



## **ESEPF guidelines for the international mobility of students and teachers, in incoming and outgoing modes, to be carried out during the academic year 2020/2021**

In order to clarify the international mobility framework for ESEPF students and teachers, in the outgoing modalities, but also to give positive responses to the search for incoming mobility, for the academic year 2020/2021, this document presents the options taken in June 2020.

### **Framework:**

Portugal - and Europe - is not able to predict the degree of spread of Covid-19 two or three months apart, and there are, to date, contagion spots that sow uncertainty about the epidemiological evolution of the coronavirus and the sanitary measures for their containment that will be necessary to be taken at all times by the competent authorities and to which the ESEPF has to be linked. Designing an ESEPF mobility policy, incoming and outgoing, for the 2020/2021 academic year in this context, will mean assuming that any decision now made can be reversed if sanitary conditions so require. But it will also be important not to freeze the mobility policy and the consequent academic, human and cultural impoverishment that this decision would represent for all involved.

### **Guiding principles and their operative translation:**

The ESEPF guidelines for the international mobility of students and teachers are framed in the principles set out in the ESEPF Order of 2020-04-30 and which find their operative translation in the following measures:

*A. Principle of safety and preservation of health for all elements of the academic community, especially vulnerable and risk people.*

Operationalization: students and teachers who express availability to carry out mobility programs in the outgoing and incoming modalities, in addition to complying with the usual legally required procedures and complying with the policies in force of the respective National Agencies, must express by email to CRIC on how: (i) they are not part of a risk group; (ii) they know the health conditions of the country of destination; (iii) they will comply the decisions of the competent health or academic authorities regarding a possible early return to their country of origin.

*B. Principle of compliance with the obligations to provide educational contract and legal compliance of the ministry of distance courses of study in health exception period; and Principle of no undermined the student in matters of academic certification due to superior decisions resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic.*

Operationalization: (i) under its academic autonomy, ESEPF undertakes to fully comply with the study plan contracted with the HEI of each international student in an incoming regime, in the teaching modalities that may be adopted (presential, b-learning or e-learning) depending on the country's health situation at each moment. CRIC will request this guarantee from each partner HEI in order to ensure reciprocity of treatment for outgoing students; (ii) incoming or outgoing students cannot unilaterally interrupt the study program signed between the partner HEIs without prior authorization from the same HEIs or by express indication from the respective National Agency; (iii) For incoming and outgoing students for a period of several days, ESEPF encourages the advance planning of these mobility programs. In this context, CRIC will collect by e-mail from students the acceptance of the same conditions expressed in point A to students and, also, the acceptance that, until one week before



the beginning of the mobility program, ESEPF, through the degradation of existing health conditions, reserves the right to postpone the execution of the referred work program.

**Other guidelines:**

In view of the uncertainty regarding the evolution of the future epidemiological curve and the unpredictability of the measures that will be necessary at all times by national authorities, the mobility of employees on an outgoing basis will not be a priority for ESEPF. However, this possibility is not forbidden to employees, nor is it encouraged. The decision will be made by each one evaluating the advantages and disadvantages of such a decision.

With regard to the realization of international mobility with the presence of a large group of participants, both at our school and abroad, it is considered that there are no conditions for these mobilities to take place in the 1st semester of the academic year 2020/2021 so they should be preventively postponed to the 2nd semester (February to June 2021) and subject to reassessment in January 2021. The following facts contribute to this decision: (i) although encouraged by the MCTES, face-to-face classes and pedagogical visits to partner institutions cannot be taken for granted and, if these do not happen, the object and objectives of the planned visits are frustrated; (ii) the ESEPF classrooms and, it is known, also the European HEIs, only support a small number of students in simultaneous face-to-face sessions, which leaves little scope for enriching human and pedagogical interactions; (iii) the number of people who can join both within the ESEPF and in the public space is reduced and subject to changes in a short time by the health authorities of each country, which may jeopardize the intercultural spirit of these visits .