



AAUAV
Associação Académica
da Universidade de Aveiro

Dear Rector of the University of Aveiro,

Prof. Dr. Paulo Jorge Ferreira

The Evolution of the Pandemic led us back to a scenario that we wanted to avoid at all costs. The numbers that were presented to us daily increased the levels of concern in society, leading to a new lockdown. The continuity of in-person activity in universities has led to a growing apprehension of the student community.

We must recognize the role that the University of Aveiro played, in anticipation of this reality, postponing the beginning of the exams season by 15 days. This period allowed us to not only benefit from a waiting time for the evolution of the legal framework of higher education and new indications from the Government, but also from a better preparation of a scenario of Remote Evaluation.

We also praise the decision to ensure that the exam seasons corresponding to the first semester would take place before the beginning of the second semester, starting on February 8th. This scenario avoids overloads and ensures a common thread in the teaching-evaluation process.

Due to the imposed scenario and the installed feeling of concern about the reality of the country, we support the conduction of the Normal and Appeal Exam seasons by the remote regime. We consider this to be the scenario that best reconciles the safeguarding of the health and wellness of our Community and that has the least impact on the activity of the Academic Year.



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We believe that the experience acquired at the end of the previous Academic Year will be an added value in the preparation and during the upcoming evaluation moments. In this sense and understanding the difficulty in the University's management of the current situation, we recommend the creation of an **internal normative framework** that regulates and normalizes the evaluation practices, which must be known by the entire Academic Community in UA.

Thanks to the listening carried out by AAUAv during the last period of Remote Learning, and due to the concerns presented by our student community regarding Evaluation, we consider it essential that this normative framework includes points such as:

1. The organisation model of the exam

- One of the main problems pointed out was the organisation of the exam, due to its sequential and random nature, without the possibility of reviewing the previous questions. This point is something we do not understand, being a factor of discrepancy and increased difficulty, when compared to in-person exams;
- In addition to this question there is the limitation of answering time, in many cases reduced to 30 seconds per exercise;
- The two factors added together, namely the random organisation of the exam, which may comprise exercises of a different nature, from multiple choices to open questions, makes time management in the performance of the exam difficult due to the unpredictability of its order.



2. Software to be used for the exam

- This point deals with the variety of programmes and applications that were used in conducting the exams;
- We call for standardisation, comprising a limited number of software solutions to be used, so that the same student does not have to use and master several programs for the different Curricular Units;
- We also call for the avoidance of the use of intrusive software, namely in browser solutions, as is the example of the "Safe Exam Browser".

3. Surveillance of the exam

- The use of videoconferencing, with compulsory use of the camera for the surveillance of examinations, was one of the main reservations of our Community;
- We require that the use of two devices for videoconferencing be avoided, besides the one being used for the exam;
- We consider it imperative that, at no time during the exam, images or sound are recorded, for surveillance reasons, without the consent of all students.

4. Constraints in carrying out the exam

- We call for understanding of internet breakdowns and lack of workspace, which may affect the performance of the exams, without penalty to students;
- To students who are unable to take the exam on the proposed date, due to issues associated with COVID-19, evaluation alternatives must be safeguarded must not allow the loss of the moment of evaluation, namely the normal exam season.



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Regarding the 2nd Academic Semester, in order to avoid scenarios of uncertainty, we have appealed to the utmost urgency in defining the way in which the teaching activities will occur. We remain aware not only of the psychological conditions associated with uncertainty, but also of the financial conditions, particularly of displaced students, in planning their accommodation and transport conditions.

We remain at your disposal in the continuous search for solutions to the concerns of our Academic Community.

On behalf of AAUAv Management,

António Alves