**HOW TO BECOME A PSYCHOMOTRICIAN IN PORTUGAL**

At the moment, in Portugal, there are three public Universities which have a bachelor level of education in Psychomotor Rehabilitation: Faculty of Human Kinetics (FMH) /University of Lisbon, University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD), University of Évora (UE); and two private Universities: Fernando Pessoa University (UFP) and Piaget Institute (IP).

At FMH, UTAD, UE and UFP the bachelor degree in Psychomotor Rehabilitation, has 6 semesters of studies and 180 ECTS. IP has a bachelor degree in Human Motricity with 3 years of studies (180 ECTS), and an optional semester of psychomotricity with 30 ECTS.

The Faculty of Human Kinetics (FMH) and the University of Évora (UE) have also a Masters Degree. At FMH the course is called “Master in Psychomotor Rehabilitation” and at UE it is called “Master in Relational Psychomotricity”, both with 120 ECTS.

**Psychomotor/Professional Organisations:**

There is only one national association - The Portuguese Association of Psychomotricity (APP) that has existed since 2000. It has scientific and professional goals and is responsible for the professional representation of Psychomotor Therapist at a national and international level.

**IS THE PROFESSION REGULATED/PROTECTED IN PORTUGAL?**

The profession is not regulated by the government. There is no kind of certification or authorization. A legal advice procedure has been started within the legal framework of the profession, which is preparing the strategy and documentation for coordination with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education, with the aim of setting the legal framework of the profession. The profession was inserted into the Portuguese Professions Classification in 2010 (CPP 2010).

The profession is not protected, but is represented by the Portuguese Association of Psychomotricity (APP). APP is the only entity that has the power to issue statements that can certify the qualifications for the profession in Portugal, according to the criteria of the European Forum of Psychomotricity, to ensure that suitably qualified professionals provide this profession.

In the context of policy initiatives, disclosure of the competences profile of graduates in Psychomotor Rehabilitation has been made among school groups, parents associations and health services. There is a document about the professional practices and the professional profile of the Psychomotor Therapist produced and edited by the Portuguese Association of Psychomotricity and all universities, which have the bachelor level in Psychomotor Rehabilitation. Thus another document is being prepared aiming at the recognition of the profession to be reviewed by a parliamentary committee, with which APP has been in regular contact.

At this moment a Psychomotor Therapist can work in the field of education, rehabilitation and at the therapy level. They apply their activity in different contexts, in particular: i) general and psychiatric hospitals; ii) nurseries for children, primary schools and special education facilities; iii) private social solidarity institutions, associations and social work cooperatives, reception centres and day-care centres; institutes and teams of social reintegration; iv) sports structures with rehabilitation services (adaptation to water environment therapeutic horse riding); v) psycho-pedagogical clinics, geriatric clinics, integrated in multidisciplinary teams consisting of many health professionals.

**IF I AM NOT EDUCATED IN PORTUGAL, HOW CAN I WORK?**

In Portugal there is a governmental entity related to the Ministry of Education and Science, which organises the recognition of foreign diplomas – National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC) (<http://www.dges.mctes.pt/DGES/pt/Reconhecimento/NARICENIC/>).

This procedure is required to compare qualifications according to the Portuguese higher education systems, namely bachelor, masters and PhD degrees. In Portugal the recognition of foreign diplomas is regulated by the following legal diplomas: Law Decree 341/2007, October 12th (attached) and Law Decree 283/83, June 21st (attached).

A request for equivalences/recognition can be demanded by contacting a higher education institution providing courses in the same area or in a related field.

Usually, the administrative process also includes a statement of the national association representative of psychomotor therapists, stating to the host country, that the professional asking the right to work in another country , has the acquired the professional competencies that correspond to the minimum programme to a bachelor level, as defined by the European Forum of Psychomotricity. This mutual recognition is assumed throughout bilateral agreements that the Portuguese Association of Psychomotricity has signed with the national associations of France, Denmark, the Netherlands and Italy.

**ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS TO DO IN PORTUGAL**

**First Step:**

The application of the recognition of foreign diplomas should be made on the appropriate form, in accordance with Ordinance No. 1071/83, December 29th (attached). Forms are available on the page of the *Imprensa Nacional – Casa da Moeda*.

**Second Step:**

To request a declaration that can certify qualifications for the profession in Portugal, according to the criteria of the European Forum of Psychomotricity, it is necessary to contact the Portuguese Association of Psychomotricity. It is also necessary to send your Resume and any qualification certificates.

**CONTACTS AND LINKS IN PORTUGAL**

**Portuguese Association of Psychomotricity (APP)** – Avenida Miguel Bombarda, 70, 1, phone 00351 964 506 838 - <http://www.appsicomotricidade.pt/>

**Faculty of Human Kinetics (FMH) /University of Lisbon** - Estrada da Costa, 1499-002, Lisboa, phone 00351 21 414 9100 - <http://www.fmh.utl.pt/pt/>

**University of Trás-os-Montes e Alto Douro (UTAD)** – Quinta de Prados 5001-801 Vila Real, phone 00351 259 350 000 - <http://www.utad.pt/vPT/Paginas/HomepageUtad.aspx>

**University of Évora (UE)** - Largo dos Colegiais 2, 7004-516 Évora, phone 00351 266 740 800 - <http://www.uevora.pt/>

**University of Fernando Pessoa (UFP)** - Praça 9 de Abril 349, 4249-004 Porto, phone 00351 22 507 1300 - <http://www.ufp.pt/>

**Piaget Institute (IP)** - Quinta da Arreinela de Cima 2800-305 Almada, phone 00351 212 946 250 - <http://www.ipiaget.org/>

**National Academic Recognition Information Centre (NARIC)** - <http://www.dges.mctes.pt/DGES/pt>

**Recognition of qualifications – Guide for foreigners** http://www.dges.mctes.pt/NR/rdonlyres/DEF331EC-2119-4F03-9B52F322F3C42FBB/5397/Guia17vers%C3%A3ofinal270410.pdf

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