the town centre of Bragança. At the moment the IPB buildings occupy an area of approximately 24,000m<sup>2</sup>, school buildings, student support services building, 3 houses for students and visitor accommodation, outdoor multi-sport area. The original buildings of the former farm were preserved, including the farmhouse, a chapel and other facilities.

Nowadays, the IPB offers 41 programmes at the undergraduate degree (licenciatura) in various teaching areas: nursing, health technologies, technologies, agricultural sciences, pre-school and 1st and 2nd cycles of Basic Education, artistic recreation, social communication, arts and design, and sports sciences, computer science, accounting, management, tourism, social education and social services.

Additionally, IPB also offers post-secondary technological programmes and 6 master's programmes in different areas of knowledge in cooperation with other universities.

In the process of adaptation to the Bologna Declaration, undertaken in the present school year, the adaptation or the creation of 31 of the present 41 bachelor's degrees, leaving the remaining non-adapted programmes to health sciences and teaching training areas which are still awaiting ministry guidelines.

Although IPB is located in a region of low population density, the presence of students from other regions is noticeable. In 2005/2006 we had 5253 students. Additionally, the presence of students from the Portuguese-speaking African countries which represent an enrolment of 30 students per year, and the dimensions of the European education programme (Erasmus mobility) which involves more than 100 foreign students per year need to be noted.

The size of the teaching staff has accompanied the growth of the student population and currently it consists of 413 professors. Ever since its birth, one of the first priorities has been the encouragement of further advanced studies undertaken by members of the institute, it's been a linear growth in the number of staff members with a Master's degree and almost exponential in number of staff members with a PhD.

In addition, it is important to emphasize the existence of units of R&D of the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) which are installed in the IPB. This will most certainly will be one of the future investments of our institution that will contribute to the development of the capacity for research on the part of staff members with doctorate degrees.

Despite the training mission of IPB, we have been carrying out support activities for the local community following 2 main guidelines: a)the support for the realization and joint realization of technical, scientific and cultural events and b) the rendering of services and the conducting of surveys of interest to the community.

Among others, we emphasized the close relation with regional education institutions, the availability of IPB infrastructures and services to community, the existence of school offices for community relationship, and the existence of IPB offices devoted to technology transfer, main activities which involve a considerable number of organizations, namely town halls and parish councils, associations and cooperatives, public institutions, health institutions, cultural institutions, social solidarity institutions and companies in general.

IPB has been using for quite long time and rather successfully the European Programmes.

Nowadays collaboration of more than 60 European partner universities started in the Erasmus program. This cooperation allowed the mobility of more than 120 outgoing students per year, 130 incoming, as well as the visit of 45 teaching staff and 12 outgoing teachers.

Initially IPB bet in students and teachers mobility (incoming, outgoing) what allowed creation of European dimension on

the institution that has been valued by all academic community.

After learning and enjoying the idea for European citizenship, there are gathered all the conditions to think in other dimension beyond mobility activities.

Erasmus mobility activities allowed us to have deeper knowledge of our partners, developing relationship of cooperation, thrust and proximity, so together, we can define common strategies.

IPB aims to continue his Erasmus mobility activities, and submission to staff training, creation of projects in the action Comenius, Erasmus Intensive Programmes (IP), Erasmus Intensive Language Courses (EILC), and others we may find relevant.

The creation of Joint Degrees with our partners is considered vital importance and improvement quality in education. IPB will give special attention to quality dimension and excellence of all international activities, deeply committed in Student Staff mobility, research activities and possible creation of Joint Degree study programmes, we hope to continue to be a quality centre for education, research and development of social, science and technology training activities.

List of IPB courses

- Agriculture School
- Agronomy
- Food Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Biotechnological Engineering
- Forest Engineering
- Veterinary Technology
- Phytochemistry and Phytopharmacology
- Zootechnic Engineering
- The School of Education
- Artistic Recreation
- Sports
- Environmental Education
- Social Education
- Languages and International Relations
- Technology and Management School
- Accounting
- Biomedical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Industrial Engineering
- Computer Science Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Chemical Engineering

- Management
- Information Systems and Technologies
- Technology and Management School of Mirandela
- Public Management and Administration
- Sociocultural Management
- Computer Science and Communications
- Marketing
- Multimedia
- Solicitadoria (Law studies)
- Communication and Technologies
- Tourism
- Health School
- Nursing
- Dietetics
- Pharmacy