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Over the years the Catholic University of Portugal has established its position as one of the leading academic communities in the country through its high quality teaching, demanding training programmes, the prestige of its lecturers, and the many leading managers, lawyers, scholars, officials, businessmen it has taught and who have been successful both in Portugal and internationally.
Ours is a nationwide university located in four regional centres (Braga, Oporto, Beiras and Lisbon), as well as in Macao, where we run a University Institute.
Its first constituent Faculty was the Jesuit-owned and run Faculty of Philosophy of Braga (Northern Portugal). However, the University was soon extended to Lisbon where it opened, in 1968, the Faculty of Theology and, in 1971, the Faculty of Human Sciences.

The Portuguese government’s official recognition of UCP occurred in 1971, via decree-law 307/71, which acknowledged the Catholic University as on a par with the other Portuguese universities and conferred on the degrees it grants - presently licenciado, mestre and doutor, - the same value and the same effects as those awarded by State universities.

The creation of the University constitutes a milestone in modern higher education in Portugal: for the first time the State was not directly involved in and responsible for a university. As had been the case in the 16th and 17th centuries, in the renowned Universities of Coimbra and Évora, the Church was given the opportunity to contribute decisively to the higher education of young people, by offering them, along with academic and scientific excellence, an overall education based on the principles and values of Christianity.

The late seventies and eighties saw the establishment and development in Portugal of a privately-owned sector in higher education (including both universities and polytechnics). Within that context, there has been a generalised acceptance of the distinctive position held by the Catholic University - a public, non-State and non-profit-seeking institution.

Nowadays, and following the general trend in Portugal and abroad, UCP enjoys a large degree of autonomy in the creation and running of new campuses, faculties and courses.

Taking advantage of the fact, it has been a pioneer in some aspects of university development in Portugal, e.g. business administration and management, food engineering, multimedia, digital arts.
The University’s Legal Status

UCP is an autonomous institution of public utility, created by the Congregation for Catholic Education (Holy See) under the Concordat between Portugal and the Vatican, and recognised by the Portuguese state in 1971. The University’s legal framework is established by Decree-Law 128/90 (17 April).

Governing Bodies

The University’s current statutes, issued in 1993, establish the following ruling bodies - High Chancellor, Rector, Board of Trustees, Financial Management Board.

The Board of Trustees comprises the University’s main officers – Rector, Vice-Rectors and Deans of Faculties and 10 external independent members drawn from business, under the chairmanship of the High Chancellor. It is the governing body responsible for the affairs of the University, setting the University’s strategic direction, ensuring effective management and control of the University’s affairs, property and finances and determining the structure, staffing and overall composition of the University.

The Rector is the principal academic and administrative officer of the University. The Congregation for Catholic Education and the Portuguese Bishops’ Conference are the senior ruling bodies.
1967
Establishment of UCP (Braga), Faculty of Philosophy
High Chancellor: Cardinal Manuel Gonçalves Cerejeira

1968
Appointment of a Vice-Rector: Prof. José do Patrocínio Bacelar e Oliveira, SJ
Establishment of the Faculty of Theology (Lisbon)

1971
New High Chancellor: Cardinal António Ribeiro
Official recognition of UCP by the State (decree-law 307/71)

1972
Appointment of first Rector: Prof. José do Patrocínio Bacelar e Oliveira, SJ
Establishment of the Faculty of Human Sciences

1978
UCP is extended to Oporto

1980
UCP is extended to Viseu

1982
His Holiness Pope John Paul II visits the Lisbon campus and blesses the foundation stone of the University Library
Establishment of the Faculty of Biotechnology (Oporto)

1985
Establishment of the University Institute for Development and Social Progress (Viseu)

1988
Appointment of a new Rector: Prof. D. José da Cruz Policarpo
Law and Economics and Business Administration and Management, formerly included in the Faculty of Human Sciences, become separate Faculties, the Faculty of Law and the School of Economics and Management

1993
Establishment of the Faculty of Arts (Viseu)

1996
Third Rector: Prof. Manuel Isidro Araújo Alves
Establishment of:
College of Sciences and Technology (Viseu and Figueira da Foz)
School of Fine Arts (Oporto)
Macau Inter-University Institute

- **1997**
  Establishment of:
  Institute of European Studies
  Institute of Political Studies
  Institute of Education (presently the Faculty of Education and Psychology)

- **1998**
  High Chancellor: Cardinal José da Cruz Policarpo

- **1999**
  Establishment of the Faculty of Engineering (Sintra campus)
  First courses in Caldas da Rainha
  Creation of Braga Regional Centre

- **2000**
  Appointment of a new Rector: Prof. Manuel António Garcia Braga da Cruz

- **2001**
  Establishment of the Faculty of Social Sciences (Braga)
  In Oporto, Economics and Business Administration and Management, formerly included in the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, become a separate Faculty, the Faculty of Economics and Management Dentistry and Architecture in Viseu

- **2002**
  Establishment of:
  Institute of Oriental Studies
  Institute of Bioethics

- **2004**
  Institute of Health Sciences

- **2005**
  Higher Institute for Canon Law

- **2006**
  Incorporation into Institute of Health Sciences of Nursing Schools in Oporto and Lisbon

- **2006/2007**
  Within the framework of the Bologna Process, extensive reorganization of studies

- **2007**
  40th Anniversary of the Catholic University of Portugal
Academic Structure and Management

The Catholic University of Portugal is:
- An academic community that helps defend and develop the human being and his/her cultural heritage through research, teaching and services;
- A major presence in the Portuguese university world, characterized by a Christian vision of mankind and making a specific contribution to all areas of knowledge.

Academic structure and management

UCP consists of faculties, schools and institutes, which are the basic education and research units. They are located in the four centres: Beiras, Braga, Lisbon (seat) and Oporto. The latter can have one or more local centres or campuses in the same city or in other locations.

Each education and research unit is run by a Dean/Head of the Faculty, the Faculty Board and the Faculty Academic Board.

- **Beiras Regional Centre**
  - Department of Architecture, Sciences and Technology
  - Institute of Health Sciences
  - Department of Economics, Management and Social Sciences
  - Department of Arts

- **Braga Regional Centre**
  - Faculty of Philosophy
  - Faculty of Social Sciences
  - Faculty of Theology

- **Lisbon**
  - Faculty of Education and Psychology
  - Faculty of Engineering
  - Faculty of Human Sciences
  - Faculty of Theology
  - Higher Institute for Canon Law
Institute of European Studies
Institute of Health Sciences
Institute of Oriental Studies
Institute of Political Studies
Lisbon School of the Faculty of Law
School of Economics and Management

Oporto Regional Centre

Faculty of Biotechnology
Faculty of Economics and Management
Faculty of Education and Psychology
Faculty of Theology
Institute of Bioethics
Institute of Health Sciences
Oporto School of the Faculty of Law
School of Fine Arts

Abroad
Macau Inter-university Institute

Main Fields of Study

- Architecture
- Arts and Humanities
- Biosciences and Bioengineering
- Business Administration and Management
- Communication studies
- Economics
- Education Sciences
- Engineering
- Fine Arts
- Health Sciences
- Law
- Music
- Nursing
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Social Sciences
- Sound and Image
- Theology and Religious studies
Research

“UCP recognises that academic research is a prerequisite for the proper achievement of its cultural and teaching activities, and shall make every effort to provide the means to foster this research” (Article 7 of the Statutes)

The research centres are based within the Faculties and most of the academic staff belong to one or more of the centres. The centres and their projects are funded from a variety of sources: institutions and societies; the EU; the Portuguese government departments and initiatives; commercial and industrial organisations. They are regularly subject to external assessment exercises, where their ratings have been very good or excellent.

- Bioethics Research Centre
- Cardinal Hoeffner Centre for the Study of Religions and Cultures (CERC)
- Centre for Applied Management and Economics (CEGEA)
- Centre for Applied Studies (CEA)
- Centre for Art Conservation and Restoration (CITAR)
- Centre for Biotechnology and Fine Chemicals (CBQF)
- Centre for Management and Economics (CEGE)
- Centre for Opinion Polls (CESOP)
- Centre for Social Work Studies
- Centre for the Study of Canon Law (CEDC)
- Centre for the Study of Communication and Cultures
- Centre for the Study of Languages and Literatures
- Centre for the Study of Philosophy (CEFi)
- Centre for the Study of Portuguese Thinking
- Centre for the Study of Portuguese-speaking Peoples and Cultures (CEPCEP)
- Centre for the Study of Psychology and Education
- Centre for the Study of Religious History (CEHR)
- Centre of Philosophical and Humanistic Studies
- Economics and Business Ethics Centre
- Environmental Studies Group (GEA)
- Family Sciences Institute
- Research Centre in Science, Technology and Arts (CITAR)
- School of Economics and Management Research Unit (UNICEE)
The courses taught at UCP and the resulting qualifications (degree, master’s and doctorate) have the same value and effects as those from state universities (Decree-Law 128/90).

A very broad reform of all degree-granting courses has been carried out in the past years, within the framework of the Bologna process.
The already-existing three-cycle system has been maintained. The duration and organisation of each cycle, however, has considerably changed.

**The University now offers:**

“licenciaturas”
1st cycle – between 180 and 240 ECTS credits;

“mestrados”
2nd cycle – between 90 and 120 ECTS credits; there are masters by teaching and research and professional masters;

“mestrados integrados”
integrated 1st and 2nd cycle – 300 ECTS credits

“doutoramentos”
3d cycle – doctoral programmes or traditional doctorates by research and thesis.

## Degrees

### Quality assessment

As part of the quality assessment procedure organised by the Portuguese Universities Foundation, the degree courses at UCP have been regularly assessed both internally and externally.

The University was also one of the first to undergo an institutional evaluation within the framework of the EUA International Evaluation Programme.

### Executive training courses

The executive courses of the Schools of Economics and Management and Law in Lisbon and Oporto have been extremely successful.

The Financial Times Executive Education Survey 2007 has ranked FCEE-Católica’s executive education as 42nd best in the world and 19th best in Europe. This is the first time a Portuguese university has entered the FT rankings of business schools, which also evaluate business schools from all over the world on their Executive MBA, Global MBA, and European Masters in Management programmes.
Facilities

On all campuses there are excellent working conditions, including libraries, laboratories, computer and study rooms, cafetarias and restaurants.

UCP is part of a major nationwide electronic University project called e-U. This has enabled the creation of online university services, the production and sharing of academic contents and free internet (and intranet) access from inside and outside the university “at any time and from any place”.

The campuses are covered by a “wifi” network, which permits access to the internet and to university services via portable computers.

Funding

Since the state does not grant it any direct funding, UCP relies almost entirely on student fees.

However, Portuguese, EU and Brazilian students in financial difficulties can apply for state-funded study grants.

Furthermore, the various faculties award “Prizes of Excellence” recognising excellence and academic merit. These are scholarships that cover the yearly tuition fees.
UCP publishes in a broad range of areas, including collections, academic journals and newsletters from the faculties and study centres.

Several publications, such as «Revista Portuguesa de Filosofia» (the Portuguese Philosophy Journal), have existed for many years and enjoy considerable prestige in academic circles.

In 1998, the university created its own publishing company - Universidade Católica Editora - which publishes in a wide range of academic areas, from theology to biotechnology and the social sciences to engineering.
Internationalisation

The internationalisation strategy of UCP dates back to its beginnings but has focused on different aspects over the years.

Currently it is aligned along three main axes:

- Convergence of higher education systems and degree structures in Europe (the Bologna process);
- Student and staff mobility: enhancement of the international experience of home students and staff through exchange and internship schemes; integration of international students into campus life, recruitment of foreign staff, internationalisation of curricula; organisation of joint or dual degree programs; introduction of English as language of instruction;
- Cooperation and exchange with the Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa, Asia and America, and in particular with their Catholic Universities.

Associations and Federations of which UCP is member

- **EUA**
  European University Association
- **IFCU/FIUC**
  International Federation of Catholic Universities
- **FUCE**
  Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes
- **AULP**
  Association of Portuguese-language Universities
Facts and Figures

Undergraduate enrolment in 2007/08: 8,063
Post-graduate enrolment in 2007/08: 2,549
Incoming and outgoing ERASMUS students: ca. 200 each way

International student from 58 countries
Staff as at 31/12/2006: 1,473
Degrees awarded in 2006: 1,600
Degrees awarded since the university began: 24,000

Total Enrolment 2007-08

Undergraduate students
Post-graduate students
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