



DISPATCH No. 93/2021

Functioning of the academic year 2021/2022

I. GENERAL ASPECTS

After a year and a half of public health crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the current moment is distinguished by a significant improvement in health conditions, resulting from the vaccination. However, there is still some level of uncertainty that must be taken into consideration and the safeguard of the health conditions of the entire academic community is still a priority.

In this scenario, the functioning of the academic year must aim at a progressive return to normality, with the necessary precautions, in order to prevent the decay of the pandemic situation.

On the other hand, it is also important to recognize that during the pandemic, the teaching paradigm in universities has changed, with new teaching, learning and assessment practices being fully established nowadays.

It is important to keep in mind that all perspectives about the functioning of the academic year 2021/2022 depends on (a) the evolution of the pandemic situation associated with COVID-19; (b) the recommendations of the public health authorities; (c) the guidelines of the Minister of Sciences, Technology and Higher Education and the University of Lisbon. It should also be considered that any changes of these aspects could determine modifications and adjustments to the functioning model.

In the current state, the necessary conditions to return to fully in-class activities are still not in place. Thus, the model to be used in the 1st semester of the academic year 2021/2022 will be the same as the one used in the previous academic year: online teaching activities will be articulated with in-class teaching activities.

It is also important to note that the beginning of the academic year for all academic years will take place in mid-September, as usual, with the exception of the 1st year of the Degree in Law. The results of the 1st phase of the National Competition for Access to Higher Education will take place on September 27th, meaning that classes can only start in October.

II. BLENDED LEARNING MODEL

A blended learning and teaching model assumes the combination of in-class and distance activities. In implementing this model, described in more detail below, the following principles and guidelines will be taken into consideration:

- 1) Guarantee of safety conditions for students, teachers and staff. This priority will be materialized through measures such as:
 - a. Use of mask in the FDUL facilities is mandatory at all times;
 - b. Reduce the concentration and gathering of students in the in-class activities, whenever possible, by organizing classes in the same room for the same group of students;
 - c. Observance of the minimum distance of one place between each person in the classrooms;
 - d. Cleaning the rooms between classes.

- 2) Adjust the schedules in order to ensure that in-class activities take place in the larger classrooms, through:
 - a. Definition of days exclusively for theoretical classes and days of practical classes, limiting the presence of students and teachers at the FDUL;
 - b. Maintenance of increased hours in each class.

DEGREE IN LAW
(2nd, 3rd and 4th YEARS)

For these years, the following model will be adopted:

THEORETICAL CLASSES:

- Theoretical classes lectured at a distance in blocks of 1h40, through recording (*educast*) or Zoom;
- Two days per week: one day with three blocks of classes and one day with two blocks.

PRACTICAL CLASSES:

- In-class practical classes in blocks of 1h40;
- Two or three days per week, if the first option is not possible due to limited classroom capacity.

DEGREE IN LAW
(1st YEAR)

The need to know the FDUL, as well as promote the reception and integration of the students of the 1st year, justifies a differentiated treatment that includes:

- Welcome Session to the students of the 1st year (in order to explain FDUL procedures), that will take place online, via Zoom;
- Theoretical classes lectured in-class to half of the class, alternately each, with transmission via Zoom;
- Online compensation classes will be carried out in the beginning of the semester. Schedules will be determined by the Academic Division in order to ensure the compliance with the number of teaching hours.

MASTER IN LAW AND LEGAL PRACTICE

- Combined classes, i.e., one week will be in-class and the next will be online, via Zoom;
- Schedules will be determined by the Academic Division.

MASTER IN LAW AND LEGAL SCIENCES AND PHD

- Combined classes, i.e., one week will be in-class and the next will be online, via Zoom;
- Students will choose a specific schedule within a pre-determined time slot.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

The FDUL develops teaching and learning activities in other formats, as well as activities in close connection with the society, whose model of development or possibility of concretization should also be considered.

INTENSIVE COURSES

Intensive Courses will be lectured in-class, according to the rules indicated in Paragraph II (1 and 2) of this Dispatch.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES OF THE INSTITUTES

Post-graduate courses of the institutes will remain at a distance, at least in the 1st semester.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

Booking FDUL spaces for conferences and other events to third parties is not allowed, except in very exception cases, in order to use all the classrooms to teaching activities, including the auditorium.

III. CONTINGENCY MEASURES

The functioning of the academic year 2021/2022 complies with the measures well-defined and detailed in the Contingency Plan of the FDUL, published in the Dispatch no. 28/2021, of April 5th.

Lisbon, August 20th, 2021.

The Director

(Professor Paula Vaz Freire)