

**University
of Minho**

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School of Medicine Medical Degree



University of Minho
School of Medicine

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Medicine
Medical Degree

Mission

0.

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Medicine
Medical Degree

The School of Medicine

1.



School of Medicine



The School of Medicine is an organic unit of the University of Minho, created to ensure graduate education in Medicine and postgraduate education, research and other specialized services in Medicine and in Health Sciences. To fulfill its mission, the School of Medicine has a highly motivated and qualified teaching staff, composed not only by doctors but also by

other professionals from several medical and biomedical areas. These are researchers at the Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS), which is part of the School. The School has the collaboration of doctors from healthcare units within the region who guide students throughout their clinical training, which constitutes a personalized education. It is part of the mis-

sion of the School of Medicine, in its interaction with the society and in line with a major recommendation of the World Health Organization, to contribute to the global awareness that health is a value to preserve, namely through the engagement of individuals in a process of mobilization for the maintenance of health.

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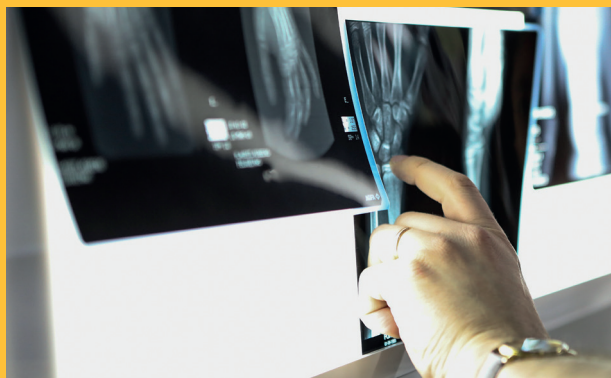
The Medical Degree

2.



Medical Degree

The central project of the School is the medical degree, which has an innovative curriculum design. The practice of Medicine is a social act and therefore the medical degree at the University of Minho is not confined to the school's walls, but it rather meets the community in which it operates. From the 1st to the 6th years, different curricular areas promote inclusion and the development of in loco skills.



Characteristics of the Degree

3.

Student-Centred

The student assumes a central and active role in the learning process, and in return he/she is required to show maximum commitment, interest and self-discipline.

Culture of Evaluation

Evaluation is a tool for constant improvement. Student's assessment is distributed throughout the school year, which requires the students to have a continuous investment in their learning process. Professors and curricular units are also evaluated.

Community-Oriented

- Training in a Health Centre (1st year): daily training within a primary care unit.
- Introduction to Clinical Medicine (3rd year) Health Centre Residencies and Hospital Residencies (4th, 5th and 6th years): the clinical training, which begins in the 3rd year, takes place in different health centres and hospitals in the school region. The experience in different health units allows the students to acknowledge different realities (rural/urban, central hospital/district hospital).

Flexible curricular structure

Students have the opportunity to diversify their curriculum throughout the degree, exploring interests and future career paths in:

- Optional Residencies (5th year) – During this period each student will train in a clinical setting of his/her choice, exploring medical specialties he/she is interested in.
- Option Project (1st, 2nd, 4th and 6th years) – Throughout the degree students complete several Option Projects. The theme and place (which can be national or abroad) are chosen by each student.

Curricular Integration

The first three years of the degree are organized in small modules of 4 to 6 weeks, where several scientific disciplines are integrated according to specific themes - e.g. cardiovascular and respiratory systems, urinary system, reproductive system. From the 4th year on, the clinical disciplines are also organized around modules, according to common themes, approached in an integrated way (e.g. osteoporosis). Learning is organized into blocks of 4 to 13 weeks' clinical rotations (Residencies), complemented with thematic workshops and the discussion of clinical cases.

Arts and Humanities

A humanistic conception of medicine has led to the creation of curricular units beyond the strictly biological and clinical. Vertical Domains (1st to 5th grade) explore areas of knowledge such as philosophy, ethics, history, literature and other art forms.

Scientific Research

4.



Scientific Research



Education at the university level is based on scientific research. The activities of research and development, which are promoted in collaboration with the Life and Health Sciences Research Institute (ICVS), are a vital part of the School's mission. The ICVS was classified as Excellent by the Portuguese nation-

al funding agency for science, research and technology and it has a multidisciplinary team of researchers. They develop research in three domains (Surgical Sciences, Microbiology and Infection, and Neurosciences) and collaborations with research centres all over the world have been constant. Our researchers

publish hundreds of papers per year in journals with international important impact. Students are given the chance to participate in the projects developed at ICVS (www.icvs.uminho.pt), either in curricular-integrated research or in the Option Projects.

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MD/PhD

5.



MD/PhD



The MD/PhD program started in 2006 as a pioneer program in Portugal and one of the few in Europe. Its goal is to allow medical students to develop a PhD program before starting their professional activity in healthcare institutions. Resulting from a collaboration with the

North-American universities of Columbia (New York City) and Thomas Jefferson (Philadelphia), this program is a unique and alternative opportunity for medical students to be formally involved in biomedical/clinical research at the beginning of their careers. The MD/PhD

students interrupt their medical undergraduate training in the end of the 5th year and start the PhD program. During the next three years, they develop their PhD thesis. After this, students are reintegrated in the medical degree and finish the 6th and last year of the medical training.

Training of Clinical Skills

6.



Clinical Skills Laboratory

The School of Medicine created the Clinical Skills Lab (CSL), an innovative space which is open daily after classes and where students may train their clinical skills supervised by a clinical tutor. The Lab promotes learning, training and assessment of clinical skills (and other skills) in a protected environment, in a controlled and safe manner for the patient, what thereby contributes to clinical excellence.

Learning with Standardized Patients

The clinical history is often the key to a diagnosis. Hence, it is essential for future doctors to learn how to collect it and to manage the relationship with the patient. The Lab uses standardized patients to simulate several pathologies in settings that are close to reality (emergency room, clinical encounter).

Training of Clinical Procedures

All clinical procedures, as the physical exam, a suture of a wound or the taking of blood samples, demand a correct technique and lots of practice. The Clinical Skills Lab provides the student with personalized tutoring and the most modern technology in medical devices and clinical simulation, so that he/she learns and trains all procedures and is able to execute them correctly and confidently.

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